

Repairing Bridges

Collaboration, Community, Connection

2026 OAS Symposium

Ontario Archaeological Society

53rd Annual Symposium Programme

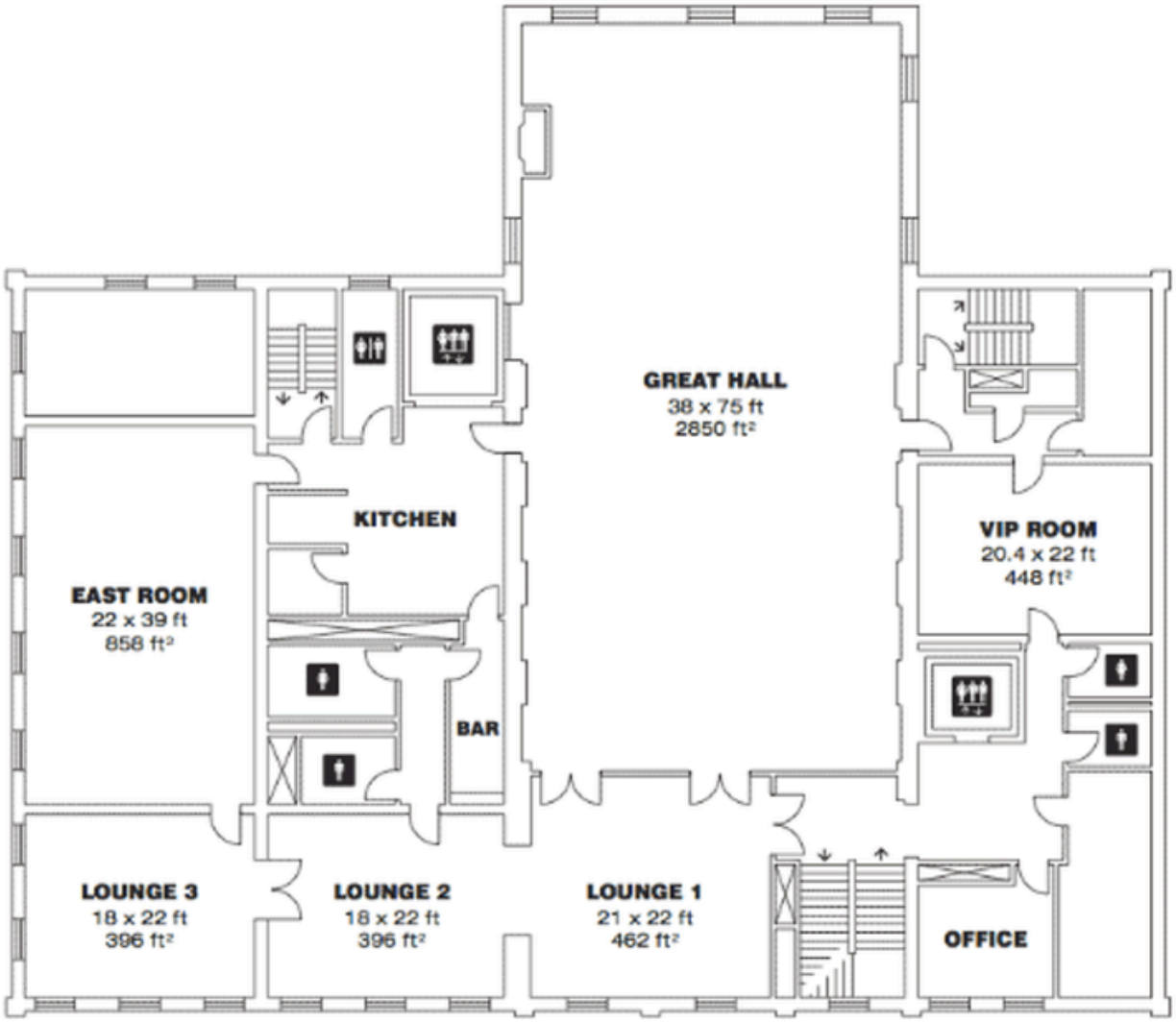
Saturday October 24th 2026

Hosted by: Toronto Chapter

St. Lawrence Hall, Toronto, ON

Venue Map

Third Floor of St. Lawrence Hall
157 King St E, Toronto, ON M5C 1G9





Land Acknowledgement

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Toronto Chapter of the OAS would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Ontario Archaeological Society

We acknowledge that OAS events are taking place on the traditional Indigenous territories of the Wendat, Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishnabeg, Chippewa, Haudenosaunee, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

There are many Indigenous Nations in what is now known as Ontario, and they have shaped the history of this land for thousands of years. On these lands, Indigenous Peoples have developed distinct languages, customs, economies, laws, and ways of life.

We want to show respect for this by acknowledging that across Ontario we are on the land of the: Algonquin, Cree, Oji-Cree, Delaware, Mississauga, Odawa, Ojibway, Pottawatomi, Haudenosaunee (Mohawk, Onondaga, Onoyota'a:ka, Cayuga, Tuscarora, and Seneca), Wendat, Métis, and Inuit.

Tkaronto aka Toronto

The City name refers to the passage of the Humber River and has been home to Indigenous peoples for at least 12,000 years. Tkaronto has a deep history as an important trade route, settlement area, and transportation route. These routes continue to be used and hold importance, examples include the Carrying Place along the Humber River and Davenport Road itself would have once been a portage route.

Code of Conduct

Third Floor of St. Lawrence Hall
157 King St E, Toronto, ON M5C 1G9

The Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) believes that everyone is entitled to a safe and harassment-free experience when participating in society events. The OAS affirms the values of respect, equity, and safety at these gatherings. Harassment and discriminatory behaviour discourage participation in our events. The OAS prioritizes member safety over contributions to the field of archaeology.

The OAS Member Safety and Anti-Harassment Policy will be applied to any member or non-member who participates in OAS-sanctioned events. As part of this process, and in line with other archaeological associations in North America,[1] we have elected to include a reminder to all participants in the 2026 OAS Symposium that harassment and discriminatory behaviour by any participant will not be tolerated.

Examples[2] of Harassment and Discriminatory Behaviour May Include:
-Offensive or intimidating comments or jokes
-Bullying or aggressive behaviour
-Displaying or circulating offensive pictures or materials
-Inappropriate staring
-Unwelcome solicitation or advances
-Isolating or making fun of a worker because of gender identity

Engaging in harassment or discriminatory behaviour may result in removal from any and all events and event locations during the 2026 OAS Symposium.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need to report a violation of the Code of Conduct please contact President Lisa Sonnenburg, or any member of the OAS Board of Directors or the 2026 Symposium Organizing Committee.

