



Ontario Archaeological Society

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The Ontario archaeological community has lost a valued member.

Joanne Thomas made significant contributions to the profession and is remembered in this issue by a number of people who shared their thoughts on Joanne as an archaeologist, an Indigenous leader and as a friend and colleague.

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*Joanne Thomas at the Davisville 1 Site, 2003.
(Photo by Gary Warrick)*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe during this extraordinary time. As a significant part of our membership depends on the business of archaeology for their livelihood, the financial implications of the nearly complete shutdown of the cultural resource management industry for an extended period of time (and the uncertainty of what is to follow) will have an impact for quite some time to come. It is during these times that we realise how fortunate some of us are that our job is to learn more about the past through the traces that have been left behind by past peoples.

It is not only those paid jobs that move archaeology in Ontario forward. Past editions of *Arch Notes* are filled with examples of volunteer projects and public archaeology that have played a defining role in moving forward our understanding of, but also public awareness and appreciation of, the importance of the archaeological record. Volunteerism is a vital part of Ontario archaeology, and that includes the OAS. It is our volunteers that make what we do possible.

Project like that completed at the Mush Hole in Brantford would not be possible without the efforts of volunteers. Fieldwork based volunteer projects used to be more frequent than they are today. These opportunities ranged from a day to explore a potential location of an archaeological site to large scale salvage projects completed over many weeks. Volunteers were often given an experience they would not have otherwise had to work on a particular type of site, work alongside professional archaeologists, and have a sense that their time was being spent on something that was important.

The logistics of undertaking such projects has increasingly become an insurmountable challenge to fieldwork based volunteer projects. There is no shortage of nostalgia for such projects by many who have participated in these projects, but fieldwork projects often overshadow the countless hours of time our volunteers spend on managing the organization itself and bringing awareness through public outreach. However, these efforts are equally as valuable, deserve

to be recognised, and are becoming more critical as we move forward.

In January, I sent a letter of introduction to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. As part of that letter, the Board worked together to create a list of priorities for the next two years based on the current strategic plan. I would like to share some of those priorities within you and offer ideas about how volunteer efforts by our members can help realise these goals.

Indigenous Reconciliation

Reconciliation is perhaps the most important goal for the OAS over the coming years. In 2018 the OAS made changes to its Statement of Ethical Principles in order to better align them with the priorities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) with regards to the rights of Indigenous peoples. Our strategic plan includes a commitment to provide leadership in the archaeology sector with respect to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. We will be continuing our advocacy with provincial ministries as they consider changes to their legislation, regulations and policies which trigger the requirement for archaeology.

Further, some archaeologists working in Ontario, and the Ministry itself, are caretakers of the physical remains of Indigenous Ancestors and associated burial objects. True reconciliation will mean that archaeologists and the Ministry itself return these Ancestors to their descendants. The OAS will be continuing to offer assistance to Descendant communities with the return of the Ancestors, and also assisting our membership with this delicate, but tremendously important step in the process of reconciliation.

Descendant Community Capacity Building

With the Calls to Action of the TRC, archaeologists and developers are making a greater effort to obtain free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects within their traditional territories. While it is becoming standard

process to have Indigenous community representatives on-site during excavations, both Indigenous and other descendant communities are still developing capacity.

Informed community representatives are able to advocate for preservation of their cultural heritage. In providing descendant communities with information on the archaeological assessment process, they are better-equipped to navigate the heritage management systems in place in order to protect their heritage interests. We need to help develop these skills, as the capacity of descendant communities to participate directly is contingent on their understanding the archaeological assessment process. Several years ago the OAS began assisting Indigenous communities with capacity building by offering the expertise of its members to share knowledge with community members who were being trained to participate in archaeological fieldwork. We are now at the point of moving from providing the training to working with communities to train individuals from the community to become the trainers. The efforts of the many volunteers who have provided generously of their time and expertise is greatly appreciated, and will be even more so as we move into this next step.

Collections and Information Management

The most significant crisis in Ontario archaeology, outside of descendant community participation in the archaeological assessment process, is what to do with the artifacts and associated documentation that result. But an equally significant crisis is the management of the information about archaeological sites.

