

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST



CERAMICS 101: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH SUZANNE PLUSOS, PAGE 5

PLANTED FIRMLY IN HISTORY: DICKERSON SITE, PAGE 6

LEAMY LAKE PARK 2012: PAGE 7

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

November 2012
Vol. 40 #4

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 the address below!

2012 Executive Committee: Please contact us through contact@ottawaoas.ca

President: Glenna Roberts

Vice President: André Miller

Treasurer: Bill MacLennan

Secretary: Libby Imrie

Director Public Archaeology: Paul Thibaudeau

Directors at Large: Stacey Girling-Christie

Karen Lochhead

Newsletter Editor: Marian Clark

Webmaster: Yvon Riendeau

Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award: Lois King

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 :

Suzanne Plusos at Ceramics Workshop

Bonnechere Parks, Round Lake ON



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Here we are – the end of another very active year for the Ottawa Chapter. I am happy to report on the many activities that took place since our last annual meeting of December 2011. Here follows my recent report prepared for the OAS President's meeting at the Symposium in Windsor.

Our regular monthly programs this year benefitted greatly from our proximity to the Canadian Museum of Civilization with tours of "Expedition Arctic 1913-1918" and "Maya – Secrets of an Ancient Civilization" and talks from Yves Monette (Québec curator) and Terence Clarke (BC and Prairie curator). Other speakers were chapter members Jean-Francois Beaulieu and Ian Badgley of the National Capital Commission and Jim Mountain of the City of Ottawa.

Communication with members and the public continued through the contributions of newsletter editor, Marian Clark and web-master, Yvon Riendeau. Contact@ottawaoas receives several enquiries each month about chapter events and identification of artifacts. During the year we spread the word about the importance of archaeology at City of Ottawa's Heritage Day on February 2, Colonel By Day on August 6 and Riverfest at Pinhey's Point Historic Site, August 16. Rory Mackay led a hands-on display and evening talk at the Bonnechere Provincial Park camp site. Jean-Luc Pilon initiated a new approach to site-hunting with an Archaeological Road Show at the Russell Museum. People in the vicinity were invited to bring artifacts for expert identification. Two new sites were located, one near the town and one in Ottawa itself.

On February 8, 2012, the City of Ottawa passed the Renewed Action Plan for Arts, Heritage and Culture 2013-2018. It included designating a City of Ottawa archaeologist and creating a new Master Plan, neither of which have as yet been acted upon. We will continue to monitor. We also advocated against the cuts to Parks Canada, sending letters to the Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, James Moore.

The Chapter maintains an institutional membership in the Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa, and vice-president André Miller is a member of its board. It is continuing to translate its information materials into French and also decided to join Archéo-Québec, a Quebec organization somewhat analogous to the OAS. August is *le mois d'archéologie* in Quebec and our members benefitted along with the general public in participating as diggers or visitors at the Parc national de Plaisance near Thurso on the Ottawa River and at Jacques Cartier Park in Gatineau. In September, several Ottawa Chapter members and about a dozen members of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg from Maniwaki, Quebec, participated in a research activity organized by Ian Badgley of the National Capital Commission (see page 7).

November 2012
Vol. 40 #4

Our membership hovers at about 70 (up about 10) with attendance at meetings 20 – 25. Certificates of Appreciation were presented at the 2011 Annual General Meeting to Stacey Girling-Christie, Peggy Smyth and Rory Mackay in recognition of their outstanding services to the Chapter. With a strong executive, we look forward to a rich program of activities in the next year.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION.