1 Society for American Archaeology Meeting Safety Policy: https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting/meeting-policies/Meeting-Safety-Policy
2 Examples are from the Ontario Government Code of Practice to Address Workplace Harassment: https://www.ontario.ca/page/code-practice-address-workplace-harassment#schedulec

OAS Board of Directors and Appointments

Board of Directors

Lisa Sonnenburg – *President*
Jill Taylor-Hollings – *Past President*
Amanda Black – *President Elect*
Peter Popkin – *Vice President*
Than Homerski – *Treasurer*
Penny Young – *Director of Education*
Sarah Clarke – *Director of Member Services*
Arwen Johns – *Director of Outreach*
Lara Wood – *Director of Heritage Advocacy*
Samantha Walker – *Director of Publications*
Susan Demarker – *Director of Chapter Services*

Appointed

Josh Dent – *Webmaster*
Dr. Bonnie Glencross and **Dr. Suzanne Needs-Howarth –** *Editors of Ontario Archaeology*
Sarah Timmins and **Tiziana Gallo –** *Editors of Arch Notes*

2026 Symposium Planning Committee

This year's planning committee has been incredibly dedicated in getting the 53rd OAS symposium organized. Thanks to their devoted efforts, we were able to put together this symposium in less than a year with a very small team. With the planning committee being smaller than it has been in previous years, we cannot emphasize enough how truly thankful we are for all their efforts in making the impossible possible. This small but mighty team remained steadfast in their goal to have a symposium this year that would help promote the recent relaunch of the Toronto Chapter. Despite the challenges we faced in getting everything together in a short period of time and with committee members taking on multiple roles, we have been able to put together what we believe will be a very engaging and inclusive symposium. Much like our fight to revive the Toronto OAS Chapter, the planning committee stepped up to the challenge and showed that with collaboration, community, and connection we can achieve great things. Our planning committee includes:

Cheyenne Cameron (*Toronto Chapter President, President Unearthed Labs, Project Archaeologist PHC*) **–** *Symposium Co-Chair, Committee Chair, Venue Co-ordinator, Vendor Co-ordinator, Trivia Night Organizer, Symposium Logo, Merchandise Co-ordinator and Designer, Programme Writer and Layout, Planning*

Jessica Russell (*Toronto Chapter Vice-President, Archaeological Team Lead*) **–** *Symposium Co-Chair, Program Co-ordinator, Event Co-ordinator, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Venue Set-up Co-ordinator, Programme Writer and Layout, Communications, Planning, Student Co-Ordinator, Poster Organizer*

Rosara Punchiwickrama (*OAS Summer Symposium Assistant) – Social Media and Outreach Co-ordinator, Event Co-ordinator, Tour Organizer*

Lu-Anne DaCosta (Toronto Chapter Treasurer) **–** *Treasurer, Fundraising Co-ordinator, Planning*

Tina Kagi (Toronto Chapter Secretary) **–** *Secretary, Planning*

Eric Beales (Senior Heritage Planner, Archaeology at City of Toronto) **–** *Venue Co-ordinator, Advisor*

Penny Young (OAS) **–** *Fundraising Co-ordinator, Advisor*

Than Homerski (OAS) **–** *Fundraising Co-ordinator, Advisor*

Susan Dermarker (OAS) **–** *OAS Board Liaison, Advisor*

Josh Dent (OAS) **–** *Online Registration, Website Developer*

Lisa Sonnenburg (OAS) **-** *Advisor, planning*

Colleen McNaughton (SNGR) - Indigenous Liason, Advisor

Volunteers

We also want to extend a big thank you to all our volunteers who have donated their time to help us with this year's symposium and relaunch of the Toronto Chapter. Much like our planning committee, our volunteer group is small but mighty and we appreciate all their help. Our volunteers include:

Claire Ferreira, Thomas Croasdale, Caleb Johnson, Sloan Anthony DaCosta-Brezina, Kevin Brezina, Nina Rozic, Abby Clifford, Andrea Williams, James Santangelo, Julia Reis-Cordeiro, Lara Curasev, Anoushka Bhatt, Carla Parslow, Jill Taylor-Hollings, and Susan Demarker.

We also want to thank anyone who has helped with personal donations, organizing and moderating sessions, and contributed in any way to this year's 53rd OAS symposium.



Welcome

Dear Attendees,

We are delighted to welcome everyone to the 53rd Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium in Toronto! This year's symposium is a little different than previous years. Due to the shorter planning time, we decided to make it a full one-day symposium on Saturday October 24th with a Trivia Night on Friday October 23rd and Walking Tours available on Sunday October 25th. The main goals for this year's symposium were to create an accessible and inclusive symposium with a broad range of events and sessions for people to attend as well as to promote the recent relaunch of the Toronto OAS Chapter. Yes, you read that right – we are finally back!

The theme for this year's symposium, hosted by the Toronto Chapter, is "Rebuilding Bridges: Collaboration, Community, Connection". We strongly believe that the best archaeology is done when people and groups come together to collaborate so that different world views and perspectives can interact to develop new connections and/or rebuild old ones. This year's symposium has a heavy focus on student research, interactive displays, and round table discussions. We want this symposium to be a safe and inclusive space where different ideas and perspectives can be shared and discussed to help attendees and participants build connections and embrace the collaborative nature of archaeology.

We'd like to extend our gratitude to everyone who pitched in their ideas, time, and effort to make this symposium and the relaunch of the Toronto Chapter possible. This includes our planning committee, volunteers, donors, venue staff, vendors, sponsors, session organizers and moderators, and paper and poster presenters. Special thanks to *St. Lawrence Hall* for allowing us to host our event in such a historic space, *Tallboys* for the Trivia Night space, our sponsers *Parslow Heritage Consultancy Inc., ARA, THMC, Matrix Heritage, Unearthed Labs, True North Archaeological Services Inc., Archaeoworks, WSP, ASI, and Element Tents and Structures* for helping us to make this a reality. Also special thanks to *Elle Cuisine* for the morning and evening libations and *Megan Vanbiesbrouck*, a local archaeologist and artist for the incredible trowels. We hope the programme we've created sparks curiosity, excitement, and engaging discussions. And we hope to see many of you at our future Toronto Chapter events and meetings!

Warm regards,

Chey Cameron
President of the Toronto Chapter, Symposium Co-Chair

Jessica Russell
Vice-President of the Toronto Chapter, Symposium Co-Chair



Nearby Eateries

Good Eats

Rikki Tiki
Cafe Oro di Napoli
Lima Charlie's
Le Petit Dejeuner
Any of the Many Stalls at St Lawrence Market
Market Street Catch
Anejo Restaurant
Hothouse
Bar ARDO

Watering Holes

The Corner Place
The Berczy Tavern
The Jason George
C'est What? Inc.
Secrette
Paddington's Pump
Duke's Refresher

Instructions
for Session Organizers, Moderators and Paper and Poster Presenters

Instructions for Session Organizers, Moderators, and Paper Presenters

The Great Hall and the East Hall will each be set up with a podium, microphone, and laptop to project the presentations and/or discussion question slides onto the screen. If you are a session organizer and want to use your own laptop for the session, please let us know and we can help with the set up. There is no dual monitor system, so any presentation notes you have will need to be printed off or you may bring in your own device to have a second monitor to read from.

All session organizers, moderators, and paper presenters should arrive 15 minutes before the session so we can get you set up for the session. If you have made any last-minute edits to your presentation slides, please see Jessica Russell or Rosara Punchiwickrama when you register/sign-in for the event so that we can upload the latest version to the laptop set up for the room. If you arrive later in the day, this will be done in the 15-minute set up window before the session starts.

