

# THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST



**THE SUMMER WAS FUN FILLED & ACTION PACKED  
PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE VALLEY !!!  
STORIES INSIDE**

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 the address below!

2013 Executive Committee: Please contact us through [contact@ottawaoas.ca](mailto:contact@ottawaoas.ca)

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### **OAS FEES:**

Individual: \$36 w/ OA \$48

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### **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](mailto:oasociety@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

[www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

### **Cover Photo :**

Colonel By Day activities with

Glenna Roberts and Nathalie Barbe

Coordinator of Archéo-Quebec 2013

Photo by Marian Clark



### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Archaeology Month/Mois de l'archéologie 2013 is over. There will be some reports and pictures elsewhere in this issue of the Ottawa Archaeologist and more in the next. It is a little early to make a full assessment, but I cannot resist focusing on the program as a whole while it is fresh in my mind. First, I must thank Nathalie Barbe, Coordinator for Archéo Québec, le réseau de la diffusion en l'archéologie, who brought the concept and initial planning to our attention.

Le mois de l'archéologie was begun 9 years ago. Institutions and organizations in about a dozen regions of Quebec were encouraged to include a special archaeological activity or event for the public during the month, which was publicized throughout the province. Support was received from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, and of the Ministère du Tourisme du Québec. The Mois became a tradition, and this year for the first time it crossed the Ottawa River. The National Capital Commission, the City of Ottawa and Ville de Gatineau were all enthusiastically involved in organizing Archaeology Month in the Outaouais. So were the Algonquins of Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan. An exhibit of Algonquin archaeology, heritage and culture is still on display in the main reception area of Ottawa City Hall.

Individual members of the Ottawa Chapter, OAS, have been active participants throughout the month. To launch the program, the Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais (GRAO), André Miller, Manuel Lapensée-Paquette and Marcel Laliberté, offered the public an opportunity to dig or just observe at the Deschênes Portage Site on August 3 and 4. They also organized a dig at Park national de Plaisance. Ian Badgley, NCC, has invited volunteer participants for survey work at a pre-contact site in Vincent Massey Park, and for mapping of a historic quarry in Rockcliffe Park. Jean-Luc Pilon and Yves Monette of the Canadian Museum of Civilization focussed Colonel By Day activities on Champlain and his meeting with the Algonquins in 1613. Bill MacLennan, Marian Clark and I conducted activities for children and a chapter display beside the Bytown Museum also on Colonel By Day. Rudy Fecteau, archaeobotanist from Hamilton, devoted two days to his participatory displays at the Museum of Science and Technology. Hugh Daechsel conducted a walking tour at Lebreton Flats under the aegis of Heritage Ottawa. Other tours were offered by Parks Canada (Archaeology of the Rideau Canal), Science and Technology Museum (Downtown Ottawa Industrial Archaeology), and by the Canada Agriculture Museum.

With such strong support from members of OAS in their various positions in the Ottawa community, there would seem to be good reason to believe that Archaeology Month could have a repeat performance in Ottawa in 2014. Perhaps it could even spread to other parts of Ontario! Whatever the future brings, this year was a very impressive beginning to what may become an Ottawa institution. Here follows a snap shot of the many and various activities which took place throughout the summer 2013 – a memorable one for the Ottawa Chapter.

## Public Archaeology 2013: Where to Begin !!!!!

### Launch for Archaeology Month July 4

Presentation made at the Press Conference launching Archaeology Month in the National Capital Region, July 4, 2013, by Jean-Luc Pilon, Curator of Ontario Archaeology, Canadian Museum of Civilization

Je m'imagine être un touriste dans la capitale nationale du Canada. Je veux connaître l'histoire de ce lieu si pittoresque. I am told all about the construction of the Rideau Canal which finished in 1832. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On me raconte comment une jeune reine Victoria, de façon presque insouciant, transforma la capitale du bois en capitale d'un nouveau pays. Perhaps I am told about Philemon Wright and his settlement on the north side of the river at the very beginning of the XIXth century, perhaps not; it's in Québec, you know. Ah oui, et n'oublions pas Champlain, le premier Européen à nous laisser de précieuses descriptions de la région il y a 400 ans cette année. All this is nice, but my fellow tourists, especially those from Europe and Asia, remind me that Canada is such a young country. It doesn't really have much history to speak of.

