



Ontario Archaeological Society

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The Ireland 2 site in Burlington after stripping by Jack Rooney, October 1998. Working for the London Museum of Archaeology are [l to r] Julia Mannard, Bob Pearce, Les Howard, Mel Brown, Helen Sluis and Patricia Smith. The semicircular ditch remains after cutting the ring of post moulds in the palisade around the top of the knoll. Photo by Andy Schoenhofer

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... editor's note

Sorry this one's a bit late, but look at all the value! One thing I've tried to do is add a bit of news, gathered or written, and notices of what's going on in different parts of the province. One place I have no contacts in and would like to know more about is Northern Ontario. Anyone up there who has something to tell us southerners about archaeology—please get in touch.

As you'll see from the rest of this issue, almost any type of article is fair game for publication. I'd like to see more letters and more book reviews; surely you all have read something relevant in the past year. I'm particularly interested in reading (and printing) reviews of the recent books written by Peter Storck and edited by Laurie Jackson.

And please keep me up to date on newsy happenings in your area: organized archaeological events, Chapter public events (take pictures!), museum or town fair displays—anything you do to get the greater public, or just yourself, involved in archaeology or the history of our province.

Andy Schoenhofer
archnotes@sympatico.ca

President's message

Christine Caroppo

Well, I can't remember what Warton Willie actually predicted this past February, but if the rodent said it would be an early Spring, I think he lied. I am writing this column in mid-March to meet the Arch Notes deadline, and the sun is brightly shining outside my window, reflecting off the mountains of snow in my yard. I live in Toronto and it's bad enough here—I can only imagine what the members in Thunder Bay or the Ottawa Valley or London have outside their windows. I've done the snow-shoeing and tobogganing and building snowmen thing. I'd like some Spring now, please.

My family did actually escape during Reading Week to South Carolina. We inhabited a time-share condo on Hilton Head Island, a golf and tennis haven, but as we neither golf nor play tennis, we used it as a base to explore the natural history of the Low Country and the cultural history and architecture of nearby Savannah, Georgia, and Beaufort (pronounced "Byoo-fert", like the stereotypical sheriffs in so many movies set in the South) and Charleston, South Carolina.

On a tip from a colleague we visited the National Trust for Historic Preservation site of Drayton Hall. Being in Drayton Hall is like being in a time warp. Built in the early 18th century, it survived the American Revolution and the Civil War unscathed. It later became the family's holiday retreat and was never modern-

ized: no plumbing, no electricity nor gaslight. The interior and exterior are exactly as built. Archaeological excavations will be ongoing this summer as a public program focussing on the foundations of the outbuildings which were destroyed by hurricanes long ago. A Black History Month program outlined the information gathered archaeologically about the slave economy on the rice plantation.

On the original site of nearby Charleston, excavations were already under way on the 17th century site of Charles Towne Landing. The public was welcome to watch and ask questions while visiting the historic site. On Hilton Head Island itself, amid the golf courses and gated communities, there were two Archaic period habitation sites to visit, distinctive by their ringed shell middens. At these sites and also at the ruin of a tabby-built plantation mansion, extensive signage allowed the visitor to guide themselves around the sites.

Continuing with the theme of celebrating their heritage, Charlestonians take pride in their wonderfully preserved architectural heritage. The city of Charleston's downtown historic district has hundreds of beautifully restored antebellum buildings (scores of them predate 1776): domestic, commercial and public. The area has a strict building code governing restoration of historic buildings and guidelines around infill architecture to keep it sensitive to the surrounding area. Owners of designated buildings

compete for the coveted Carolopolis heritage preservation award plaques which they proudly display on their buildings.

In stark contrast, in Ontario, Bill 60, the new and improved Ontario Heritage Act, is sadly in limbo once again. In fact, it looked pretty good that the new Act would pass third reading just in time for Heritage Week while I was away (this is after it was supposed to have passed last Christmas). I was disappointed to think that I would miss all the hoopla and the satisfaction of seeing it finally happen after more than 20 years of struggle and hope and hard work.

I needn't have worried. The Act didn't happen. It is stuck in second reading and is slipping down the order paper as new bills are introduced. Déjà vu all over again. The House has now risen for the Easter holiday break. When they come back they may pick it up again and get it done by June when this session will be over. If not, our chances of seeing it on the order paper for the next session of provincial parliament are next to nil.

I can't tell you how frustrated I am, as are all those in the Ministry (with some of whom I have worked for all of those 20+ years) who have worked hard on this iteration of the Heritage Act, as well as the heritage community in general. We have been left at the altar once again.

Minister Meilleur is behind the bill. Most of the MPPs on both sides of the House are in favour of the bill. The problem seems to lie

with the Government House Leader, Dwight Duncan, and with the Premier, who either lack the political will or are submitting to pressure from two lobby groups: school boards and churches.

Gentlemen. Please, just get on with it. Pass the bill and work out the details later in regulation. We have had more than 20 years of discussion and consultation. Where were those lobby groups during all that time? Each political party has had a crack at drafting a new bill over the last two decades. For God's sake, just do it. Ontario's heritage is slipping through our fingers every day that passes.

Why can't we be like our neighbours in Charleston? Why can't we take pride in our heritage? Some of us do, of course, but when there

is no political will, when the politicians get cold feet, when heritage matters rank somewhere below bringing your own wine to restaurants, I fear the worst. I fear that Ontario is going to get stuck, once again, with the most archaic heritage legislation in Canada. The rest of the country has passed us by. The economic climate and the development pressure on our heritage resources are vastly different than they were in 1974 when the current act came into being. It's worse. We have patched it and it hobbles along but it is woefully inadequate to the task.

As I see it, we have one last chance to bring pressure to bear on Mr. Duncan and Mr. McGuinty to pass Bill 60 before the end of June. After that, it's anybody's guess. If you want a

new Heritage Act now, send your demand ASAP to:

The Hon. Dwight Duncan
Office of the Government House
Leader
Queen's Park
Rm 223, Main Legislative
Building
Toronto ON M7A 1A4
Tel: 416-325-7754
dduncan.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Queen's Park
Rm 281, Main Legislative
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Toronto ON M7A 1A4
Tel: 416-325-1941
Fax: 416-325-7578
Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca
[Remember: you don't need a stamp on mail to an MPP!—Ed.]

From the OAS Office...

