

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976

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Happy New Year!

Welcome to the revival of *The Ottawa Archaeologist*. It's been a while since our last issue, so we're hopeful the “tradition since 1976” will continue to connect us to interesting places and people, archaeological sites, artifacts, presentations, events and more.

The recent editorial leadership of Richard Beckley and Marian Clark will continue to guide and build future newsletter editions. Their contributions and support are gratefully acknowledged.



Ottawa Chapter
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In this issue, Phil Trottier summarizes the Chapter's 2024 accomplishments; upcoming Chapter speakers are followed by highlights of the 2024 OAS Symposium in Thunder Bay. An announcement for the Canadian Archaeological Association's upcoming conference in St. John's, an article, and some Chapter and OAS information round out the second half. Enjoy!

Images, short articles, conference/event/exhibition notifications and summaries, book/media reviews and other related items are welcome. Please send them to ottawaaoas@gmail.com for consideration. *EB*



2024 OAS Symposium – Thunder Bay Museum archaeology display

The Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. acknowledges the unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation whose rich cultural attachment to this land reaches back thousands of years and whose culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. We recognize the Anishinabe Algonquin as the traditional guardians of this land and as customary Knowledge Keepers and Defenders of the Ottawa River watershed. We honour their culture, presence and long history of welcoming many nations to this beautiful territory. Further, we pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada who call Ottawa home.

Le chapitre d'Ottawa de la Société ontarienne d'archéologie Inc. reconnaît le territoire non cédé de la Nation algonquine Anishinabe dont le riche attachement culturel remonte à des milliers d'années et dont la culture et la présence ont nourri et continuent de nourrir ces terres. Nous reconnaissons les Algonquins Anishinabe comme étant les gardiens traditionnels de ces terres et comme étant les défenseurs coutumiers du savoir du bassin versant de la rivière des Outaouais. Nous honorons leur culture, leur présence et leur long passé d'accueil de nombreuses nations sur ce magnifique territoire. En outre, nous rendons hommage à tous les peuples autochtones de cette région, de toutes les nations à travers le Canada, qui vivent à Ottawa.

President's Report 2024 Ottawa Chapter – Ontario Archaeological Society

Once again, 2024 turned out to be an interesting year with a diversity of subjects being presented at our Zoom meetings. In February, Rory MacKay discussed the Camboose Shanty at the Stephenson Site in Algonquin Park. In March, Robert Wojtowicz gave a presentation on the Castellations of the Tiententate, a distinct characteristic of Iroquoian pottery, while in April the group was treated to a tour of the *First Royals of Europe* exhibition at the Canadian Museum of History, guided by Pierre Desrosiers. It was quite an interesting and informative evening complete with artifacts of the epic journey of some 6,500 years from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. In May, Jean-Luc Pilon discussed the Shipwrecks of Hudson Bay and the role of the currents and tides in depositing these wrecks.

July saw members participating in Archaeology Days at Bonnechere Park. Aside from the usual activities, there was a 3-day excavation at the Dickerson Site. In September, Dr. Tim Abel

discussed the recovery and mitigation of historic graves in upper New York State, while in October the group from Anishinàbe Odjibikan provided an update on their fieldwork. In November, Courtney Cameron gave a presentation on the unique stone features on Cotnam Island in the Ottawa River.



Sign created by Bonnechere Prov. Park staff
Image: E. Blauberger, July 2024

Members also participated in fieldwork at the Archéo-Pontiac and NCC public digs, the latter at site BiFw-18 on the shore of the Ottawa River in Lac Leamy Park. Those engaged in the fieldwork indicated they had a lot of fun especially since the weather was co-operative.



Courtney Cameron piloting a drone at the Dickerson Site

Image: M. Clark, July 2024

So, it has been a busy and engaging year with efforts being made to reach out to a wider

audience and we will continue in these efforts.

All of this activity comes with the participation of quite a few members and heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you. In particular, thanks to Bill for his stewardship of the Chapter finances and to Monica for not only keeping the minutes and responding to correspondence, but her tutoring of myself in the fine art of hosting Zoom meetings has been especially helpful.