Cependant, la réalité est tout autre. L'histoire de la rivière des Outaouais commence lorsque les eaux de la mer de Champlain vinrent à remplacer le glacier continental il y a 12,500 ans. That inland sea was eventually replaced by fresh waters flowing off of the melting glacier and for thousands of years, the upper Great Lakes, Superior, Michigan and Huron, flowed through a much higher Ottawa River, until about 4900 years ago.

These great transformations of the land were followed very closely by the arrival of people who lived off the land's riches; hunters, gatherers and fishermen. They lived with this every changing landscape and learned from it over thousands of years.

Ces gens participaient à des réseaux d'échanges et d'interactions littéralement à l'échelle du continent. Cet endroit situé au confluent des rivières Rideau, Gatineau et Outaouais, a toujours servi de carrefour aux gens et aux idées venant d'un côté ou de l'autre de la Grande Rivière.

Within just a few hundreds of meters from this very spot (Bytown Museum) artifacts have been found which tell us about trade and communications with the very tip of Labrador, with the Niagara region, the Hudson Bay Lowlands, the western end of Lake Superior and even southward into Illinois and Ohio. The Algonquin people of the Ottawa Valley, the communities of Anishinabeg represented by Chief Whiteduck of Pikwakanagan and Chief Whiteduck of Kitigan Zibi, are heirs of that past.

Et les traces, les preuves tangibles du passé nous sont révélées par l'archéologie, cette étude du passé qui nous permet de voyager dans le temps et de mieux apprécier les vies de ceux et celles qui nous ont précédé. Although the first investigations which could be described as archaeological in this region go back to the mid-XIXth century, substantial research has not yet been carried out. Of course the work at Leamy Lake Park stands as a unique exception. Pour l'ensemble, nous n'avons que des soupçons, mais quelle passé riche et complexe ils annoncent! In spite of the great destructive nature of modern urbanism which carries away everything in the path of its bulldozers and heavy trucks, evidence of the past survives in our parks and under our walkways, in our backyards and under our parking lots.

So why do archaeology? One reason is simply because it tells us of the story of those who came before us, it's the story of our place, this beautiful place which nurtured so many generations before us and which will provide for the grandchildren of our grandchildren. Et je ne m'en doute pas, que ces gens se poseront la question, tous comme les milliers de touristes qui nous entourent en ce moment, à savoir qui était ici avant nous et comment était leur monde. Nous leur devons une réponse.

### Bonnechere Park July 13 – by Rory MacKay and Marian Clark

As has been a long standing tradition of over a decade and a half, members of our Ottawa Chapter made the trek to Bonnechere Park to camp overnight and present a morning of archaeology related activities and an evening program talk to the park's campers. During the morning we presented our core activities – displays (much enhanced this year thanks to Rory MacKay's presentations), building ceramic pots from raw clay, and thanks to Brenda Kennett for kindly loaning her "broken plate mending activity". This year, however, we added three new activities/demonstrations :



Susan Artymko from Barry's Bay is a faunal expert, and she brought along a great collection of bone samples and discussed how we identify different animals and fish and why they are important to the interpretation of a site. Here she is chatting with André Miller.



The second is Marian's favourite activity – artifact washing. A washing and identification activity was set up and proved to be very popular with both children and their parents. The work was carried out under the watchful eye of archaeologist Ken Swayze and coordinator Marian Clark. (Marian and Bill MacLennan test it out before the public arrive)



Thirdly, Sandy Kingsmith and Don Webb were on hand to show off some hand-made reproduction pottery vessels made by Marc Kelly and to reassemble a large broken pot to show how we reconstruct vessel fragments found in excavations.

Lois King, Bill MacLennan, Ken Swayze, Marian Clark, Lorne Sheridan, Don Webb, Sandy Kingsmith, and Rory MacKay were on hand to set up and run the activity stations intended to inform adults and children alike. Park staff Josh and Tara ran a simulated dig which was very popular with the very young set. Marc Kelly brought a pot that he had made in the native style.