Hamilton and Scourge: Archaeological Exploration of Two War of 1812 Shipwrecks

Jonathan Moore, Senior Underwater Archaeologist, Parks Canada

7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 29

Canadian War Museum Barney Danson Theatre, Canadian War Museum

This is a joint presentation of the Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society, and the Archaeological Institute of America, with the cooperation of Parks Canada and the Canadian War Museum

Three rounds of archaeological fieldwork were completed at the wrecks of the *Hamilton* and *Scourge* in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The principal objective of the fieldwork was to assess the condition of these well-preserved War of 1812-1814 era wrecks that capsized in western Lake Ontario on August 8, 1813. The Hamilton & Scourge National Historic Site of Canada is owned and managed by the City of Hamilton, and Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Service served as the archaeological lead during the condition survey. Fieldwork was spurred by the advent of unsanctioned technical diving visitation to the sites in 2000-2001 that revealed the presence of invasive mussels; the latter proved to be quagga mussels, a close relative of the better-known zebra mussel. Other objectives included marine remote sensing of the site and its debris field, three-dimensional archaeological recording of the individual wrecks, exploration of the hull interiors, site environment studies and a public presentation, the latter to include a television documentary. This illustrated talk will briefly describe the wrecks and their history, outline carefully planned preparatory studies in the lead-up to the survey, and report on the archaeological results of the multifaceted survey of two fascinating shipwrecks.

Jonathan Moore, Senior Underwater Archaeologist with Parks Canada, did his undergraduate studies at Queens University, where he began his involvement in underwater archaeology. He completed a Master's degree in Maritime Studies at the University of St. Andrews in 1992. He began working with Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Service in 1994 and has worked on over 50 projects across Canada. From 2007 to 2009, he directed the archaeological survey of the United States Navy shipwrecks *Hamilton* and *Scourge* wrecked in 1813 in Lake Ontario.

Ceramics Workshop at Bonnechere Park by Rory MacKay

It was another typical gorgeous late summer day at Bonnechere Park on September 15th, 2012, but for fifteen archaeologists or prospective archaeologists it was a day spent indoors by choice. The attraction was a ceramics workshop presented by Parks Canada's own Suzanne Plousos. An invitational event, directors of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks and members of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS were informed of the event first. Interest was sufficient for a full workshop.

Participants entering the Davenport Cultural Heritage Centre were greeted with an extensive array of ceramic samples. We learned to differentiate creamware from pearlware and ironstone, as well as discovering the variety of techniques used over the years to decorate the plain forms. Suzanne told fascinating stories about the items in the collection, many of which were found on military sites. The one I liked best was about the finding of some ceramics buried apparently by design. It is assumed some junior officers had broken them during a rousing party. Rather than admitting their transgression, and facing discipline and a four-times-cost penalty for replacing the dishes, they possibly buried the evidence and bought a replacement set of dishes in town.



After three hours of presentation we took a break to enjoy a wonderful lunch prepared by Don Webb and Sandy Kingsmith, including the famous “bread pudding with caramel sauce” from the Wilno Tavern. Next up was a discussion of makers’ marks and other details about ceramics. After the workshop, Suzanne assisted with the identification of samples brought by the archaeologists. It was a successful day. The organizers -- Rory MacKay, Don Webb and Sandy Kingsmith -- would like to thank Suzanne Plousos and Joe Last for coming to Bonnechere Park to present the workshop. We also acknowledge the support of the staff of Bonnechere Park, particularly Acting Superintendent Jason Mask, in providing camping facilities and a venue for the workshop participants. All participants recognize and regret the significant impact that cut-backs at Parks Canada will have on the field of archaeology and the understanding of material culture. The opportunity to benefit from Suzanne’s expertise would have been a treat at any time, but was appreciated all the more because of those circumstances.

Planted Firmly in History by Rory MacKay

Chapter members will recall our previous notification that the location of the “Indian Doctor Ignace’s Landing and Path to his Sugar Bush” indicated on McNaughton’s 1847 survey map of the Bonnechere River. Stage two work at The Dickerson Site, as it is registered, revealed evidence of hunting and trapping activities. The site is located on the river bank adjacent to two marshes, and it is thought that the location was chosen not only because of its proximity to a maple stand but because of the plant biodiversity nearby. Thus, Don Webb has expanded his study of the site to include the compilation of a plant list for that part of Bonnechere River Provincial Park near the Dickerson site. Research permission was not received until mid-summer this year, so Don is looking forward to the upcoming Spring when plants will be in flower and easier to identify. Meanwhile, Don has been reading up on Algonquin ethnobotany. It is thought that this botanical research will suggest that Dr. Ignace was a herbalist.

