

## **Ancient Spearhead, Other Items Found in Norristown**

By Marcia Wright-Soika

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NORRISTOWN - An American Indian spearhead, estimated to be 9,000 years old, was found at the SEPTA garage construction site during an archaeological dig.

Dr. Ian Burrows, a principal archaeologist at Hunter Research Inc., presented this finding along with other historical items at Tuesday's council meeting.

Other items found were an Irish "home rule" pipe and a teapot with a biblical scene inscribed on it, both from the 1800s.

Burrows said these items could indicate that the people who lived in the area, which is at the intersection of DeKalb and Lafayette streets, were blue collar and making a political statement about British rule with the pipe, among other characteristics.

He also said the team was surprised to find such an old spearhead, and joked that Norristown may need to change its seal, which points to the borough's establishment date in 1812. He said the spearhead was only two feet into the ground, and was in fairly undisturbed soil, leading them to believe it wasn't a collector's item.

The state requires such digs before construction is done, and archaeologists were able to narrow down historic areas by looking at a series of maps since the 1800s.

The items will be analyzed and archived in the state's database, and will go on display in a state museum in Harrisburg.

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