In 2019, the Charles Garrad Fund was established. This fund was the focus of our fundraising in 2019 and raised over \$10,000. A committee has been established to develop the eligibility criteria for access to this fund. We hope that the fund will continue to grow while we support projects that help move collections into long term care in public institutions.

We will also continue to work with In-

digenous partners, archaeologists, museums and other stakeholders to develop a framework to improve conservation of archaeological artifacts so that current and future generations can learn about and understand our past. There is an important role for our members and chapters in volunteering their time and expertise with these conversations, but also their continued efforts providing time and expertise to document and assist with improvement of care for these collections.

One of the ways in which we can begin to address these challenges is by working with Indigenous Communities and local museums to find more appropriate and more effective homes for these collections. Support and resources for such initiatives can be difficult to find. With the assistance of the provincial government, new opportunities can be created to help improve the long-term management of archaeological collections, and reconnect these collections with communities and the public.

The challenges facing this province in the long term management of archaeological collections has received increasing media attention in recent years, including the need to support Indigenous stewardship of artifacts. Legislative changes to address the question around ownership of archaeological artifacts is needed to support Indigenous communities in their efforts to be the stewards of their heritage. Attention on this issue is likely to grow. We will continue to advocate for changes in the legislation.

Management of the information from these archaeological sites by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries is in the form of archaeological reports. Here, the Past Portal database is critical. Accurate and up-to-date information about archaeological sites is a necessity for good management of archaeological sites. There are many gaps in the data provided in Past Portal. There are a number of reasons for the gaps – information that was not previously gathered is now required, free form text fields on forms, inconsistencies in the way the forms have been completed to name a few – Past Portal provides the opportunity for this information to be added.

Other organizations like the Ontario Historical Society and Ontario Ancestors (for-

merly Ontario Genealogical Society) have successfully used volunteers to fill gaps that allow researchers better access to the information sources they need. A similar effort for Past Portal would help not only archaeologists but the municipalities which access that data and depend upon it to be accurate. There are over 30,000 sites in Past Portal. If we all work together and contribute corrections, fill in the blanks, add site leads, and add isolated finds then we will all be able to do a better job at protecting those resources. It is time to stop asking who is responsible and work together to make the database a more useful tool for everyone. Volunteers can do that and by doing so can break down the barriers in the knowledge silos that exist.

Best Practices in Ontario Archaeology

The Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (Standards & Guidelines) were released in November 2010 and came into force January 1, 2011. Since the launch of the Standards & Guidelines members in the OAS have had a chance to think about ways to improve them. As noted above, the goal of the OAS is in alignment with the Ministry as set out in Goal 2, Strategy 2. The success of our strategic plan is related to providing feedback that will help make the practice of archaeology better.

In the summer of 2019, the OAS began a process of creating best practice guides for a wide range of archaeological activities. Subjects include specialist analysis, survey techniques, urban settings, Northern Ontario, geophysics and remote sensing, among others. These best practices are intended to assist our membership with undertaking archaeological fieldwork and analysis in a manner that reflects current best practice. Each guide is being developed by OAS members who are specialists or have specific expertise on each subject, and that work in a range of archaeological sectors, including academia, public bodies, and cultural resource management. If you have an area of interest and would like to assist, we would be happy to have the help.

Looting and the Sale of Artifacts

There are also significant challenges to archaeology in Ontario in the looting of archaeological sites by collectors and the sub-

sequent sale of artifacts from archaeological sites. The OAS has a long history of working to educate the public on the damage that the uncontrolled removal of artifacts from an archaeological site can cause. The sale of artifacts from these activities is further exacerbating the issue by placing a value on these artifacts.

The OAS will be continuing to provide outreach in an effort to educate the public as to the impacts of looting on the archaeological record. We will be continuing to ask the Ministry to improve the quality of the data to allow them to proactively manage archaeological sites within the Province, but also work to improve the data about these archaeological sites to allow landowners, Indigenous communities, approval authorities, and law enforcement to meet the spirit and intent of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). We also offer the Ministry our assistance with providing outreach to law enforcement, educating them on the OHA.