Josh and Rory, as well as a few youngsters, attempted fire-making by fire bow. The day was humid, so Rory used that as an explanation why he had such a hard time getting an ember to produce flame in the tinder. However, there was one successful fire lit by the old method. No wonder it was important in the distant past not to let a fire go out.

By noon the call of the beach diminished attendance, but by Josh's count over 80 people had been exposed to one or more of our displays or activities about archaeology. By 1:30 animated conversation was underway around the picnic table at one of two campsites provided most generously by the staff of Bonnechere Provincial Park. Chef André and Marian whipped up a dinner for all from disparate resources. The evening talk was delivered by André Miller, who commented on the importance of both the Ottawa River and its north-south tributaries as routes by which cultural trends were passed among native groups, including pottery techniques in the middle woodland period. André joined with members. Unfortunately, attendance at the evening program did not meet expectations, despite excellent advertising the previous week by park staff. Members of the Park staff have asked me to pass on many thanks to all who contributed, a sentiment which I echo most heartily.

### **Barry's Bay Archaeological Roadshow July 14 by Don Webb**

#### ONE STEP AT A TIME

The second half of the Ottawa Chapter's "archaeological double-header" (Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Park followed by an Archaeological Roadshow) took place at the Barry's Bay Train Station museum. Barry's Bay -- or "The Bay" if you're from here-about -- lies in the Township of Madawaska Valley on the north shore of Kaminisseg Lake, which in turn is part of the Madawaska River watershed. Locally, the Madawaska, Opeongo, York, Little Mississippi and Bonnechere Rivers come together within the region to form several major junctions between those river systems. For example the Opeongo and Madawaska meet at Bark Lake, the York, Little Mississippi and Madawaska at Conroy marsh, and the old Madawaska-Bonnechere portage runs through the Barry's Bay town site. The latter has been a traditional crossing place for Algonquin people between the two watersheds since truly early times. The junction of interconnected waterways, and thus access to other regions both near and far, allowed for the transport of exotic cherts, copper and other distinct lithic materials by the Algonkins of the Madawaska River. (Of course, the mighty Madawaska was the traditional homeland of the Mataouchkairini People, a band within the larger Algonquin Nation). Ceramics styles (and in some instances plants) also came. We hoped to see evidence.

Some may be interested in the manner of arranging the event. Not having a clue how it was meant to be done, I used the "Antiques Roadshow" model and invited a group of archaeologists to our local museum. Posters were put up around town, inviting the community to bring in old maps, photos, and artifacts. Also, assuming that summer residents who live along our local lakes and rivers might be interested, posters were pinned to key locations that vacationers frequent. While mentioning the event in the local newspapers did bring people in, it was primarily encouragement by a member of one of the area's local families that brought in the artifacts for chapter members to record.

There was something for those casually interested in Archaeology. Rory MacKay once again set up an excellent visual display. Lois King, and Bill MacLennan described artifacts traditionally used for smoking tobacco and made great use of the chapter's excellent replicas. Archaeologists Andre Millar and Tom Ballantine shared their insight and knowledge with our visitors, to the benefit of all, including me. Marc Kelly and Marian Clark also participated; I hope I have not forgotten others. All-in-all the event was a big success, with perhaps 40 interested folks showing up on beautiful, sunny Sunday in July... a pretty good turnout for our little town!



By using reference maps and chatting with residents, we were able to learn of previously unknown locations around some local lakes where artifacts related to the fur trade were located. Of course we hoped for artifacts, and a few were delivered, three of which had excellent provenance specific to the town of Barry's Bay. All date to the late Archaic which coincides with the area's other recorded finds (those of Wintemberg: 1917, Croft: 1993, Swayze: 2011), thus verifying the long-time use of the old portage. The stone tools recorded were: a 167 mm long gouge in polished schist, a polished axe/celt in green slate, and a 118 mm long knife (or projectile point?) flaked from banded green slate. Also included was a 109 mm long projectile point flaked from an igneous material which remains unidentified at this time. Perhaps in future years more will be revealed.