Coming at that issue from a different direction, in co-operation with officials at Pikwakanagan, Rory MacKay has been attempting to make contact with First Nations people related to Mosie Lamable, who in turn may be related to Dr. Ignace. It is hoped that some information about Dr. Ignace was passed down through the generations. Plants played a role in finding another important site. Proximity of a large maple stand not far from the Dickerson Site prompted a springtime exploration by Don Webb and Sandy Kingsmith. After a century and a half, it was unlikely that Don would find evidence of sugar-making and that was the case, but what he found was remarkable in its own right. On Crown land, south of the Bonnechere River, Don found stone piles and stone fences, some with the remains of cedar rails still placed on top. Further exploration revealed acres of land containing stone piles; evidence of a significant farm. Readers of *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere* will recall that not far downstream from Dr. Ignace’s Landing was a road leading to a farm. A poor quality photocopy of the 1847 map, and inexperience with 19th Century handwriting, led Rory MacKay to interpret the farm as “Portien’s Farm”. Examination of a photograph of the map revealed the farm was noted as belonging to P. Aylen. Not only had Don found a long-lost farm, but he had likely found Peter Aylen’s farm. Peter Aylen was the notorious gang of Irish ruffians who terrorized early Bytown and tried to dominate the square timber trade in the late 1830s and early 1840s. Aylen’s depot farm pre-dated the depot farm of John Egan, some distance upstream, possibly by two decades. The search is still on to locate any of the original buildings on the farm, but in the meantime Don has located at least four buildings comprising a late 19th Century or early 20th Century lumber camp, within the older farm. On the other hand, it may be younger and part of the works of the Omaniue Lumber Company which had a mill on Beaverdam Lake. Only further archaeological investigation can tell.

So, lest anyone tell you that all opportunities for volunteer work by the Ottawa Chapter along the Little Bonnechere River have been exhausted, just refer them to our man of many interests and explorations, avocational archaeologist Don Webb. If Don can find sites for us, perhaps chapter members can find a means to fund a few chapter digs or even another public archaeology opportunity.

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Archaeological Field Activity Leamy Lake Park, 2012

by Ian Badgley and Glenna Roberts

On August 14 and August 21, 2012, four or five Ottawa Chapter OAS members and about a dozen members of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg took part in a field activity under the supervision of Ian Badgley of the NCC. The objectives were:

- To rescue archaeological artifacts that had eroded from the Ottawa River shoreline of the pre-contact BiFw-6 site in Leamy Lake Park;
- To gain a better understanding of the effects of shoreline erosion on the cultural deposits in this site;
- To contribute to the archaeological capacity of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg.

Ian described the context of the activity. “The pre-contact archaeological sites located on the shore of the Ottawa River in Leamy Lake Park are undergoing active erosion. Caused by seasonally high water levels, the impacts of this ongoing erosion on shoreline cultural deposits in these sites result in the annual loss of significant archaeological resources. Archaeological monitoring of these impacts is a necessary first step in developing effective and appropriate measures to stabilize the effects of erosion and, thereby, to protect and preserve the endangered cultural deposits. The systematic surface-collecting of archaeological artifacts removed from their original context by erosion is a fundamental aspect of archaeological site monitoring. In the case of the pre-contact archaeological sites in Leamy Lake Park, the rescue through surface-collecting of displaced artifacts will not only document the effects of shoreline erosion, but also allow the location of the cultural deposits presently undergoing erosion to be determined.”