The OAS has been working with the Archaeology Program Unit for several years to address concerns with the sale of Indigenous cultural and archaeological artifacts from the Province. However, the OHA does not include a provision that explicitly prohibits the sale of artifacts. As a result, significant cultural and archaeological artifacts are currently being sold at auction, flea markets, antique shops and on 'buy and sell' websites like Kijiji and eBay. There is a dedicated group working on reporting ads for the sale of artifacts; please consider joining and adding your voice to reporting the sale of artifacts.

Volunteerism is the heart of the OAS – it was and continues to be the most important way for us as a community to move forward and we have so many dedicated volunteers but we can always use more. I encourage everyone to help out in their own way, and in a way that is best suited for them. It could be filling in a few blanks in a site record, volunteering on committees, the Board, or helping with committee outreach. It is all appreciated, and all contributes to making Ontario archaeology better.

*Jim Sherratt
President*

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DRAFT MINUTES, ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2019

CHELSEA HOTEL, TORONTO

Members in Attendance:

Nine OAS Board of Directors plus 29 OAS members

Motion to Approve Agenda:

moved by Holly Martelle and seconded by Deborah Pihl. No discussion. Carried.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 2018 Annual Business Meeting:

moved by Sheryl Smith and seconded by Emily Anson. No discussion. Vote carried.

Matters Arising from Minutes:

none.

President's Report:

President Alicia Hawkins reported that it has been a busy year:

Indigenous Training

Much of our effort was focussed on training within several Indigenous communities, some of which was entirely conducted by OAS volunteers in southwestern Ontario:

- Mississaugas of the Credit advanced training
- Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
- Caldwell First Nation
- Oneida of the Thames Nation and Chippewa of the Thames First Nation joint training
- Represented at a training at Six Nations
- Partnered with different First Nations and in one case with the Museum of Ontario Archaeology

Many OAS members donated volunteer time and expertise to these which speaks to their commitment to reconciliation and to archaeology.

We have also been working on the trainings in the Sudbury, Manitoulin, Algoma, Cochrane districts funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). These have been led and organized by Sarah Hazell

with contributions by OAS members, some of whom did come to the north to participate in these workshops. These have been well received. We had a target of three First Nations and 32 participants this year, and through publicity and attendance of people from Lands offices in addition to our target group (youth), we ended up with nearly 50 trainees and 11 First Nations represented. These workshops included a hands-on component (Stage 2) that was well received by the communities; and

We are now in the organizational stages for the workshops for next year. For the OTF funded workshops, we are in dialogue with several communities. For the unfunded workshops, we are considering the possibility of combining workshops for several First Nations so that the number of participants is higher, and we don't end up with volunteer fatigue. We are also in the process of putting together an application for the 2021-22 grant cycle.

Advocacy

This year has also been busy with respect to advocacy. The OAS offered comment on the proposed Schedule 10 of Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, and the proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement. We have informed our membership of changes that may impact archaeology, we have encouraged the membership to submit comments and we have submitted official comments. It is likely that this will remain a very active area for the OAS, and we will continue to ask members for assistance through submitting their own comments to the government.

Best Practices

Related to this, is our work to address the way in which we practice archaeology; the ministry is undertaking a program review, and we are preparing a series of best practices statements. We are doing this as dis-

tributed work and have asked and received confirmation from several experts in different aspects of archaeology to write best practices documents. These are a work in progress, but our working groups have templates and we anticipate posting these on the web in 2020.

Membership

We have made two changes to membership that will be of interest to members and which will be rolled out at different times in the near future. There will be no cost change associated with either of these changes.

We will be introducing a Green *Ontario Archaeology* option. This will allow members to obtain *OA* digitally at the time of publication, rather than after the one year wait period. We examined the possibility of offering of this at a discount, but when we examined the costs involved in *OA* production before printing, we realized that it would be problematic to offer a discount.

We will be introducing a three-year membership option. Some members of the OAS are members in order to fulfill Ministry regulations for licensing. As a number of licence categories are for three-year periods, this would allow people to demonstrate that they are members of an organization with a code of ethics for the duration of their license.

We will be rolling these out in the near future and members will be made aware of options through email.

