

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976



Heritage House Museum in Smiths Falls hosted a "Can You Dig It" archaeology activity day in July 2008. Photo by Rory McKay.

The Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5J1
www.ottawaoas.ca

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 do not hesitate to send your ideas to the editor or to anyone on the Executive.

Your 2009 Executive Committee

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Membership Information

Please note that to be eligible for membership in the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS, one needs to be a member of The Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.

OAS FEES:

Individual: \$34 w/ OA \$46
Family: \$38 w /OA \$50
Students: \$23 w/OA \$32
Institutional/Corporate w/OA \$60
Life Membership w/OA \$750

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@bellnet.ca

CHAPTER FEES:

Individual: \$20
Family: \$25
Full time student: \$12

Payable to:

Ottawa Chapter, OAS
PO Box 4939
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Ottawa, ON K1S 5J1
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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Glenna Roberts



Last year's reports in this newsletter summarize 2008, but also contain the direction the Ottawa Chapter will take in 2009. Our increasingly appreciated monthly lectures will continue. André Miller is already approaching possible speakers so that the programme can be circulated early in the 2009-2010 season, and Stacey Girling-Christie is investigating the possibility of a tour of a new exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Stephanie Goodfellow is following up on an OAS project for an on-line "edu-kit". Bill MacLennan and Marilyn ensure that the chapter's finances and records, especially membership lists, are in order. Heather Stronach, past president, remains a source of wisdom. Beyond the executive, Web-master Yves Riendeau and newsletter editor Irene-Ann LaCroix ensure our message is brought to the public. Peggy Smyth administers the Peggy Armstrong Public Archaeology Award's sometimes convoluted process. And then, next October, we will all benefit from Rory Mackay's efforts to bring us back to Basin Depot, in partnership with the Friends of Bonnechere Park. Other members, too numerous to mention here, regularly offer their energies to chapter activities. Given such an effective on-going operation, what's left to occupy a new president?

I have now learned the difference between a secretary-acting-as-president and an elected president. One change is the privilege of signing at the bottom of a letter, "President, Ottawa Chapter, OAS." To do so is both an honour and a responsibility. Our community has had a presence in Eastern Ontario for 37 years now. The president represents not just 2009's active membership as mentioned above, but a tradition that even pre-dates 1972, many of the chapter's founding members (including myself) having been involved with the OAS since its inception in Toronto 30 years earlier. Archaeology, its public face and our role both as an organization and as individuals continue, but also change. In addition to our present activities, 2009 will see new ways in which to relate to other communities, sometimes as a partner, sometimes as an information resource, sometimes as a conscience for Ontario's heritage, a watch-dog for its legislation. Even though it is my name at the bottom of a letter, I know that as president I speak not for myself but for a caring, active and lively organization. Thank you for the privilege of representing you.

Glenna Roberts, proudly president, Ottawa Chapter OAS.

Join us for our March meeting!
Stylistic Variations of Cramics at the Middle Woodland in the Ottawa Valley
 by André Miller, Parks Canada
 Thursday, March 12, 7:30pm
 Routhier Community Centre

ACTIVITIES OF THE OTTAWA CHAPTER, OAS 2008 REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Membership

The Ottawa Chapter OAS membership continues to hover at about 45. We have an enthusiastic continuing core of long-time residents of the Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec regions, and also members who are with us for a year or two before their lives take them from the Ottawa area. As is evident from the following reports, chapter activities could not survive without everyone's contributions and all can be proud of the level and breadth of projects undertaken and completed this year in our endeavours to represent archaeological heritage in this region.

Executive

The executive elected for 2008 consisted of Heather Stronach, president; Glenna Roberts, secretary; Bill MacLennan, treasurer; André Miller, director of public archaeology; directors at large, Stephanie Goodfellow and Cara Pelletier. The first two stages of a strategic plan were completed and the operational stage was initiated under the guidance of Heather Stronach. She unfortunately found it necessary to step down from her role as president in June. We thank her for her contribution over the two and a half years of her presidency and happily we continue to benefit from her experience as past president and active chapter member. During the second half of 2008 the executive operated cooperatively without a formally designated president. 2009 is off to a great beginning with four of the above six continuing in various roles, and with the addition of two new members, Marilyn Wittwer and Stacey Girling-Christie. Congratulations to the nominating committee, Jim Montgomery, chair; Jeff Earl and Libby Imrie for producing such a balanced slate.