There will be a room attendant on site to assist with any technical issues. Jessica Russell and Rosara Punchiwickrama will also be available to help with any issues or questions that come up.

Instructions for Poster Presenters

The poster sessions are all being held from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the Great Hall. Set up for the posters will be from 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm. Please meet in the Great Hall at 2:30 pm to start setting up your poster once we have changed out the chairs from the earlier talks for tables. At this time, we will instruct presenters on what area of the room they should set up their posters, and this will be based on which poster session you are part of.

Prior to the poster sessions, poster presenters may hand over their posters at the registration table when they register/sign-in. Volunteers will be assigned to collect the posters at registration and store them in a separate room until it's time to set up for the sessions.

Schedule at a Glace

Saturday October 24th, 2026

Time	Lounge 1	Lounge 2	Lounge 3	Great Hall	East Hall
8:00	Registration Starts at 8:00am (All Day)	Coffee (8:00 - 9:00)	St. John's Ward Artifact Display with Digital Kiosk Booth (Indigneous art and replication artifacts) (All Day)		
8:30				Opening Remarks (8:45 - 9:00)	
9:00				Archaeological Placemaking and Commemoration: Thinking About Who Archaeology Serves Through the Stories of St. John's Ward, Toronto Keynote Talk + Discussion Holly Martelle (9:00 - 10:15)	
9:30					
10:00		Coffee Break (10:15 - 10:30)			
10:30				Student Research Spotlight (10:30 - 12:00)	What if... The Archaeological Profession was Self-Regulating: A Hypothetical Framework G21/MCM Round Table (10:30 - 12:00)
11:00					
11:30					
12:00	Lunch Break (12:00 - 1:00)				
12:30					
1:00	Registration Starts at 8:00am (All Day)		St. John's Ward Artifact Display with Digital Kiosk Booth (Indigneous art and replication artifacts) (All Day)	Student Research Spotlight Continued (1:00 - 2:30)	Toward More Equitable Archaeological Governance: The Role of First Nations in Decision-Making Indigenous Round Table Onyiohnwentsïio Direction (territorial office) of the Wendat Nation (1:00 - 3:00)
1:30					
2:00					
2:30		Coffee Break (2:30 - 3:30)			
3:00				General Poster Session FIRST LEGO League - Archaeological Project Showcase St. John's Ward as Seen Through an Archaeological and Community Lens Poster Session (3:00 - 5:00)	HDI Press Conference (3:00 - 3:30)
3:30					Collaboration in Archaeology: Legacy Collections, Archaeological Sites and Communities in the National Capital Region NCC Panel (3:30 - 5:30)
4:00					
4:30					
5:00					
5:30					ABM/Awards (5:30 - 6:30)
6:00					

Schedule of Events

Friday October 23rd, 2026
Halloween Themed Trivia Night

The Toronto Chapter is hosting a Halloween themed Trivia Night at *Tallboys Craft Beer House* (838 Bloor St W, Toronto, ON). Enjoy an evening of pints and poltergeists and compete for some awesome archaeological themed prizes! Costumes are encouraged and a special prize will be given to the person with the best costume. Doors will open at 6:30 pm with trivia starting at 7:30 pm. Please note that this is a ticketed event, so only those who have purchased tickets online for this event will be let in.

Saturday October 24rd, 2026
St. Lawrence Hall - Third Floor

LOUNGE 1

Registration | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Registration/sign-in for the symposium will be open all day starting from 8:00 am. Swag for the symposium will also be available for purchase at the registration table.

LOUNGE 2

Coffee Breaks | 8:00 am - 9:00 am | 10:15 am - 10:30 am | 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Coffee Breaks will be provided at the times listed above.

LOUNGE 3

St. John's Ward Artifact Display and Digital Kiosk | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Artifacts from the St. John's Ward site will be on display all day in Lounge 2. A digital kiosk will be set up as well with information on the site. Artifacts and the digital kiosk are provided and organized by Holly Martelle and TMHC Inc.

Indigenous Art Booth | 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Cole Thistle-Hill and Marvin Laidman, the Indigenous artists who have organized the booth, will be selling replication artifacts and Indigenous art all day.

Schedule of Events

GREAT HALL

Opening Remarks | 8:45 am - 9:00 am
Opening remarks by the organizers of the symposium to start the day's events.

Keynote Talk and Discussion | 9:00 am - 10:15 am
"Archaeological Placemaking and Commemoration: Thinking About Who Archaeology Serves Through the Stories of St. John's Ward, Toronto"
Speaker: Holly Martelle (TMHC Inc.)
Format: 45-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute discussion period

Despite falling beneath the regulatory umbrella of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM), consulting archaeology and its regulatory framework does little to serve the needs and curiosity of the citizens of Ontario. Nor does it serve the interests of the Descendants of the varied peoples who produced the archaeological remnants we, as consultant archaeologists and archaeological regulators, identify, manage, inventory, mitigate, and interpret. This begs the question: Who does archaeology in Ontario serve? Rather than asking Ontario's public or Descendant and Indigenous communities what they want from archaeology, if anything at all, government continues to push a largely administrative agenda that lacks any purposeful grounding in cultural perspectives or overarching goals of collecting/promoting findings and knowledge that provide a meaningful and experiential connection to peoples of the past through historical placemaking and commemoration. Over the past ten years, the socio-political landscape has vastly changed, with renewed interest in what archaeology and the past can bring to the understanding and promotion of the history of a place, a community, a Nation. Within a barrage of proposed regulatory changes, can we find a way to refocus our efforts on those things that really matter to those of us who do archaeology and the communities we do it with and for?

This larger question is at the root of this presentation, which offers a short history of a block in historic St. John's Ward, Toronto through archaeologically-inspired storytelling, placemaking and commemoration. St. John's Ward was a rich multi-cultural, working class neighbourhood in downtown Toronto whose history has been featured in a variety of media, from theatrical and musical performances, public displays, books, websites, and both online and art exhibits. Following an extensive excavation in 2015, archaeology has contributed another layer of public and community interest.

Schedule of Events

Student Research Spotlight | 10:30 am - 2:30 pm | Break for lunch from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Organizers: Jessica Russell and Rosara Punchiwickrama

This session spotlights student research that is relevant to the theme of "Repairing Bridges: Collaboration, Community, Connection". This session's aim is to provide students with the chance to present their research and allow attendees to hear about some of the newest research in archaeology and related fields that is being conducted by up-and-coming professionals.

"What We Owe to Each Other: Bioarchaeology, Archaeology, Community Engagement, and Contemporary Ethics Protocols"
10:30 am - 10:50 am
Speakers: Jennifer Laughton (University of Alberta) and Dr. Katherine Davidson (Carleton University)

The materials that archaeologists work with – both human remains and material culture – are replete with meaning and data that are useful in archaeological research, and are important for archaeological stakeholders more broadly. Destructive analyses and the lack of democratization of legacy collections present current ethical issues, namely around how we conduct research while trying also to do right by communities. The benefits and limitations of technology and extant ethics protocols are important factors in current archaeological and bioarchaeological work in Canada. Two case studies are presented which demonstrate some ethical considerations in current bioarchaeological and archaeological collections-based research. The authors reflect on the possibilities and shortcomings of contemporary ethics protocols in a Canadian (bio)archaeological context.

