

2005

Partners to the Past

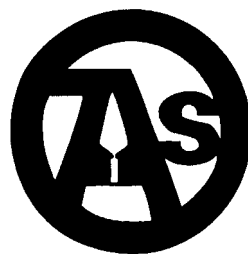
Making Connections in
the Ottawa River Valley



**The Ontario
Archaeological Society Symposium**

Edited by James S. Molnar

The Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society



Partners to the Past: Making Connections in the Ottawa River Valley

Proceedings of the 2005 Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium

Edited by James S. Molnar

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Introduction

James S. Molnar

Partnerships are the future of archaeology. They bring more people in to work alongside archaeologists as we create interest in and build support for archaeology. Our task is to find people to help us; fellow travellers who will walk with us as we explore, celebrate and preserve the past. Potential partners can be found in many places: in primary and secondary schools, First Nations, tourist operations, universities, governments and agencies, and volunteer groups. The only limit is our willingness to share. This volume explores some aspects of partnerships based on presentations from the 2005 Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium.

In Part One, the focus is on the local municipality with papers about community involvement from Leonard Hopkins and Bill Nesbitt, while Joseph Muller looks at land use planning and the new Ontario Heritage Act. One example of a fruitful long-term partnership is that between the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS and the Friends of Bonnechere Parks. Bonnechere Provincial Park and its surrounding region have been the focus of much of the Chapter's public archaeology activities since 1996 with annual digs and hands-on demonstration days for park visitors. The chapter by Betty Biesenthal describes a follow up project to put the results of this work on the web. The Land of the Spirits web pages are now complete and can be found at: <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/~spirits/>.

Dena Doroszenko contributes a chapter on Poplar Villa in Part Two, as part of a session on Ottawa Valley archaeology.

The session that became the chapters in Part Three was organized by Bill Allen. Bill's work in Algonquin Park is another example of creating partnerships. After many years where little or no archaeology has been done in the park (except for the OAS digs along the Bonnechere River), Bill has engaged park managers at MNR and acted as a bridge between the park and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan FN, whose traditional territory includes most of the park.

Saturday morning's session included several presentations on Cultural Resource Management, which has become a difficult arena in which to create partnerships. The needs of the CRM industry have reduced the public's access to archaeology. Insurance requirements, client confidentiality, and the pressure of deadlines mean that volunteers can no longer help on CRM digs as they used to. While these conditions will not change in the near future, Jennifer Birch examines ways that CRM can connect with the public in the broadest sense. The chapter by Brandy George presents her experiences as a First Nations archaeologist. Sheryl Smith provides a wider view of partnerships with her chapter on the National Historic Sites Alliance of Ontario.

On the theme of First Nations, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, who participated in the symposium, are looking for a partnership in the governance of archaeology in their traditional territory. They have worked with Ken Swayze and Ian Badgley to develop a draft protocol for archaeology within their traditional territory which can be found at <http://www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com/Umbrella Protocol for Archaeology.mht>. The Algonquins, similar to other First Nations, also want to create an artifact repository. Given the crisis in collections management that exists in Ontario archaeology, this is one potential partnership that could produce many benefits.

Finally, this volume is dedicated to Gordon Watson, who passed away this summer. Gordon was a founder of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS, and a very active avocational archaeologist. He led numerous excavations in the Ottawa Valley and eastern Ontario, and brought the experience of archaeology to many people. His energy for creating partnerships will be missed.

Acknowledgments

Many people helped with the symposium and with this volume. Lois King, Heather Stronach, Ellen Blaubergs, Marian Clark, Glenna Roberts, and Carmen Bauer were members of the symposium steering committee along with myself. Ellen Blaubergs very ably organized the workshop on Heritage and Your Municipality. Some of the presentations from that workshop are included in Part One of this volume.

The Friends of Bonnechere Parks helped immeasurably by securing a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Culture Strategic Investment Fund to sponsor part of the costs of the meeting and printing the proceedings. The efforts of Betty Biesenthal and Jim Fraser of the Friends stand out in particular.

During the symposium, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan welcomed us into their traditional territory, and Merv Sarazin conducted the opening day smudging ceremony with the assistance of Bill Allen. Mark Reinert and Cyndy Phillips from the Town of Petawawa helped with the site arrangements. CFB Petawawa allowed us to use the accommodations on base providing a unique experience for the participants.

Jean-Luc Pilon provided words of encouragement in the editing of the proceedings and Glenna Roberts and Heather Stronach helped with the proofreading of this volume.

Thanks to all.