Publications

Four issues of *The Ottawa Archaeologist* were edited by Irene-Ann LaCroix in January, April, September and November. We are grateful to her for continuing this contribution to the chapter from her (we hope) temporary home in California. Thank you also to our roving reporters who contributed articles over the year.

Partners to the Past, Making Connections in the Ottawa River Valley, edited by Jim Molnar, the proceedings of the 2005 Symposium, was published and distributed in April, costs covered by the Cultural Strategic Initiative Fund, Ministry of Culture of Ontario. This major effort is available on the chapter and OAS web sites and at our monthly meetings (\$7).

Save Our Archaeological Heritage: Please Don't Loot brochure was edited by Heather Stronach. The costs of publication were covered from the remains of a City of Ottawa Heritage grant. Irene-Ann LaCroix revised the membership form. Both brochures are now being distributed at public archaeology events.

Advocacy

On Canadian Rivers Heritage Day, chapter members André Miller and Heather Stronach participated in a clean-up at Kettle Island sponsored by the Ottawa Riverkeeper. This led to

André having part of the island declared an archaeological site under the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec. He returned to do surface collecting and the chapter held two lab evenings with this material. Subsequently we were invited by the Ottawa Riverkeepers to contribute a one-page letter to be distributed along with its shoreline cleanup guidelines. Contact was also made with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which is the owner of the island.

The Workers Heritage Museum in Vanier advertised in June a combination of archaeology and gardening, but had no licensed archaeologist or permit to dig. We informed the organizer that this well-meaning initiative was illegal and the activity was discontinued.

An ongoing part of our advocacy role includes monitoring and occasionally intervening in the planning processes of National Capital Commission and City of Ottawa through letters and attendance at public meetings.

Outreach

www.ottawaoas.ca, our web site that is so well maintained by Yvon Riendeau, is proving to be an enormously useful information package to which we can refer the public. Our e-mail address, contact@ottawaoas.ca, has received a number of inquiries about our lectures, requests for a classroom speaker, or for an archaeologist to investigate a possible site. For example, children at a west end elementary school found square nails and other signs of early settlement on school property. Brenda Kennett made contact with parents and the principal about whether a dig might be possible. A request for help in finding speakers came from West End Learning Unlimited (WELU) who plan a series of morning lectures on archaeology for 150 retirees. Several of our members are obliging, including Brenda, Ian Dyck and OAS president Jean-Luc Pilon.

Monthly meetings

Speakers and programmes of high calibre continue to be our chief contribution to the community. In 2008 we had the good fortune of hearing: Steve Nickerson on photoarcheometry in January; Alexandra Arellano on effects of tourism on archaeology in Peru in February; Michael Whittaker on Fort Presentation in April; Stephanie Goodfellow and Erin Wilson on osteoarchaeology in September; Rob Lee on Sheguiandah in October; Ruth Phillips on 18th c. Collecting in November. The programme for the 2007-2008 season was planned well in advance and was distributed at public archaeology events and on the web site, perhaps contributing to a slightly increased attendance. Chapter members also took guided tours of two exhibitions courtesy of the curators at the Museum of Civilization, Petra and Chinese Treasures.

Awards

Peggy Armstrong Public Archaeology – Advised by Peggy Smyth and Bill MacLennan, the executive decided not to initiate a monetary award, as the PAPA account is not big enough to form an endowment. No award was made in 2008.

The Watson Bursary in partnership with Trent University has received donations amounting to \$1425. There must be \$6,250 in the account to qualify for matching funds from the province. If

not enough is raised for an endowment, i.e. \$12,500, the funds can be dispersed to deserving students over a period of two or three years.

Planning

The Return to Basin Depot Committee under Rory Mackay is a joint endeavour in partnership with the Friends of Bonnechere Park anticipated for October 2009.

OAS Symposium 2011 – The Ottawa chapter has sent a letter of commitment to OAS Inc. and will begin planning in the fall of 2009.