Lise Ferguson **Executive Director**

Greetings from the office! You will notice some additions to current and upcoming issues of Arch Notes, which I hope you will find useful. As the only person in the office, and very part-time at that, I have been amazed at the number of inquiries received by phone, e-mail, snail mail and fax with certain recurring themes—Where can I dig this summer? Where can I get a job in archaeology? Where can I find speakers for my group? I hear I need to have something called an “archaeological assessment” and I need an archaeologist—how do I go about finding one? I heard there were native vil-

lages dug near my house—how can I get information on what was found? I want to apply to the university with the best archaeology program—which one should I go to if I want to work in archaeology when I graduate? Where can I take a basic, non-credit “intro to archaeology”-type course?

Well, I believe the OAS should be able to answer a lot of those questions, or at least point people in the right direction. To facilitate this, I suggested to the Editor and Board that we collect archaeological opportunities we hear about and print them in Arch Notes, as well as any other related activities that may be of interest to our members. This is by no means a definitive list, but I hope it gives

members some idea of things to do. Call the office if you have any suggestions. These are programs and events that are not necessarily promoted or even known by the OAS, so it is up to you to check them out—this is just an information service.

That brings me to another issue when thinking about “giving the people what they want”—the Ontario Heritage Act. Way back in the early 1990s, I was part of the Minister's Advisory Committee on New Heritage Legislation when I was an OAS board member, a process that had started in the 1980s. I had been hoping over the nine years I was on the Board that all our hard work would have paid off and we would have a new

Act—well, it is almost two decades later and we are still waiting. That's why I want to encourage all of you to become familiar with the new legislation and make your voice heard by contacting your local MPP, the Premier, the House Leader (Hon. Dwight Duncan) and anyone else! I know Christine has been talking about this in her President's column for a while, so I am just jumping on the bandwagon, because it is so very important for the heritage of this province. Have a look at the most current info on the Act at www.ontla.on.ca—click "Bills", then "Public Bills Index", then "60". You can also access info through the Ministry of Culture site at www.culture.gov.on.ca.

Some of the most exciting parts of the amendments to the Act include:

Part VI—Regulation-making powers are added here to address marine archaeological sites. Carrying out certain activities within 500 metres of such a site is prohibited unless the person carrying out the activity has a licence

to do so.

The Bill adds provision for the inspections of archaeological to ensure that persons who are licensed to carry out archaeological fieldwork are complying with the Act, the regulations and their licence.

Section 65.1 would require the Minister to establish and maintain a register in which she would include certain information contained in reports submitted by licencees. The register would be available to the public, which would go a long way to getting the public aware of the archaeology going on—sometimes literally—in their own backyard.

Part IV—The Minister can issue a stop order to prevent the alteration, demolition or removal of any property if the Province or the Minister believes it to have cultural value or interest. This applies even if the property is designated and the municipality has consented to the alteration, demolition or removal.

Part V—We all know that the current Act does not prevent the

owners of a designated property from demolishing it. We see this in the news all the time! If the municipality refuses the application, the effect of the refusal is only to delay the demolition by 180 days if the owner meets certain specified conditions. The amendment ensures that if such an application is refused, the refusal will prevent the demolition from occurring, subject to any further application for consent in the future.

These changes will finally give the Act some "teeth" and help to protect Ontario's heritage. I encourage everyone to get involved; you may not think your opinion matters or counts, but it really does.

Finally, a sincere thank you for your support and kind words after the death of my father in January. I am playing a bit of catch-up in the office at this busy time of year (when the majority of membership renewals come in) so your continuing patience is appreciated! As usual, please contact the office if I can be of assistance to you.

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Call Andy at (416)653-6161 for format info.

Submission deadlines are on the back page.

Grant goes to Algonquins

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn were named one of five “cultural capitals of Canada” by the federal government on February 4. The designation is worth up to \$250,000 to them, but only matches what the community itself can raise for its project.

The grant is for development of “activities that seek to celebrate and build a lasting legacy for the[ir] arts and culture,” and the Algonquins’ proposal involves a number of new media activities under the title “Cultural and Community Pride.”

The Algonquins’ proposal says the projects will blend

...tradition with innovation through a series of creative initiatives which features a Clip-Art Development program that will use computer technology to hone a marketable skill; the Storytellers initiative that will record oral history for future generations; a Photography Skills Workshop that encourages participants to express themselves using a camera lens; and a Heritage Festival focusing on a powwow. These events are truly community-based and inclusive, and recognize that culture is essential for the community’s future!

The Algonquins’ bid won over another native group, the Chippewas of Nawash, Ontario, and about a dozen other small communities across the country.

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn presented a suggested *Umbrella protocol for the management of archaeological resources in unceded Algonquin territory* at the OAS symposium in Midland last November.

Rocks on the Web

The Web has some excellent resources for those of you who want to take a break from staring at yet another tiny flake trying to figure out if the retouch on one edge is there or not.

Jack Holland, whose lithic lab at the Buffalo Museum of Science is a known resource for Ontario

researchers, now has a Web site up at <http://www.hollandlithiclaboratory.com>

Holland’s lab features an extensive comparative collection of chert from around the continent.

As well, anyone researching lithics on the Web should visit the University of Buffalo anthropology department’s extensive listing of Web resources maintained by Hugh Jarvis at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/anthropology/Lithics>

Both these sites came up because Niagara Falls flint knapper Dan Long answered my query about heat treating Onodaga chert. A relevant paper by Frank Cowan, who wrote it for an ethnoarchaeology course at Buffalo in 1987, was at the latter Web site.

(It turns out that heating Onodaga doesn’t improve its workability, as Long writes in a recent *KEWA*, the London OAS chapter’s newsletter—*Ed.*)

Anyone know anything about Grand river fish?

This came from a posting to the OAS-L list from January this year about “pre-settlement ecology in the Grand River basin.”

Phil Ryan, at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, wants to find literature which may indicate the historical presence of different species of fish (e.g., sturgeon, whitefish, yellow perch, muskie etc.) and aquatic plants (e.g., wild rice) in parts of the Grand River based on presence in middens etc. He is looking for help from anyone in the OAS.

Anyone with information should contact Ryan by e-mail at phil.ryan@mnr.gov.on.ca, or by mail at the Lake Erie Management Unit, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 429, Port Dover, Ontario, N0A 1N0, or at 1-519-583-3082.

Correction

Mrs. Barbara Nease advises that her late husband, Stuart Nease, late Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Windsor, passed away in 1998, not 1988 as stated in Arch Notes 10(1), page 19.

