

# THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST



**SUMMER IS HERE  
TIME TO GET OUT YOUR TROWEL !**

Ottawa Chapter  
Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.  
PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5J1  
[www.ottawaoas.ca](http://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!

### **2013 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:** Manuel Lapensée-Paquette, (819) 557-0833, manuelaquette@yahoo.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  
Libby Imrie, (613) 241-5160 or ian.imrie@sympatico.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 :**

2012 Participants digging  
the Elbow site (BjFs-7)  
Crédits : Marcel Laliberté



### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Traditionally the May newsletter outlines the Chapter's program for the summer. The editor, Marian Clark, asked me what is going on. Unhappily, Riverfest is not being held this year – perhaps because of poor attendance last year. Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Provincial Park is going ahead on Saturday, July 13 and we are invited to view a new display and meet the Curator at Barry's Bay Museum the day following, Sunday July 14. So gather up your camping gear and plan to join the group, just for Saturday or for the weekend.

On Monday, August 5 (Colonel By Day) we will be at the Bytown Museum, beside the locks below the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. This year we are planning more activities for the public and we will need more members to assist, especially as this is our main contribution to Archaeology Month. For a full program of other events, in which many Ottawa Chapter members are involved wearing other hats, please refer to our web site, where Yvon Riendeau has included a calendar for all the events in the month. There are walks, lectures and digs, many offered by our members. It will be really worthwhile staying around Ottawa.

When I compiled the report on the Chapter's public archaeology for Meaghan Brooks, OAS Director for Public Outreach, included in this newsletter, it seemed both detailed and complete. Now I must confess to having left out an important activity, initiated several years ago, and renewed last week. Shore-line clean up, a worthwhile program encouraged by the Ottawa Riverkeeper in partnership with local ecologically minded organizations, has in some cases threatened archaeological sites, especially those where the shore line is suffering erosion. In 2009, a shore-line clean up was scheduled for Kettle Island in the Ottawa River to the east of the city of Ottawa. Part of the island was registered with the Province of Québec as an archaeological site by André Miller with both aboriginal and early pioneer remains. With the Riverkeeper's cooperation, participants in the clean-up were given a one page explanation of the archaeological importance of shore-lines in general, and a brief outline of the Ontario Ministry of Culture regulations concerning artifact disturbance (taken from the Chapter's brochure "Please Don't Loot"). André and Denise Bourgeois attended the clean-up event and helped participants understand what they should and should not place in their garbage bags. Just this last month we learned of two similar Ottawa River shore-line clean-ups being planned in the region, one for Petrie Island and the other for the base of Parliament Hill. André Miller again approached the organizers and participated in sensitizing the participants. Thank you, André.

Finally – and at long last, you can now find us on Facebook and Twitter. Our activities and events will get broader coverage and it will fill the gap in between meetings and newsletters. Links to both can be found on our website [www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca) – please participate and share with your Friends and contacts.

See you out there during the summer !

Glenna Roberts

## Public Archaeology at the Elbow Site, 2012

By Marcel Laliberté, André Miller, GRAO Consultants en archeology (Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais)

In August last year, the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS joined the SÉPAQ and the team of professionals in archaeology GRAO Consultants to offer to OAS members and the general public a weekend digging in Parc national de Plaisance on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. Activities took place on the site of the Elbow (BjFs-7), on the east bank of the river of Petite-Nation, near its mouth on the Ottawa River.

The site was chosen due to the discovery of remains in 2011 that confirmed the presence in this area of the park of the leading institutions of the seigneurie of the Petite-Nation, built under the leadership of Joseph Papineau, father of the illustrious politician Louis-Joseph Papineau, who acquired the manor in 1803 and 1805.

Forty people, members of the OAS and non-members, attended the activity which took place in a cultivated field left fallow for several years, which had previously been carefully cleared by the park administration.



Enjoying splendid weather, the excavators and participants collected meticulously and with great enthusiasm many artifacts and faunal remains buried in the soil layer disturbed by agricultural activity. Construction debris (nails, glass, hardware parts), domestic waste (dishes, utensils, bottles and other containers) and clay pipes were unearthed in the plough zone in large numbers. In addition to these discoveries, flints, a few pieces of flintlock and two coins dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries provided definitive confirmation of the presence of the House of Elbow Petite-Nation, the first house built on the manor in 1805 by Antoine Dupuy, hired says Couillard, at the request of Joseph Papineau.

Through its financial support and participation in the excavations of 2012, the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS can rejoice to have made a significant contribution to an understanding of the historic era covering the beginnings of the colonization of the Greater Ottawa Valley.