"Connections and pictographs: the collaborative workshop "Onaman: Ochre to Paint With""
10:50 am - 11:10 am
Speakers: Jake Cousineau, Renée Engelke, Tiziana Gallo, Alicia Hawkins, Brandi MacDonald, Brent Niganobe, Zoie Piché and James Wright (University of Toronto - Mississauga)

Schedule of Events

This past August, as part of the archaeology project Nisdotang gaa-bi-zhiwebag wii-ni-mno-mbaazhing (Learning about the past to live a good life), Mississaugi First Nation (MFN) hosted "Onaman: Ochre to Paint With", a workshop organized in collaboration with the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). For three days, members of MFN and of neighbouring First Nations, elders, knowledge keepers, conservation and rock art specialists, as well UTM students and archaeologists gathered to share knowledge, stories, and ideas about how to best learn from and care for rock art. In this talk, we present some of the steps that went into the preparation of this workshop, such as the collection and preparation of onaman and of various binders, and some of the insights that emerged from the workshop itself.

"Bridging the Divide: Academic Training, CRM Practice, and Archaeological Knowledge in Ontario"
11:10 am - 11:30 am
Speaker: Kyra Bombardier (Trent University)

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) is the primary employment destination for many archaeology graduates in Ontario, yet opportunities to study Great Lakes archaeology within university programs remain uneven. This paper examines archaeology curricula at selected Ontario universities to consider how students are introduced to regional archaeology, professional practice, field and laboratory methods, and transferable analytical skills. Where Great Lakes archaeology is encountered primarily through summer employment and regulatory fieldwork, practitioners may come to understand it chiefly as a fixed body of culture history, typology, and compliance procedures rather than as an active field of research in which chronologies, classifications, and interpretive models remain open to debate and in some cases are being actively challenged or revised. The disconnect also works in the opposite direction: CRM generates much of the province's archaeological data, but commercial and regulatory constraints can limit opportunities to incorporate new academic research into routine practice. Addressing this divide therefore requires more than changes to university curricula. Stronger connections are needed among universities, CRM firms, and the Ministry so that professional training, archaeological research, and regulatory standards inform one another more effectively, while recognizing the distinct responsibilities and constraints of each sector across Ontario's archaeological profession today.

Schedule of Events

“Beyond the Source: Rethinking Holocene Lithic Procurement in Southern Ontario, Canada”
11:30 am - 11:50 am
Speaker: Lorenz Bruechert (University of British Columbia - Vancouver Campus)

Since 2007, the Haldimand-Norfolk Archaeological Regional Project has investigated relationships among hunter-gatherer settlement, landscape use, and natural-resource procurement across the western Niagara Peninsula and the broader Lower Great Lakes region. Building upon more than two decades of archaeological and geological field research, the project has documented settlement patterns, geological sources, and the repeated procurement and use of Devonian Onondaga chert as a major toolstone resource.

Recent geochemical characterization and multivariate statistical analyses have provided a new means of evaluating these long-term field observations. Chemical relationships among archaeological artifacts and geological samples provide opportunities to investigate patterns of toolstone procurement and movement that are difficult to recognize through macroscopic identification alone. When integrated with geological field observations and existing archaeological evidence, these analyses provide a new perspective on relationships between toolstone sources, archaeological materials, and the landscapes across which they occur.

Considered together, these independent lines of evidence provide a basis for examining relationships between toolstone accessibility, procurement, transport, and hunter-gatherer landscape use that extend beyond the identification of individual geological sources. The archaeological distribution of Onondaga chert over millennia provides an opportunity to examine relationships among toolstone movement, hunter-gatherer mobility, exchange, and socioeconomic organization across southern Ontario and the broader Lower Great Lakes region.

Schedule of Events

“The Bones Below: Using Ground-Penetrating Radar for Clandestine Grave Detection”
1:00 pm - 1:20 pm
Speaker: Marissa Mowers (University of Windsor)

Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) is a non-invasive method of investigating disturbances or anomalies beneath the soil. In forensic and archaeological contexts, recent advancements have utilized GPR for the detection of clandestine or unmarked graves. GPR is most effective in the early stages of decomposition due to the presence of the body’s soft tissues. In contrast, its discrimination abilities between natural rock and buried bone in decomposition’s later stages are weak, leading to false-positive location of burials. The current project investigated quantitative methods for discriminating between buried limestone rock and buried deer skeletal remains in simulated graves to improve the detection of clandestine or unmarked burials in our local soil type.

Hyperbola fitting was used to determine the signal velocity and dielectric constant of each point reflection in the simulated graves, allowing for the utilization of Topp’s Equation, which calculates the moisture content of mineral soil from the soil’s dielectric constant. After a thunderstorm, the moisture content in the grave containing skeletal remains decreased with depth (-4.29%, N=1), while the moisture content in the grave containing limestone rock increased with depth (+11.47%, N=1). This is likely due to a shelving effect created by the rock, inhibiting moisture from draining at the base of the grave and allowing water to accumulate, while the skeletal remains create macro-porosity conditions in the soil that allow better drainage of water. This result suggests moisture gradients within suspected graves can serve as an important diagnostic tool in identifying burials of forensic or archaeological interest and that such gradients may be detectable using standard geophysical tools. As this was seen in a single case study (N=1), the quantity of data was insufficient for determination of statistical significance or standard deviation. Continued research aims to confirm this trend in additional simulated grave trials.

Schedule of Events

“Revealing Burials: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Locate Buried Human Remains”
1:20 pm - 1:40 pm
Speaker: Sabrina Lepine-Leclerc (University of Windsor)

For generations, families and communities have carried the lasting consequences of Canada’s residential school system, including the painful uncertainty surrounding children who never returned home. Residential schools operated for more than 160 years, with over 150,000 Indigenous children attending before the last school closed in 1996, and the discovery of potential unmarked graves has renewed efforts to locate and honour those who may remain buried at these sites. Human remains detection (HRD) dogs are increasingly considered for these sensitive searches, yet their ability to reliably detect historical buried human remains has not been scientifically established.

Locating clandestine or unmarked graves is a considerable challenge in forensic and historical investigations. The two most common tools used are ground penetrating radar and HRD dogs. While Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is a well validated technique, the use of HRD dogs has not been validated in the context of locating historical graves. The complex mixture of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that characterizes the odor of decomposition changes greatly depending on the situation and setting. Temperature, humidity, soil type, and the depth at which remains are buried are some of the variables that affect these odors. In this study, GPR was first used to delineate the graves of recent and historical burials, then thermal desorption comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography-time of flight mass spectrometry (TD-GCxGC-TOFMS) was used to determine whether VOCs could be detected and identified from buried human remains over extended burial intervals. Geophysical 2D GPR survey profiles were acquired over eight burials at the Windsor Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Ontario, Canada. The burials included a range of recent burials up to 20 years since burial (2004-2024) and two burial types, casket and casket burial with open-bottom concrete vault burials. VOC samples from the same burials were collected using sorbent tubes over a period of 161 days and analyzed using a TD-GCxGC-TOFMS system.