Author Charles Garrad apologizes for this typographic error.

Letter to the editor

As I was saying. . .

Those writers of research articles among you will probably recognize this scenario. You've spent months or years researching a subject, submitted your manuscript for publication, survived the peer review process (usually to good effect!), and waited...and waited...and gazed with parental pride upon your published article—only to receive a letter or comment within months citing a delightful “nugget” of information which would have enhanced or embellished upon your thesis.

Just last year, only weeks after publishing an article on Mississippian native copper axes (Fox 2004) that included a table of metric data for every axe from the southeastern U.S. (and Ontario), I received a letter from a southern gentleman informing me of one more specimen reported in an obscure (well, sort of...) Virginia publication! I had visited or contacted every museum and university holding such specimens to obtain this information. There had been endless emails—heck, I'd even sent a pair of calipers down to an amateur archaeologist (who wasn't speaking to the Florida State Archaeologist) in Tallahassee, so that I could produce the first complete description of the Lake Jackson site copper axe assemblage! I'd pleaded (unsuccessfully) with a widow in Newnan, Georgia, for measurements of an Alabama specimen and had to rely on her husband's incomplete report and a photograph. But, finally, it was completed—all 70 of them, except for one from the Flanary site in Virginia (MacCord 1979). While the latter proved to be the most northerly specimen recovered from the U.S., mercifully, it fell well within the metric parameters of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex copper axe universe!

Well, one can accept such things. No one is infallible. What's the problem? The problem is that, while researching a paper based on a presentation at last Fall's OAS/ESAF symposium, I came across “the last straw” concerning a paper published several years ago in the *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* (Fox 2002). Shortly after this article concerning stone disc style

pipes was published and distributed to colleagues, the inevitable happened.

Wasn't it interesting that a very specific form of catlinite disc pipe (identical to an Upper Iowa River specimen) had been recovered from an early 17th century ossuary in the Blue Mountain region of Ontario? And wasn't it interesting that the Petun/Huron and Odawa had visited that very location some twenty years later in their post-dispersal wanderings to the west, I had mused. And as Dale Henning pointed out some months later, wasn't it also interesting that a classic Ontario Iroquoian pan-

ther effigy stone pipe was reported from the Upper Iowa River valley—an extremely rare occurrence according to Colonel George Laidlaw (1915: 60–61). How had I missed this critical (not to mention supportive) reference in the Ontario literature—noted by an American archaeologist resident in New Mexico! As if that was not bad

enough, a year later I discovered a reference to an Ontario disc pipe fragment that I had overlooked from the Whitefish Island site, described by Thor Conway, who acknowledged my assistance in its material identification (Conway 1984: 16).

Prior to publication of this article, I had been attempting to obtain some confirmation concerning the presence of a limestone(?) disc pipe bowl fragment in the Frank Ridley collection from the well-known Thomson-Walker site in Huronia. I remembered seeing it while reviewing collections at the Midland Museum—at least, I thought I had. But several hunting trips had failed to locate it and, being over 50, there was just enough doubt that I dropped the reference from the article. Then, just last week, what do I find while riffling through a New Series AARO? Why, a report by Marti Latta referencing the Thomson-Walker site, and describing a “gray limestone ‘disk-bowl’ pipe (Figure 2a)” (Latta 1995: 135); providing a sketch of same, no less! And, who does she thank for “helpful comments on drafts of this paper”? You guessed it! Well, that was it. I just had to vent with this note, and hopefully provide some use-

How had I missed this critical (not to mention supportive) reference in the Ontario literature?

ful supplementary references for those few interested in native copper axes and stone disc pipes. It must be the “left coast” air, right?

Yours, in scholarship, and with apologies to the overlooked authors,

**—An embarrassed author in Ucluelet
(William (Bill) Fox)**

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An Early Woodland Tablet Gorget with Engraved Mythological Beings

By Jamie McDougall

Examples of early eastern woodlands art are of interest to scholars as a means of studying the life-ways and beliefs of early north-eastern native cultures. Presented here is a previously unrecorded specimen of this form of art.

Description

A one-hole gorget made of green-banded slate. Basic form is a slightly lopsided rectangle measuring 9.5 cm by 8.6 cm. On the upper edge of the gorget (based on the direction of the engravings) is a partial hole, indicating that the gorget was larger at some point in time and had been broken. Assuming the gorget was originally made symmetrically, it would be consistent with the style of an early woodland tablet gor-

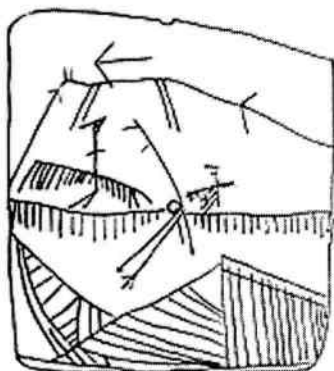
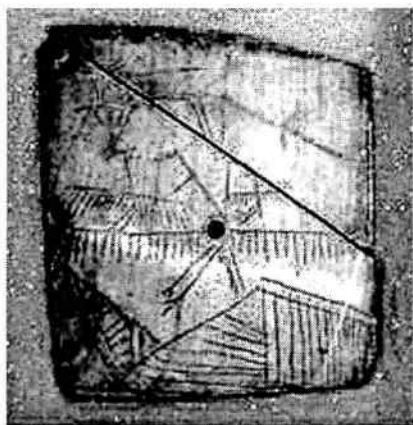
get, with dimensions of 13.6 cm by 8.6 cm.

The gorget is heavily engraved. One side features a large central thunderbird figure whose wings spread from edge to edge, with a smaller thunderbird pictured over each wing. Above this trio appears to be an underwater panther, —a horned quadruped with a long tail. Three arrows point at or make contact with the panther. One touches the nose, another is an extension of the tail and the third points to the back of the head. Below the thunderbirds is a series of groups of angled lines running in various directions. The other side of the item is engraved with a small thunderbird to the left of the hole, and above him it is a series of zigzag lines running between three parallel lines. The bottom half features two group-

ings of parallel lines running relatively perpendicular to one another.

Despite the initial breakage, the engraving appears intact. The upper edge of the gorget, where it was originally broken, has been reground smooth, and there are slight facets on either side of the gorget’s face bordering this edge. Some of the engraved lines are over the faceting, indicating that the item was manipulated after the initial break, and then engraved with the design as described.

