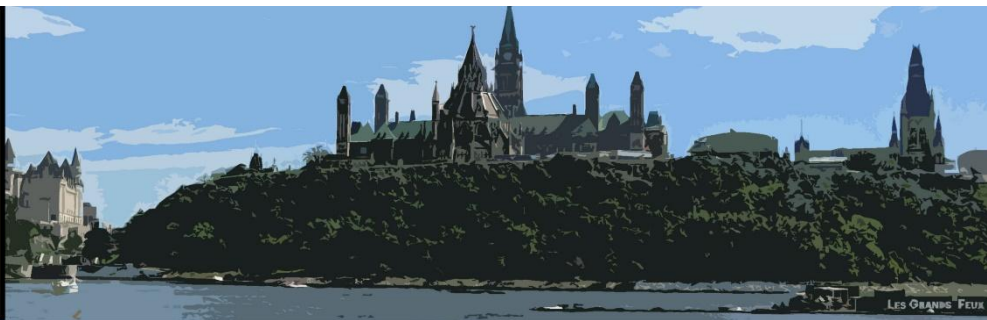




In this issue

Page 2 Our Land Acknowledgment

Page 2 Upcoming Speakers/Events

Page 3 2026 OAS Symposium
October 24, 2026, Toronto

Page 3 CNEHA Annual Meeting
October 8-11, 2026
Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

Page 3 Public Archaeology
Opportunity in Quyon, Québec

Page 4 Public Archaeology Report
2026 by Marian Clark

Page 4 Bonnechere Provincial
Park Archaeology Week
July 10-15, 2026

Page 5 The Final Chapter –
The Dickerson Site

Page 7 Letters to and from
Bonnechere Provincial Park

Page 8 Report on Pinhey's Point
Historic Site Archaeology Day

Page 9 *Rory's Adventures along
the Little Bonnechere River:
Getting a Research Licence*
by Rory MacKay

Page 12 2026 Chapter Executive;
OAS/Chapter info; Upcoming
articles; a great poster



**The crew for Archaeology Days Weekend in
Bonnechere Provincial Park**

Image courtesy of Marian Clark, July 2026.

Happy Fall! It is a pleasure to share another action-packed newsletter. This issue features summaries of Archaeology Days in Bonnechere Provincial Park and Pinhey's Point Historic Site, and another one of Rory's Adventure's along the Little Bonnechere River. There are also reminders for two upcoming archaeological conferences – the OAS Symposium (in Toronto) and the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting (in Saint-Jean-sur Richelieu), and a public archaeology opportunity (in Quyon, Québec). A list of upcoming monthly speakers and events is also included. Please note our new email address:

ottawa@ontarioarchaeology.org



We had positive feedback to our May newsletter related to Monica Maika's bilingual article and a bilingual notice for the CNEHA conference in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Hopefully, some future contributions can also be in both official languages. Enjoy! *EB*

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.

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.

Upcoming Ottawa Chapter Speakers and Events

We hope you will be able to Zoom in to some of the speakers lined up for the fall of 2026 and early 2027. Stay tuned for Zoom registration links and other information.

Wed., September 23, 2026

Speaker: Monica Maika

Topic: **The NCC Archaeology Volunteer Program**

September 26-27 and October 3-4, 2026

**Public Archaeology Opportunity with
ARCHAEOPONTIAC, Quyon, Québec**

Contact Marian Clark if interested and for more info.
ottawa@ontarioarchaeology.org

October 2026 (Exact date TBA)

Speaker: Gabby Clark

Topic: **The Thomas Church Collection**

November 2026 (Exact date and speaker TBA)

December 2026 (Exact date TBA)

Annual General Meeting

January 2027 (Exact date TBA)

Speaker: Chelsea Colwell-Pasch

Topic: **TBA**

February 2027 (Exact Date TBA)

Speaker: Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer

Topic: **Public Archaeology in Calgary**

July 10-11, 2027 (to be confirmed)

**Archaeology Days in Bonnechere Provincial
Park**



2026 Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium

hosted by the newly relaunched Toronto Chapter



Theme: *Repairing Bridges: Collaboration, Community, Connection*

October 24, 2026 (one day only!) at St. Lawrence Hall, Toronto (heritage building)

