

May 2012

Vol. 40#1

MAY 2012 VOL. 40#2

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST



**LET'S GO DIGGING
PARC NATIONAL DE PLAISANCE. QUEBEC
OTTAWA CHAPTER OPPORTUNITY**

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!

2012 Executive Committee

President: Glenna Roberts, (613) 235-7358 or glennaroberts@sympatico.ca
Vice President: André Miller, (819) 210-6939 or andre.miller@gmail.com
Treasurer: Bill MacLennan, (613) 759-7067 or bmaclennan0113@rogers.com
Secretary: Libby Imrie, (613) 241-5160 or ian.imrie@sympatico.ca
Director Public Archaeology: Paul Thibaudeau 613-296-1742 intermeshenterprises@gmail.com
Director at Large: Stacey Girling-Christie, (613) 521-7284 or sgchristie@rogers.com
Karen Lochhead (819-827-3071) karen.lochhead@videotron.ca
Newsletter Editor: Marian Clark (613) 284-3646 or meclark2009@hotmail.com
Webmaster: Yvon Riendeau, yvon.riendeau@sympatico.ca

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

Payable to:

The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.
P.O. Box 62066, Victoria Terrace Post Office
Toronto ON M4A 2W1
Phone/fax: 416-406-5959
E-mail: oasociety@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca
www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

Cover Photo :

Excavation Unit
Parc de la Plaisance
Marcel Laliberté

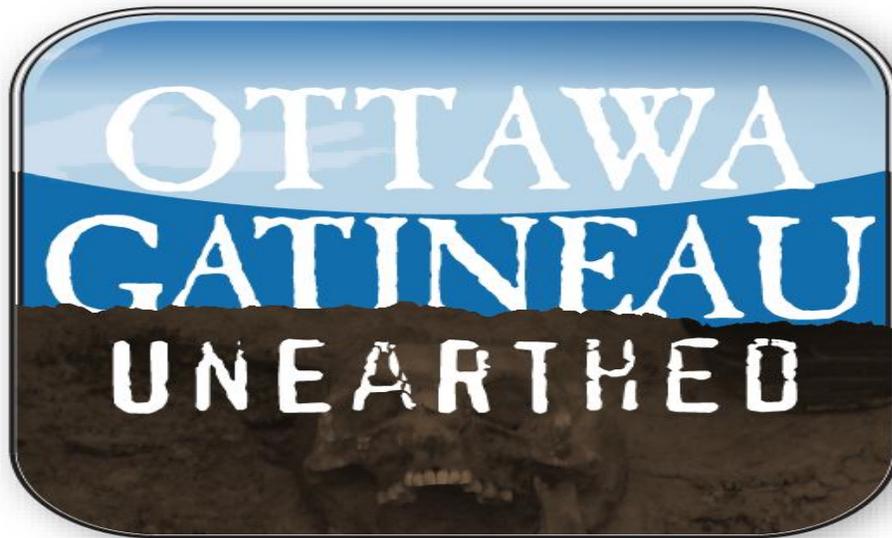


PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It's almost three months since my last report to newsletter readers.

What has happened of importance archaeologically since then, indoors that is?

A major event was a presentation by Nancy Carter, producer at Lolamedia, about the mobile interactive series she is developing. She showed part of "Toronto Unearthed" (which you can view at: <http://vimeo.com/32478429>) to a group of about 20 potential supporters. Ron Williamson offered guidance for the Toronto project. This video is a prototype for other cities across Canada and "Ottawa Unearthed/Gatineau Découvert" is already in the planning process. The format for each city will follow a pattern -- twelve stories per city, each story represented by one object with 5-6 pages based on each. The enhanced e-book of approximately 75 pages will access visuals and interactive text, a technique called "augmented reality". Ian Badgley, Jean-Luc Pilon, Hugh Daechsel and I have all suggested ideas for themes (palaeontology, Champlain Sea, First Nations, contact, colonial, modern) to be represented by items from Mer Bleu,



Lebreton Flats, Victoria Island, Rideau Canal, Chaudière Falls, Leamy Lake, Philemon Wright's farm, the Governor General's residence, etc. Just exchanging ideas with Nancy as she learns more about our region has given us all an enthusiasm for the project. The potential of having this material about our archaeological heritage available at no charge through iTunes on the iPads of locals, tourists and students could heighten awareness in a new and highly effective way.