The gorget in its present form is in two pieces. The break goes from an upper corner diagonally to the centre of the far edge. The break seems consistent with a drop, as opposed to “field” damage.



History

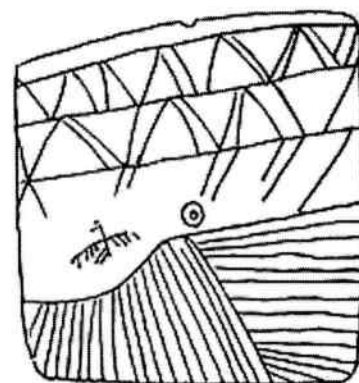
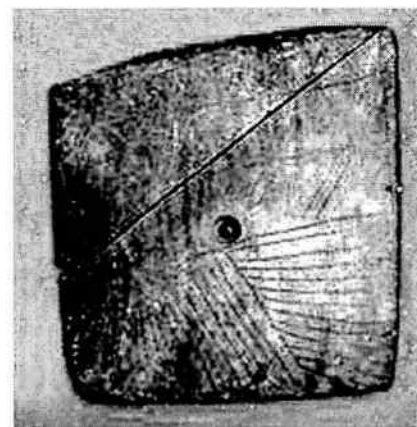
This item was located at a farm auction located outside of the small community of Appin, Ontario, which is located in Middlesex Co., about 50 km southwest of London, Ontario.

Also found at the auction were a number of tintype photos (c.1880–1900) of a Euro-Canadian man with his Native American wife and their child. Information provided by one of the family members present at the auction stated that the original family member who settled the farm had originally lived near the Muncey First Nations Reserve (25 km southwest of London, Ontario). He had married a member of the Muncey Delaware tribe living there before moving to the Appin location.

Theory

Prehistoric artifacts with engraved designs, especially animal (realistic or mythological) representations, are scarce in the archaeological record and are of much interest when found. Any insight into religious or ceremonial beliefs of extinct cultures is always welcomed by archaeologists and anthropologists. The item described here would seem to be of importance to this end, but, based on a study of similar artistic representations from the prehistoric and historic time periods around the Great Lakes region, the engravings on the gorget discussed here are more consistent with mythological representations from native items collected in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Of particular note for iconographic images are nettle fibre bags and black buckskin medicine or tobacco pouches from the southern Great Lakes. See Ruth Phillips (1984); Patterns of Power and Ted and Brassler (1976); Boujou, Neejee for illustrated examples.

Based on the family background of the previous owner, and the similarity of the engravings to other early historic woodlands material, it would seem that this item originated during the post-contact era (in its present form). At some point in the early historic period, a member of the Muncey tribe acquired a damaged woodlands gorget and the artifact described here was created based on the beliefs and mythological representations commonly attributed to the early contact period. The item was then passed down through the family for several generations.



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First Call For Papers:
The Ontario Archaeological Society 2005 Symposium
Partners to the Past:
Making Connections in the Ottawa River Valley

November 3, 4, 5, 2005
Petawawa, Ontario

The 2005 OAS Symposium will be hosted by the Ottawa Chapter, Friends of Bonnechere Park, and the Town of Petawawa at the Petawawa Civic Centre. We will also have access to the facilities and modern accommodations at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2005. The Base museum and archives are being refurbished for the centenary, and this spectacular location in the Ottawa River valley will be a unique venue for the OAS.

The programme will feature themed and general sessions including an overview of the Ottawa River valley's archaeological heritage, the role of the Ottawa River in the economic development of Canada, and contributed papers from our membership. A book room, tours, the banquet, and OAS annual meetings will all be part of the mix.

The Programme Chair requests proposals for sessions, workshops, and abstracts for presentations and posters about the Ottawa River valley or the general theme of partnerships. Presentations will be limited to a maximum of 20 minutes. Please indicate your A/V requirements with your abstract.

Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words.

Address:

OAS 2005 Symposium Programme
 Jim Molnar, Programme Chair
 Parks Canada
 25 Eddy Street (25-5-Y)
 Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5
 E-mail: jim.molnar@pc.gc.ca

Deadline for session proposals:
May 31, 2005

Deadline for abstracts:
June 30, 2005

A Possible Water Management System on the Periphery of a Middle Iroquoian Village

Glenn Kearsley, Archaeological Assessments Ltd.

Jason Nesbitt, Department of Anthropology, Yale University

In his classic discussion of Huron settlement, Heidenreich (1971:109–114) argues that one of the most important factors in the selection of village location was water availability. Indeed this appears to be the case for much of Huronia and beyond, where the vast majority of village sites are located near springs, creeks or other sources of water. Given the importance of water to Iroquoian settlement it is interesting that we as archaeologists have not paid more attention to issues surrounding water management, such as how it was obtained, managed and stored.

In this paper we present a description of two interesting features located on the periphery of the Middle Iroquoian Gervais site (BcGw-5) near Barrie, Ontario. It is argued here that these features, which resemble dug out depressions in the ground, were constructed by the site inhabitants as a means to collect spring water into easily accessible pools for daily use. Property owner Mr. Adrian Gervais

originally identified these features, and it was he who first hypothesized that these “collecting pools” were intentionally built to hold water for the villagers. With Mr. Gervais’s permission, a small test excavation was conducted in one of the features (Feature 1), and a second one was measured and recorded (Feature 2) in order to determine whether they were

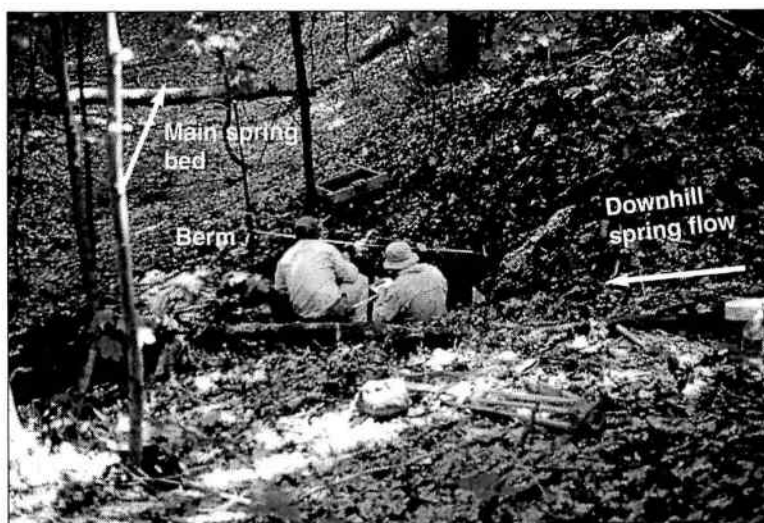
cultural or natural in origin. Preliminary archaeological investigations have confirmed Mr. Gervais’s hypothesis that these features are cultural and that they did function as a means to collect and hold water.