Thanks to Stephanie for her continued involvement at digs and at the U of Ottawa Archaeology Day. Thanks to Aaron and Stacey for the work on the Symposium document, and to Stacey for taking on the task of conducting the Chapter Executive elections. Thanks to Brad our VP, for recruiting speakers for the interesting presentations and to Pierre and Yvon for continuing to update our Facebook and web sites.

Thanks to Marian for continuing to make Archaeology Days at Bonnechere Park even more exciting and engaging. Upon reflection, 2024 has been a terrific team effort in maintaining an archaeological presence in the Ottawa area and with the OAS. Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

Phil Trottier
President, OAS Ottawa Chapter

Upcoming Chapter Speakers and Events

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

A Virtual talk via Zoom by:
Audrey Lapointe and Jean-Luc Pilon

**Archéo-Pontiac:
A Community Archaeology Journey**

<http://www.ottawaoas.ca/chapnews.htm>
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/mqQcTc5OSmmAzt7CxH27Fw>

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 – 7 p.m.

In-person talk by:
Bob Clark about **Archaeology at Skead's Mill**
National Capital Commission, 12-18 York St.
Register here:
<https://forms.gle/mSwnXo9FyVnJ5r266>

Saturday, July 12, & Sunday, July 13, 2025
Archaeology Days at Bonnechere Prov. Park

Monday, July 14 – Wednesday July 16, 2025
Hands-on archaeology at the Dickerson Site
(to be confirmed)

Save the dates - More information to follow

Some Highlights of the 2024 OAS Symposium in Thunder Bay

by Ellen Blaubergs



The 51st Annual Symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society was held on October 25-27, 2024 in Thunder Bay. It was hosted by the Thunder Bay Chapter of the OAS in collaboration with the

Department of Anthropology, Lakehead University and OAS Board of Directors, on the boreal forest Traditional Lands of the Ojibway of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, and the Homelands of the Métis Nation of Ontario and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.



Lake Tamblyn - Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

Most of the events were held at the Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre. The Friday night reception took place at the Thunder Bay Museum; the workshops on Saturday occurred at Lakehead University, and on Sunday afternoon there were field trips to Fort William Historical Park and Early period (PalaeoIndigenous) archaeological sites.

The symposium theme, **Gathering Around Gichigami (Lake Superior): Archaeology Beyond Borders** encompassed workshops, oral and poster paper sessions, awards, the Friday evening reception, the banquet key note address, field trips, the Indigenous market and silent auction, and so many interesting conversations.

The 2-day drive to Thunder Bay with OAS Director of Chapter Services Susan Dermarkar was quite colourful until Sault Ste. Marie. Heading west from there, most of the deciduous foliage was already gone but now the vibrant reds and pinks of the rock, and beautiful blue hues of lakes and rivers were more visible. We had both done this drive, separately in years past but not in the fall.



Susan Dermarkar, OAS Director of Chapter Services

Some stops along the way for short walks reminded us of the wonderful views from the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, and rushing waters in Chutes Provincial Park and the Aguasabon R. Gorge. We were fortunate to have missed the early morning snowfall near Wawa on the way back. The roads were dry by the time we reached this area but the trees and rocks retained a dusting as the temps hovered around 0°C.



Near Wawa – October 27, 2024



Friday a.m. symposium opening and dedication: Elder Cindy Crowe* holds a smoky sage-filled sea shell for Gokul Nainamalai. OAS President Jill Taylor-Hollings (in striped skirt) looks on.

*Elder Cindy Crowe (Blue Sky Strategic Group; Lodgekeeper at Niibing Tribal Tours; member of Opwaaganisiniing-Red Rock Indian Band) permitted photography of the opening ceremony.

Two concurrent oral paper sessions were offered on Saturday and Sunday morning: Papers in Honour of Professor Scott Hamilton; Ontario Archaeology (incl. sessions on Lithics, and Ontario Archaeology and Community Perspectives); Gitchigami's Call: A Collaborative

Approach to Native Copper of the Archaic in the Northern Lake Superior Basin; Indigenous Archaeological Monitors/FLRs/and Consulting; and Indigenous-Led, Community-Based and Collaborative Archaeologies.

Poster papers were displayed in the coffee/marketplace room with author-researchers in attendance to discuss them during the a.m. and p.m. breaks. It was great to listen to the enthusiasm and professionalism of these presenters. A student paper prize will be awarded for both oral and poster papers at a future date. The level of work now done at the undergraduate level is so impressive.