In addition, excavations with the public in 2012 on the site of the Elbow resulted in the discovery of artifacts (beads, crooked knife, gun parts of French trading, pipes and other remnants of the eighteenth century) which strongly suggest, as argued by some historians, that the first house of the Petite-Nation was built on the site of Fort de la Petite-Nation, a French trading post in operation in the 1760s. The participation of the OAS Ottawa Chapter in archaeological research at the park Plaisance in 2012 could open the way for the reconstruction of a badly documented chapter of local history covering the period of the fur trade! Who knows?

Watch for information on participating later this summer – to be announced soon.

## **Espionage Amongst The Kilns**

by Rory MacKay

During these past winter months, I had the opportunity to find employment in archaeology, cleaning and processing small ceramic sherds from an historic excavation project for cataloguing by a professional archaeologist. That work led to my own inquiries into the types of wares and decorations used in the historic ceramic industry.

As I investigated the history of the ceramics, I began to understand some of the atmosphere of competition involved in the industry. After all, any new decoration or process that caught the eye and imagination of the consumer, either in Britain or North America, could make a particular ware a valuable commodity. The means of production was of necessity kept a trade secret as long as possible, else it would be copied by others and become commonplace, and thus less valuable.

It happened that one night recently I watched a television program on modern espionage. Included in the program was a story about the production of a fighter jet in China shortly after the unveiling of a near-identical fighter jet developed over many years by the United States. Cold War espionage has not disappeared.

By coincidence, the following day I read a story, in Simeon Shaw's 1829 "*History of the Staffordshire Potteries*," which showed that such industrial espionage was not at all new, including the early manufacturing of ceramics so frequently found on archaeological sites of the historic period. The excerpt below has been altered slightly to conform with modern sensibilities.

### **“Elers settle at Bradwell**

About 1690, Messrs. Elers, settled at Bradwell, (from Nuremberg,) where they had a small manufactory, and according to tradition, another also at Dimsdale, both in very secluded situations, and at a distance from the public roads; scarcely discernible from Burslem, and only partially so from the manufactories at Red Street.

Here for some time, the brothers made Red Porcelain unglazed Tea Pots, merely of the fine red clay of Bradwell, and a small proportion of the ochreous clay from Chesterton, to vary the shade; and also Black Porcelain, or Egyptian, by adding manganese in proportions agreeable to the dark shade wished for.

The remaining specimens shew that some degree of success resulted; the price was from twelve to twenty-four shillings each, they have a fine grain, and are excellent in form and every quality except ornaments, (which are coarse and grotesque,) and will ever manifest the ingenuity and enterprise of their fabricators.

Being extremely jealous lest any purchaser or visitor should approach the scene of their operations, between the two factories was preserved a mode of communication to intimate the approach of any persons supposed to be intruders.

Their servants were the most ignorant and [unintelligent] persons they could find; and a [very mentally challenged slower-learner] was employed to turn the thrower's wheel. Each person was locked in the place where he was employed; and such was the precaution to preserve the supposed secret, that, previously to the few work people retiring at night, each was subjected to a strict examination....

A very singular method of ascertaining all their processes, is currently reported to have been adopted by [a] person named *Astbury*; (known by his acquaintance as very acute and ingenious, and well capacitated to effect all requisite developments.)— Having assumed the garb and appearance of a [very mentally challenged slower-learner], with all proper vacancy of countenance, he presented himself before the manufactory at Bradwell, and submitted to the cuffs, kicks, and unkind treatment of masters and workmen, with a ludicrous grimace, as the proof of the extent of his mental ability.

When some food was offered him, he used only his fingers to convey it to his mouth; and only when helped by other persons, could he understand how to perform any of the labours to which he was directed. He next was employed to move the treadle of an *Engine Lathe*, a very different machine from those of this day, and by perseverance in his assumed character, he had opportunity of witnessing every process, and examining every utensil they employed.

On returning home each evening, he formed models of the several kinds of implements, and made memorandums of the processes; which practice he continued a considerable time, (near two years is mentioned,) until he ascertained that no further information was likely to be obtained; when he availed himself of a fit of sickness, to continue at home; and this was represented as most malignant, to prevent any persons visiting him.

After his recovery he was found so [mentally challenged], that Messrs. Elers deemed him unfit longer to remain in their service, and he was discharged, without suspicion that he possessed a knowledge of all their manipulations.

Only a short time subsequently elapsed, ere they found that no longer were their operations secret; and mortified at the fact that their precaution had been unavailing, disgusted by the inquisitiveness of the Burslem potters, and convinced that they were too far distant, from the principal market for their productions, they at length discontinued manufacture at Bradwell, and removed to a manufactory in the vicinity of London, where a branch of the family now is resident.”

Reference Shaw, Simeon, 1829, *History of the Staffordshire Potteries*

Shaw does not indicate the manner in which the carefully guarded trade secrets of the brothers Eler were distributed, but one can assume that Mr. Astbury did well financially as a result of his efforts.