Site Description

The Gervais Site is a late Middle Iroquoian period village (ca. a.d. 1400) (Sutton 1999:74) west of the City of Barrie. It is situated on flat ground around the head of a deep, forested ravine. Visual inspection and testing by a number of archaeologists over the years have placed the size of the village at no less than 4 acres (Ridley 1966).

The site is located in the Simcoe Uplands physiographic region, an area characterized by high bluffs and sand and gravel soils. While streams are rare in these uplands, springs are known to issue from the slopes and feed the permanent streams in the low-

lands (Chapman and Putnam 1984:183). Andrew F. Hunter recorded the Gervais site in 1906 as his Vespra Site No. 43, and although he mentions that “springs of fresh water issue near the place” (1907:54), no water is present today. Evidence of these springs, however, is visible in a number of small relic spring beds that run from



Ian Dutcher, left, and Jason Nesbitt drawing the profile of Feature 1.

Photo by Glenn Kearsley

the edge of the village at the top of the ravine down to a main relic spring bed below.

It was in the path of several of these relic spring beds that Mr. Gervais first saw these curious depressions. While old tree throws are discernable throughout the ravine as slight bumps or mounds on the surface of the ground, the features differ in that they

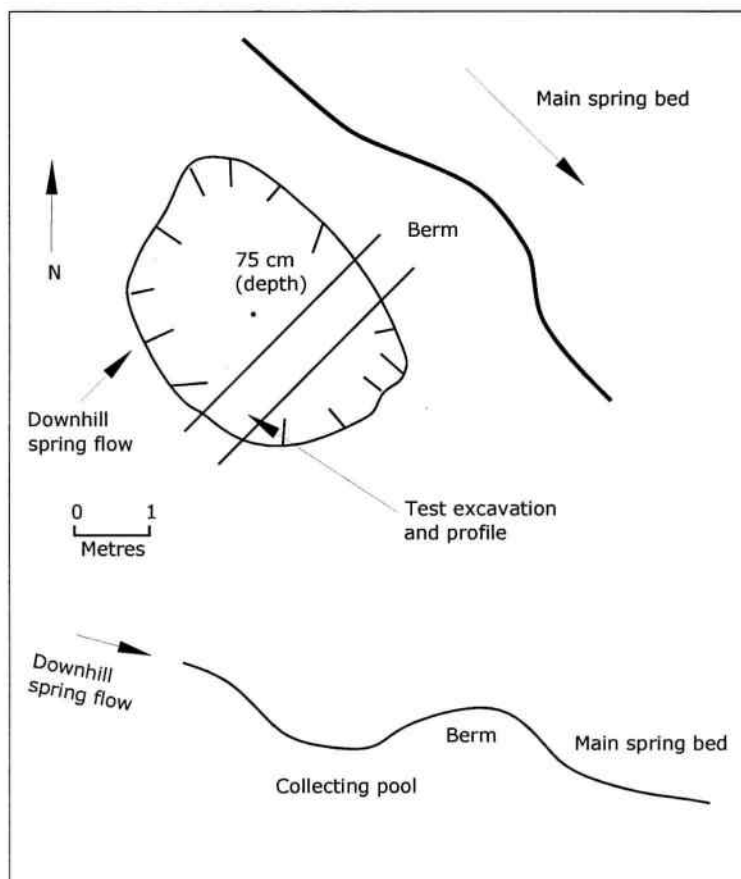


Figure 1: Plan [top] and cross-section sketch of Feature 1.

are relatively large, oval depressions located in the path of the relict spring beds, and have held their physical appearance for over thirty years (Adrian Gervais, personal communication 2004).

Description of the Features

Although several other potential features were noted elsewhere in the ravine, we concentrated our preliminary investigations on the two most obvious ones. Feature 1 was mapped and subjected to a small-scale test excavation in order to obtain its profile. Feature 2 was also mapped and is described below for comparative purposes.

Feature 1 is located at the foot of the ravine below the village in the path of a small relict spring. At ground surface it is a circular depression that measures 3.8 m north-south by 3.4 m east-west and reaches a maximum depth of approximately 75 cm at its centre. The east edge of the depression is bounded by a linear mound or berm that runs perpendicular to the direction of the downhill spring flow. The berm is 1.7 m wide and 1 m high (Figure

1). Its position suggests that it would have blocked the flow from this smaller spring from reaching the main spring bed on the other side of the berm.

Feature 2 is a smaller, oval-shaped depression located mid-way down the slope of the main relict spring bed. On the surface it measures 2.6 m north-south by 1.8 m east-west, and reaches a depth of 30 cm (Figure 2). Feature 2 is bounded along its eastern edge by a berm that is 2.7 m wide and 92 cm high. As with Feature 1, the berm of Feature 2 is perpendicular to the direction of the spring flow and would have blocked the water coming down the slope.

Archaeological Excavations in Feature 1

Archaeological excavations were undertaken in Feature 1 to obtain a subsurface profile of the depression in order to determine whether it was a cultural feature or a natural feature such as a tree throw.

To maintain the overall shape and structural integrity of the feature and surrounding slope, we decided to excavate a small, 50 cm wide trench along the southeastern edge of the depression (Figure 1). We aligned the test trench with the direction of water flow because any evidence of cultural modification would have to run perpendicular to the flow and therefore would likely be visible in profile. We also wanted to get an idea how the depression, the berm and the natural slope above the feature all compared in profile.

The results of the test excavation confirm that Feature 1 is cultural. The profile shows that the bottom of the feature consists of a human-made trench that runs parallel to the berm and perpendicular to the direction of water flow (Figure 3). The trench bottom is 36 cm below the surface of the depression and is characterized in profile by a homogenous dark black sandy soil containing abundant ceramics ($n=97$) and some fire-cracked rock. Of the 97 ceramics found, 2 were analyzable rimsherds (1 Pound Necked type and 1 Middleport Oblique type) and one was a conical pipe bowl fragment decorated with encircling horizontals. The consistent and well-defined shape of the trench in profile, the subsequent mounding of homogeneous subsoil sand in

the berm and the absence of any root disturbance indicate that this feature is not a tree throw.

