

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN OTTAWA AND BEYOND

# THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976



**A gathering of members with 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake  
and presentation of the  
Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award to Rory MacKay**

## BACKGROUND

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 appreciated. Please email to [ottawaoas@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaoas@gmail.com). Visit our website [www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca)

### 2021 Executive Committee

President: André Miller: [ottawaoas@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaoas@gmail.com)

Vice President: Stacey Girling-Christie

Treasurer: Bill MacLennan

Secretary: Carol Pritchard

Director at large: Glenna Roberts

Director at large: Ben Mortimer

Director at large: Pierre Desrosiers

Director at large: Elizabeth (Libby) Imrie

Director at large : Stephanie Carles

Director at large: Philippe Trottier

Director at large : Chris Kerns

Ottawa Archaeologist Editor: Chris Kerns

Webmaster: Yvon Riendeau: [webmaster@ottawaoas.ca](mailto:webmaster@ottawaoas.ca)

Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award: Convenor - André Miller

### Membership Information

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

### OAS FEES:            Ottawa Chapter Fees:

Individual: \$45            \$20

Family: \$52                \$25

Students: \$25             \$12

Institutional/Corporate \$75

Life Membership        \$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](mailto:oasociety@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

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

**Cover Photos** : Credit: Laina Pilon

## **50 years ago - The beginning ... Origins and Growth of the Ottawa Chapter by Marian Clark**

It all started when Dr. J. V. Wright, President of the OAS, wrote a letter dated March 16, 1971 to OAS members and fellow archaeologists around the Ottawa Valley. Dr. Wright invited them to a meeting at Bells Corners (then site of the archaeology labs and collections of the then National Museum of Man). The topic was to discuss the formation of an Ottawa Chapter of the OAS. It did not take much to get it going and on June 30th 1971 the Ottawa Chapter was founded by: Mrs. J. D. Bradford, Mr. David J.A. Croft, Mr. Clyde C. Kennedy, Mr. 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.

It took a couple of years for the fledgling Chapter to prove itself with a growing membership and regular meets. Then on May 14, 1973 at an Ottawa Chapter meeting, Dr. Howard Savage (right), then President of the Ontario Archaeological Society, officially presented the Chapter with its own Charter, formalizing the organization within the Ontario Archaeological Society. Each time a new Ottawa Chapter President is elected, the Charter is handed over from the outgoing President at the annual business meeting. Below is a photo of the Charter presentation to Clyde Kennedy (centre) then President of the Ottawa Chapter with Jim Wright (left), Past President of the OAS. Apologies for the quality of the old photos !!!