Thank you to all who contributed their enthusiasm to making this a successful year. We will be “calling all hands” to participate in future ventures, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Glenna Roberts, secretary 2008, president 2009

Summary of 2008 Activities

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| January 10 | <i>The Use of Technology for Documenting Archaeology</i>
Steve Nickerson |
| February 14 | <i>Choquequirao or the “other” Machu Picchu Towards sustainable Nature/Heritage based Tourism Developments in Peru</i>
Alexandra Aralleno |
| February 19 | Participation in <i>Heritage Day</i> , City of Ottawa
Glenna Roberts, Cara Pelletier, Sherry Dyck |
| March 13 | <i>Ancient Peru Unearthed: Golden Treasures of a Lost Civilization</i>
Dr. Jean-Luc Pilon, Canadian Museum of Civilization |
| April 10 | <i>Fort de la Présentation: Our Forgotten History</i>
Michael Whittaker |
| May 8 | General Meeting and Spring Party |
| July | “ <i>Can You Dig It</i> ” <i>Archaeology program</i> – Smith Falls
Rory McKay |
| August 2 | <i>Junior Archaeologist Club</i> - Pinhey’s Point Park
André Miller, Stephanie Goodfleeow |
| August 4 | <i>Colonel By Day</i> – Bytown Museum, Rideau Canal
Glenna Roberts, Cara Pelletier, Lois King |

- August 9 *Public Archaeology Day* – Bonnechere Provincial Park
Glenna Roberts, Bill MacLennan, André Miller, Rory McKay
- August 27-28 *Riverfest* – Pinhey’s Point Park
- Sept 11 *Dental analysis from Altun Ha, a Mayan site in Belize* by Stephanie Goodfellow
Applying Trauma Analysis to James Bond: The Potentials and Limitations of Osteoarchaeological Approaches to Palaeotrauma by Erin Wilson
- Sept 27 Fall Hike, Bonnechere River with Rory McKay
- October 9 *Seguiandah: An ancient quarry site on Manitoulin Island*
Robert E. Lee
- November 13 *Soldiers, Curiosities, and Aboriginal Art Histories: 18th Century Collecting and Contemporary Interpretations*
Ruth B. Phillips, Carleton University
- December 11 Annual General Meeting and Member Social



Laurie Fraser and Marian Clark at the Friends of Bonnechere Awards Ceremony, September 2008. Photo courtesy of Marian Clark.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008,
OTTAWA CHAPTER, OAS
Bill MacLennan

OAS Ottawa Chapter Financial Report 2008				
Opening Balance				\$7146.60
Revenues				
	Bank Interest	\$7.78		
	Memberships	\$920.00		
	Donations	\$115.00		
	OAS Mailing	\$250.00		
	Total		\$1302.78	
Balance				\$8449.38
Expenses				
	Bank Charges	\$50.10		
	Room Rental	\$187.46		
	Newsletter	\$100.33		
	Postal box	\$172.20		
	CHOO/COPO	\$55.00		
	Administration	\$290.11		
	Total		\$869.48	
Balance				\$7579.90
	City of Ottawa Grant Dispersals		\$1452.77	
Carried Forward to 2009				\$6127.13

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT 2008 André Miller

Public Archaeology

Heritage Day – February 19 the chapter held a display at Ottawa City Hall, 11a.m. – 2p.m.

On Heritage Day, Cara Pelletier and I set up at Ottawa City Hall on behalf of the Ottawa Chapter, OAS. A good flow of visitors came by - some students, some with knowledge of our group or of archaeology, others asking very basic questions. A few wondered where we were digging this summer and wanted to know if they could volunteer. I gave them what information I could, along with a name card, some brochures and the address for our Web site expecting they could get further particulars about the society there. We enjoyed talking to people and felt that it was worthwhile having our Society represented.
Sherry Dyck

Heritage House, Smith`s Falls – On July 9, Rory Mackay offered a class on Ontario Archaeology to day camp students.

Colonel By Day – August 4, the chapter held a display at the Rideau Locks 11a.m. – 4p.m.

