

MARCH 2011 VOL. 39 #1

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976



2011

Waterways
Through Time
Recognition and Celebration



The Annual Symposium of
The Ontario Archaeological Society



Ottawa Chapter
Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.
PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5J1
www.ottawaoas.ca

BACKGROUND

On June 30th 1971 the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS was founded by: Mrs. J. D. Bradford, Mr. David J.A. Croft, Clyde C. Kennedy, Barry M. Mitchell, Mrs. Glenna Reid, Dr. Donald S. Robertson, Mr. Michael J. Shchepanek, Mr. and Mrs. Iain Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Watson, Dr. James V. Wright, Col. and Mrs. Lou H. Wylie.

Since September 1976 The Ottawa Archaeologist has been the newsletter of the Ottawa Chapter. It is published 3-5 times annually. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee, the Executive, or the OAS. Other newsletters may reprint notes and papers with an appropriate credit line. Submissions are always welcome and very much appreciated. Please send to any address below!

2011 Executive Committee

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Membership Information

Any member of the Ontario Archaeological Society may join one of its local Chapters.

OAS FEES:

Individual: \$36 w/ OA \$48
Family: \$40 w /OA \$52
Students: \$25 w/OA \$34
Institutional/Corporate w/OA \$62
Life Membership w/OA \$800

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Cover Photo :

Ottawa Chapter will host the 2011 OAS Annual Symposium in Ottawa - be there !!

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



MARCH 2011

Early in January 2011, I awoke to the fact that this year is the 40th anniversary of the Ottawa Chapter, OAS. On checking our Constitution, I found that the charter for our founding was not signed until June 30th, 1971, so we still have a few months to go until we send up the fireworks.

The charter was signed by then president of OAS, James V. Wright and the secretary, M. Zaputovich, and presented in May 1973 by Jim's successor, Howard Savage. Jim is also listed as one of the founding members of the chapter whose names appear regularly in each copy of the Ottawa Archaeologist. Clyde Kennedy was our first president. I occasionally wonder why the editor wastes space on including the list of founders, but as Dave Croft and I are still around, I guess we won't complain – and it does give a sense of history.

A number of events this year have emphasized to me our tradition of long-term, enthusiastic members. When I needed arguments to present to the Heritage Committee, Ottawa City Hall, I quickly received a series of messages that demonstrated the wide variety of archaeological interests in our membership. When I asked for help in answering a request for information on South Lake excavations in the '80s, within two hours I received close to a dozen replies, each with valuable and useful information. A missing edition of the Ottawa Archaeologist containing a pertinent article was quickly located by Stacey Girling-Christie in the library of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. And lest new members feel that their participation is not noticed, an impressive coterie of recent retirees responded last fall to a last minute call for help from Ian Badgley of the National Capital Commission. Through him we are being offered involvement in new and on-going projects which promise an active future for the chapter.

So perhaps it is an appropriate moment to “renew our vows”. Our aims, not in order of priority, are:

- To bring together individuals interested in archaeology, particularly in the province of Ontario.
- To foster, elevate and advance archaeology in the fields of learning and culture.
- To discourage illegal archaeological investigation and excavation.
- To facilitate the exchange of ideas and information.
- To publish archaeological literature.
- To stimulate the interest of the general public in archaeology.

Have you looked at the chapter and OAS web sites recently? They are managed and kept up to date by web-masters Yvon Riendeau and Jean-Luc Pilon respectively. Do try to spend some time exploring our public face. Assess how (and whether) our activities successfully fulfill our aim. Let that be part of our 40th anniversary celebration.

Report of the President and Executive 2010

Monthly events 2010: A rich brew!

January: The Rideau Canal. The Birth in War of a Peaceful Waterway, thanks to Victor Suthren.

February: Tour of Profit and Ambition: The Canadian Fur Trade 1779-1821, thanks to Dave Suthren

March: hands-on Lithics and Ceramics Workshop, thanks to Michael Teal and Ben Mortimer, Parks Canada

April: *Masinaigan* – Reflecting on Landscape Perspectives at Sacred Pictograph Sites, thanks to Bill Allen

September: Faunal identification workshop, thanks to Matthew Betts, Canadian Museum of Civilization.

November: Tour of Canadian Museum of Civilization exhibit “The Horse” thanks to local curator Sheldon Posen.

Plus: two parties, May and December (with the AGM)

Public Archaeology Displays:

Heritage Day, City Hall in February;

Riverfest, Pinhey’s Point Heritage Site in June;

Bonnechere Provincial Park in July (including presentation to Tom Ballantine of his 2009 Peggi

Armstrong Public Archaeology award);

Colonel By Day at the Rideau Canal in August.