Schedule of Events

“An Osteobiography of a Cow from a 19th to Early-20th Century Farmstead in Southern Ontario”
1:40 pm - 2:00 pm
Speaker: Kayla Mander (University of Toronto - St. George)

Using an osteobiographic approach, this project examines a cow burial to reconstruct the animal’s life course and explore the human-animal relationship. Osteological and aDNA analyses identified the individual as a female approximately four years old at death, comparable in size to dairy breeds, with two comminuted perimortem fractures of the tibiae. Given the importance of dairy cattle to early settler households, this cow was likely kept for milk production. Archival research at the Ontario Veterinary College indicates that livestock were of considerable economic value and received substantial veterinary attention, suggesting that this individual may have received significant care in life. However, the severity of its fractures may have rendered treatment unsuccessful, contributing to an early death. The decision to bury, rather than butcher the cow is particularly significant. Agricultural literature recommended that dairy cattle be culled for beef once they ceased producing milk, yet this practice was not followed here. The burial may therefore reflect a relationship extending beyond economic utility, potentially involving companionship and care, or alternatively the disposal of an animal whose condition rendered its meat unsuitable for consumption.

“Foreman, Collector, Craftsman: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and the Coins of Thomas Church”
2:00 pm - 2:20 pm
Speaker: Iphigenia Gabrielle Clark (University of Toronto)

Thomas Church was a mill foreman and coin collector who lived in the heart of Ottawa’s late-nineteenth-century lumber industry on Victoria Island. A working-class Irish immigrant, he stands out from most of his numismatic associates socioeconomically and in that he not only collected coins and tokens but struck his own in his workshop. Furthermore, the facts of his case provide a rare opportunity: most of his collection was lost along with his house in the Great Fire of 1900, but a large number of the items have now been recovered through excavations by the National Capital Commission’s Archaeology Program. Analysis of his collection, in the context of his life, shed light on the life and times of an unusual coin collector and, moreover, show the benefits of interdisciplinary connections and collaboration, through their new volunteer program, between institutions like the NCC and the public.

Schedule of Events

General Poster Session | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Organizers: Jessica Russell and Rosara Punchiwickrama

This session is for general posters that fit broadly within the theme of "Repairing Bridges: Collaboration, Community, Connection". It contains a mix of students and non-students showcasing their research in poster format.

"New Methods Using Digital Tools: Measuring Precontact Pottery from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario"
Presenters: Stephanie Meredith (Apex Archaeology Inc., Brantford) and Jill Taylor-Hollings (Department of Anthropology, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Past President OAS)

Over the last decade, European archaeologists have been using AI and 3D technologies to make significant advances in archaeological imaging. Only recently have papers been published about using similar techniques with Canadian Indigenous pottery. In my Honours thesis, completed at Lakehead University, I discuss the advantages of using 3D technology for creating pottery profiles and measuring potsherds, further improving upon the earlier techniques of photogrammetry and hand drawing not only in accuracy, but also in time efficiency. Using examples of Late Woodland period Winnipeg Fabric-impressed ware of the Selkirk composite, as well as Sandy Lake ware of the Psinomani culture from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

Having tested these new methods, I discovered that although 3D scanning can be pricey, recently there have been great strides in making the scanners and printers more affordable and accessible. The results ultimately proved beneficial to future research in archaeology by better documenting and preserving pottery and other ancient belongings.

Schedule of Events

“Rebuilding Relationships: The Repatriation of Mississauga First Nation’s Ancestral Belongings and the Initiation of Mississaugi-led Archaeology”
Presenters: Jake Cousineau, Renée Engelke, Tiziana Gallo, Alicia Hawkins, Brent Niganobe, Zoie Piché and James Wright (University of Toronto - Mississauga)

From the 1960s through the 2000s, archaeological excavations and research were conducted within Mississauga First Nation’s (MFN) traditional territory with limited consultation and involvement from the Nation. Through a collaborative partnership with the University of Toronto, MFN successfully advocated for the repatriation of ancestral belongings held by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, a private archaeologist, and the Canadian Museum of History. The return of these belongings established the foundation for a new archaeological initiative within MFN’s Lands and Resources Department. Following repatriation, the legacy collection was re-catalogued and analyzed, leading to the development of a public exhibit that uses these ancestral belongings to share the Indigenous history of the Mississaugi River and strengthen community connections to their heritage.

“The Dis/Abled Archaeologist in Practice: New Approaches to Field Season Planning in CRM”
Presenter: Soni M. Rusin-Franke (Wilfred Laurier University)

The picture of the typical archaeologist is an individual who is physically strong, adaptable, and always able to perform whatever task the field requires. Field crews are expected to work at consistent speeds, perform a wide range of physically demanding tasks, and adapt to changing conditions with little consideration for individual differences in ability. While this model may work for some archaeologists, it does not represent the diversity of people who participate in archaeological work and can be particularly alienating for archaeologists with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

This poster explores how disability theory can be integrated into CRM practices to develop more inclusive approaches to field season planning. Rather than treating disability as an individual's inability to meet standardized expectations, it considers how archaeological workplaces and field practices can themselves create disabling barriers. Drawing on research concerning the practicalities of disabilities in fieldwork, this poster advocates for a shift toward field season planning that accounts for workers' differing abilities, strengths, limitations, and support needs. Such planning could incorporate task-specific ability assessments, individualized accommodations, flexible participation, and predetermined strategies for responding when an individual's circumstances change during a field season.

By bringing disability theory into the practical organization of CRM fieldwork, this poster aims to provide a practical framework through which CRM projects can accommodate differences without compromising archaeological practice, while recognizing that ability is neither uniform across workers nor necessarily constant throughout an individual's career.

Schedule of Events

“GIS in the Field of Archaeology: A Visual Analysis of the Spatial Distribution of Test Pits at Ashridge Estate”
Presenter: Ava Wiseman (Wilfred Laurier University)

This poster centres on the spatial distribution of artifacts recovered during the excavation of the Ashbridge Estate in Toronto, Ontario. Moving to the area in 1793, the Ashbridge family are the only family in Toronto to have occupied their land continuously for 200 years (Ontario Heritage Trust). The extensive familial ownership of the Ashbridge Estate makes it a fascinating lens into the history of one of the founding families of Toronto. Led by Dr. Elaine Cheng, Wilfrid Laurier University’s Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies held an archaeological field school at the property in 2025. With the aim of gaining insight into land use and patterns of activity on the site, this analysis explores how the application of GIS can visually aid in understanding the longstanding history of the Ashbridge Estate.

By mapping artifact locations and comparing distributions on site, this study considers how spatial concentrations of artifacts can correspond to specific activities associated with the occupation of the site. Applying GIS at the Ashbridge Estate can contribute to a broader comprehension of everyday life at the property for both archaeologists and the public. By analyzing spatial distribution at the Ashbridge Estate, there is also a focus on demonstrating how important mapping with GIS can be in archaeological study.