OAS Administration

We are continuing to work on our internal processes. We undertook careful examination of our staffing needs and this led us to the conclusion that the needs of the OAS in terms of staffing are quite different from what they were when the previous staff person was hired. For that reason, we ended our relationship with the former Executive Director (ED), and we have overhauled the

ED job description. We are undertaking a search for an ED, but at this time the position has not been filled. We are also looking at different models for the office, and we are considering a different office location but somewhere within the Greater Toronto Area. This is a work in progress, and we are committed to carrying the workload of the ED until such a time as we find the person who we believe has the skills needed by the OAS;

We continue to work on our webpage. As those of you with smartphones will know, our webpage is not mobile friendly. We have engaged someone to move our web onto a platform that is mobile friendly. This is a work in progress, but we hope to see the move sometime early in 2020. There will be change in the look, but we will be trying to implement this in a way that will not be too disruptive; and

We also are working on a member safety policy and collaborating with members of the CAA who are working on the same thing, so as not to duplicate our efforts.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Debbie Steiss circulated a draft Financial Statement for 2018. She reported that an audit needs to be conducted because our revenues exceeded the \$100,000 threshold, and she continues to supply our accountant with additional details for the audit.

Debbie briefly reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances and the Statement of Cash Flows. Highlights include:

- There was an increase in membership revenue by 68%;
- There is an increase in *Ontario Archaeology* subscription;
- Overall, there has been a steady increase in revenue over the year, due also in part to the Ontario Trillium grant;
- We had a successful Giving Campaign;
- Our first Valerie Sonstenes Student Research Award was presented;
- The 2018 symposium was a success with about 200 participants and an estimated profit of \$13-14,000;
- The 2019 symposium in on track to be a success with approximately 300 partici-

pants.

The draft audit needs to be approved by the Board and then can be finalized for filing. The audit will include a Qualified Opinion, Basis for Qualified Opinion, Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements (i.e., the OAS), Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements, and Other Matters. The audit will also outline the various risks to the OAS through its various financial instruments.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report for the 2018 Annual Business Meeting:

Debbie Steiss, seconded by Hugh Daeschel. No discussion. Vote carried.

Motion to Approve Weinberg & Gaspiric CPA LLP to be accountants for the Ontario Archaeological Society for 2020:

Debbie Steiss, seconded by Holly Martelle. No discussion. Vote Carried.

Constitutional Amendments:

Motion to Change the Number of Board of Directors Meetings from six per year to four per year:

André Miller, seconded by Deb Pihl. No discussion. Vote carried.

Motion to Change Wording of "Director of Membership Recruitment" to "Director of Education":

Sheryl Smith, seconded by Carole Stim-mell. No discussion. Vote carried.

Election of Directors

During the year, two vacant 2019 Director positions were filled:

President-Elect: Motion to Approve Jim Sherratt as President-Elect: Emily Anson, seconded by Debbie Steiss. No discussion. Vote carried.

Director of Advocacy: Motion to Approve Abbey Flower as Director of Advocacy: Hugh Daeschel, seconded by Holly Martelle. No discussion. Vote carried.

Alicia Hawkins headed the Nomination Committee and presented the candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors. After three requests for nominations from the floor and receiving none, the candidates were acclaimed as follows:

Director of Membership Services: Jill Taylor-Hollings;

Director of Publications: Kate

Dougherty; and Director of Public Outreach: Craig Ramsoomair. Craig was not present but will be notified.

2020 Symposium Update

Emily Anson gave a brief report on preparations for the 2020 OAS Symposium to be hosted by the Hamilton Chapter: the venue is almost wrapped up; First Nation coordination is in full swing; programming is moving forward and the theme is 'The Archaeology of Resiliency' which will emphasize First Nations but other topics can be easily addressed. The next planning meeting is on November 14th. A Twitter account has been set up and will be used to publicize the event, along with a press release, etc.

2021 Symposium Update

André Miller announced that the Ottawa Chapter intends to host the 2021 OAS Symposium in celebration of its 50th Anniversary. A steering committee has been set up co-chaired by André as chair and Stacey Girling-Christie plus seven to nine others. The Sheraton Hotel has been lined up. The next planning meeting is in early December. First Nation committees have been contacted and will be on board. Sessions will split between City Hall and the hotel.

Strategic Plan

Alicia Hawkins provided a brief progress report on our Strategic Plan work, emphasizing the focus on Public Outreach and Reconciliation. She will publish results on the OAS website and in an email blast to members.