Ottawa Archaeologist: February, May, August, November, thanks to Marian Clark.

Web Site: www.ottawaoas.ca contains past and future information, thanks to web-master Yvon Riendeau. We have replied to a number of queries from the general public to the contact e-mail address.

Basin Depot Lab Work: 1 day at Diefenbunker, 1 weekend at Bonnechere.

Fund Raiser: \$500 at Great Glebe Garage Sale. Save stuff now for 2011!

The Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award was awarded jointly to the Friends of Murphy’s Point Provincial Park and Brenda Kennett and Jeff Earl, for their Archéo Apprentice program.

The National Capital Commission archaeologist, Ian Badgley, offered a tour in the summer to sites at Leamy Lake Park, Gatineau. He has offered members a role in monitoring erosion of the sites. We also did test pitting in search of a site in Gatineau Park. We appreciate the confidence he shows in the enthusiasm and abilities of our membership.

The Gordon and Margaret Watson Bursary, due to a major last minute contribution, qualified for matching funds from the province. Henceforth, an award of \$500 will be made annually to a needy Trent University graduate student in archaeology. Many thanks to all who contributed to this fitting memorial to one of our outstanding former members.

Advocacy: We supported a successful request to restore longer hours to access records and facilities at the Archives of Ontario. Details to be announced January 14, 2011.

We supported a citizens group in Kanata seeking a stay of development on the basis of the area’s ecological, including archaeological, sensitivity.

We made representation to Jim Mountain, Heritage Department, City of Ottawa, on the importance of including a stronger archaeology program in the up-dated 20/20 Arts and Heritage Plan Refresh. These projects will continue through the next year.

The chapter's ambitious program could not have been accomplished without the efforts of many members too numerous to mention, but in particular the executive, whose reports follow. Special thanks to Stacey Girling-Christie for chairing the symposium committee. Please stand by to assist as the magic days approach – October 13-16, 2011.

Report of the Newsletter Editor

4 newsletters were produced during 2010. The goal essentially was to keep members up do date on Chapter activities and provide news and notes that were of interest to members. A number of members contributed to the content and that input is greatly appreciated. Since I am not actively out there doing archaeology I am not always in the loop on the latest happenings so referral of stories or articles is essential. Neither am I a professional publisher and do not have all the latest software so the format is very basic and I must ask you to rely on the content to entertain and inform !!! I thank everyone who contributed and especially Glenna who did the final proofread and polishing before sending it out to the membership. For 2011 I would like to have updates on the plans for the symposium and any articles, photos, or news items you can send along.

News and Notes :

Guess Who Retired ? Sue Bazely after 28 years of professional archaeology and Executive Director of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation. Congratulations Sue

Check this article

'She created archeology in Kingston'

By Samantha Butler, The Whig Standard, Kingston

<http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3001068>

**Warming trend brings out the artefacts -
*Ice-age child's remains 'spectacular'***

North's oldest find offers ancestral glimpse

By Margaret Munro, Postmedia News February 25, 2011

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/child+remains+spectacular/4344521/story.html#ixzz1G2LolttE>

Media Release January 12, 2011

Archeological study needed for Beaver Pond forest: Native Leaders

(Ottawa) Organized opposition to development within the urban area of the environmentally sensitive South March Highlands has been ongoing for more than 20 years and in 2010, the number of supporters grew to thousands in the greater Ottawa area, across Canada and in over 32 countries. Now there is growing support from members of the Indigenous community, for the protection of this ecologically and culturally unique land.

Members of the Indigenous community are urgently calling for a comprehensive and credible archaeological study to be carried out in this area, beginning with the Beaver Pond forest, which could be clear-cut by its owner, KNL Developments, within days.

Officer of The Order of Canada and Keeper of the historical Three Figures Welcoming Wampum

Belt, 97-year-old Algonquin Elder and Spiritual Leader William Commanda has visited the site

and stood with the community. In a January 6th letter to Ottawa City Council, Elder Commanda stated:

“I, together with many others, again urge City Council to initiate an immediate and comprehensive archaeological survey of this site; I believe it is the underlying responsibility of the Crown and governments and the National Capital Commission to safeguard this ecologically and archaeologically unique site of the South March Highlands as a potential national heritage site,

one of significant Indigenous importance, and as an Algonquin in the unceded, unconquered and unsurrendered Ottawa River Watershed, I add my voice to the call for such action”.