Archaeology is really going high tech!

The technology to develop such a product does not come cheaply and so funding is a major consideration. As well as advice on content the Ontario Archaeological Society is partnering in submitting funding applications, to date to the Canada Interactive Fund and the Trillium Foundation. If at least one major grant is obtained, other options will be investigated to augment. For example, such Digital text books with a Teachers' Guide would be highly enriching for the Grade 5 or Grade 10 syllabus. I do hope that other groups at Nancy's presentation emerged as enthusiastic as those from the OAS, which included our Public Archaeology director, Paul Thibaudeau. Represented by several staff each were the NCC, City of Ottawa, City of Gatineau, Odawa Centre, Canadian Conservation Institute, Canadian Museum of Civilization, and others - not to mention the Trillium Foundation.

Glenna

Cover story – Parc National de Plaisance

Come and enjoy a memorable experience in archaeology at the Parc National de Plaisance!

The event will run from Wednesday May 23 to Sunday June 10, 9 a.m to 4 p.m. Participants can join the archaeologists to dig an archaeological site, screen soil or clean artifacts. The participants are protected from the weather by shelters and the many amenities of the Parc are available to them.

For Whom: Adults and children 12 years and over, accompanied by an adult

Cost: Free (charges for authorizing access to the park are applicable. \$6/adulte and \$2.75 / child)

To participate a reservation is required at the following telephone number: 819-775-3529 France Levesque, or email: levesquefr@videotron.ca

If you wish to take part in the dig as a volunteer for several days (2 days or more), it's possible too! The costs of access authorization are then not applicable. There is also overnight accommodation on site. - Ask when reserving.

Participants and volunteers will provide their own water, food, appropriate clothing, insect repellent and sunscreen.

To get to the Parc National de Plaisance (Presqu'îles sector) see: <http://www.sepaq.com/pq/pla/> - within 45 minutes of Hull

Directions to the archaeological site will be given to you at the Discovery and Services Centre, Parc de Plaisance, where participants and volunteers must check-in each morning.

Hope to see you soon,

André Miller

The Checklist Approach – Divergent Views

On April 2 I circulated to the Ottawa Chapter a message from one of our members, Bill Allen. "Today the (Environmental) Registry posted government policy proposal 011-5981 which places more decision-making power over assessment of heritage potential away from archaeologists and into the hands of proponents. The checklist approach sanctioned for use by non specialists strikes at the heart of the value of the archaeology profession and may put some First Nations cultural heritage resources at increased risk."

I received two letters on this subject representing two divergent opinions, and have received permission from the authors to distribute them. If you made a submission on the subject we would be happy to circulate it to others also, in the interests of opening up the debate. The first letter I received was from Dr. Robert MacDonald, University of Waterloo and Archaeological Services Limited. (Glenna Roberts)

Greetings all,

Rob Pihl and I have had a quick look at this and it seems to us that, if anything, the proposed implementation of a checklist actually strengthens the current process for triggering cultural heritage assessments under the Renewable Energy Act (REA). Indeed, it is the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) that is advocating for this process improvement in order to provide greater methodological clarity to proponents when considering the need for archaeological and heritage assessments.

Such a checklist approach has been used by municipal planners across the province ever since the Harris government downloaded the responsibility for determining the need for archaeological assessments, so this approach has a long track record. The MTCS checklist tends to be very stringent, and if you read it over you will probably have trouble imagining a piece of real estate which would NOT be captured by its criteria. In our archaeological master plan studies, using GIS we generally find that the capture rate using the MTCS checklist is typically over 90% of all land within a given municipality. This is one of the motivations for carrying out an archaeological master plan, as these studies tend to refine archaeological potential down to something in the 60% to 80% range.

In our experience, sophisticated development proponents, such as those involved in REA projects, are not looking to get out of doing the requisite archaeological and heritage assessments. On the contrary, they don't want anything popping up that might give opponents ammunition, so Stage 1 archaeological assessments are routine aspects of their due-diligence process. Of course these must be done by licensed archaeologists.

So unless we are missing something here, we don't have any concerns with this proposal and actually believe it increases rigour for archaeological assessment in the REA development process. We do, however, appreciate Bill's diligence and offer our thanks for bringing this information to our attention.

I trust you will find this opinion helpful.

Best regards, Rob.

The second letter I received came from Linda Heron, Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance. It was a copy of her reply to Rob MacDonald, written at Bill Allen's suggestion.