Pinhey`s Point Historic Site, city of Ottawa

- A synopsis of reports of previous archaeological activities was made for the chapter by history student Jennifer Broydell under the Experiential Learning Service, University of Ottawa.
- André Miller and Stephanie Goodfellow worked for four Saturdays in August with Pinhey`s staff at the Junior Archaeology club.
- Riverfest was held on two days of the Labour Day weekend. Members, including executive and Lois King, manned an info booth on the chapter and offered a sand-box digging experience for many children.

Bonnechere Provincial Park

- Executive and OAS members Rory McKay and Dave Croft offered an Archaeology Day on August 25.
- In September a group of members walked to the site of the Omanique mill guided by Rory McKay, who also spoke after the dinner. After a night at the staff house they discussed a return to Basin Depot in October 2009 in partnership with the Friends of Bonnechere Park and Rory now heads a planning committee for a dig in October 2009.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2008

Stephanie Goodfellow

This was my first year serving on the Ottawa Chapter Executive and it has been a great experience. In addition to attending both general and executive meetings, where I aided in planning activities, making decisions and providing input, the following provides a brief summary of the Chapter activities in which I took part.

One of the first tasks that I undertook was to refresh the Tobacco Display Board for use at the summer events. This involved reworking the text, composing additional material as well as rearranging the set up of the board itself.

Through the winter and spring months, I participated in a number of Strategic Plan brainstorming sessions, headed by then-President Heather Stronach. The finished Strategic Plan document is meant to guide the Chapter through the next few years culminating in the Ottawa-based OAS Symposium of 2011.

In the spring I submitted an article to the Trent Alumni Magazine to honour Gordon Watson and to promote the bursary set up in his name. It was entitled "In Memorium: Gordon D. Watson 1916-2007" and appeared in the 39.2 edition of the magazine.

The summer months were quite busy for me as I took part in a number of events. This included the four, half-day sessions of the Junior Archaeology Club at Pinhey's Point Historic Site, which was developed by City of Ottawa and Museum representative Heather Montgomery, in collaboration with André Miller and myself. The Club content consisted of a sandbox activity each week accompanied by a lesson on artifact care (cleaning, mending, inventory and display). The program was a huge success with anywhere from 15 to 35 people (children and adults) participating each time - even between rain showers.

Over the August long weekend, I once again made my way out to Pinhey's Point Historic Site to take part in Riverfest, a celebration of the traditions of the Ottawa River. The OAS took part at this event with display boards, pamphlets and a sandbox activity for children. A number of members (including André Miller, Bill Maclellan, Glenna Roberts, Lois King and Ben Cleland) participated. The weather was perfect and more than 100 children took part. Both of these events continued to develop our liaison with Pinhey's Point Historic Site.

At the end of September, I also attended the Bonnechere Hike Weekend, Presentation and Dinner - a joint event between the OAS and Friends of the Bonnechere. We visited the Omanique Mill Site where Rory McKay provided an excellent overview of the area. He had even managed to track down a number of individuals who had lived and worked at the mill who took the time to share their memories with us. We also visited the Lafleur Homestead for lunch before retreating to the Staff House for a planning session on the Return to Basin Depot Project. The day

culminated in a wonderful buffet dinner, prepared by the Friends, and Rory's PowerPoint presentation on the Basin Depot Project

Also in September, I was fortunate enough to present my M.A. Thesis research to the Chapter in the form of a lecture entitled, "Dental Microwear Analysis from Altun Ha, Belize." It was a real joy to be able to share this work with others who are interested in archaeology.

Additionally, in the fall, I sent meeting announcements to the secretaries of the Anthropology (Carleton) and the Anthropology/Sociology (Ottawa) departments at local universities in the hopes of attracting new members.

During the latter part of the year I took over the duty of taking notes at the Executive meetings and writing the draft minutes.

Finally, I recently took part in a lab night at Glenna's apartment to clean and inventory artefacts recovered by André Miller from Kettle Island.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2008

Cara Pelletier

The OAS-Ottawa Inventory: a special project

For about two years, I worked long hours in the Diefenbunker, where the Ottawa Chapter has its holdings. As many of you already know, the project started with a bunch of hand-written partial inventories done by other Chapter members. It culminated February 2009 with a summative presentation to the Executive, a demonstration of its electronic and paper aspects, a set of general guidelines for maintenance, and a "passing of the torch".