“Representing the Robinson Huron Treaty (1850): Encounters with Colonial Narratology, Settler Heritage & Community Remembrance”
Presenter: Travis Shaw (McMaster University)

This project explores educational representations of the Robinson-Huron Treaty in municipal museums across northern Ontario. Ethnographic observations and interviews with curators were employed to document individual museums’ displays and gather information about curatorial directives. The study gathered qualitative data on how small-town museums in and around the Muskoka district preserve and sometimes omit representations of historic treaty negotiations. Specifically examining textual plaques and archaeological materials chosen to represent the history of the 1850 Robinson-Huron Treaty which governs settler land claims to a large portion of Northern Ontario. During recorded conversations special emphasis was placed on discussing treaty representations, which were often given no more than a single line or paragraph within a larger plaque regarding early colonial settlement to the region. Accompanying artifacts were also examined as part of the overall spatial narrative alignment. In most cases museum displays were vague, almost misleading, with little to no historical context or critical discursive dialogue covering the systemic forces behind the desire to form treaties in Northern Ontario. Instead, comparative analysis of displays across all museums visited found that narratives leaned towards pacifying historical realities of imperial dispossession in favour of ‘visitor-friendly’ alterations glorifying early settler lifeways. The project investigation concluded that museums must lean into the sometimes difficult and uncomfortable truths about the history of Ontario’s treaty relations if meaningful reconciliation is to be achieved through communal heritage practices and public education.

Schedule of Events

FIRST LEGO League - Archaeological Project Showcase | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Organizers: Than Homerski, Annika Pint, and Jessica Russell

After a competition season of creating, refining, and sharing their archaeological projects, award-winning teams from the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) will be showcasing their work. FLL is a program for students ages 9-14 to engage in hands-on STEM learning. Teams compete to create a programmable LEGO robot to complete tasks, as well as brainstorm, research, and develop projects based on the competition season's theme. This past competition year (2025-2026) was themed around archaeology. The teams presenting have gone on to compete at the highest levels of this globe-spanning competition. Their projects are the culmination of the students' ingenuity and creativity, informed by the consultation of archaeologists and other working STEM professionals.

Teams and Coaches:
MUFFINS #70999 (Coach: Leslie Cuthbertson)
Eat. Sleep. Archaeology. Repeat. (Coach: Eric Borromeo)
BioMaps (Coach: Krista Aiello)
Solvers of X&Y (Coach: Dahai Zhang)
Ctrl+Alt+Defeat (Coach: Flora Chen)
Chrono Solvers (Coach: Dahai Zhang)

St. John's Ward as Seen Through an Archaeological and Community Lens Poster Session | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Organizers: Holly Martelle and Natascha Beisswenger-Mooney

Historic St. John's Ward (later simply called "The Ward") in downtown Toronto was home to working-class immigrants and migrants from a diversity of ethnic backgrounds. The neighbourhood brought together an array of cultures, beliefs, and practices. In 2015, TMHC Inc. conducted archaeological excavations in preparation for the building of a new courthouse. These excavations became the catalyst to resurface the stories of historic St. John's Ward, through the stories of Descendant communities, archival records, and the material culture left behind by residents and sealed beneath a paved parking lot. Since then, new stories and connections continue to surface through archival and student research, and, above all, through ongoing relationships with Descendants and their family memories of life in The Ward. In this poster session, we share research that helps contribute to historical place-making in St. John's Ward through a focus on the stories of the everyday lives of the women, men and children who lived there. Posters focus on archaeological findings, archival documentation, community memory and family experiences in The Ward.

Schedule of Events

“A Family’s Story of St. John’s Ward”
Presenter: Nancy Lee (Descendant)

My name is Nancy Lee, and I have been a family researcher for more than thirty years. My paternal grandmother, Adeline Miller, her three sisters, her mother, Fanny Miller, and paternal grandmother, Margaret Bird lived in St. John’s Ward from 1894 until 1910. Through the stories she passed down, I have a personal connection to a neighbourhood that was home to many diverse working-class families. My grandmother spoke of how hard her mother and grandmother worked to eventually move their family out of the Ward and build a different life.

I would like to share their story through family history, photographs, genealogical research, and the memories passed down through three generations. My contribution will offer a descendant’s perspective on the everyday experience of a family living in St. John’s Ward at the turn of the twentieth century.

“Choices Made by Inhabitants of 13 and 15 Centre Ave, St. John’s Ward (AjGu-91)”
Presenter: Natascha Beisswenger-Mooney (Western University and TMHC Inc.)

During the 2015 excavation of a neighbourhood in St. John’s Ward, artifacts, which had been buried under a parking lot, were once again able to tell the stories of those who lived, worked, and were apart of the St. John’s Ward community. In this poster, I look at the choices made by the inhabitants of 13 and 15 Centre Ave as told by the material found in two separate archaeological features. Additionally, I draw from the archival information that the TMHC staff had previously gathered to shed light on the stories and choices made by two women in particular; Eliza Jane Ward (13 Centre Ave) and Annie Whalen (15 Centre Ave). The choices I discuss give a glimpse into parts of everyday life of those living at these two addresses.

“Identifying and Contextualising a 19th -century Glass Breast Relieving Device from AjGu-91”
Presenter: Rachelle Carter (TMHC Inc.)

A unique glass object was recovered from a feature during the 2015 excavation of a neighbourhood in St. John’s Ward. Researching the breast pipe has uncovered a long history. It has a function and shape that relates back to at least the 2nd century CE. The poster explores the function of the breast pipe, comparative forms, the history of use, as well as the date and context of the artifact.

Schedule of Events

“Engaging Technology: Use of 3D Modelling for Public Storytelling”
Presenters: John Moody (TMHC Inc.) and Holly Martelle (TMHC Inc.)

The 2015 excavation of a small part of a historically significant neighbourhood in St. John’s Ward generated visually engaging artifacts and settlement patterns. The findings provided an opportunity for TMHC to experiment in the use of 3D modelling for digitally reproducing artifacts and scaled building footprints for use in educational displays and public storytelling. This poster provides some imagery of the final products and describes the overall intent and processes involved in these replications.

“Food Plants and Urban Life: Preliminary Archaeobotanical Results from St. John’s Ward (AjGu-91)”
Presenter: Breanne Reibl (TMHC Inc.)

Preliminary archaeobotanical analysis of AjGu-91 provide a glimpse into which food plants residents in St. John’s Ward may have been consuming. Specialist analyses are ongoing due to the volume of material collected, but the archaeobotanical analysis of the light and heavy fractions from two residential lots on Centre Street (later Centre Avenue) have been completed. Soil samples were collected from five privies, a septic tank, and a cistern during Stage 4 excavation of the site. A total of 183,652 identified food plant seeds were present in the archaeobotanical assemblage. Many seeds in the assemblage were from vegetables and tender fruits that can be seasonally grown in Ontario. There was also a small amount of imported food plants that required a warmer climate for cultivation. These preliminary results suggest that the diverse, working-class residents living in St. John’s Ward consumed a wide variety of food plants. The results also highlight the adaptability and resourcefulness of farmers, importers, and merchants in meeting the food demands of a growing urban population.