Such intrigue makes one look at the variety of decoration on ceramic sherds just a little bit differently!

## Archaeological Road Show and Show and Tell, May 25, 2013

The Road Show in Kemptville may not have uncovered any new sites, figuratively or actually, but the members of the Ottawa Chapter executive who attended appreciated the enthusiastic reception they received and felt that in combination with Paul Thibaudeau's lecture on May 8 they had really spread the word about ARCHAEOLOGY. Also, they had lots of fun – witness the photo on the 1914 fire engine supplied by Chief Hutt of the North Grenville Fire Department.



Manuel Lapensée-Paquette & Paul Thibaudeau



Who says archaeology isn't fun!

The engine has its own history, as supplied by Ann Newton of the North Grenville Historical Society.

"This 1914 model was used to pull the steamer and take hoses and ladders to the fires. In 1941 it was used as a trade-in when the 1941 International fire truck was purchased. Arthur Eager was an International dealer at the time and took the 1914 model to his farm and for several years it was used as a truck in the field to haul crops. Around 1966, the volunteers received permission from Eager to use the 1914 truck in parades. In 1976, the volunteers purchased the truck from the Eagers. In 2000, the Firefighters Association decided to completely refurbish the truck to its original condition. Harold Workman, as the project chair, organized the refurbishing. He removed all the wood components and duplicated them using white oak. Harold spent countless hours working on the truck and other members assisted with the sandblasting and re-assembly. The late Ken Seymour, a retired firefighter, worked on the motor and transmission and the volunteers worked on the remaining mechanical systems. The Kemptville Truck Centre, our local International dealer did the bodywork. The tires (which are solid rubber) were re-rubberized to their original condition by Weirton Bandag (a company in West Virginia). Kriska Transport shipped the tires to the United States and back for the association."

This information was taken from an article on the Internet titled *Celebrating 150 years of Service*, Kelly Workman-Seeley, 2005.

## **Outreach and the Ottawa Chapter** compiled by Glenna Roberts

Recently, Meaghan Brooks, the new Director for Public Outreach, Ontario Archaeological Society, requested a report on what materials the Ottawa Chapter has and how we use them. That provided the incentive to pull together the varied aspects of our outreach activities, which I shall outline here. Needless to say, Meaghan was much impressed. The main message comes at the end. Committed members are the most important part of our outreach program. One enthusiast is worth any number of pamphlets. So, we thank you all for your past enthusiasm and ask you to continue by contributing some of your time and energy over the summer. Aside from monthly meetings, outreach is what we do!

### **Outline of Report on Public Archaeology, Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society**

**Communication:** Newsletter, web-site, Facebook, Twitter

**Displays, City of Ottawa:** Heritage Day, Colonel By Day, Pinhey's Point, Billings Estate

**Provincial Parks:** Bonnechere Provincial Park, Murphy's Point Provincial Park

**Archaeological Road Show:** 2012 Russell; 2013 North Grenville Historical Society, Kemptville

**Bilingualism:** Translating materials into French

**Institutional memberships:** CHOO/COPO, Archéo-Québec

**First Nations:** Algonquins of Pikwakanagan are members; Kitigan Zibi engagement with NCC.

**Public Meetings and Partners:** National Capital Commission, Museums (Canada Aviation and Space Museum, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canadian War Museum,) Archaeological Institute of America, University of Ottawa, National Arts Centre.

**Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award:** Nominations from across Ontario are open

**Storage of Materials:** Diefenbunker and elsewhere

**Materials Needed:** Brochures and banners to be paid from City of Ottawa Heritage grant.

**Members:** The best thing we have are committed members, both professional and non-professional, who come out to participate, one enthusiast being worth any number of pamphlets!

The full three page report is available to any member upon request.

## **NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Get all you updates on FACEBOOK [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and TWITTER @Ottawa OAS  
See our links from the Chapter's web site [www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca)

**July 13**      **Archaeology Day** at Bonnechere Parks – participants welcome to help out and enjoy a day or weekend at the park. Please call Rory MacKay 613-888-6031

**July 14**      Display at Barry's Bay

**August**      **Archaeology month** across Quebec and the Ottawa Valley with many activities and events planned. On Colonel By Day, **August 5**, the Chapter will have a display and demonstration space and would welcome participants who can help greet the public and share our story about Ontario's archaeology. Full calendar of events on our web page [www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca) and at [www.archaeomonth.com](http://www.archaeomonth.com)

**Oct. 4-6**      **Conference** on Iroquois Research, Cortland New York  
Call for papers open [www.iroquoia.org](http://www.iroquoia.org)

**Oct. 25-27**    **40<sup>th</sup> Annual OAS Symposium** in Niagara Falls - *Where the Water is Loud, Archaeology of the Niagara Peninsula and Beyond* see [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)