Jean-Luc Pilon's and Chris Koostachin's paper, *Wrecks, Wreckage and Refuse along the Beaches of Ontario's Hudson Bay Coast* was fittingly presented in the session, Ontario Archaeology and Community Perspectives.

Awards were presented before and following a tasty buffet banquet dinner. The speaker was Professor Scott Hamilton, Dept. of Anthropology, Lakehead University; he had been fêted all day in a festschrift session honouring his mentorship and contributions to the profession. His presentation, *Indian Residential Schools: Anthropology's Pathway Towards Reconciliation*

was insightful, well-illustrated, and truly heartfelt. Hopefully, it can be repeated.

William (Bill) Fox's recent Order of Canada investiture was acknowledged by OAS President Jill Taylor-Hollings. Other banquet honourees included Paul Racher and ARA (Ontario's oldest CRM firm): – Award for Excellence in CRM. There should be information about these and other 2024 award recipients in a future issue of *Arch Notes*.

Susan and I were unable to participate in either of the Sunday afternoon tours as we had a long drive home ahead of us. We have heard that they were well-attended and enjoyable.

Thanks to everyone who helped create and foster such an engaging and memorable symposium!

Sources and Images for this summary: author's notes and images, and the 2024 Symposium Final Program.



Bill Fox and friends at the Thunder Bay Museum reception



Thunder Bay Museum exhibit – *Early Pot Makers of Northwestern Ontario in The Middle Woodland Period*



57th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association will be held in **St. John's, Newfoundland, April 30–May 4, 2025.**

The conference theme is **“Who Knit Ya?” Weaving Interconnected Histories in Archaeology.**

“Who Knit Ya” is Newfoundland English initially used to determine family heritage, but importantly it is used to understand relationships to one another—very fitting for an archaeological conference. Updates can be found on the CAA website.

<https://canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting>

“...neither alone will do without the other”

Revisiting Two 19th Century Ottawa Chemists/Druggists/Apothecaries

by Ellen Blaubergs

Introduction

Local retail and global trade patterns can be traced through several artifacts recovered at the Stony Swamp Log Cabin site, BhFw-3, a late 19th century homestead in Carleton County* (Latta 2008 [revised]). This article updates and highlights information on two Ottawa druggists who were identified from embossed medicinal bottle glass fragments recovered during the excavation. It also continues the exploration of local goods availability and consumption on Ontario historic sites (Latta 2008 [revised]; Blaubergs 2009).

The Stony Swamp Log Cabin Site, part of the Stony Swamp Conservation area in Nepean Township, Carleton County, just south of Bells Corners, was excavated in May and June of 1981 under the auspices of the National Capital Commission (NCC) and the Department of Anthropology of the University of Toronto field school. Dr. Martha A. Latta supervised the work. A subsequent independent study opportunity saw interested students undertaking material cultural analyses. Some of the glass finds were examined by Rosemary Salvaggio (1981). This information was incorporated into Dr. Latta's reports.

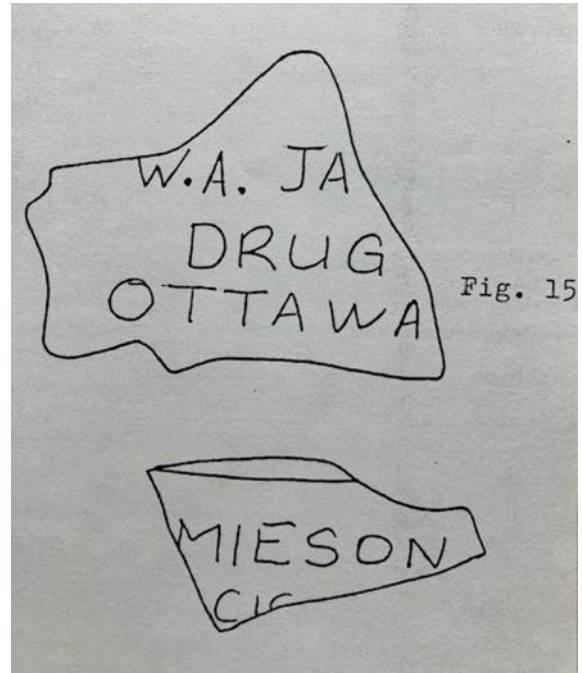
* The site was formerly registered as the “Log Tavern Site” as well as the “Brown's Tavern Site.”

