

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976



The scenic fall view on September 27th, 2008 during a guided hike at Bonnechere Provincial Park.

Photo courtesy of Marion Clark.

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 2008 Executive Committee

President: vacant

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Bill MacLennan, (613) 759-7067 or bmaclennan0113@rogers.com

Secretary: Glenna Roberts, (613) 235-7358 or peteglenna@cyberus.ca

Director at Large: Cara Pelletier, caralouisepelletier@yahoo.ca

Director at Large: Stephanie Goodfellow, 613-695-0520 or stephanie_goodfellow@hotmail.com

Director of Public Archaeology: André Miller, (819) 210-6939 or andre.miller@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Irene-Ann LaCroix, ireneann.lacroix@gmail.com

Webmaster: Yvon Riendeau, yvon.riendeau@sympatico.ca

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: \$19

Family: \$23

Full time student: \$12

Payable to:

Ottawa Chapter, OAS

PO Box 4939

Station E

Ottawa, ON K1S 5J1

Email: contact@ottawaoas.ca

Join us for our November meeting!

“Soldiers, Curiosities, and Aboriginal Art Histories:
18th c. Collecting and Contemporary Interpretations”

by

Ruth Phillips, Carleton University

Thursday, November 13, 7:30

Routhier Community Centre

172 Guigues Street at Cumberland

(parking off Cumberland, just north of St. Patrick)

18th century military collectors in the Great Lakes were responsible for the earliest collections of Hodenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishinaabe (Ojibwa, Potawatomi, Ottawa) items we can identify. The speaker argues that they collected in two very different ways. Some collectors were directly involved in diplomatic negotiations with Aboriginal people and came to know and understand much more of what these elaborate outfits meant in the context of Aboriginal systems of beliefs. Others, however, bought items as 'curiosities', in convents, through trade at forts, etc. and those collections tend to be both more aesthetically appealing today and less coherent in terms of Aboriginal world-view.

Presenter **Ruth B. Phillips** has been Canada Research Chair in Modern Culture and Professor of Art History at Carleton University since 2003. She was associated with the university from 1980 to 1997, at which time she took up the position of Director, Museum of Anthropology and Professor, Art History and Anthropology, University of British Columbia. She brings a wealth of experience to her scholarship. Amongst many positions she has held: consultant, National Gallery of Canada in the incorporation of First Nations art; member of team for Across Borders: Beadwork in Iroquois Life, McCord Museum; curator, Northern Woodlands section, The Spirit Sings, Glenbow Museum. Author and recipient of many research grants, she directs the Great Lakes Alliance for the Study of Aboriginal Art and Culture, an international collaborative project involving researchers in universities, museums and Aboriginal communities. She was recently elected Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR POSITIONS ON THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

This year's Nominating Committee is comprised of Jim Montgomery, Elizabeth Imrie and Jeff Earl. Their task is to prepare a slate for the Executive Committee for 2009. Any member in good standing with the OAS and the Ottawa Chapter may stand for election.

In accordance with our constitution, the executive may be comprised of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director Public Archaeology, and 2 Directors-at-Large. The Past President is an ex-officio member.

Members may nominate candidates, with their permission, to any member of the Nominating Committee, and nominations will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting of the Chapter on December 11, 2008.

To make a nomination (or volunteer) please contact Jim Montgomery, chair, by email at narnia2@sympatico.ca or call 613 730-2377 (evenings).

The Chapter's **Annual General Meeting and Seasonal Celebration** will take place on **Thursday, December 11, 2008**, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Join our host Glenna Roberts at her home, Apt. 503, 20 Driveway, Ottawa (Ring #127)

Situated at the canal end of McLaren Street. Parking on the street or in the lot on north side of building.

By Rapid Transit bus, exit at Campus station, cross the canal by the new Somerset foot bridge, Glenna's is the highrise building on left (i.e. south of Somerset)

Deadline for Chapter donations:

Please note that in order to be processed for a 2008 charitable donation receipt, donations to the Chapter, the OAS, or the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Fund must reach our Treasurer by **December 1st, 2008**. Please advise Bill MacLennan by phone at (613) 824-5144, if you are sending a cheque through the mail.

BONNECHERE HIKE - SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

A NEWBIE'S PERSPECTIVE

BY MARILYN WITTWER, OTTAWA CHAPTER OAS



Although the day was a bit drizzly and overcast it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the members of OAS, Friends of the Bonnechere and invited guests who participated in the hike to the Omanique Mill Site.

I actually managed to convince my husband Roger to tag along hoping all the while that he wouldn't find the experience too uninspiring; on the contrary, he quite enjoyed himself.

Meeting Don Pouliot, Andy Etmanski, Florian Voldock, Adam Shulist, Max Pecoski, and Ann Bruder, daughter of Joseph Omanique the mill owner was a sheer delight. Listening to the stories of these people who lived and worked in the old mill seemed to make it come alive: I could almost hear the noise of the machinery and smell the freshly sawn lumber.