More info: toronto@ontarioarchaeology.org

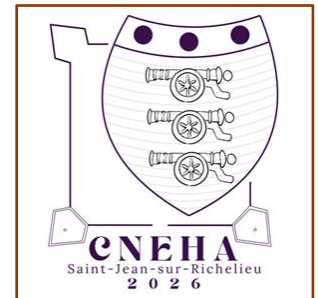
CNEHA Annual Meeting 2026

October 8-11, 2026 - Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec

<https://cneha.org/conference.html>

Archaeology & Resistance: Traces, Territories, and Turbulent Times

The 2026 CNEHA annual meeting will be hosted at the Holiday Inn St-Jean-sur-Richelieu Congrès by IHG in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Québec) on Oct 8-11.



Archéologie et résistance: Traces, territoires et temps troubles

Le colloque annuel 2026 du CNEHA se tiendra à l'hôtel Holiday Inn St-Jean-sur-Richelieu Congrès by IHG, à Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Québec), du 8 au 11 octobre 2026.

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY OPPORTUNITY WITH ARCHAEOPONTIAC

Quyon, Québec

Saturday / Sunday September 26-27 and October 3-4, 2026



The Ottawa Chapter has been invited to participate in two public archaeology weekends being organized by ArchaeoPontiac, a program of the Friends of Chats Falls. They support the sharing of research and learning activities in the upper Outaouais region of Québec at Quyon on the north shore of the Ottawa River west of Gatineau. The organization has brought together several professional archaeologists and volunteers to deliver public archaeology displays and activities, including some hands-on excavations over two weekends – dates shown above. The Chapter welcomes the invitation to share our information and to meet with counterparts and the public from the region.

We will have a table with our promotional displays and some artifacts, posters and banners, and would welcome members to visit and engage with the archaeologists and the public, do some excavation as offered, and view the activities underway.

We also would like you to consider *helping us manage our own display for a while each day*. The final schedule has not been published but assume we will be there during the core hours of Saturday and Sunday each weekend. More details will be made available as we have them.

If you wish to put your name forward, please do so now – it will help us with the planning.

Contact Marian Clark at ottawa@ontarioarchaeology.org

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT 2026

by Marian Clark, Director at Large, Ottawa Chapter OAS

BONNECHERE PROVINCIAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK July 10-15, 2026



The Crew for Archaeology Weekend

Another successful week unfolded at Bonnechere Provincial Park from July 11 through July 15. The Ottawa Chapter OAS organized two days of public programming and supported the third and final season of excavations at the Dickerson Site which lies north of the park along the Bonnechere River. Many Chapter members and supporters came out on the weekend to meet and greet the campers and visitors. Activity and information stations were set up near the Davenport Centre and the beach which provided a perfect setting for meeting people in a relaxed and welcoming environment.



Bob demonstrated how and why we wash artifacts



Courtney represented the Upper Ottawa Valley Heritage Centre and was Director of the Dickerson Site excavations

Saturday evening took us inside the Davenport Centre for a presentation on “What is Archaeology”, a slide show delivered by Marian Clark and with the able assistance of Brad Drouin on the computer/projector. The slide set had been developed by Rory MacKay who could not attend but whose presence was felt and appreciated.



Sunday morning opened with an activity called “Postcards from the Field” which was developed by Ellen Blaubergs who also could not be in attendance. We did our best to deliver the program without her and numerous postcards were prepared and even stamped ready for mailing. Thanks to Ellen who provided for each step of the process and the Park staff who prepared this great poster and helped us along the way.

Bonnechere Provincial Park Staff
Samantha Herbert and Leif MacDonald-Mellish

Images: Marian Clark

The Final Chapter – The Dickerson Site

Next came the final push on Monday through Wednesday to complete the delineation of the site boundaries at the Dickerson Site, a multicomponent site of significant importance to understanding life along the Bonnechere River. Courtney Cameron of Cameron Heritage Consulting Ltd. delivered the field work with volunteers, park staff and community representatives.



Final day and everyone working!



Evenings around the campfire

Despite the worst days of the July heat wave, the enormous insects and remote access to the site, the task was completed in three days. Some questions however, were not fully answered as additional artifacts were located and signify that this site has more secrets to reveal. We look forward to Courtney's final report and thoughts on what we have learned after three seasons of excavation. With hundreds of years of activity along the Bonnechere River, we know there will be more to do.