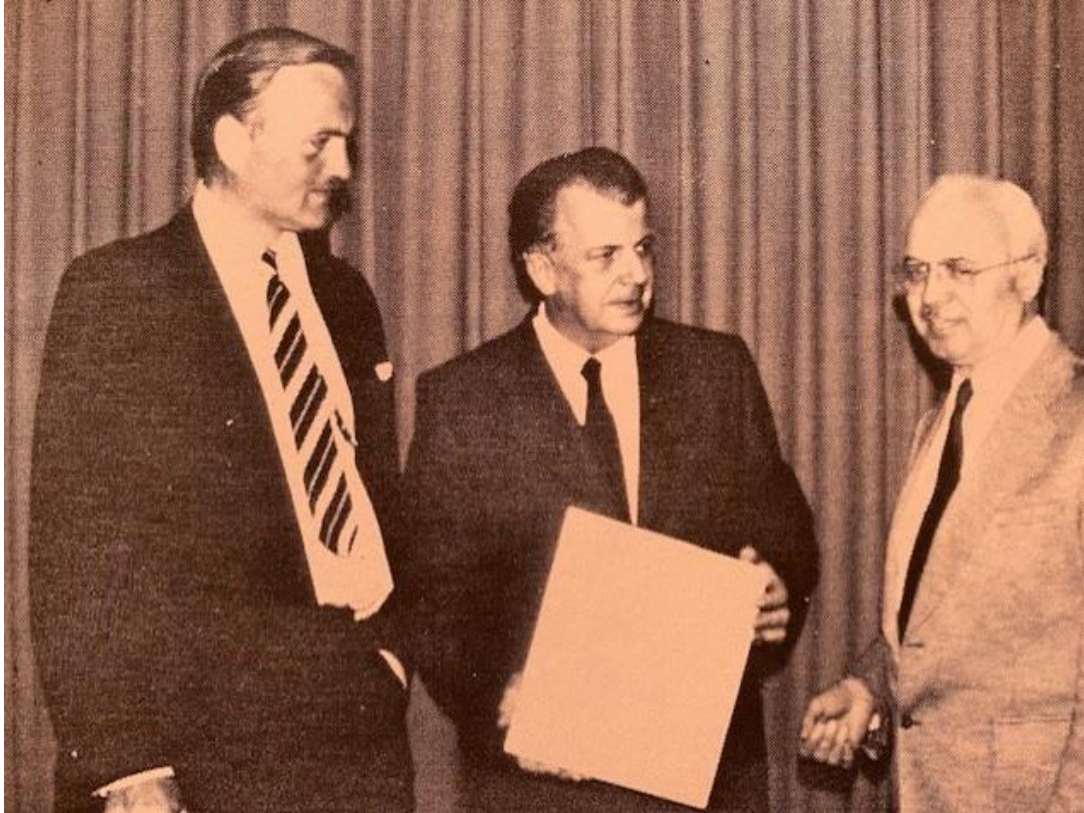
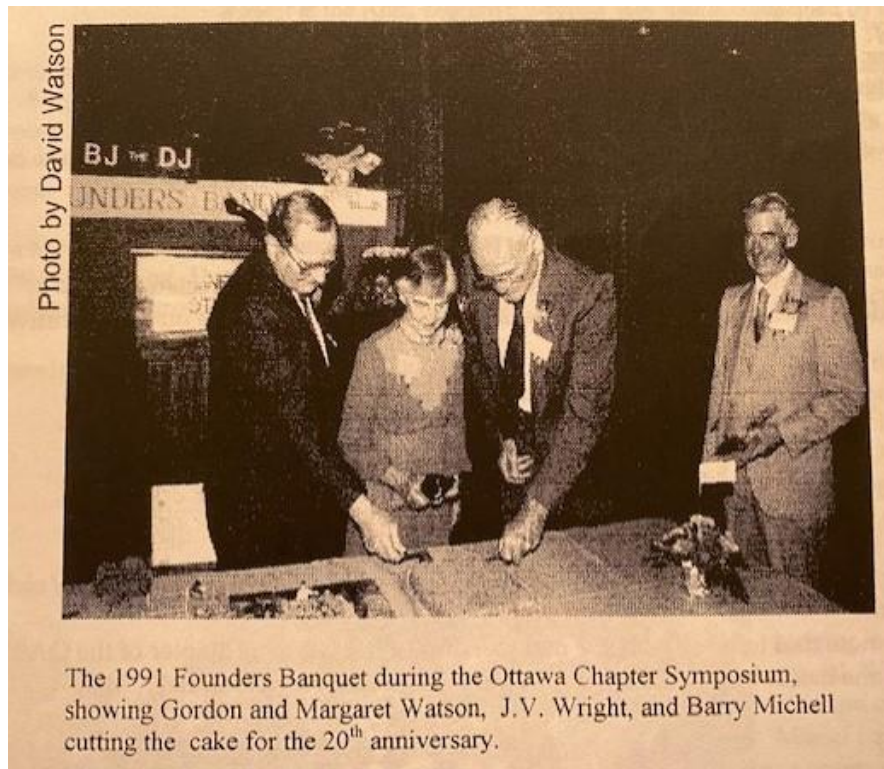


Photo Credit: the late Gordon Watson

The Chapter continued to grow and develop from a small group exchanging ideas and stories about research and excavations in Eastern Ontario, to a more active and diverse membership. Not only were there monthly meetings, but a newsletter was launched, "*Archaic Notes*" in December 1971. It grew in style and popularity and in 1976 was renamed "*The Ottawa Archaeologist*" which continues to this day. The mid-1980's saw the development of a programme that included excavations to train members in field techniques, public archaeology days to share our knowledge with the public, tours, workshops and the occasional all-day seminars. With a corps of trained volunteers and public outreach programmes the Chapter felt confident to start hosting larger events and in 1991 we held a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Banquet to honour the initiative of members over the first two decades.



Fast forward to 2001 and we celebrated two big events – the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "*The Ottawa Archaeologist*" and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Chapter. The June 2001 issue of the newsletter was a look back at the many events and excavations that the members had organized. Both Dave Croft and Gordon Watson contributed lengthy articles that took us down memory lane and described numerous digs, publications and events throughout the 30 years. They discussed pre-Chapter 1960's digs along the Ottawa River, the Petawawa River System, Barry's Bay and more. Since the 1970's the Chapter members visited and volunteered on many field projects – to name a few - the Steward Site, Constance Bay, Whyte Site; Sand Island, MacDonnell House, Meuser Site, McKeown Site, South Lake land and underwater site, Stockade Barracks, Charleston Lake, Green Site, Murphys Point, Bonnechere and Algonquin Provincial Parks (multiple sites), Pembroke Museum, Inge Va House, Homewood House etc. etc. .... In addition during the 1980's, several members received diver certifications and were



trained in underwater archaeology techniques by Phill Wright and Peter Englebert of the Ontario Ministry's Marine Heritage Office, headquartered in Ottawa.