Exploring the old mill site and surrounding areas, one could hardly find a trace of what would have been a noisy, bustling and thriving community. On closer inspection we discovered remnants of a smoke stack, loading ramp and the location of the blacksmith's shop.

We managed a visit to the Lafleur Homestead, where we ate a quick lunch before we had a major downpour.



We headed back to the Staff House where Ottawa Chapter and Friends of the Bonnechere members participated in a lively discussion about procuring funds for an archaeological project hopefully to commence in the New Year.

A tasty dinner was prepared and served by the Friends and was greatly enjoyed after a (wet) hike in the woods. Rory MacKay presented a Power Point presentation, humorous and entertaining, while being quite informative.

Thanks to all the folks whose planning and hard work made this event possible.

OAS SYMPOSIUM - OCTOBER 17-19, 2008

IT STARTED WITH THE SMELL OF SWEETGRASS

BY JEAN-FRANCOIS BEAULIEU

I left early Friday morning to pick up André Miller at his place around 7am on October 17, 2008. We traveled to Toronto and arrived at the Hotel around noon, in time for a 1pm ceremony with the Elders to open the Symposium.



During this ceremony, the Elders explained their history of contact, the Wampum significance and the sweet grass ceremony. There were nearly 50 participants in this ceremony, in which we had to introduce ourselves and talk about what we hoped to achieve. At 6pm there was a reception at the Hilton Garden Hotel in honor of Bob Bugar, including a slide show about Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Saturday morning started early and after breakfast I went to the Black Creek Pioneer Village Museum to set up my archeostore.com merchandise, along with the other exhibitors, and of course the silent auction. The Symposium was held at the Black Creek Interpretation Centre. There was a lunch organized during the noon break and the book room was a busy place between sessions. While I was packing up my car, there was a First Nation closing ceremony.



The Banquet started at 6:30pm at the Black Creek Pioneer Village Museum and the food was really good! The local First Nations people performed traditional dances, drum music and signing, emphasizing the significance and importance of each dance. The evening was spent with people joining in with the traditional dances. It became a real social event.

On Sunday I attended the breakfast and went to the OAS general assembly meeting. It lasted almost 3 hours. There were two Ottawa Chapter members present. The current OAS board was re-elected. André Miller announced that the 2011 OAS Symposium would probably be held in Ottawa, marking the Ottawa Chapter's 40th anniversary. This concluded the 2008 symposium, then we packed the luggage and headed back home to the Ottawa area.

OTTAWA CHAPTER LAB NIGHT OCTOBER 23, 2008

A special thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers who came to identify and classify artefacts from Kettle Island. Photos courtesy of André Miller.



Members pictured are Stephanie Goodfellow, Glenna Roberts, Libby Imrie, Denise Bourgeois, and Carmen Bauer.

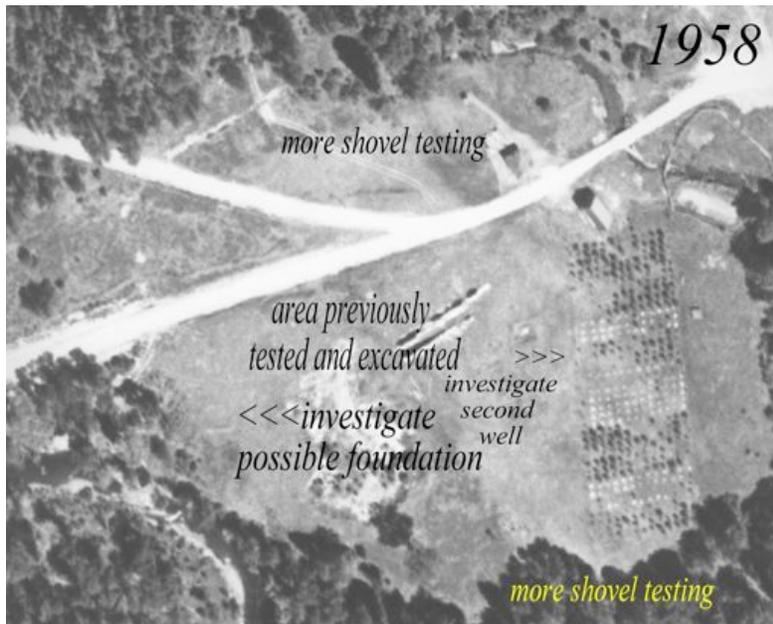
UPDATE ON “A RETURN TO BASIN DEPOT”

BY GLENNA ROBERTS AND RORY MACKAY

Some of you will recall an article a few years ago suggesting that the chapter should return to Basin Depot in Algonquin Park to continue the archaeological work begun there in 1996. During the past two years the executive of the chapter and the executive of The Friends of Bonnechere Parks, our partners in the work at Basin Depot, have been discussing such a return in early October, 2009.