Based on the feature's design and position, we hypothesize that the villagers dug out this portion of the spring bed and used the resulting mound of sandy subsoil to form the berm. Water from the spring flowed down the slope and into the depression where it was held for a time. It is probable that the water overflowed the berm and was likely a clean source of water that was constantly replenished by the spring.

While the base of the excavated feature was not culturally modified to retain water (i.e., lined with clay), its location at the foot of the slope in the path of the spring would have ensured that the soil in the collecting pool would have been saturated enough to hold the water (Briggs, Smithson and Ball 1989:220). During the test excavation of the feature it was noted that the subsoil in the berm and underlying the pit was very fine-grained and compact, lending further to its water-retaining abilities (Briggs et al. 1989:218).

We can only provide a rough estimate of the water volume of the features here. This is because the exact dimensions of the original features have been obscured by years of both soil erosion and slumping, and neither feature was completely excavated for fear of destroying its original integrity. As such we conservatively used the surface dimensions of each feature to provide a minimum water volume for each feature. We estimate that Feature 1 had a minimum volume of between 900–1,200 litres, (roughly the size of an average hot tub), and Feature 2 a minimum volume of around 250 litres (roughly the size of a bath tub), assuming that the springs were plentiful enough to keep the collecting pools full.

Thoughts and Conclusions

It is apparent that the features that are the subject of this paper functioned as a water management system contemporaneous with the occupation of the Gervais Site. Given their location, size and the morphology of Feature 1, these depressions would have acted as collecting pools providing a reliable source of potable water for villagers' consumption. While a collecting pool the size of Feature 2 would have served as a suf-

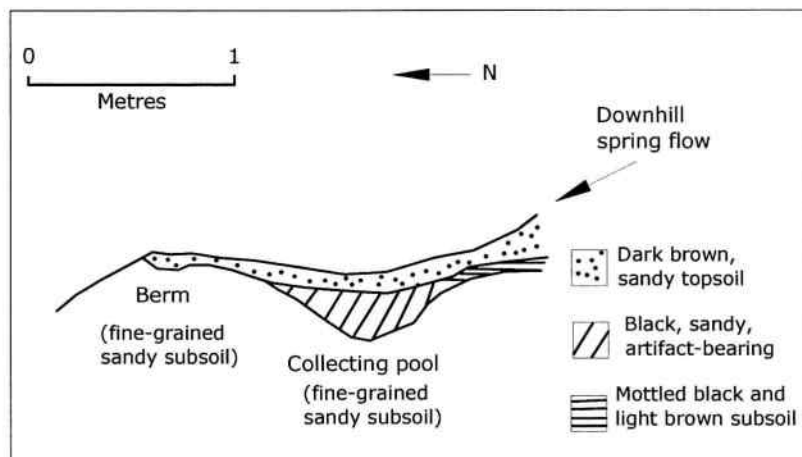


Figure 3: Profile of Feature 1.

ficient location for dipping containers to obtain water, the large size of Feature 1 (and the appearance of fire cracked rock and a pipe bowl fragment in the bottom) suggests that other activities such as bathing may have been associated with these features. Several 1m test units on the slope above Feature 1 are needed, however, in order to determine whether the artifacts found in the feature are isolated from the hillside middens at the top of the ravine or whether they have been carried down the slope by the spring water itself.

In conclusion, we feel that Mr. Gervais has identified an important and—to our knowledge—previously unrecognized archaeological type of feature: the water-collecting pool. We plan to continue documenting and mapping these intriguing features in the ravine and hope to visit the site during the spring thaw to photograph the features actually holding water.

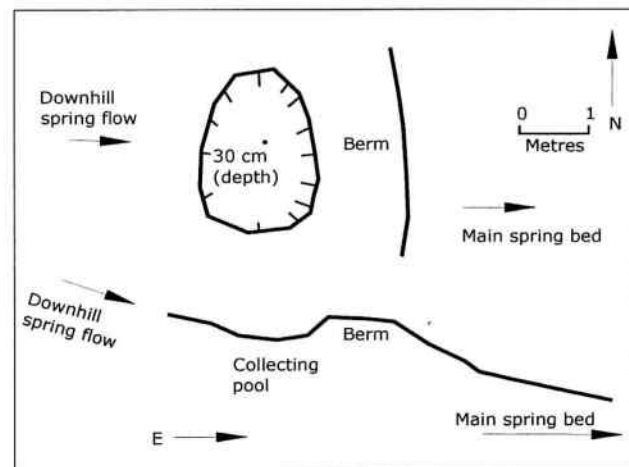


Figure 2: Plan [top] and cross-section sketch of Feature 2.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Mr. Adrian Gervais for identifying and bringing these important features to our attention and granting us permission to investigate them further. We would also like to thank Ian Dutcher, Chris Brown and James Charton for their assistance.

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Rendezvous at the Straits:

Fur Trade and Military Activities at Fort de Buade and Fort Michilimackinac, 1669–1781
By Timothy J. Kent, reviewed by Charles Garrad

Foreword by David A. Armour, Mackinac State Historic Parks
2 volumes, 679 pages, 71 figures, 16 chapters in 6 parts, plus appendix. 2004
Silver Fox Enterprises, Ossineke, Michigan. CA\$120 plus CA\$15 shipping.
ISBN 0-9657230-4-6

The incredible scholarship and productivity of Timothy Kent has already been brought to the attention of OAS members by Eva M. MacDonald in her review of his "Ft. Ponchartrain at Detroit: A Guide to the Daily Lives of Fur Trade and Military Personnel, Settlers, and Missionaries at French Posts" (*Ontario Archaeology* 2002 73:106–107).

His latest monumental work presents documents concerning the fur trade as it concerned the Straits of Michilimackinac, from the revival of the western fur trade after the Dispersal until it was overtaken by settlement during the American regime. The source documents include the Montreal Merchants Records at the National Museum of Canada and at the Archives Nationales du Québec, some 52 of which are here available for the first time in English. Often collated for a single year's trading are the original licences, stating the names of the traders and their canoe crews, the hiring contracts, the contents of the canoes, and their value. The work is far from being a dry series of sequential documents, as these are strung together by a narrative which includes the details and impact of

the politics, battles, treacheries, trade, and concurrent events of the times with much material on the native peoples and the personalities involved. The many maps and illustrations, which include copies of original documents, endnotes and in-text explanations, all work together well.