In 1996 the Chapter launched the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award to recognize the role we played in outreach and participation in public archaeology events around Eastern Ontario. Named after Peggi Armstrong, it recognized her contribution and dedication to the Chapter. The Award has been bestowed upon OAS members for their outstanding contributions to education, publications and participation in sharing their knowledge of archaeology with the public, students and fellow archaeologists. This year a small gathering of members (small due to Covid 19 considerations) got together for an award presentation, hosted by Founding member and Past President Glenna Roberts. Long time Chapter member, Roderick (Rory) MacKay was cheerfully on hand to receive the 2021 award which was presented by Marian Clark and videotaped for airing during the OAS Awards Ceremony October 23, 2021. A few details .....



**Roderick (Rory) MacKay**, is a retired secondary school teacher but always an educator. He was a seasonal interpretive naturalist in Algonquin Park during the early 1970s. His fascination with Algonquin Park history was sparked by the opportunity to interview “old-timers” beginning in 1975/76. In April 1995, while writing a history of the Bonnechere River, he joined the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society and became involved as a resource and volunteer in their archaeological investigations at sites along that river.

Roderick holds an archaeological licence at the Applied Research level, having previously held an Avocational licence. He readily shares the results of his Ottawa chapter volunteer activities and his personal archaeological site work with the public, through displays, demonstrations, site tours, and the development of educational materials at events in Algonquin Provincial Park, Bonnechere Provincial Park, and whenever an opportunity arises. He also engages in efforts to advance ethical archaeological research, particularly in Ontario provincial parks.

Roderick has written comments on cultural heritage management strategies, articles in newsletters originating in the two parks and the Ottawa Chapter, and a few magazine articles. His formal publications, so far, include booklets for The Friends of Algonquin Park and the Friends of Bonnechere Parks, articles in Archeologiques, Arch Notes, and the peer-reviewed Ontario Archaeology, two self-published books related to logging history, and The Friends of

Algonquin Park books *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, Second Edition, and *Algonquin Park – A Place like No Other*. You can learn more about Rory by watching the video – link at the end.

The main focus for this Anniversary Year was another major undertaking – organizing and hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting of the OAS. It was not our first OAS Symposium but it was a milestone – a virtual meeting with several workshops, an opening presentation, two days of sessions and round-table discussions. A large number of Chapter Members, backed up by ongoing support from the OAS, undertook a wide range of tasks and delivered what we know was a successful event for both presenters and participants. The latest meeting/conference technology was employed to provide everyone with timely presentations and opportunities for networking – all in a virtual environment. Thanks to everyone on the Organizing Committee for their time and expertise – more information and reports about the Symposium will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting (see details below).

As we close out our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we want to thank all the members and especially those who took the time to volunteer and become Presidents, Board Members, Project and Committee Chairs, advisors, supporters and friends. We do a lot of great work, have a lot of fun while doing it all and share our knowledge and expertise. Best of all we meet the most amazing people along the way. As we embark on the next 50 years of archaeology in Eastern Ontario and the work of the Ottawa Chapter – we look forward with renewed energy to continuing the legacy of our past experiences, and to build on our strong and engaged network of members, friends and community connections. Thanks to the past – we can welcome a bright future for the Ottawa Chapter, OAS in the years ahead.

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting, Ottawa Chapter**

Please join us (via Zoom) for our virtual 2021 Annual General Meeting  
and the election of officers

**Thursday, December 16, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Nominating Committee Chair - Chris Kerns**  
+1 343-548-0735, chrisjkerns@gmail.com

**Committee Member - Jean-Luc Pilon**  
**Committee Member - Glenna Roberts**

#### **Positions of the Chapter Board of Directors**

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary,  
Directors At Large – up to six positions available.

Any paid up Ottawa Chapter or OAS member may make a nomination. Nominees must also be paid up members of the OAS and must agree to being nominated. Nominations are also welcomed during the Annual General Meeting. Should you have any questions pertaining to the election of officers, or would like to submit a nomination, please contact any member of the Nominations Committee.

We hope you will join us using this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82830029106?pwd=ZUxHK21rTnh1R3lodzRJMepYRDFSZz09>

The Chapter also has a You Tube Channel!! There you can view the full Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award presentation, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video, and several "Tours" around Ottawa describing the history and archaeology of the area. These videos were researched and presented by Chapters and community members with production and videography by Ghita (Rita) El Janaty of Pronounced Productions, Ottawa and financial support from the City of Ottawa. They recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, showcase Ottawa's archaeological past and served to animate the 2021 Ontario Archaeological Society's annual symposium. Please view, like and share !!!

OAS Ottawa Chapter - YouTube

*SEASONS GREETINGS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022*