Hello Dr. MacDonald!

Yes, as Bill has mentioned, Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) has reviewed three hydroelectric Environmental Reports, which are the first to be issued under the new streamlined Environmental Assessment process, and has issued Part II Order requests on all three proposals because of their lack of detail, substance, and general failing grade. It has been our experience that the 5 year timeline given to developers to have these stations operational has encouraged them to skip steps and gloss over critical areas. The Minister of Environment's office has agreed, and issued notice to this developer that they must go back and do more planning, and then, if they choose, resubmit their ER. To our knowledge, and to the knowledge of Agency staff, a developer has never before been sent back to do more planning. The Minister's office also informed ORA that the developer will most likely be voluntarily withdrawing the other two ERs - we should have confirmation shortly. The EA approvals process is a proponent driven process, so it is up to them how they will conduct their consultation process, studies, reports, etc. Left to their own devices, this company prepared what I would describe as a cookie cutter styled ER for each of their proposals - and chose to gloss over vital areas and ignore many critical issues like climate change and cumulative effects.

This government has literally placed the fox in charge of the hen house. It is not in the best interests of a developer to find anything that would cost them more money or to slow down their schedule. These checklist forms posted on the registry for historical and archaeological triggers are deplorable - and a joke to say the least. Needless to say the developers will love nothing better than to only have to complete a checklist that will take them but a few seconds to complete. Once this government has Bill 55 passed, several other important pieces of legislation will be amended as well, such as the Lakes & Rivers Improvement Act and the Endangered Species Act - along with changing MNR's science based departments' focus over from these individual proposals to more regional matters - that is really the worst of what is happening.

Another problem is that First Nations (FN) are our original people on this land, and many of these archaeologically and/or historically significant sites have not been explored or marked, especially along the major river arteries. Each of these modified peaking hydroelectric dams will inundate many kilometres of land behind them, and as you know, these are often the sites where FN and early settlers made their camps and burial sites. Bill can attest to this as he has already made significant finds at two of the proposed dam sites in question - hence his experience with uncooperative developers.

FN are not being listened to, and neither are the public and stakeholders or municipalities. FN are fed up - check out the article at <http://www.nationtalk.ca/modules/news/article.php?storyid=52778>.

ORA has been pushing for the proponent led process to be terminated as we have already had graphic evidence that it doesn't work to put the developer in charge. It's not working for the public, for the riverine ecosystems, or for the Minister of Environment it seems. All the while Bill 55 seeks to streamline the approvals process even further, as well as remove the very agency staff responsible for ensuring a semblance of environmental integrity. I would encourage you to look closely at the suggested checklist, through the perspective of a developer whose main

motivation is profit. I see this checklist as only another area where the developer can escape the red tape, escalating costs and dwindling timelines, and get an easy pass to the finish line.

ORA will be commenting on these Registry posting!

All the best, **Linda Heron Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance**

The First Archaeological Road Show - Glenna Roberts reporter

To drive through the village of Russell is to see a pretty old eastern Ontario town growing into a suburban enclave of Ottawa. But it once had a thriving independence of its own. It had a mill on the Castor River and served the local farming community with the merchandise and services people needed, from ribbons to music, to a blacksmith, to a barber shop. One of the Russell Historic museum's buildings in an old Fire Hall preserves the evidence of this former economy and the early residents of the town.

The other building in a former Presbyterian church commemorates the many who died in the two world wars. A band of enthusiastic local residents makes this ambitious museum work. One member of the Historic Society is lovingly restoring a "democrat" using the old tools of the carriage maker. And it was another member, Harry Baker, a retired geological engineer and OAS member, who worked together with Jean-Luc Pilon, Paul Thibodeau and the executive of the Ottawa Chapter OAS to hold the first ever Archaeological Road Show. On a cool, but sunny Saturday morning, May 5, 2011, we (the archaeologists) were greeted at the entrance to the old fire hall by Harry and several others. Tables and chairs had been set up in preparation for our arrival. Jean-Luc (hopefully) spread out his maps of the local area. Paul laid out artifacts from sites he has dug to show that archaeology can be ancient and but also historic, and related to the age of objects in the museum. Glenna put out Ottawa Chapter OAS propaganda (banners and pamphlets) which now includes French language materials, including "Veillez ne pas détruire les sites" "Please Don't Loot".