Appreciation to OAS Volunteers

Motion to Thanks the following for their Service to the Ontario Archaeological Society: Hugh Daeschel, seconded by Emily Anson. No discussion. Vote carried:

- Out-going Board of Directors: Bill Ross, Dana Millson and James Conolly;
- Ontario Archaeology editor: Chris Ellis;
- OAS Webmaster: Josh Dent;
- Arch Notes co-editors: Sheryl Smith and Carole Stimmell;
- 2019 OAS Symposium committee:

Dena Doroszenko, Katherine Patton, Janice Teichroeb, Henry van Leishout, Ellen Blaubergs, Christine Caroppo, Sam MacLeod, Carole Stimmell, Sheryl Smith and Amy Fox; and, finally,

- Our volunteers: we have had a large

number of people who have contributed to our work in several respects, including advocacy, public outreach and training workshops.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Paul Racher, seconded by Abbey Flower. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

*Submitted by Rob Pihl
Secretary*

INTRODUCING THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We welcome Chiara Williamson as the Executive Director for the OAS. She also works at Fisher Archaeological Consulting as an Archaeological Field Technician. She received her B.A. in Archaeology, Environmental Studies, and Indigenous Studies from the University of Toronto. More recently, she completed her M.A. in Public Issues Anthropology from the University of Waterloo.

Ever since a young age, Chiara has expressed a passion for archaeology which has made her pursue a career in the discipline. Over the past four field seasons she has worked in the CRM industry for various companies. Her research interests include archaeology of the Great Lakes region, decolonization, Indigenous archaeology, artifact stewardship, and issues surrounding reconciliation. When not doing archaeological work she enjoys paddling (particularly the Grand River), and spending time with friends and family.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

The OAS Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the following positions:

- Treasurer-Elect
- Vice President
- President-Elect
- ArchNotes Editor(s)
- Board Members

If interested, or if you would like to nominate someone, please send an email to president@ontarioarchaeology.org. Nominations will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee and brought forward at the

annual business meeting to be held in November 2020.

AWARDS

We acknowledge that it has been a challenging year of unprecedented changes for everyone. Our awards ceremony will be a bit different this year as a result. However, it is that time of year to consider nominating a worthy individual or group for one of the OAS awards. The deadline for nominations (except for the Valerie Sonstenes Student Research Fund) is

August 1st each year.

For a full list of the many OAS awards, the application form, and an overview of past winners, please visit the website:

<https://www.ontarioarchaeology.org/awards>

For more information, please contact the Director of Membership Services (memberservices@ontarioarchaeology.org) or the Executive Director (execdirector@ontarioarchaeology.org).

THE AMOS PONDS BIFACE

By Christopher Amos and William Fox

Introduction

My parents, Joe and Frances Amos, owned two properties in Pickering Township with one of 6.5 acres at Lot 35, Concession I and the other of 26 acres directly north across the road at Lot 35, Concession II, extending as far north as the old Canadian Northern Railway line. Our house and barn were located on the south property. We sold both properties in 1969. The north property was sold to the Hughs family, who in turn sold the property to the Ontario Government around 1973; which property later became included in the Rouge National Urban Park. It is still known as the 'Amos Ponds' and is locally famous for winter skating and bird watching.

My father established a gravel pit on the 26 acre

'Amos Ponds' property in Concession II during the early 1950s, which created a pond of about six acres and then, in the late '50s and early '60s, turned his attention to excavating peat loam from the bog on the north half of the property.

The south half of this property contained a gravel deposit of sharp glacial rubble which was sold for road construction. Peripheral areas to the east and west contain deposits of glacial till consisting of rounded gravel.

This property is located at the base of the Lake Iroquois shoreline, where the clay overburden that sits above glacial gravel on top of bedrock to the north, begins to lay directly on top of bedrock at the old lake bottom, blocking hydrological flow toward Lake Ontario. This aquifer blockage forces water to percolate to the surface creating a series of artesian bogs that form a section of the minor west branch of Petticoat Creek.