There is something for every sort of historian. Those interested in European trade goods will find new perceptions and incredible detail, new terms (biscayin axes, flatin knives), as well as an understanding of the varying purchasing power of a beaver pelt at different times and places. Military historians will find details of all the pertinent French and British forts and the events which caused them to be built. For inland mariners is documented the evolution of the trade canoe and its replacement by the sailing ship—even the diet of the crews.

Astonishingly, this monumental work is but the latest of a number of Kent's achievements. Rather than try to review more of them here, contact this reviewer (416)223-2752 charles.garrad@sympatico.ca for a free flyer.

Ontario still a small part of ROM gallery redesign

by Andy Schoenhofer

On a recent sunny day, I went to see Mima Kapches, senior curator in the Department of World Cultures at the ROM. She took me through a back room past floor-to-ceiling shelves filled with priceless woven reed basketry—and a boat!—to look at the construction outside the building.

We saw the rusty brown I-beam skeleton of the “Crystal”—architect Daniel Libeskind’s major contribution to the ROM’s \$200 million “Renaissance.”

“Oh, they’ve put up that new girder,” she said. “It doesn’t seem like it will get done on time, does it?”

That’s a question for the builders; Kapches has been planning her small piece of the redesign of the new \$5 million “Gallery of Canada: First Peoples” exhibit for two years.

Current designs of the gallery’s entrance will first lead visitors to a huge Norval Morrisseau painting of his family. The Morrisseau painting illustrates a quote: “My people came here in boats,” reflecting recent theories of the populating of the continent. Continuing around the 900 sq. m. leads one past a deer totem and canoes before coming to the “Excavating the Record” display case—an introduction to prehistory that focuses on Ontario arti-



The state of construction of the “Crystal” addition to the ROM, being built facing Bloor Street [foreground] in Toronto, March 23, 2005.

Photo by Andy Schoenhofer

facts and time sequences. Visitors read about pre-contact times and can turn around to see huge cases with magnificent collections of textile and fur artifacts in the Northeast display, Kapches said.

The old display case’s five panels, ranging from paleohistory to just before contact, will return in a new layout.

“We started planning for the new display two years ago,” Kapches said. “We had to choose artifacts that we have documentation for and that can stand exposure.” Many of the artifacts (including the longhouse model and the Ivan Kocsis drawings) will return since they are the best of the collection, she added.

The old Ontario display opened in 1984; Kapches was a graduate student at the time and worked on its Iroquoian section. That display, demolished in 2003,

had dioramas now seen to be condescending toward First Nations. The figures in the dioramas were also not included in the redesign and were given to First Peoples museums around Ontario.

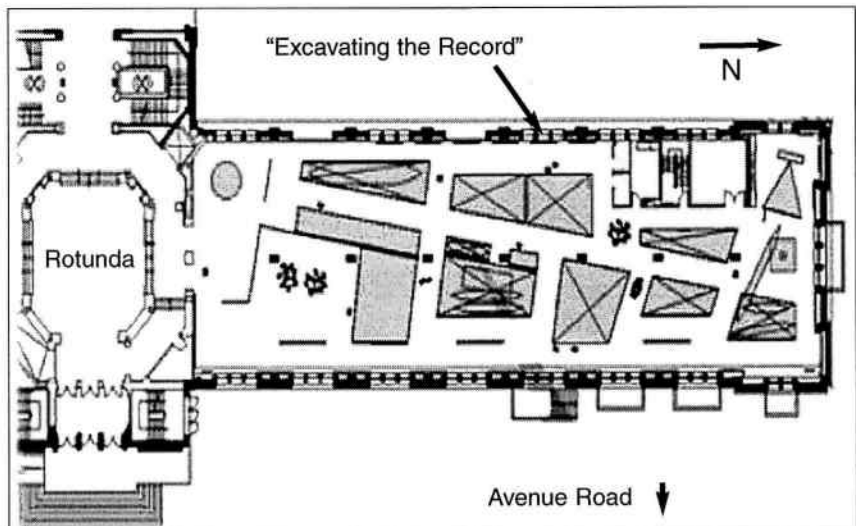
“That’s perfect because most Native museums couldn’t afford to have figures designed and built,” she said. The mammoth, for example, is at a museum in Rainy River—after a stop at the conservation lab at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough for “a shampoo and fluff.”

Native groups and other visitors also wanted to see more about the rest of Canada in the ROM. Kapches said this reinforces the history of the museum: “It’s always been international. The China collection far exceeds the Ontario collections, for example.”

The organizing theme of the First Peoples gallery is the collec-

tions and shows how the museum acquired them. As you circle the room you pass the Northeast case featuring Evelyn Johnson, the Subarctic case featuring Edward Rogers and the Plains case featuring Edmund Morris. Other displays in the gallery include "Capturing the Record" (art by Paul Kane) and "Creating the Record" (contemporary art by Native artists). Libeskind also incorporated Native ideas into the redesign, with a circular storytelling theatre in one corner and totems and contemporary art throughout the room.

Kapches said the design has many masters: text she writes is vetted first by Haley Sharpe Design, the British company hired to oversee the redesign and standardize things like the typeface and how long blurbs can be. Next is ROM CEO William Thorsell, whose input is "fine," said Kapches, "He has to get funding



A preliminary layout of the ROM's new Gallery of Canada: First Peoples.

for it and talk about it to people" and should know what he's talking about. Finally, Libeskind adds his design ideas. The text then comes back to Kapches, who likely will have some changes to the changes.

She is also part of the team curating the "Americas" hall on Level 3 of the new Crystal struc-

ture of the museum. It will feature more artifacts from the United States and Mexico. Only a few of the 20 new galleries open this year, with the China/Japan/Korea gallery also scheduled to open in December. We'll just have to wait to see if the First Peoples gallery makes it on time.



ATTENTION TEACHERS!!!!

The OAS offers a kit designed by the Ontario Archaeological Society to teach students about the archaeology of Southern and Northern Ontario.

The Discovering Ontario Archaeology Education Resource Kit can be used in today's elementary or secondary school classroom.

Through a series of fun, hands-on activities and lessons, students will be introduced to basic concepts used in archaeology, Ontario's pre- and post-contact history, as well as the material and ideological aspects of native cultures.