Basin Depot was an important logging camp, which served as a distribution site for other logging camps. As early as 1847 there were four buildings or shanties there which housed men and supplies. By 1890 there were at least ten buildings, including a boarding house, a blacksmith shop and a number of storage buildings. Activity on the site continued well into the twentieth century.

Shovel testing carried out under Chris J.-Andersen in May 1996 led to excavations in the vicinity of the blacksmith shop and boarding house. In 1998, 1999, and 2000 excavations under Tom Ballantine continued in the vicinity of the boarding house, revealing many domestic items, much broken window glass, evidence of a storage building and evidence of a well.



The excavations at Basin Depot form a major component of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks' educational web site *Land of the Spirits*. A sampling of artefacts from Basin Depot can be viewed at <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Spirits/English/Museum/collections.html>

There is more to learn. One section of the field at Basin Depot, perhaps where the shanties were located, has not been fully shovel tested. Indications of a foundation showing on a 1958 map appear to

correspond with feature on the ground that should be investigated. There may be a second well. Only one unit was partially completed near the blacksmith shop.

To date we have promises of the equivalent of over \$20,000 of in-kind volunteer work, from the Friends of Bonnechere Parks, Ontario Parks staff at Bonnechere Parks, and anticipated

involvement by our own members. As chair of A Return to Basin Depot committee, Rory MacKay has submitted a funding proposal and powerpoint presentation to The Friends of Algonquin Park, and a similar one to the Algonquin Forestry Authority, based on advice from both our executive and the executive of the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. Additional proposals will be sent to Ontario Parks and other organizations. There is an opportunity to include members of the public in viewing the work being done, if funding levels permit.

Shortly we will need to determine under whose license our proposed work at Basin Depot will take place. The Friends of Bonnechere Parks and the Ottawa Chapter are both committed to the concept that what archaeology is done should be appropriately funded at market rates for archaeological work. Members of the chapter who hold a consultant level license and are interested in applying for the position are invited to contact Rory MacKay for more details of where work on the site could be done, more background, and some of the conditions set by Ontario Parks regarding the work.

Rory can be contacted at 613-382-3439 (or at rmackay3@cogeco.ca).

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Many members are aware that a team of archaeologists has been working at Lebreton Flats this past summer. Their work was featured in the October 24 issue of the Centretown News under the title "Lebreton Flats site reveals archeological 'jewels'". The story may be found at: <http://centretownnewsinline.ca/flipbook/oct2408/index.html>

Archaeological Society of America Society Event

7:30 PM Tuesday November 18 2008

“Becoming Christian at Dendara Ramez Boutros” (University of Toronto) explores how graffiti, literary sources and archaeology combine to reconstruct the religious transformation of an Upper Egyptian temple complex in late antiquity. Famous for its temple of Hathor, the complex at Dendara also holds a 6th century Christian church built of material recycled from a nearby Roman birth house. Bring a friend and find out more!

Location: Salon A Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street

Archaeo Apprentice and the 16th Annual Polar Bear Plunge!

Want to have some fun and help a great project? I am a volunteer with the Friends of Murphys Point Park. We have developed an archaeology program called Archaeo Apprentice, which brings Grade 5 students and professional archaeologists together to conduct a real excavation at Murphys Point Provincial Park. The students learn archaeology techniques, sort and clean artifacts and learn about cultural history in a hands-on and fun way. We support the whole thing

with a portable display for participating classrooms, a teacher's manual and a student workbook. This exciting project has earned praise from students, teachers, parents, donors and volunteers, and 2009 will mark our fifth excavation!

The Friends subsidize most of the program through donations and sponsors. This year we are fortunate to be the recipient charity for the 16th annual Perth Polar Bear Plunge on Jan. 1, 2009, which means funds raised will support the Archaeo Apprentice program. Our goal is to raise \$15,000!

Can you help? Here are some ways to do so:

Be a plunger! Click

<http://www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca/Documents/polar%20plunge%20form.pdf>. While you're at it, challenge someone and see who can raise the most money!

Too chicken to jump but want to raise some funds? Be a chicken plunger! Click

<http://www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca/Documents/chicken%20plunge%20form.pdf>

Sponsor me! If I can raise \$500 then I'll take the plunge on Jan. 1. E-mail me if you would like to make a pledge and see me hit the water!

Volunteer! We need folks on Plunge day to help with the breakfast, to register people, to set up and organize the site, and more. To get involved on or before the day, e-mail friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca or call Phill at 613-267-8257.

I hope you'll celebrate the New Year with us on the banks of the Tay River at the Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith St. E. on January 1. Plungers get a free Local Flavours breakfast! Contact me for more info or check www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca. Thanks in advance for your support!

Stephanie Gray

President

Friends of Murphys Point Park