So long Dickerson Site! A final crew shot and a wave from Courtney

THANK YOU

The Ottawa Chapter give thanks to the members, supporters and Parks staff who came out to deliver the programs for another year. None of this happens without the input of many people including this year:

Stacey Girling-Christie, Phillipe Trottier, Monica Maika, Robert Clark, Gabrielle Clark, Ken Swayze, Kydmen Brown, Friends of Bonnechere Parks – Jane Duff and Anne Burchat, Stephanie and Reiko Nakamura, Courtney Cameron for the Upper Ottawa Valley Heritage Centre and Cameron Heritage Consulting Inc. Extra thanks to Ellen Blaubergs and Rory MacKay for the preparations in absentia, Jeff Earl and Brenda Kennett of Past Recovery Archaeological Services for the loan of trays used throughout the program and to Bill MacLennan who always works behind the scenes with us.

The Park staff pulled out all the stops once again to make us welcome and support all our activities. Thanks to Superintendent Jason Mask, Deputy Superintendent Harvey Cornell, Parks Program Educators Samantha Herbert, Julliana Golka, summer student Leif MacDonald-Mellish, and the many staff members who made our time effective and rewarding. The cottage and campsites were very welcoming and made for enjoyable evening gatherings of the “crew”.

Until next time....

Images: Monica Maika and Marian Clark

To: Jason Mask, Bonnechere Provincial Park

Subject: Thank you from the Ottawa Chapter OAS Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026

Hi all - On behalf of the Ottawa Chapter OAS, I wanted to write and give - yet again - a big shout out to all the staff who made our Archaeology Week at Bonnechere Park a success again this year. The attention to detail and efficient support received from Samantha and Lief on the Saturday and Sunday, and by the staff and "students" at the Dickerson site on Monday thru Wednesday made it all flow perfectly. The accommodations as usual were much appreciated and made the week go by more easily given the logistics and weather challenges that prevailed!

It also brought an end to the three-year research carried out at the Dickerson site and the Chapter looks forward to learning the final results and interpretation of this important site.

We look forward to future collaborations and wish everyone well for the rest of the 2026 season.

I enclose a few photographs of the "team" efforts - variety of sizes and hope they all download ok. Taken by Marian Clark and Stacey Girling-Christie. Not for reuse without prior notice.

Regards,
Marian Clark
Director at Large, Ottawa Chapter, OAS

From: Mask, Jason (MECP)

Sent: July 28, 2026 To: Marian Clark (et al) Subject: RE: Thank you from the Ottawa Chapter OAS

Hi everyone,

Thank you, Marian for your kind words...and thank you to everyone involved for another successful Archaeology Week and Dickerson Site excavation.

It is hard to believe we've been working together on this program for so many years. The continued partnership between Bonnechere Provincial Park and the Ottawa Chapter is something I truly value and it remains one of the highlights of our summer season.

A special thank you to Courtney, Samantha, Harvey, Leif, Julianna, our stewardship crew, volunteers and everyone else who helped make the week such a success. It takes a tremendous team effort behind the scenes and I appreciate everything that went into making the visitor programming and fieldwork run so smoothly.

I certainly wish I could have been there to spend some time at the Dickerson Site and help with the excavation this year but unfortunately it just wasn't in the cards. From everything I've heard thought it was another outstanding week and it's exciting to know this marks the completion of the 3-year field component of the project. I look forward to learning more about the final results and interpretations in the months ahead.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to this partnership and for everything you do to help tell the remarkable story of this part of the Bonnechere Valley.

We look forward to welcoming the Ottawa Chapter back to Bonnechere in 2027.

All the best for the remainder of the field season – JAY

Jason Mask
Superintendent, Bonnechere Provincial Park
4024 Round Lake Road, Killaloe ON, K0J 2A0
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

REPORT ON PINHEY'S POINT HISTORIC SITE

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY August 2, 2026

We were no sooner back from Bonnechere Provincial Park than we were headed to another Archaeology Day event at Pinhey's Point Historic Site near Dunrobin on the Ottawa River. The Chapter had undertaken some programming at the property many, many years ago and it was a great opportunity to return and learn about the progress that has been made in restoring and interpreting this historic site. Encompassing some 88 acres of buildings and parkland, there is even waterfront dockage for visitors who arrive by boat. Operated by the City of Ottawa and the Pinhey's Point Foundation, the house is open to the public on Wednesdays through Sundays until October each year.