The South March Highlands Coalition and the local community have been buoyed by support from many Aboriginal groups, Elders and individuals who have stood with the community and offered songs, prayers and letters with the common goal of protecting the forest, including Algonquin Elder Albert DuMont.

“It is very encouraging to me to see communities questioning historic land acquisition and ownership practices, development, and environmental stewardship practices... I pray bridges of understanding will evolve in engaging with these voices of the future in the exercise of true leadership in our complex and evolving societies” wrote Elder Commanda in his January 6th letter.

“You cannot assume that the disappearance of green areas will continue to make Ottawa a destination of choice” states a letter from The Ardoch and Pasapkedjiwanong Algonquin First Nations, who called for “...innovative and creative development and civic respect for the intrinsic value of the forest”. Chiefs of several local Algonquin First Nations communities have spoken out and have officially requested that a full and credible archaeological survey be done.

All development in the South March Highlands must be halted immediately, and a full and credible archaeological survey must be conducted by the Crown. The community believes it is within the mandate of the National Capital Commission (NCC) to carry this out in response to the national heritage value that is at stake within the Nation’s Capital. South March Highlands – Carp River Conservation Inc. stands ready with its volunteer resources of thousands of supporters to assist the NCC in this important task.

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For more information:

Paul Renaud, South March Highlands – Carp River Conservation Inc.

On behalf of the 12,000 Stewards of Ottawa’s Great Forest

613-277-5898

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by R. MacKay and members of the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

Introduction

People don’t often get the opportunity to see archaeologists at work, so when they get the chance to talk to an archaeologist, they are often full of questions. Here, we provide a sampling of real questions archaeologists have been asked, in no particular order, along with answers based on what our members and professional archaeologists have suggested. We hope you will find them helpful. We thank Nick Adams, Chris J-Andersen, Tom Ballantine and Sue Bazely for editing, and suggestions on the final draft.

What kind of dinosaur bones have you found?

Actually, archaeologists do not look for dinosaurs. That is the job of the paleontologist. Paleontology involves the study of ancient life forms, including but not only the study of dinosaurs. Archaeology involves the study of human culture through the examination of the things they made and left behind as well as research into how they changed their surroundings. Examples of archaeological finds might include objects made of stone, stone projectile points, coins, ceramics, toys, glass, and metal objects. Earthworks or stone foundations would also be considered to be archaeological in nature.

Although there are some similarities in the techniques used in paleontology and archaeology, these two sciences are worlds apart. Sometimes archaeological work includes working with the bones of animals and people, but those bones are rarely fossils. Of course, as a scientist, if an archaeologist did find some dinosaur bones, he or she would be quite excited and would report the find to a paleontologist for study.

Have you found any treasure yet?

While some people only associate archaeology with sunken treasure from ships, or the discovery of rare gems in an ancient tomb, the reality of archaeology is much more commonplace. While it is true that sometimes people have buried “treasure”, including gold, and that sometimes archaeologists have studied such deposits, most of the time archaeologists find objects and the other evidence that represents the life of the common person. Archaeology is not about treasure hunting, but about understanding the lives of people in the past. It is knowledge that archaeologists find to be most valuable.

Is there still a lot of work in this field of employment these days?

Yes, there is, but there are fewer archaeologists on the street than are represented by most other jobs. Archaeological investigations are conducted every year because of heritage laws which were written to protect, among other things, archaeological sites. Most major building projects, be they development of a sub-division, or construction of a highway, require an archaeological assessment. Only a professional consulting archaeologist can carry out that kind of Cultural Resource Management assessment. The consulting archaeologists can't do all the work by themselves, so they often hire people with archaeological experience to help them.

It should be noted that while it is true to say there is much work being done in archaeology in Ontario, a distinction must be made between research archaeology which is undertaken primarily as an academic inquiry (usually at the university or museum level), and the much more prevalent Cultural Resource Management archaeology which is generally conducted by consultant archaeologists on behalf of developers to meet government requirements. The latter industry is quite competitive.

What is the best part about being an archaeologist?

A favorite part about being an archaeologist, for many archaeologists who answered this question, has to do with the people they meet, the travel involved, and the fact that one day is almost never like the next. Some archaeologists have said that they enjoy anticipation of discovering something that was previously unknown.

How do archaeologists become interested in this career?

Some people stumble onto archaeology as a career after they have tried a few other things. Some learn about archaeology through reading books, or have friends who had become archaeologists. Some people start off learning about archaeology as a casual interest, and then get very serious about it. Other people just know that archaeology is the career for them from an early age.

What skills do you need to become successful in this career?