Don Webb, Sandy Kingsmith, Rory MacKay, Marian Clark, Lois King, Bill MacLennan, Andre Miller & Marc Kelly made the short drive from Bonnechere Park and ...



Tom Ballantine joined us from Haliburton (here talking to Don Webb). The Museum and the Ottawa Chapter had been advertising the event and anticipation ran high for success.



Andre Miller and Marc Kelly examine one of the ancient artifacts that showed up.

Many, many thanks are extended to our Ottawa Chapter members and friends, for their dedication, passion, and continuing support of public awareness of archaeology and cultural heritage in the region.

[This article was edited so as to exclude mention of specific locations of artifacts, a policy of our newsletter about which the author was previously unaware. – Editor]

### Algonquin Park Meet the Researcher Day

It was a long way from Ottawa, but still within the Ottawa Valley. The occasion was the fourth annual Meet The Researcher Day, with Rory MacKay representing the Ottawa Chapter and presenting the only cultural heritage research display amongst the many displays about biological research projects in Algonquin Provincial Park, (as is often the case).



One side of the display featured images of historic artifacts from the digs at Basin Depot and a chart showing ceramic decorations and dates. The other side of the display featured a chart showing a timeline of the ten thousand plus years of human occupation in the Upper Ottawa Valley, and images of pre-contact artifacts found in the Park. Adjacent were sample artifacts and a washing station with instructions

Among the over seven hundred visitors who came to Meet The Researcher Day, was Director of Ontario Parks, Bradley Fauteau. There was also a representation of Ontario Parks staff from Peterborough. There were many questions posed over the six hour display period, and many recommendations made to interested visitors about contacting a local OAS chapter, including the Ottawa chapter.

### Colonel By Day, Ottawa August 5



Glenna Roberts, Bill MacLennan and Marian Clark made their way along the Rideau Canal and the locks to the Bytown Museum for an all-day event to celebrate Colonel By day in Ottawa. A Chapter display, some stone tools, a plate mending station and an artifact washing and identification station were closely assembled under an awning – thankfully donated by CHOO-COPO of Ottawa, coordinators of the event.



We lost count of the visitors and participants to our display, but we met people from around the region, from Toronto, Barrie, New York State, and even one enthusiastic artifact washer from Italy !!! Colonel By was there as were many groups of singers, dancers and interpreters. If you are in town next year on Colonel By Day we recommend it highly as a fun and educational way to soak up some heritage.



### **Parc national de Plaisance, Québec – public archaeology**

For several weeks during the summer André Miller, Marcel Laliberté, Manuel Lapensée-Paquette and France Levesque, of the Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais (GRAO) welcomed the public to participate in an archaeological excavation in search of the Late Archaic component of the Petite Nation region of Quebec, just a short drive from Ottawa. Over 70 participants and visitors got some hands on experience and tours of the site and it was a focus for Archaeology Month in the Outaouais. André will give a full report at the September meeting of the Chapter – see News and Notes.

### **Deschênes Rapids – public archaeology**

Again the Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais (GRAO) led this time by Manuel Lapensée-Paquette, directed a public archaeology excavation opportunity for 2 days over the August long weekend. Deschênes Rapids was a traditional portage site and both pre-Contact and post-Contact materials can still be found beside the rapids. Manuel will give a report to the Chapter at the October meeting – see News and Notes.

### **Archaeobotany Display and Demonstration**



Rudy Fecteau from Hamilton was asked if he would be interested in participating in the activities for Archaeology Month in the Ottawa region. He was able to come and, through the efforts of Catherine Edmond, was able to set up his “An Illustrated Archaeobotany of Southern Ontario” display on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of August at the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology. Catherine arranged a visit on the day before and assisted Rudy and his wife, Margaret Ann, with unloading his materials and equipment. On Saturday morning Catherine and William set up tables and helped prepare the display. It included ‘story boards’ with one devoted to the Muldoon Site, a Late Archaic site in the Ottawa area, a looped (courtesy of William’s technical assistance) power point presentation of his work throughout Canada, reference books and archaeobotany reports, his microscope, and assorted modern and archaeological seeds and wood fragments for the public to see. Both adults and children of various ages were able to use the microscope to view tobacco, raspberry, and strawberry seeds from a St. Lawrence Iroquoian site from upper New York state site dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Over the two day period, about one hundred museum visitors came by the display as well as several of the museum employees and volunteers. OAS pamphlets and cards from the Ottawa chapter as well as brochures about events in the Ottawa region and the province of Quebec were on display and handed out to interested visitors. Thanks to Margaret Ann and Rudy for participating in Archaeology Month and promoting the OAS.