Figure 1: Both Faces of the Amos Ponds Biface



The location of the 'find' is approximately 5.5 kilometres north of the present Lake Ontario shoreline and 1.83 kilometres east of the Little Rouge River. There is a clay based elevation 'spur' or hill of about 15 metres in height about 180 metres northwest of the 'find site' that might have hosted an Indigenous encampment, as it would have provided an excellent view of the surrounding area and would have allowed prevailing winds to discourage mosquitos and black flies. The biface was found about 1964 when my father hired a drag line crane to dredge the bog and stack the material in stock piles on firm ground. The depth of the excavation was limited to about a metre as the under surface of the bog contains large portions of

fallen trees well preserved in the tannic acid of the bog. My father was examining the quality of the loam, to be sold for landscape gardening purposes, when he noticed the biface on the surface of the pile, brought it home, showed it to his 12 year-old son, and I have had it in my possession ever since. It had always been in perfect condition until a couple of years ago when I showed it to a friend and he dropped it, causing it to break (I was in trauma for days – maybe weeks), but I glued it back together as can be seen Figure 1 with only a tiny chip missing.

The Biface

This tool, which almost certainly functioned as a knife (Figure 1), measures 78.0 by 30.1 by 5.2 mm in maximum length, width and thickness, respectively. The base is straight, measuring 23.4 mm in width and displaying slight grinding. Two narrow side notches are 4.1 and 3.7 mm by 2.3 and 1.9 mm in width and depth, while the inter-notch breadth is 21.4 mm. The notches appear ground and edge grinding extends 38 mm up both lateral edges from the base.

The biface is extremely skillfully knapped from Onondaga chert, and it experienced limited use prior to its loss, as there is no evidence of resharpening and the lateral edges retain a surprising sharpness.

Discussion

The quality of workmanship of this biface is typical of an early time period in the colonization and occupation of Southern Ontario, while the flaking pattern is somewhat reminiscent of Late Paleoamerican or ‘Plano’ bifaces. As a notched form, it is similar to the Maynooth-MacDonald point (Pilon and Fox 2015), but without the upward angled notches characteristic of many ‘Thebes Cluster’ bifaces (Justice 1987: 54-60), and it is the same general form as a Kessel Side Notched point (Ibid: 67, fig. 13 f, g and Plate 3 b, g). The latter style of biface has been radiocarbon dated to 7900+/- 500 B.C. (Broyles 1971: 19).

William Ritchie, in his seminal work on New York State archaeology, was perhaps the first to report small side notches near the base of a “probable Plano point” (Ritchie 1965: 17, Plate 2). He further noted that this New Hampshire biface displayed a flaking pattern that was reminiscent of Thompson’s Island Plano points from a site on the St. Lawrence river (Ibid.: 18, Plate 3).

Further east in the St. Lawrence valley of Quebec, Claude Chapdelaine reports two Late Paleoamerican bifaces with little side notches and notes the discovery of a similar specimen from the Cape-au-Renard site (Chapdelaine 1994: 180-181, Plate 8.1, D and H). Dumais (2000: 89, fig. 3) also reports a biface from the La Martre site in the same region with “tiny side notches”. More recently, Laurie Jackson has described “Plainville” points, based on

discoveries from south-central Ontario (Jackson 2004, 34 fig. 2.7 and 45-46, fig. 2.18). He suggests that they represent an intermediate form between Holcombe and HiLo points, dating to between 10,000 and 9,800 B.P. (Ibid: 32 and 54, Table 2.2).

Conclusions

The importance of the Amos Ponds biface rests not only in the rareness of its form, but also in the additional evidence it provides concerning the suggested interaction between two pioneering Indigenous populations who occupied what is now Southern Ontario some nine to ten thousand years ago. The condition of the biface suggests that it was lost in relatively new condition, and may have been the blade of a hunter’s knife. The fact that it was not recovered by the former owner may indicate a winter loss in the snow (or through the broken ice) of a swale.

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REMEMBERING JOANNE

By Gary Warrick

My heart grew heavy when I learned that Joanne Thomas had passed away on April 23, 2020. That day I lost a good friend and a valued archaeological colleague. Joanne was one of a handful of trained archaeologists working on behalf of Indigenous nations in Canada. Joanne and I go back a long way. Joanne was one of the first Indigenous students to earn a BA at the Brantford Campus, WLU. In the early 2000s, she was in several courses of mine but I learned more from her over the next 15 years than she ever learned from me.