The Chapter was approached to deliver a program this season, and we welcomed a chance to return and deliver our message close to home. We did not pack away our displays from Bonnechere but rather turned around and presented a similar program but with a couple of add-ons to make it work. Monica and Bob set up a sand box dig around a game of Archaeology Bingo, and the Foundation, represented by Margot Reid and Bruce Elliot, had an information table about their work managing collections and overseeing exhibits at the site. Numerous archaeological projects have taken place there over the years and they had some reports and artifacts on hand to share with visitors.

Images: Marian Clark & Brahm Lewandowski



Archaeo Bingo at the Kid's Dig



Display of artifacts from the National Capital Commission's collection



Puzzles and broken dishes

It threatened rain all morning but held off until 2 pm when we retreated indoors for a tour of the house and more discussions with staff and visitors. In all, it was a successful return to Pinhey's Point. We have been invited to have further discussions about future collaborations with this and other properties operated by the City.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all the volunteers for making the day a success – Monica Maika, Robert Clark, Brad Drouin, Denis Lucik, Phil Trottier, Bill MacLennan, Margot Reid and Bruce Elliot. Brahm Lewandowski, Manager of Museums for the City of Ottawa and the on-site staff took care of all the arrangements and assisted with the use of tables, chairs and pop-up tents to make set up a breeze and were on hand to help when needed. A special shout out to Stacey Girling-Christie and Phil Trottier who helped with multiple decisions and joined in on a pre-event site visit as we planned our program. Despite the weather, there was a steady flow of visitors and much interest in our displays and activities. We enjoyed the day very much and look forward to pursuing this and/or similar opportunities next year.

For more information about Pinhey's Point Historic Site visit [Pinhey's Point Historic Site | City of Ottawa](#)

Rory's Adventures along the Little Bonnechere River:

Getting a Research Licence

by Rory MacKay

During three days of volunteer work at the Dickerson Site in 2025, one of the park staff inquired how it was that I had become a research archaeologist interested in Algonquin Park and Bonnechere Parks sites. I thought perhaps a few adventures along the Bonnechere River might be of interest to Ottawa Chapter readers.

A big part of doing archaeology along the Little Bonnechere involved getting a government of Ontario licence to do archaeology. Getting there was an adventure in volunteering and persistence to get a research licence.

In 1991, a projectile point was found on the beach at Bonnechere Provincial Park. The Park Superintendent, Jim Fraser, was told previously that the park was strictly a recreation category park, with no other purpose. Jim consulted with the Regional Archaeologist Chris J.-Andersen. Chris said the projectile point was old. With a history background, a rare commodity in Ontario Parks, Jim decided to investigate the possibilities of learning more about the Bonnechere River through archaeology.

Jim and Chris set up a mini-conference and invited to it archaeologists studying some of the surrounding rivers. Chris Andersen was working on The Clydesdale Lake site south of Bancroft and reported on sites on the Madawaska River. Chris also reported on known sites on the Bonnechere River. Barry Mitchell had studied the Petawawa River with assistance from Dave Croft who was studying the area of Mud Lake and Meath Lake. Barry was working on the Bonnechere downstream from Golden Lake. Dr. Alex von Gernet was looking at the Highland Lake site on the Madawaska River. Phill Wright had worked on various sites. Gordon Watson had looked at sites on the Rideau River. Dr.

Jean-Luc Pilon was working on sites along the Gatineau River and was curator of Ontario Archaeology at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Tom Ballantine had done archaeological surveys at Round Lake. Also attending were Vicki Bradly (park staff), Helen Armstrong (teacher and OAS member), Shelly Dumouchel, and Dave Sarazin, a representative from the then Golden Lake Reserve. Jim Fraser invited me as a self-taught historian of the Little Bonnechere River. With meeting such an interesting group of archaeologists how could I not get hooked?



Campfire at the 1994 archaeology mini-conference at Foy Provincial Park run by Jim Fraser and Chris J.-Andersen.