If you want more information about these kits, please contact the OAS office at (416) 406-5959, toll-free at 1 (888) 733-0042, or by e-mail at oasociety@bellnet.ca



Summer opportunities on a dig

The following list has been compiled by the OAS office. The OAS does not take responsibility for the content or suitability of events—this is an information service provided for members. If you know of other events and other archaeology-related happenings, please submit them to the OAS office for consideration.

Excavation opportunities for kids/ adults:

Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation—Can You Dig It? archaeology program for kids ages 8 to 17 in the Kingston area. 613-542-3483
www.carf.info/education/canyoudigit.php

Metate Site, near Acton. Adults and kids 12 and over.
www.archaeoexpeditions.com/metate.htm
1-866-682-0562.

Adventures in Archaeology Camp at Spadina Museum, Toronto. For ages 10–14, July 4–8 or July 11–15 (in co-operation with the Ontario Heritage Foundation). 416-392-6910
www.city.toronto.on.ca/culture/camps.htm

TRCA-York University Archaeological Field School (a third year undergraduate course held in May). Information for this university course can be found either through the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (contact Bob Burgar at bburgar@trca.on.ca or 416-661-6600 ext.5270) or through the York University's Department of Anthropology (contact Betty Hagopian at 416-736-5261).

Boyd Archaeological Field School is Canada's longest running high school archaeological field course; this is the 29th year.



The Boyd Archaeological Field School at the Seed-Barker site near Woodbridge on the East Humber River, in August 2004. The school is run by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority each summer. Photo copyright TRCA

The field school is a three-week long grade 12 credit course (IDC4U), running from July 4–23. A general information session is at Black Creek Pioneer Village on Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m., and a mandatory pre-course session for all course applicants is on Sunday, June 5th. Students and their families can meet course instructors and learn more about the course.

During the field school, the 40 students stay at one of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's field centres. The programme is designed to support students with special needs—both academic and physical. Additionally, special efforts continue to be made to attract First Nations students to the course.

Students will excavate on a pre-contact Aboriginal archaeological site such as the Seed-Barker site, a 16th century Iroquoian village. Off-site instruction incorporates hands-on experience in Aboriginal technologies with lectures and assignments dealing with the history of the Aboriginal Peoples of Ontario and the rest of the Americas.

The students will receive a Grade 12 Interdisciplinary Studies University Prep credit (IDC4U). The course is open to students who have completed Grade 10 by June 30th, 2005. Cost is \$850 for Ontario students and \$1500 for out-of-province and international students (due to a subsidy provided by the York Region Board of Education for local students). More information and the application form are available at

www.trca.on.ca/learning_education/summer_courses/ or by contacting Cathy Crinnion (ccrinnion@trca.on.ca or 416-661-6600 ext.5323) or Bob (bburgar@trca.on.ca or 416-661-6600 ext.5270).

Other archaeology-related options

(Submitted by the Ottawa Chapter, OAS)

The Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives presents its second Ottawa History Lecture Series: Sundays, March 6, April 10, October 16, November 13, 2005; 2–4 p.m. Where: Library and Archives Canada—Boardroom 156–395 Wellington St., Ottawa (free parking available). Cost: \$10 per lecture.

Sunday, April 10, 2005—Katharine Fletcher

Exploring the National Capital Region (English only). Join author and freelance writer Katharine Fletcher on virtual, heritage-inspired rambles throughout Ottawa, Gatineau Park and other destinations within our National Capital Region. Katharine's first book was *Historical Walks: The Gatineau Park Story*.

Sunday, October 16, 2005—Victor Suthren

Safe From War: The Military Origins of An Unmilitary Nation's Capital (English only). The military reasoning and the memory of a nearly-lost war that lay behind Ottawa's selection as Canada's capital in 1857 will be explored. Victor Suthren, former Director General of the Canadian War Museum, is an Ottawa writer of 12 books of fiction and non-fiction.

Sunday, November 13, 2005: Speaker and lecture to be announced. For more information, e-mail: jjheney@netrover.com

The **Royal Ontario Museum** has lots of children's summer programs for ages 5 to 16, with themes of explorers, mummies, civilizations, etc. The archaeology-related one is called "**Dig This**". Call 416-586-5797. <http://www.rom.on.ca> (look for the link to "Summer Club 2005").

Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah in Little Current, Iroquois Beadwork exhibit. April 7–June 6. This travelling exhibition from the ROM consists of about 20 pieces from the museum's collection. 705-368-2367 or -3500.

"**Archaeology: an introduction**" and "**The archaeology of death**" Continuing Education courses at George Brown College, Toronto. Not offered this spring but may be offered in later terms. 416-415-5000 Ext. 2092.

<http://coned.georgebrown.ca> (search on "archaeology").

If you know of any more, please get in touch with the Editor at archnotes@sympatico.ca, and if you go on one of these digs, take a picture and send it in with a write-up!

Summer opportunities on a dig

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The Boyd Archaeological Field School at the Seed-Barker site near Woodbridge on the East Humber River, in August 2004. The school is run by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority each summer. Photo copyright TRCA

Attention All Consultants Licensed For The Province Of Ontario

As you all know, the Ministry of Culture has discontinued issuing an annual list of licensed consultants in the province due to privacy concerns. This list was extremely valuable to developers and others interested in hiring an archaeological consultant.

As a public service to the development community and the consulting industry, the APA has offered to maintain the list of archaeological consultants working in the Province of Ontario on its web site. This will be an inclusive list and is not restricted to members of the APA. The format of the list will be similar to the Ministry's list.

Within the next few weeks, the APA will be contacting all consultants by mail to request information on licensed individuals who operate or are employed by a consulting firm. This mailing will include a sheet that must be signed and returned to the APA giving the APA permission to place the information on its web site. This is to address privacy issues. Consultants who do not want their information on the web site may simply check a box on the sheet and the APA shall not continue to contact them for information.

The APA is using old lists and the knowledge of its members to prepare a mail-out list. If you are a consultant licensed for the province of Ontario and do not receive correspondence from the APA in the next few weeks, please contact the APA at apa@archaeological.ca to be placed on the list. We are hoping to have the list posted in time for the 2005 archaeological field season.

We hope that this public service will make it easier for the development community to undertake archaeological investigations in Ontario.

The Executive
Association of Professional Archaeologists of Ontario
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