The summary outlined the strengths and weaknesses of our resource management systems. The OAS Ottawa Chapter faces the following:

Keeping dig kits well-stocked and ready-to-use. What was happening was that people were taking pieces out of the educational kits, using them up, and not replacing them (or putting them back in the wrong spot). This **is a big no-no**, as kits should always be in a state of readiness, to be grabbed at a moment's notice. Instead, both types of supplies were too low to be effectively used. **Education supplies and Field gear should NEVER be mixed.** It means that the Chapter will have to replenish both types of supplies. Field gear needs to be purchased before the next major dig event.

Organization, Circulation, and Replenishment - Better managing the "in's" and "outs". This project resulted in a major re-organization of our holdings and of the storage space. We now have the following categories, which are numbered and colour-coded: Artifacts & Casts (AC-01, -02, etc.) - BLUE; Administrative Files (AD-01, -02, etc.) - BROWN; Awards (AW-01, -02) - YELLOW; Camp Gear (CG-01, -02, etc.) - RED; Display (DI-01, -02, etc.) - BLACK; Educational (ED-01, -02, etc.) - ORANGE; Field Gear (FG-01, -02, etc.) - GREEN; Publications & Texts (PT-01, -02, etc.). These are tied to a Plan

View of D-247, the Ottawa Chapter's storage room at the Diefenbunker.

Maintaining the Catalogue. André Miller, as 2009 Vice-President, has graciously taken on the task of being the Catalogue / Database Manager for our holdings. It's a pretty major task, and involves detailed information management of the electronic data - or itemized lists - within each category of our stuff. A print-out of these lists - or, the Catalogue - is printed in hard-copy and kept in a binder on top of the filing cabinet in D-247. He is also charged with inputting incoming donations, de-accessioning the old, co-ordinating shopping, and keeping the 4 new forms up-to-date and available (more on this below).

Using forms to better document and manage resources: Accession, Deaccession, Shopping, and Circulation. The first two are simplified versions of what museological collections managers use, and are reminiscent of the archaeological cataloguing process. The last one is essential, a "sign out" and "sign in" library-style register. Also, Glenna has started adding "circulation" to each Executive meeting agenda, giving people the chance to co-ordinate pick-ups and drop-offs related to special Chapter events.

Work remains to be done, but now can be easily chunked and delegated to interested Chapter members. Categories that still need work are AF - especially photos and slides; PT - to make an itemized list of books for sale, which we could feature as a website page; and AC - we need more accession-type information about Gordon Watson's reproductions, and about the City of Ottawa-donated pieces. If interested, please see André Miller and Glenna Roberts.

Heartfelt thanks to Heather Stronach, Mélanie Zahab, Roger & Marilyn Wittwer, Bill MacLennan, André Miller, and Glenna Roberts.

WEBMASTER REPORT 2008

Yvon Riendeau

Web activities 2008:

A dedicated Ottawa chapter e-mail address contact@ottawaoas.ca was created.

The symposium papers were uploaded and are online.

2008 Ottawa Chapter newsletters were put online

Web site was maintained and updated with current information

Domain name www.ottawaoas.ca was renewed for another year.

SAVE OUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE: PLEASE DON'T LOOT

by Stephanie Goodfellow for the Ottawa Riverkeepers

Archaeological Sites: An archaeological site is a place where human activity occurred at some time in the approximately 12,000 years since the end of the ice age. Signs of a site are preserved through objects made or modified by human culture known as artifacts. These are a non-renewable resource and form a part of our heritage. Both pre-historic and historic sites frequently occur in proximity to bodies of water, underlining the archaeological importance of shorelines and islands.

Artifacts: When taking part in a shoreline cleanup, it is important to remove only modern garbage. Pre-historic materials such as native pottery, flint points or stone tools may be easier to identify as being archaeologically valuable than more recent historic artifacts dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries. These may include old glass, china, coins, pipes, nails and iron tools. Nevertheless they may be significant. They should be left in place undisturbed and their location noted. Suspicious items may be collected separately for examination by an archaeologist or museum. It is also important not to dig. Material remains that are partially or completely buried should be left *in situ*.