In the spring of 2003, she expressed interest in joining the Davisville Archaeological Project, and, as a traditional Cayuga woman, she shared her internal conflicts and fears about doing archaeology that could potentially disturb her ancestors. I reassured her that if anything came to light during the archaeological project that made her feel uncomfortable culturally or unsafe spiritually, she could tell me and we would stop working and resolve the issue.

Joanne joined the research team. In one of her first field experiences test pitting a woodlot in Brant County, Joanne found a complete Daniels point and was so excited that she asked if she could take it home to show her kids – I said no problem knowing that Joanne's request was the beginning of her undeclared role as a liaison between archaeology and the Haudenosaunee.

The same season, during test excavation of a 19th century Mohawk cabin, the Davisville 1 site, Joanne uncovered something at the bottom of her one metre square that she told me had to remain in the ground. I deferred to her judgement and the unit was backfilled. To this day I don't know what she had found – I honoured our friendship and deferred to her spiritual/cultural knowledge and felt it was disrespectful to ask (the matter was between her and her ancestors).

In 2004, Joanne assisted with test excavation of the Davisville 3 site, a 19th century Mississauga encampment. The work was painstakingly slow – we were processing every square metre through window mesh using water pumped from the Grand River, in an effort to find lead shot and glass seed beads. Some of the glass seed beads were concentrated in one square and I asked Joanne why that would be. She did bead embroidery and told me that you normally string together seven beads at the same time when stitching them onto cloth or hide. If the beads come loose, they will do so as a unit -hence the seven beads that we found in two adjacent units. Joanne shared this and much more of her knowledge with all of us on a daily basis. She was a comfort on site as well – her presence ensured that the archaeological work was being carried out in accordance with Haudenosaunee cultural/spiritual standards and that if

we encountered anything that was culturally or spiritually sensitive, Joanne would let us know.

The Davisville project ended in 2005 and Joanne became involved informally as an archaeological advisor to the Haudenosaunee and Six Nations of the Grand River councils, particularly during the Caledonia reclamation. Eventually, she was hired as an archaeological review officer and then became Consultation Supervisor of the Land Use Unit, Six Nations of the Grand River. She also took on the role of caring for the Ancestors – attending the discovery of ancestral burials and dealing with repatriation issues. But she did all of this with good humour and gently urging me and others to truly honour Indigenous rights to the Ancestors and the past and to be real allies in advocating for more Indigenous control of archaeology.

I will miss her smile and wisdom at meetings and conferences, her warmth and kindness, and lastly her courage to engage with archaeology, despite the cultural and spiritual concerns raised by the traditional Haudenosaunee and Elders and the systemic barriers erected by the government and archaeology itself to full Indigenous control of archaeology in Ontario.

We have lost a valued member of the archaeological community – Joanne created a lasting bridge between the Haudenosaunee and archaeologists, teaching all of us by her example that peace, friendship, and respect (the Two Row Wampum) is the way to move forward.

By Rob MacDonald

Like so many in the archaeological community, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely death of our friend and colleague, Joanne Thomas. I had known Joanne since early 2007, when she began corresponding and meeting with me in her capacity as Land Use Officer with the Six Nations Land and Resources Department. I quickly became aware of her passion for overseeing the interests of the Haudenosaunee community with respect to Indigenous archaeology as reflected in her enthusiasm for checking in on fieldwork activities firsthand and her friendly and out-going manner.

She brought to this role knowledge and experience she had sought out and gained by pursuing archaeological studies with Professor Gary Warrick at the Brantford Campus of Wilfrid Laurier University.

At the same time, however, it was a role that brought with it a heavy weight of responsibility, for as Joanne was keenly aware, archaeology is a field of study with a chequered and often colonial past not highly regarded within many Indigenous communities. To Joanne, though, the need to engage with archaeologists to attend to the needs of, and care for,

the ancestors was of vital importance and a responsibility that she was willing to bear on behalf of the Six Nations community. While she did not speak of this dilemma often, anyone who worked with her for any length of time understood and appreciated this and respected her most highly for accepting this role and its many burdens.