Archaeologists need to be able to adapt to change fairly rapidly, think on their feet, write well, and get along with lots of different people, such as colleagues, employees, and landowners (who must give permission to go on their land).

How long does it take to study an archaeological site?

Archaeological projects vary a great deal. In some cases, excavations at a single site can last years or decades, while in others, a few hours investigation is all that's required.

How much money can you make in this occupation?

Income depends on whether you are in business for yourself or working for an institution such as a museum or government agency. One must realize that for most archaeologists, employment involves short-term contracts with no employment benefits. According to one archaeologist consulted, “If you get an advanced degree (MA or PhD), you can earn enough to have a house with a mortgage and raise a

family, but archaeology has never been the place to get rich.” Another archaeologist has suggested that “archaeology is best undertaken by those of independent means.” On average, an experienced archaeologist can anticipate earning about as much as the average teacher.

Is there a lot of reading and writing involved with this job?

Excellent reading and writing skills are an essential part of being an archaeologist. Reading is an important part of research, and since all archaeological work at any level in Ontario requires that detailed reports be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and archaeologists are also expected to publish the results of their work, writing is too.

In what type of weather do you work?

Because the field season is generally intense and short, archaeologists conduct field work in all kinds of weather. Archaeologists in Ontario are not supposed to work when the ground is frozen or snow covered, because these conditions prevent them from performing their jobs properly. Archaeologists do pay attention to safety issues and do not work when conditions are too severe (lightning storms or during flooding, for example).

What's the most interesting thing you've ever found?

That is hard to say, because often the most interesting things are ideas rather than objects. The main reason that most people do archaeology is to learn about the way people lived in the past. They are people who like to learn about all sorts of things, so they find the archaeology to be fun. Part of archaeology is digging, but another part of archaeology is about learning what happened in history. History is not always just about Prime Ministers and movie stars. History is often about the lives of ordinary people like you and your neighbours or classmates. One archaeologist answered, “The next thing I haven’t uncovered, yet.”

What advice would you give for someone interested in exploring this career?

First, join your local archaeological society, where you will meet others with your same interest and learn about local opportunities. Some people choose to become archaeologists as a career and others do it as a hobby. In Ontario there is an organization of professionals and amateurs called the Ontario Archaeological Society (www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca). The OAS has a central office in Toronto and a number of chapters spread throughout the province, in Toronto, London, Peterborough, Ottawa, Huronia, Thunder Bay, Windsor, and Hamilton. Some of those chapters have their own web sites which outline when there are winter meetings (usually a talk about archaeology work done somewhere). There are often links to other archaeology web sites as well. Membership in the OAS includes a newsletter.

Some field opportunities are available, usually through McMaster University or Trent University. The Metropolitan Toronto Conservation Authority runs a three week Archaeology Field School at Boyd Conservation Area. Younger children, or even students in high school, might benefit from attending the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation “Can You Dig It” camp, in Kingston, during the summer.

Often there is archaeological information available in museums. If you happen to be in the Kingston area, you could visit the Kingston Archaeological Centre, operated by the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation. They also have an interesting web site (<http://www.carf.info/>), and they have a small museum which explains some aspects of archaeology, as it relates to the Kingston area. Of course many larger cities have even bigger museums, such as the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, or the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, or the Museum of Ontario Archaeology in London, Ontario.

.....this is a partial list of questions that archaeologists get asked all the time – for the complete article please contact Rory Mackay rmackay3@cogeco.ca



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Feb. 19, 2011

Archaeo Apprentice recognized with provincial award

The Friends of Murphys Point Park and local archaeologists Brenda Kennett and Jeff Earl have received a provincial award for the Archaeo Apprentice program for students.

The Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award is presented by the Ontario Archaeological Society and recognizes individuals and groups that show commitment to a greater public awareness of archaeology. It takes into account the scope of the audience reached, the innovation of the program, the development of enduring resource materials and the partnerships and sponsorships springing from the activity.

“The Friends celebrated their 15th anniversary in 2010, and it seemed appropriate that they also receive the recognition they deserve for a successful public archaeology program,” said Glenna Roberts, Ottawa chapter president. “In addition, Brenda and Jeff are well known for their professionalism and steadfast support for local archaeology. Recognition of their significant contribution to furthering archaeological research is long overdue.”

The Friends of Murphys Point began developing what is now known as the Archaeo Apprentice program in 2000, starting with initial surveys of the McParlan House and Burgess Mill site (circa 1820) on Hogg Bay at Murphys Point Provincial Park. Ms. Kennett and Mr. Earl of Past Recovery Archaeological Services were on the initial steering committee and continue to help the Friends to realize the goal of developing the project into an educational experience with hands-on archaeology for Grade 5 students.