The Ontario Heritage Act: **The Ontario Heritage Act recognizes the importance of archaeological sites and states that it is illegal for anyone to alter a site, remove an artifact, or any other physical evidence of past human use or activity, without a license “knowing that a site is an... archaeological site...” Individuals and corporations are liable to maximum fines ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Demolishing a heritage building or disturbing an archaeological site *knowingly*, carries a \$1,000,000 fine.**

What you can do to help?

- Become aware of the importance of Ontario’s archaeological heritage. Visit www.culture.gov.on.ca
- Learn more about Ontario archaeology to aid with the identification of artifacts. Visit the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS): www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca and the Ottawa Chapter: www.ottawaoas.ca
- Be aware of what you are collecting. Remove only modern garbage. Any pre-1950s remains should be left in place. For help in reporting a find, contact the OAS: oasociety@bellnet.ca, the Ottawa Chapter: contact@ottawaoas.ca or your local museum.



A FEW TALES FROM BASIN DEPOT

BY RORY MACKAY

A visit to the forest clearing at Basin Depot, for those of us who live in large communities, or even cities, may cause one to reflect on its relative isolation. Now 22 kilometres from paved road on a generally good gravel road, it was not so easy to which to drive. In 1975 I had the good fortune to meet and interview Jack Burchat, of Barry's Bay, who had been park ranger at "the Basin" for many years. Jack lived for most of the year in the ranger cabin shown in the accompanying photograph from 1959. That was the year he moved out to work at headquarters at Round Lake. Of course, after that many years on the beat in that section of Algonquin park, Jack had a few stories to tell. Let's "listen".

"Well you drove a car in there and you had to go in low gear, because it was so rocky. It was just a wagon road, you know. All there was, there was three buildings – four buildings. There was an old stable of McLachlin's, I think. Somebody built it. And then there's a building standing there yet....There's one building there yet before you come to the creek, on the right hand side. That used to be a hospital. And you see, near the creek there, where you see the fence post around, the graves, and that's where the lads died in that old building. That was an old hospital and they all died with black diphtheria. That's 80-90 years ago. There is six of them buried there."

"When I came in there first, well there was that park hut where I was staying, and then there was an old stable, it was a lumber company's stable. Their headquarters, McLachlin's was all tore down, there was just the foundations that you could see."

So they had to wagon everything, everything by horses and wagons, stop over at Round Lake, and then they'd go ahead and stop at the Basin. They used to keep a stopping place at the Basin too. Probably if you were there in the summer you'd just go past a building standing there, it's a wooden garage. There's a basement there, a hole where they had a cellar. That was a stopping place too. But that was in there in Booth's time, when Booth operated on the Carcajou. They kept a stopping place. Fellow by the name of Roche from Killaloe had that."

"And they used to keep a stopping place. That was when the lumberjacks were going through, any of them couldn't make it further, well they'd stay there over night. They called that a stopping place. Or if the horses got tired, they'd just stop there. Then they used to sell liquor as well. ...Just a place to sleep. In them days it wasn't like today. There was no white sheets, just have woolen blankets and that's it."

"[I was on] game patrol. I'd start from the Basin and I had a week's provisions on my back... Once the snow came in, we used snowshoes and I had been away weeks at a time and nobody knew where I was, and I was all alone then. I often think of it now what could happen when I was alone there and nobody knew where to look for me. Algonquin Park is a big area....Twenty nine years at the Basin Depot. I was trying to put in another year, but they wouldn't let me."

“When you come in this time of year you had to have your provisions in there and everything, because otherwise you’s have to carry it, because the road would be blocked up. There was no road in there in the winter months. Anytime you wanted to get out of there, you just had to snowshoe. I often snowshoed here to Barry’s Bay at different times from Basin Depot. One time [my wife] took sick and I had been travelling all day and I was eleven miles up above the Basin. I was just going to start the fire, when the phone rang. It was the Deputy Chief Ranger from Whitney. He said, “You’re supposed to come home”, he said, “your wife is sick.” So I just started and went down to the Basin, eleven miles, and this was supertime then you know. But I started and I come down to the Basin and cooked my supper. I shaved and cleaned up. At nine o’clock in the morning, I was here in Barry’s Bay. Walked all day and all night until nine o’clock the next day. So it proved that was only one way of getting out, because you couldn’t drive a car in there in the winter.”