In early 2011, I invited Joanne and Paul General to join an Indigenous Advisory Group I was convening on behalf of the Waterloo Region Museum, Ontario's largest community museum. The purpose of this group was to assist the museum staff in designing an Indigenous gallery for the new museum then nearing completion. Focus groups held across the Waterloo Region had identified Indigenous culture history as the number one theme the community wanted addressed in the new museum. Up to that point, the facility had been almost exclusively devoted to non-Indigenous culture history. Once again, Joanne's sense of duty overcame her initial reluctance and she played a hugely valuable and supportive role in conveying to the project team her unique perspectives as a Haudenosaunee woman. Thousands of visitors each year now enjoy the First Nations gallery—the first and largest in the museum—and learn about the Indigenous history of Waterloo Region in part thanks to this important legacy of Joanne's work.

Over the following decade, I had many opportunities to work with Joanne to address archaeological concerns on behalf of Six Nations, to discuss archaeology at the many conferences that she attended to maximize her engagement with the archaeological community, and to share personal news and views. You always knew exactly where you stood with Joanne, and if an issue was bothering her, she dealt with that clearly and forcefully. What I will remember most about Joanne, though, was her irrepressibly warm smile. She will be greatly missed.

By Jim Sherratt

I was quite saddened to hear about the loss of Joanne Thomas, Consultation Supervisor at Six Nations of the Grand River. Joanne was a good friend to many, and I include myself among them.

I had the great fortune of meeting Joanne when she was mentoring with Barb Harris with respect to the discovery of Ancestors. She truly was a strong woman. I looked forward to seeing her: there would always be some good laughs mixed with the heaviness of heart that accompanied the struggles of trying to care for the Ancestors and bring them home to rest. It was not an easy path for Joanne. Those struggles were not always rewarded but her struggles, along with those of Barb, helped to shine light on the path to be followed.

Joanne was called upon by her community, but also by others, to help with the care and return of Ancestors. Although we had met several times, I really got to know Joanne when Chiefs of Ontario asked her to be a part of a working group to return Ancestors cared for by the Ontario government to Indigenous communities. Her insightful comments showed how

carefully she was listening to the words spoken. Joanne will be truly missed. I would ask those who knew Joanne to share their memories of her for our next edition of *Arch Notes*.

By Holly Martelle

I first met Joanne while my company, TMHC, was working on the Niagara Reinforcement Project. She had just finished coursework and an archaeological fieldschool with Gary Warrick at the Davisville site. As part of negotiations with Hydro One, Joanne and Owen Green had been chosen by a committee of individuals from elected and traditional councils at Six Nations to represent their community as archaeological monitors during fieldwork that was happening within their traditional territory. Having recently expressed concerns over the building of the Red Hill Expressway, the community had a strong desire to have their own representatives on site during archaeological fieldwork undertaken on ancestral Indigenous sites.

Joanne was honored to have been called upon by the community to fill this role. Joanne was full of questions and eager to share her knowledge. She worked hand-in-hand with TMHC field crews for many years and was a valued co-worker and cherished friend of many with whom she spent time. It amazed me how Joanne always managed to juggle her varied responsibilities – to her family, her career, and her community.

As a liaison, Joanne played an important role in early discussions between archaeologists and community members. Meetings were difficult, uncomfortable and, at times, quite heated. It was a joy to watch Joanne's confidence grow, particularly as the community looked for support in the development of a more formal archaeological monitoring program.

Through time, Joanne and I both spent less and less time in the field. While our visits became less frequent, they were always memorable. It would not take much for a one hour visit with Joanne to transform into a full afternoon. There was so much to talk and laugh about, and to share. As two women working in male-dominated fields of archaeology and land development, we swapped stories of our similar experiences. Nonetheless, Joanne always exhibited courage and strength, especially in the face of both sexism and racial prejudice. She demanded respect and took pride in being a strong Indigenous woman. When Joanne called me, I always knew she had something very serious to talk through and I was happy to listen.

My most cherished memories of Joanne will always be of the times we spent laughing. When Joanne was happy and smiling, it didn't get much better than that. The archaeological community will miss her leadership, her commitment and, most of all, her friendship.

Due to space, we were not able to include all the remembrances of Joanne in this issue. The remainder will be published in the September issue.



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