Although Russell is a predominantly English speaking town, several of the visitors preferred the French materials, especially the director of a two year old museum at Rockland who had been notified of the event by Jean-Francois Beaulieu, also in attendance. Several visitors brought for identification arrow-heads of unknown provenance, but the owners were happy to have the rock identified as Onondaga chert or Knife River flint. Nevertheless the event was a success according to Jean-Luc – two new sites! One is on a nearby farm, the other, surprisingly in the city of Ottawa. In due course, our hosts presented coffee and cookies, and we added sandwiches, juice and Libby's famous muffins. By noon most of the visitors had disappeared, so everyone settled in for a good chat, and actually had an opportunity to view the exhibits. Paul's family who were there in number had a chance to learn a little more about his profession than they usually do. Another visitor had dug with Dave Croft some years ago and was eager for news of him. She is a prospective chapter member. From the point of view of Harry and the museum the event was also a success in terms of raising awareness of the pre-European presence in the area. It is his hope to be able to include at the museum a display of excavated materials and to invite a speaker from one of the Algonquin bands. As an enthusiastic new member of the chapter he has already contributed a great deal by inaugurating a new method of both finding new sites and of "spreading the word". The Archaeological Road Show will certainly be looking for another locale in the year to come.

(Letter and photographs received May 6)

On behalf of the Russell Historical Society I would like to send a big thank you to you and members of the OAS-Ottawa Chapter for a wonderful first Archaeological Road Show held yesterday in Russell. There were quite a few artifacts brought in for identification and all in all it was a great time. I have attached a few photos for your newsletter. I hope some of them are suitable! The weather was perfect and I was very happy with the attendance. As a bonus we were able to give a few tours of our exhibits.

Special thanks to Dr. Jean-Luc Pilon (and of course all the blame) and Dr. Paul Thibaudeau for sharing their expertise with all of the visitors. Thanks for organizing it all at your end and for bringing the excellent sandwiches and muffins!

I look forward to hearing more about the Ottawa Chapter events.

Best personal regards

Harry Baker

NEWS , NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Congratulations to the Ottawa Society, Archaeological Institute of America

The winner of the 2011-2012 Best AIA Local Society Program online contest!

In 2011 the society created a grade 5 curriculum that is compatible with the Ontario Social Studies Curriculum. The project aims to bring Greek, Roman, and Egyptian archaeology and history into the classroom. The project was launched on National Archaeology Day 2011 with promotion of the curriculum and to date the project has been delivered to 20 schools, 4 home-school groups and two different embassies. They have also done outreach with the Greek and Jewish communities in Ottawa by bringing excavation box kits to afterschool programs to promote archaeology and the curriculum. Congratulations to the students of the Ottawa Society AIA for their hard work and success!

May 16 - 20, Canadian Archaeological Association and the Association d'archéologie de Québec joint conference & meetings, University of Montreal

May 18 Friday Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World exhibit through October 28, Public opening at the Canadian Museum of Civilization

May 22, 7:00 p.m Tuesday, Special lecture at CMC: Rise and Fall of the Sacred Rulers of the Maya World, Justin Jennings from Royal Ontario Museum

May 26 8:00 - 12:30, Saturday, Great Glebe Garage Sale, 256 First Avenue.

Please drop your donations on the verandah of above address from Monday - Friday the week preceding (May 21-25). Help on day of sale (early in the morning) Welcome.

May 31 7:30 pm. Thursday, Ottawa Chapter OAS, meeting and presentation by Ian Badgley of the National Capital Commission, titled Challenges in Cultural Resource Management, Routhier Centre (rescheduled from April 19)

May 23 – June - Excavation opportunity at Parc de la Plaisance, Quebec
Call for details France Levesque 819-775-3529 levesquefr@videotron.ca

August 6, Monday – Colonel By Day at Rideau Locks – enjoy the events and talk to people about the OAS and our activities

August 12, Sunday – Pinhey's Point Historic Site Riverfest – Help with our activity table and enjoy the wonderful ambience of the Pinhey Estate on the shores of the Ottawa River

August 18 Saturday, Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Provincial Park. Morning activities with the camper and visitors, evening talk, weekend of camping on the shores of Round Lake – contact Glenna (glennaroberts@sympatico.ca) or Rory (rmackay@cogeco.ca)

If you are aware of other events or public archaeology opportunities over the summer, please let us know.