## NEWS AND NOTES AND COMING 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.com](http://www.ottawaoas.com)

NOTE; two changes from Thursday to Wednesday, due to clash with AIA dates and availability of space at Routhier

**September 25, Wednesday, 7:30**, Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues (Cumberland and St. Patrick)

**Late Archaic in "Petite-Nation"**, André Miller, Vice-President, Ottawa Chapter OAS, and member of Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais (GRAO).

Late Archaic in "Petite-Nation"

Abstract :

Under a three-year program started in 2011 in Plaisance National Park, archaeological work was carried out in 2012 on the BjFs-7 site on the east bank of the river of "La Petite-Nation" and on the BjFs-23 site on the western shore of the same river. The archaeological research in 2012 was successful. In regard to the prehistoric component of the archaeological work in 2012 it helped to review the nature and state of preservation of the archaeological remains associated with the various layers of a stratigraphic sequence spanning over three thousand years, the geological and cultural history of BjFs-7 site. Research has mainly found in an excellent state of preservation the remains of a lower stratum of the stratigraphic sequence concealing the earliest evidence of the presence of First-Nation on the BjFs-7 site. The excavation of this stratum dating back more than 3600 years has incidentally led us to an unusual discovery, which is expected to raise the interest of the scientific community by its unusual character, exceptional state of preservation and stratigraphic context. In addition, archaeological research on BjFs-23 site, on the western shore of the river "La Petite-Nation", have confirmed that the site was inhabited during the Late Archaic period and probably represented a seasonal camp site for native groups living permanently in the area of the "Petite-Nation". Surveys and limited excavations carried out on this site showed that these traces of the presence of the First Nations that could be contemporary with the state of the earliest occupation of the BjFs-7 site could be more than 5500 years, among the best preserved and most productive in terms of equipment of all those listed so far in the park for this settlement of the ancient history of Plaisance National Park.

**Saturday October 5**, 11 am-3 pm Desmarais Building, Univ.of Ottawa 55 Laurier Avenue East.

**From the Ground Up**, special joint event of AIA and Ottawa Chapter, OAS in honour of International Archaeology Day, Displays and activities 11-1pm; Student presentations re summer field work 1-2pm; Overview of Ontario Archaeology, 2:15-3pm

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

**October 16, Wednesday 7:30**, **Ottawa Chaper Meeting**, Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues  
(Cumberland and St. Patrick)

**The Deschênes Portage: 2000 years of travelling** Manuel Lapensée-Paquette, Member Ottawa Chapter, OAS

**October 25-27** **OAS Annual Symposium**, Niagara Falls, [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)  
**Where the Water is Loud: Archaeology of the Niagara Peninsula and Beyond**

**October 31- November 3 Annual Meeting and Conference,** Eastern States Archaeological Federation, Portland Maine

**November 8-10 Annual Meeting,** Council of North Eastern Historic Archaeology  
University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware  
**Encountering Others in the Atlantic World; Perspectives from the Marerial World**

**November 21, Thursday, , 7:30** Barney Danson Auditorium, Canadian War Museum  
**Protecting the Pink Bits: The Development of the Martello Tower and Its Role in the Defence of Kingston Harbour;** Joseph Last, Archaeologist, Parks Canada (ret'd.) OAS in partnership with the Archaeological Institute of America and the Canadian War Museum.

**December 12, Thursday, 6:30** Party room, 20 Driveway  
**Ottawa Chapter OAS, AGM and Seasonal Celebration.**

**January 8-12, 2014 Society of Historic Archaeology,** Annual Symposium, Quebec City  
**Questions that Count: A Critical Evaluation of Historic Archaeology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** [www.sha2014.com](http://www.sha2014.com)