There were papers read, and field trips, and plenty of discussion after each session and around an evening campfire. I was immersed in learning about archaeology. During an evening discussion I said, apparently boldly, that I hoped to get an archaeology licence, not really knowing what would be involved. A voice in the darkness announced "You will never get an archaeological licence". Well, ok, I had never taken an archaeology course, and I had done no volunteer archaeology, but wasn't that prediction a bit harsh? It turned out Tom Ballantine

thought so, because a few minutes later he was by my side to encourage me. He was the first of many Ottawa Chapter members to do so over the following years.



Dave Croft, being of advanced age, just came to WATCH the excavations at Basin Depot in 2009.



Rory MacKay following Dave Croft's excavation style at Basin Depot in 2009.

In 1996, the Ottawa Chapter and Friends of Bonnechere Park began doing shovel testing and excavation at Basin Depot in Algonquin Park. I subsequently participated as a volunteer in digs there and at Bonnechere Beach, at the Lafleur property, and at McIntyre's Clearing. Closer to my home, I participated in Chapter digs at Pierces Flow with Phill Wright, and with Gordon Watson at the Green Site and the Jennifer Site. I cannot

underestimate the value of those archaeology hands-on opportunities provided by the Ottawa Chapter.

Again, with the Chapter I participated in annual Archaeology Days, a few times at Charleston Lake Provincial Park and since 1996, at Bonnechere Provincial Park. There were chapter members I considered as mentors who inspired me, including but not only Peggi Armstrong, Helen Armstrong, Tom Ballantine, Gordon Watson, Glenna Roberts, Ellen Blauger and Marian Clark, and any and all who were willing to share their knowledge and experience. A week-long field school run by the OAS at the McGaw Site (see class photo) was also beneficial. I was fortunate to have those opportunities available. I kept track of all my volunteer experience in a notebook from the former Passport to the Past program.



McGaw Site Field School class photo with the most recognizable view of archaeologists.

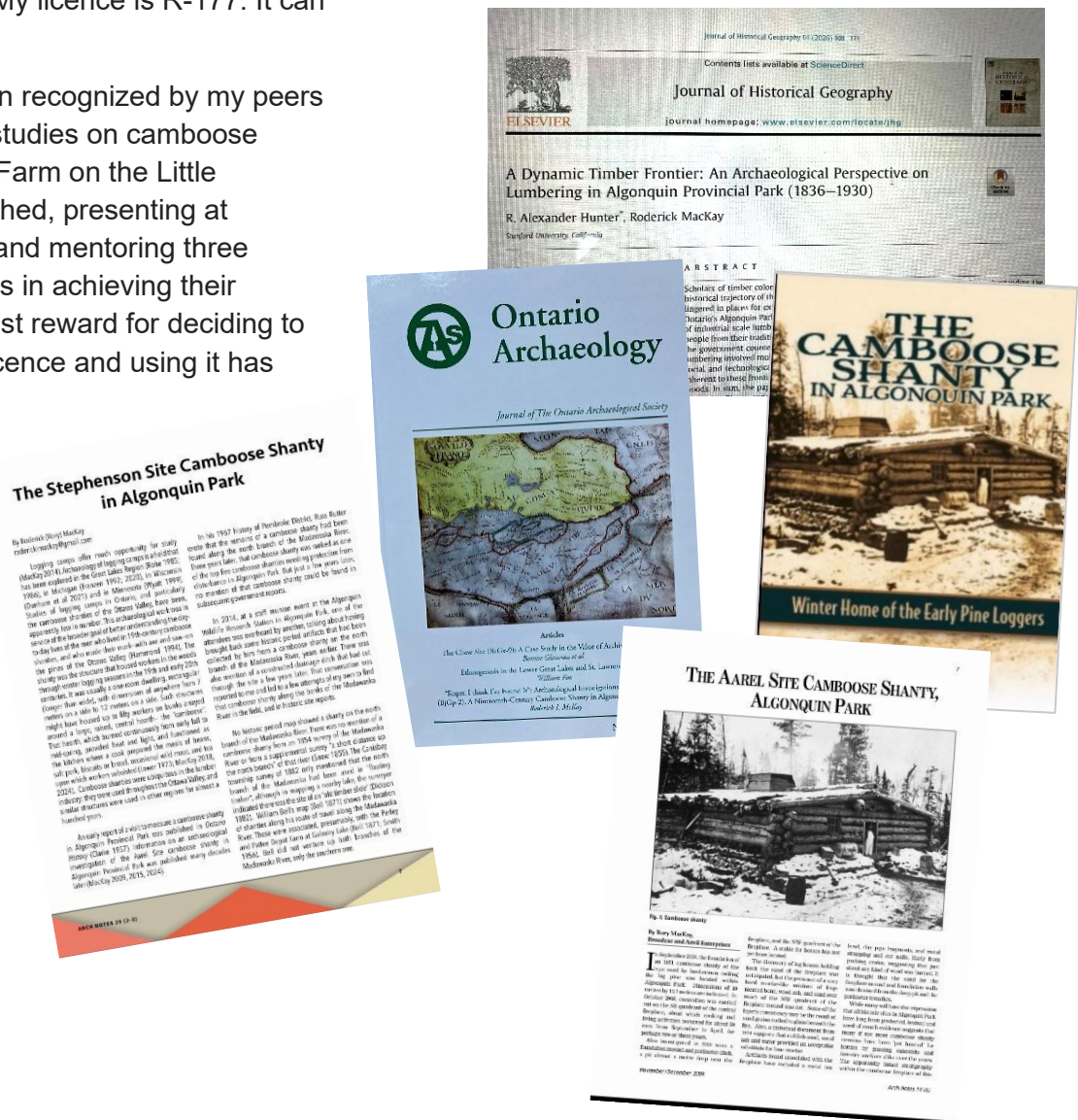
In 2001, I DID get an avocational archaeology licence, a late starter at the age of 51. Five years later I applied to move on to an applied research licence. It happened that at that time the Ministry had not decided on its requirements, so to me it seemed additional requirements kept popping up. The last hurdle was getting Stage Four field experience. My volunteering to do artifact cleaning on a Stage Four project at RMC wasn't enough. A