The Bottles

In contrast to the abundant information available about the patent medicine bottle assemblage from this site (Latta 2008:50-52; Salvaggio 1981:14-17), very little was initially found relating to two Ottawa-marked medicine bottle fragments (Latta 2008:52; Salvaggio 1981:17) and their respective businesses.

Two semi-clear body sherds embossed with “W. A. JA...DRUG...OTTAWA” and “...MIESON...C [?]...” refer to W.A. Jamieson. An amber body sherd with

“H.F. MAC CART...” (originally identified as “MacCarty”, without the “h”) is from the apothecary of Henry Francis MacCarthy.



Semi-clear embossed glass sherds recovered in Operation 2 (root cellar); scale in report is actual size.
Image source: R. Salvaggio 1981:Appendix A, vi.

W.A. Jamieson

A listing for W.A. Jamieson in *The Ontario Drug Store and Druggist List (1851-1930)* includes the dates 1873-1902. He is identified as a “chemist and druggist” during this time period (Phillips 1989:126). Interestingly, a second listing refers to him as a “chemist at H.F. MacCarthy's” in 1870. It appears that he started there before opening up his own shop. The first part of the title of this article was inspired by a quotation found at the start of Phillips's excellent reference work (1989:n.p.) and could also be attributed to the business relationship between Jamieson and MacCarthy:

“The business of a druggist or apothecary properly consists of the taking of the crude drug or chemical, and by the different processes, bring it to the proper state for administration to the sick. To do this requires both ability and conscientious work – neither alone will do without the other.” Richard T. Geary, chemist and druggist, Sarnia, Ontario, January. 1900.



W. A. JAMIESON / DRUGGIST / OTTAWA / ONT. Bottle recovered at Victoria Island, 2023
Image copyright: NCC Archaeology Program.

Henry Francis MacCarthy

Information for this druggist is plentiful. Phillips provides the following: “MacCarthy, Henry F. (company name in later years ?) – w/r [wholesale/retail] c&d, ap [chemist & druggist, apothecary] - 1859-1908” (1989:126).

An intriguing, although unattributed reference on the website www.antique-bottles.net refers to Henry Francis MacCarthy as “the dean of pharmacists in our national capital. All pharmacies in Ottawa closed in tribute to the man on the day of his funeral.” This would seem to echo his obituary in *The Ottawa Citizen* on Friday, January 11, 1907:9. It is entitled “H.F. MacCarthy Dead – One of the City’s Oldest and Best Known Business Men” and refers to him as “the oldest druggist in Ottawa and since 1852 when he first entered the drug business here, he had been steadily making friends through his upright dealings and courteous manners with the public. For years he had been conducting a wholesale and retail business on Wellington street.” Born c. 1832 in St. John’s, Newfoundland, MacCarthy came to Montreal in 1851, where spent a few months before heading to Ottawa. He was in

the drug business with a Mr. Jennings in Lower Town until a few years later when he opened up a store of his own. He continued active in the trade until circa April 1906, when an undisclosed illness steadily grew worse and a stroke enfeebled him, and his death at age 75 at his Kent Street residence was not unexpected to close friends.




Embossed amber glass medicine bottle – H.F. MAC CARTHY / DRUGGIST / OTTAWA.

Image: Unitt, Peter & Anne Worall, *Unitt’s Bottle Book & Price Guide*.

Another obit in *The Ottawa Evening Journal* (January 11, 1907:1) announces his passing on January 10th and that he had been in business for 56 years, starting at 19 years of age. This “well known citizen was of a quiet and retiring nature.” These traits “made him hundreds of friends among the older Ottawa and Ottawa Valley residents.”

MacCarthy advertised in various Ottawa newspapers over the years, often together with other druggists. Examples include *The Ottawa Times* (Dec. 13, 1867: n.p.) where he and four other druggists have testimonials extolling the benefits of Ayer’s Cathartic Liver Pills, prepared by Dr. J.C. Ayer & Co. of Lowell, Massachusetts.