“We are truly honoured to receive this prestigious award in recognition of Archaeo Apprentice,” said Stephanie Gray, Friends president. “Since we began excavating in 2004, more than 750 children have had a chance to experience hands-on history. They have found artifacts representing the very settlement history they are learning about in school. It’s a magical program that relates directly to their curriculum.”

“The opportunity for us and our staff to teach students about archaeology and to share what we can learn from the past has been tremendous, as has working with the Friends of Murphys Point,” said Ms. Kennett.

“It is extremely gratifying to receive the Peggi Armstrong Award from our peers in the archaeological community,” added Mr. Earl.

In addition to a full-day field trip that provides the opportunity for excavation, lab-related exercises and a natural history component, participating classes have access to an interactive Travelling Museum in their classroom for a week, as well as a teacher resource package and a take-home workbook.

“This project has been an enormous benefit to Murphys Point and we congratulate the Friends and Brenda and Jeff for this award,” said Curtis Thompson, acting park superintendent. “With the knowledge gained from the excavations and studies, we have learned a great deal more about the history of the park and, indeed, the area, which we can then share with the community and the visiting public.”

The beautifully hand-crafted and unique award has been presented since 1997 in memory of Peggi Armstrong, who was a long-standing member of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS and who was a driving force behind the development of a public archaeology component of the chapter’s activities. For more information about the award, check <http://www.ottawaoas.ca/peggi/peggi.htm>.

The Friends have embarked upon their annual fundraising campaign to offer the program to more than 150 students this spring. For information about the program or to make a donation, check www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca or call 613-264-0447.

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For more information contact:

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Official presentation Perth Ontario



Jeff Earl, Brenda Kennett, Stephanie Gray, and Judy Bufton

Still connected

Hello;

My cousin recently sent me your media release announcing the 2010 recipients of the *Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award*. I read the release and your website with great pleasure. As Peg's sister, I saw first hand how deeply she cared about her work with and contribution to archaeology, and also the genuine pleasure she got from "digging around in the dirt"!

Establishing an award in Peggi's name, and having my mother Helen receive it, was a very moving tribute indeed, one the rest of my family and I cherish still. To know the award continues to recognize valuable public contributions to archaeology, and also honours Peg's spirit, is a wonderful affirmation of her interest in archaeology and her legacy of public commitment. Please pass along to the membership my congratulations for the great work supported by the OAS Ottawa chapter, and my sincere thanks for a continuing, marvelous tribute to my sister's memory.

Sincerely,
Judy Armstrong

COMING EVENTS**Chapter and other Meetings**

Please Note: Chapter Meetings are usually scheduled for the third Thursday of the month and usually held at the Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues St at Cumberland in Lower Town Ottawa.

- March 15 - 7:30 PM** Norse Native Contact in Arctic Canada
Pat Sutherland, Canadian Museum of Civilization
Dr. Sutherland's research suggests that the Norse may have had a significant presence in Arctic Canada and their interaction with Aboriginal peoples may have been more widespread than previously believe.
Location – Library and Archives Canada
- March 17 - 7:30 pm** **Ottawa & Points Beyond – Archaeology in the City**
Jacqueline Fisher, Fisher Archaeological Consulting
Jacqui will describe a multi-component site on the Rideau River occupied / utilized by Aboriginal peoples over the millenia
Location – Routhier Centre
- April 14 - 7:30 pm** **Historical Archaeology of a Camboose Shanty in Algonquin Park – A Final Report**
Rory MacKay - Rory will explain the general nature of camboose shanties and the style of logging camps in the 1850 – 1880 time period in the Ottawa Valley.
Location – Routhier Centre
- October 13-16** 38th Annual Symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society
Ottawa, Ontario



Call for Papers

The 38th annual symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held Oct. 13-16, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario. The organizing committee invites abstracts for the following sessions:

New Insights into the Prehistory of the Ottawa Valley - Papers in Memory of Phil Wright

Into the Heart of a Continent - Waterways as Vectors of Change; an examination of the communication and trade carried along our rivers

From Sites to Cities - Archaeology within Urban Landscapes; potential mapping, development planning and cultural resources

There Once was a Sea Here - Accounting for Dynamic Landscapes; the challenges of locating and documenting sites from remote times

There will also be an open conference session and an open poster session.

For more information or to submit a 150 word abstract, please contact symposium@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

The conference will be held at

Ottawa City Hall

110 Laurier Avenue West Ottawa, ON