Before the work began, a metre-high silt fence was installed the length of the beach at the BiFw-6 site, so as to prevent debris created by the excavation from entering the water. This barrier was required by the Environmental Branch of the NCC, as part of the new regulations in the recent federal budget bill concerning the determination of environmental effects. The field activity consisted of laying out a metric grid system, collecting recognizable artifacts from the surface and then screening the sand-gravel layer of the beach. The beach is approximately 75m in length and averaged roughly 7m in width at that time of low water. The sand-gravel layer ranged from a few centimetres to about 15cm in thickness throughout the part of the beach that was explored, and was underlain by blue-grey clay. The silt fence was removed at the end of each day's work. After sieving, the sand-gravel was immediately re-deposited on the beach and the shoreline was restored to its previous condition to the degree possible.

The artifacts were recorded and bagged according to square metre. Pre-contact artifacts consisted of many small to medium-sized pieces in Kichisipi chert, some of which were retouched implements and biface fragments, and a few sherds of Middle Woodland pottery. A considerable assortment of historic iron material probably dating to the period of the Gatineau Boom Company was found but was not bagged. The pre-contact artifacts were taken to Kitigan Zibi for further analysis.

The Chapter is most grateful for the educational experience for those who were able to participate (Denise Bourgeois, Joyce Clarke, Karen Lockhead, Mel Massey, Glenna Roberts, Jim Montgomery, and newcomer Bob Clarke.). The interested and enthusiastic group from Kitigan Zibi included Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Rene Tenasco, the Aboriginal Liaison of the NCC, and about a dozen others, including several high-school and college students. We all learned excavation technique and artifact recognition, and some of the ecological factors that must be taken into consideration regarding any site. Thanks for the opportunity.

**Notice of Annual General Meeting and Seasonal Celebration,
Ottawa Chapter OAS
7 pm, 20 Driveway, Party Room, Ring 107
(east end of Maclaren at the Canal)
Details to follow**

Call for Nominations for Ottawa Chapter, OAS, Executive 2013

Members are invited to nominate candidates, with their permission, for the Executive of the Ottawa Chapter 2013.

Please contact: Jim Montgomery, Chair Nominating Committee, at 613-730-2377, or at Narnia2@sympatico.ca, or Joyce Clarke, bradshaw4@rogers.com . Nominations will also be accepted at the Annual General Meeting of the Chapter on December 13, 2012.

November 2012
Vol. 40 #4

NEWS, NOTES AND UP-COMING EVENTS

"Vikings and Native Americans Face to Face" is the title of an article in the most recent National Geographic, focusing on Pat Sutherland's work at a possible Viking outpost on Baffin Island. The author is Heather Pringle, who was the key-note speaker at the OAS Symposium in Waterloo three years ago and a strong proponent of bringing archaeological stories to the public.

November 10-11 OAS Symposium, Windsor Ontario (see OAS web site)

November 14-16 - Meeting and Symposium of Archéo-Quebec,
in Trois Rivieres Quebec, contact Nathalie Barbe 514-872-772-
www.archeoquebec.com

November 29 Joint meeting of Ottawa Chapter, OAS Ottawa AIA --
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Canadian War Museum Barney Danson Theatre
*Hamilton and Scourge: Archaeological Exploration of
Two War of 1812 Shipwrecks* with Jonathan Moore, Parks Canada

December 13 Thursday, Ottawa Chapter OAS AGM and Seasonal Celebration,
7 pm 20 Driveway, Party Room, Ring 107
(corner Maclaren and Canal)

2013

January 17 Bradley Drouin, Flint Knapping and Lithics workshop, 7:30 pm, Routhier Centre

February 21 Nancy Binnie, Underwater airplane archaeology, 7:30 pm,
Routhier Centre

March 21 Paul Thibaudeau, Richmond Site, 7:30, Routhier Centre

April 18 Jeff Earl and/or Brenda Kennett (topic to be announced)

Happy Holidays