“Prepare for Spring – After a long severe winter the system needs cleaning of impurities. Nature must be assisted to recuperate, the liver must be made to act, all surplus bile and impurities carried off...” So begins a rather long ad for *Zopea* from Brazil. *Zopea* is a purgative and “the most powerful remedy for Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation and Bilioussness ever introduced in this country.” Readers are instructed to “Ask your druggist H.F. MacCarthy or A. Christie & Co. for a 10 cent sample...” (*The Ottawa Daily Free Press*, July 2, 1881:8).

HENRY F. MacCARTHY,
APOTHECARY,
MEDICAL HALL,  WELLINGTON ST.,
OTTAWA CITY.
Importer and Dealer in English Drugs, Chemicals,
PATENT MEDICINES, PERFUMERY, FANCY ARTICLES,
Paints, Oils, Dye Stuffs, &c., &c.
PRESCRIPTIONS & FAMILY RECIPES ACCURATELY COMPOUNDED.

Source: Ottawa City and Counties of Carleton and Russell Directory, 1866-67, Hunter, Rose & Co., Ottawa, 1866.

An earlier ad for Bristol's (Vegetable) Sugar-Coated Pills placed by J.F. Henry & Co. (General Agents in Canada) in *The Ottawa Citizen* on Dec 28, 1863 was still running in the March 29, 1864 edition and announces that the pills are for sale by J. Jennings, H.F. MacCarthy "and all leading druggists." As noted before, Jennings was MacCarthy's early partner.

To date, no advertisements placed by Jamieson or MacCarthy have been found for the patent medicines consumed by the residents of the Stony Swamp Log Cabin site: Perry Davis Vegetable Pain Killer, Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, Scott's Emulsion, Northrop and Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, Dr. R.V. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, etc. (Salvaggio 1981:15-17). The contents of the bottles embossed with their names remain a mystery but could have been prescription medicines, house patent medicines or hygienic products such as tooth powder (Latta 2008:52).

Conclusion

The presence of two Ottawa druggists, W. A. Jamieson and H.F. MacCarthy in the site's glass assemblage has revealed an interesting business relationship, and a druggist held in high esteem by Ottawa and Ottawa Valley residents. Their presence will be woven into future local goods availability and consumption studies. Stay tuned!

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to NCC Archaeology Program Manager, Monica Maika, who kindly shared Dr. Latta's report and provided the Jamieson bottle image.

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1866 *Ottawa City and Counties of Carleton and Russell Directory*, 1866-67, Hunter, Rose & Co., Ottawa.

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1907 *The Ottawa Citizen*, Friday, January 11, 1907:9.

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1981 An Analysis of Nineteenth Century Glass from Brown's Tavern*. Prepared for Professor M. Latta, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. 22 pp + Appendix A – i – ix; Appendix B – 14 figures and graphs. * The site was formerly called "The Log Tavern" and "Brown's Tavern Site."

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2025 Ottawa Chapter Executive Committee

President: Phil Trottier
Vice President: Brad Drouin
Treasurer: Bill MacLennan
Secretary: Monica Maika
Director at Large: Marian Clark
Director at Large: Pierre Desrosiers
Director at Large: Stephanie Carles
Director at Large: Aaron Mior
Director at Large (*The Ottawa Archaeologist*
Newsletter Editor): Ellen Blaubergs

**Don't forget to renew your 2025 OAS and
Ottawa Chapter memberships**

<https://ontarioarchaeology.org/get-involved/membership/>

Thank you to everyone who has renewed.

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Ottawa Chapter
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The clay pipe in the Ottawa Chapter logo is from the Roebuck Village Site excavations undertaken in 1912 and 1915. It was reported and illustrated in *Roebuck Prehistoric Village Site, Grenville County, Ontario* by W. J. Wintemberg, National Museum of Canada, Bulletin No. 83; 1972 Facsimile Edition; page 163, Plate XVI, Figure 18.

Coming up in our next issue...

- ✚ More about Archaeology Days/Dickerson Site in Bonnechere Provincial Park - July
- ✚ *Clay Tobacco Pipe Stems Found in Cumberland* by Jean-François Beaulieu

Thank you so much...

...Stephanie Carles, Christine Caroppo, Marian Clark, Monica Maika, and Phil Trottier for your support and contributions to this issue, **and** the revival of our Chapter newsletter!