Schedule of Events

EAST HALL

G21/MCM Round Table* | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
“What if... The Archaeological Profession was Self-Regulating: A Hypothetical Framework”
Organizers: Group of 21 (G21) and Lara Wood
Format: 20-minute presentation followed by round table discussions for 1 hour and 10 minutes

The transformation of the archaeological profession into a self-regulating framework has been frequently discussed by the Group of 21 and has been brought up in discussions with the staff at the MCM and with the team working on the Heritage Framework Transformation initiative. This paper presents a hypothetical framework for the self-regulation of archaeology in Ontario in order to explore what it means to be self-regulated, the advantages of self-regulation, and the steps necessary to become self regulated. In so doing, the paper provides a detailed organizational structure and potential policies that can act as a road map for building a better future for the profession within Ontario. As archaeology is not a self-regulated profession anywhere in the world, this proposed framework can act as a model for the world and place Ontario as a leader in heritage policy and regulation. This also provides a foundation upon which to have further discussions around the practice and regulation of archaeology in the Province.

***This is a first come, first served event. There is limited seating (approx. 60 spots) for people wishing to participate in the discussions. Please arrive early to secure your spot.**

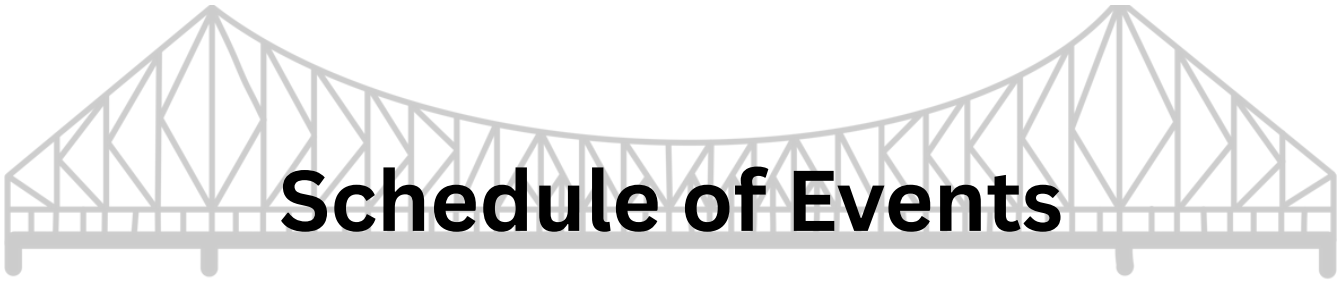
Schedule of Events

Indigenous Round Table* | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
“Toward More Equitable Archaeological Governance: The Role of First Nations in Decision-Making”
Organizers: Onyiohnwentsïio Direction (territorial office) of the Wendat Nation
Format: 2 hours for round table discussions

This roundtable will examine the role of First Nations in archaeological decision-making and explore what equitable participation means in practice. Discussions will focus on the evolution of consultation toward shared decision-making, as well as on how Indigenous knowledge, cultural values, and community priorities can be meaningfully integrated into archaeological and heritage protection processes.

Through two thematic discussions, participants will consider how archaeological significance is determined, where Indigenous leadership and co-decision opportunities should exist within the archaeological process, and how Indigenous authority can be strengthened in matters relating to the stewardship, care, and return of Ancestors and archaeological collections. The roundtable will also invite participants to identify the most important changes needed to advance a more equitable, respectful, and collaborative archaeological framework in Ontario over the coming years.

***This is a first come, first served event. There is limited seating (approx. 60 spots) for people wishing to participate in discussions. Please arrive early to secure your spot.**



Schedule of Events

HDI Press Conference | 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Organizers: HDI

Review, Repair, Release brings the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council and supporting interest groups together to call for a more accurate and accessible Ontario Archaeological Sites Database. At the Ontario Archaeology Society Symposium, participants will present three priorities for the Province: Review the mechanism of non-compliance, Repair the database and Release the record.

***Please note, the above event is not formally endorsed by the Ontario Archaeological Society and is a Supplementary activity taking place during the Symposium.**
However, a large part of the newly resurrected Toronto Chapter's mandate is the belief that the Symposium should be an inclusive space where multiple voices should be heard - in keeping with the Symposium's theme this year regarding Repairing Bridges, a wide variety of voices have been provided the opportunity to be heard.

Collaboration in Archaeology: Legacy Collections, Archaeological Sites and Communities in the National Capital Region | 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Organizers: The National Capital Commission (NCC) Archaeology Program
Format: 1 hour and 15 minutes of presentations followed by a 45-minute panel discussion

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is a federal organization that is responsible for development, urban planning, and conservation in Canada's Capital Region. It acts as a long-term planner, a principal steward of over 11% of the land mass in the National Capital Region, and acts as a creative partner committed to excellence in development and conservation. In its role as a steward, the NCC has amassed a collection of over 350,000 archaeological artifacts, many of which have never been subject to research or analysis. The NCC Archaeology Program has been committed to its connection to people, the land, and indigenous communities through its Protocol for the Co-Management of Archaeological Resources, but until recently, has had limited collaboration opportunities. Through partnerships with organizations like Carleton University, l'Université Laval, l'Université de Montreal, Anishinabe Odjibikan, and collaborative contracts with consulting firms like Matrix Heritage, a new era of collaboration and connectivity has begun. This session will discuss the challenges and successes of collaboration between a federal entity with a limited mandate to conduct archaeology, working with existing collections collected from a variety of contexts, as well as with indigenous communities who are working on taking stewardship of their own cultural heritage.

Schedule of Events

“Cultivating Collaboration: When Research is not the Name of the Game”
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm
Speakers: Monica Maika (NCC) and Bob Clark (NCC)

The NCC Archaeology program has a mandate for stewardship of archaeological resources on NCC land, collaboration with Anishinabe Communities via our Protocol for the Co-Management of Archaeological Resources, and regulation, through the Federal Land Use, Transactions and Approvals team, but has no mandate for research. So what does one do when you have a collection of 350,000 artifacts, a team of two, and no time to analyze or research? You collaborate. Monica and Bob will discuss recent collaborative projects with communities, universities, and CRM firms through a lens of federal archaeology. We will discuss challenges and opportunities, and our hope for the collection moving forward.

“Same Dirt, Different Rules: Navigating Federal Archaeology in the National Capital Region”
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm
Speaker: Nadine Kopp (Matrix Heritage)

Archaeological consulting in the National Capital Region often means navigating different regulatory frameworks and approaches to archaeological resource management. Drawing on a range of projects completed for the National Capital Commission (NCC) and other proponents on NCC lands, this paper explores how collaboration, professional judgement, and flexibility shape archaeological work on federal lands. Examples include projects involving collaboration with NCC archaeologists, Anishinabe Communities and Indigenous youth, as well as projects requiring coordination across both federal and provincial jurisdictions. These experiences highlight the opportunities that a collaborative approach can provide for developing project-specific methodologies, evaluating archaeological significance, and determining appropriate next steps.