job opportunity at Kingston's Market Square was provided by Sue Bazley. My licence is R-177. It can be done.

Subsequently, I have been recognized by my peers for doing archaeological studies on camboose shanties and on a Depot Farm on the Little Bonnechere, being published, presenting at symposia and meetings, and mentoring three avocational archaeologists in achieving their licences. However, my best reward for deciding to seek an archaeological licence and using it has been working with the fine members of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS I have met along the way. What an adventure!

Images in this article are courtesy of Rory MacKay.

A sample of publications: 2026, 2024 (2), 2015 & 2009



SAVE THE DATES

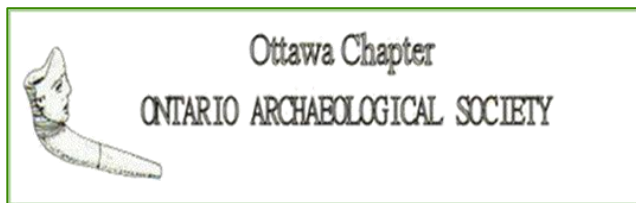
July 10- 11, 2027

(to be confirmed)

Archaeology Days in Bonnechere Provincial Park

2026 Ottawa Chapter Executive Committee

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



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.

Don't forget to renew your
2026 OAS and Ottawa Chapter memberships

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

Thank you to everyone who has renewed!

Our mailing address is:
Ottawa OAS Chapter
Station E, P.O. Box 4939 Ottawa, ON K1S 5J1
Canada

Contact us at our NEW EMAIL:
ottawa@ontarioarchaeology.org
Website: ottawaoas.ca

Coming up in the next *Ottawa Archaeologist*...

- Update on the Public Archaeology Opportunity in Quyon, Québec
- *My first trip to Continental Greece and the Island of Crete in 1984* by Jean-François Beaulieu
- An analysis of a local bottle collection

Remember...

Our newsletter is a great place to showcase images, short articles, event notifications, book and media reviews, and other related items. Please send them to ottawa@ontarioarchaeology.org for consideration.



This great poster was prepared by Bonnechere Provincial Park staff to advertise the Chapter's weekend Archaeology Days program.

Image: Marian Clark, July 2026.