It turns out that the last story told of Jack’s experience of living at Basin was not “caught on tape”, but was jotted down as a note during a conversation. As one charged with keeping poachers out of the park, Jack said that all he saw of “company” at Basin in the wintertime, was their backs as they were running away from him as fast as they could.

I can assure you that the old place won’t feel so isolated when you join other chapter members in discovering more from the hands-on archaeology planned for Basin Depot in October 2009, under the direction of our project archaeologist, Ken Swayze.

[OK. So, you are asking yourself, why didn’t Rory ask more about what old foundations were visible, and other details that would have helped us today. My only defence is that I then knew nothing of either my future passions for archaeology or for the Bonnechere, that I was relatively inexperienced, and that at the time there was next to nothing written about the history of that part of the park. It was interviews like this one that led to my research for the book *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, and eventually to the valuable archaeology work our chapter has done at Basin Depot.]



NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Le Chapitre d'Ottawa de la SOA est actuellement à la recherche de bénévoles bien versés en français, pour aider à traduire les textes. Si vous êtes intéressés, veuillez s'il vous plait contacter Stephanie Goodfellow à stephanie_goodfellow@hotmail.com. Merci!



Each week the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa of which the Ottawa Chapter is a member publishes a calendar of up-coming events *This Week in Heritage*. If you would like to receive this e-mail newsletter, you may subscribe by sending your address to membership@choocopo.ca. There are rich heritage events going on, organized by the heritage organizations in the region.



At the AGM December 11, two OAS 25 year pins and certificates were available for presentation to two faithful and long-serving members of the Ottawa Chapter, Ian Dyck and Peggy Smyth. Both have offered much more to archaeology than longevity. Ian, who is curator, Plains Archaeology, at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, was formerly president of the chapter. Peggy has participated actively in our excavation and public archaeology programmes, particularly those along the Bonnechere, and continues to act as Administrator of the Peggy Armstrong Public Archaeology award. Ian was present to receive his pin, while Peggy's has since been delivered to her. If you know someone whom you believe to be eligible to receive this honour, or if you yourself are eligible and have not been contacted in this regard, please notify the OAS director for membership, Alistair Jolly at membership@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca.



MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't done so already – now is the time to renew your chapter membership!!!
Membership form and mailing details can be found on the Chapter's website at <http://www.ottawaoas.ca/Form.htm>

April Meeting of the Ottawa Chapter

Thursday April 2, 2009 (special date - this is the first Thursday!)

7:30pm location to be announced

19th Century Ceramic Tableware Workshop

Presented by Suzanne Plousos

Material Culture Researcher, Parks Canada, Ontario Service Centre

This workshop is a primer for identification of basic 19th century ceramic tableware ware types, decorative techniques and vessel forms. Participants will examine an array of excavated ceramics and review useful source material for identification and dating. Participants are encouraged to bring along unidentified sherds for discussion.

Registration only!! Please contact Stacey Girling-Christie at stacey.girling@civilization.ca, preference will be given to OAS members.



Gordon and Margaret Watson Bursary

Gordon Watson, a founding member of the Ottawa Chapter OAS, died in June 2007, predeceased by his wife Margaret. He received several awards for his considerable contribution to archaeology: the J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal Award, the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award, and the Spirit of Trent Award. All this came after 'retirement' and the completion of an M.A in Anthropology (Archaeology) at Trent University!

In recognition of Gordon and Margaret's dedication to archaeology, their support of the Ontario Archaeological Society and their inspiration to others, the Ottawa Chapter has established a bursary in partnership with Trent University. The objective is to make an award each year to a needy graduate student studying Canadian archaeology/anthropology.

To qualify for matching Provincial funds, thus forming the basis of an endowment, donations must reach \$6250. Trent University will monitor the funds and award the bursary. If the above amount is not reached in 2009, the award will be made for two or three years, but will lapse when the funds have been used up.

The Ottawa Chapter hopes that if you have not contributed to this fund and would like to remember Gordon and Margaret in this way, you will do so by going to our web site where you will find the form or where you may contribute electronically -- www.ottawaoas.ca.