Schedule of Events

“The Unknown Ottawa Project”
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm
Speaker: Laura Banducci (Carleton University)

Begun in 2025, the Unknown Ottawa Project mobilizes the expertise of the National Capital Commission’s archaeology program and the resources in archaeology and digital humanities at Carleton University for the promotion and dissemination of the NCC’s extensive collections of artefacts from the Ottawa-Gatineau region. The project examines two NCC collections from Leamy Lake Park. The first are pre-contact assemblages from the annual terrestrial survey undertaken by NCC staff and volunteers along the Ottawa river shoreline. The study of these artefacts aids in the better understanding of the location and chronology of sites which are threatened by continued erosion due to climate change and damming. The second assemblage comes from the excavation of two early 19th century houses, typically referred to as the houses of Philemon Wright, the first non-Indigenous settler in the Ottawa Valley in 1800, and the house of the Leamy family, the family of Wright’s granddaughter. Their material traces contribute to a richer understanding of local settlement history. The publication and dissemination of the NCC’s investigations have thus far been limited to internal reports for NCC planning purposes, with little to no public knowledge, neither by indigenous nor settler communities. Ultimately, the project aims to create both digital online exhibits and catalogues of select materials as well as advocating for more permanent signage about the park’s archaeological past. In the meantime, the day-to-day work of the project has created important starting points for networks of archaeological stewardship. Carleton students are learning about the local past and developing skills in archaeological study and data management; they are interacting with the burgeoning indigenous archaeological community as well as with the NCC staff and their local community of volunteers.

“Collaboration in Archaeology: Perspective from an Academic Field School”
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm | Pre-recorded Talk
Speaker: Christian Gates St. Pierre (Université de Montréal)

The archaeological field school of the Université de Montréal's Department of Anthropology, which has been running for almost 50 years, relocated in 2024 to Kabeshinàn (Lac Leamy Park) in the National Capital Region. The field school is part of a long-term research project on the deep history of social interactions in this area of the Ottawa River Valley. Carried out in collaboration with many researchers and regional partners, this partnership offers as many opportunities as it does challenges. I will review these in this presentation, which will also address our hopes and aspirations for the future, among other questions.

Schedule of Events

“Meaningful Relationships: An Anishinabe Perspective on Collaboration in Archaeology”
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm
Speaker: Jennifer Tenasco (Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg) (Université de Montréal)

Collaboration has become an increasingly important part of archaeological practice, particularly in work involving Indigenous communities and cultural heritage. However, meaningful collaboration requires more than simply including Indigenous people in archaeological projects, it requires building relationships based on trust, honesty, respect, and a willingness to listen. Drawing on my experiences with Anishinabe Odjibikan and our ongoing relationship with the National Capital Commission’s Archaeology Program, this presentation reflects on what collaboration has looked like from an Anishinabe perspective. The relationship between Indigenous communities and federal institutions can be complicated, and there can understandably be hesitation surrounding these partnerships. At the same time, meaningful relationships can create opportunities for Indigenous people to advocate for our communities, strengthen our involvement in archaeology, and have a greater voice in how our cultural heritage is researched, interpreted, and cared for. Rather than presenting collaboration as a finished product or an uncomplicated process, I consider it an ongoing relationship that must continually be built and maintained. I reflect on the opportunities, challenges, and unexpected outcomes that have emerged through working collaboratively with the NCC, and how these relationships can create space for Indigenous voices and Indigenous-led archaeology within archaeology in Ontario and beyond.

Annual Business Meeting and Awards | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
The Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) will have their Annual Business Meeting (ABM) and present this year’s awards. See below for the Agenda:

1. President's opening remarks
2. 2026 Awards
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Business Meeting
4. Matters arising from those minutes
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report
A. Financial statements for 2025
B. Appointment of Weinberg & Gaspirc CPA LLP auditors
7. Updated By-Laws
8. Election of Directors
9. Next OAS symposia
10. Other business
11. Motion of thanks
12. Adjournment

Schedule of Events

EVENING AFTER PARTY

There will be a drinks at the venue (Third Floor, St. Lawrence Hall) following the day's events on Saturday October 24th from 5:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Great Hall for socializing.

As we are located in the St. Lawrence Market area of the City there are also a wealth of local wine bars, pubs, breweries, and cocktail bars located within walking distance. For a list of recommendations please see the section above referring to local spots in the area.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25TH, 2026

Walking Tours

The sign-up link for the walking tours listed below is available online on the 2026 OAS Symposium webpage.

"St. Larence Walking Tour"
Organizer: Toronto Society of Architects Tour
Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join us in exploring the ideas and activism of 20th and 21st century architects, planners, and designers who aided in conserving the past through framing historic landmarks and art pieces that resurface long forgotten stories.

Starting point: Fountain at Berczy Park (35 Wellington St. E, Toronto, ON)
Ending point: St. Lawrence Market

"From the Ward to Kensington Market Tour"
Organizer: Adam Bunch Tour
Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

In this tour, we'll explore stories about the city's multicultural roots along with other tales hidden in the streets between the Ward and Kensington — everything from anarchists and runaway horses to dead elephants and demon ghosts.

Starting point: By the Toronto sign in Nathan Phillips Square (100 Queen St. W, Toronto, ON)
Ending point: Kensington Market

Schedule of Events

RECORDED ONLINE TALKS
This section lists the pre-recorded presentations that were submitted to be posted online after the symposium.

“Building Connections: An analysis of a rematriated projectile point to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nations”
Speaker: Jessica Russell (Independent Researcher)

A projectile point found in Brinsley, Ontario on the Lewis family property was rematriated to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nations (KSPFN) in 2024. Jordan George, the communications specialist with KSPFN, requested for an analysis to be done by Jessica Russell, an archaeologist specialized in lithic analysis who had collaborated with Jordan on a previous research project. The analysis on the projectile point would be used for display in the KSPFN community cultural center. The point was determined to be a Meadowood projectile point dating to the Early Woodland period, ca. 2800 to 2300 RCYBP. An in-depth analysis of the projectile point shows that this one tool, despite being an isolated find, maps on quite well with what is known about the Meadowood complex and the Meadowood projectile point type. It is a great example of how even singular finds can tell us a lot about the archaeological record and the people who inhabited this area in the past. This analysis also showcases how forming connections within archaeology and across disciplines and groups is important in disseminating information and elevating our knowledge about the past.

“Reading Seeds: Archaeobotanical Data as a Bridge to Deeper Connections”
Speaker: Cheyenne Cameron (Unearthed Labs)

Archaeobotanical analysis has slowly become more commonplace within the discipline of archaeology over the last thirty years. However, within the confines of CRM archaeological reporting standards there is an emphasis on simply noting the species represented within a sample with little to no interest as to the significance of the species represented (or not) following identification. By utilizing the recovered macroremains of several completed archaeobotanical projects located within Ontario as examples, a comparision between what is reported and what the act of storytelling can tell an archaeologist, a descendant, a client, or the broader public in general about the people and their interactions with the land of the past.

Symposium Sponsers

Benefactor



Symposium Sponsers

Patron



Symposium Sponsers

Partner

ASI

tmhc

Unearthed Labs
Archaeobotany Specialists

TRUE NORTH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Symposium Sponsers

Trivia Night

Matrix Heritage

element tents and structures

Symposium Sponsers

Sunday Local Tours

