

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN
ARCHAEOLOGY DAY AT BONNECHERE PARKS JULY 10, 2010

Ottawa Chapter
Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.
PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5J1
www.ottawaoas.ca

On June 30th 1971 the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS was founded by: Mrs. J. D. Bradford, Mr. David J.A. Croft, Clyde C. Kennedy, Barry M. Mitchell, Mrs. Glenna Reid, Dr. Donald S. Robertson, Mr. Michael J. Shchepanek, Mr. and Mrs. Iain Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Watson, Dr. James V. Wright, Col. and Mrs. Lou H. Wylie.

Since September 1976 The Ottawa Archaeologist has been the newsletter of the Ottawa Chapter. It is published 3-5 times annually. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee, the Executive, or the OAS. Other newsletters may reprint notes and papers with an appropriate credit line. Submissions are always welcome and very much appreciated. Please send to any address below!

Your 2010 Executive Committee

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Membership Information

Any member of the Ontario Archaeological Society may join one of its local Chapters.

OAS FEES:

Individual: \$34 w/ OA \$46

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Students: \$23 w/OA \$32

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Cover Photo : Courtesy Marian Clark,
Peggi Amrstong demonstrating the art of
making pots the traditional way
at Bonnechere Provincial Park

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Glenna Roberts



The season is over – or perhaps it has just begun, depending on how you look at things. Our last lecture took place April 8, and provided a rich experience beyond the actual presentation. In thanking our speaker, Bill Allen, Jean-Luc Pilon noted that Bill is not alone in relating the concept of landscape to sites. The concept is part of new attempts to broaden the understanding of all archaeological sites, as well as of pictographs. Elder Peter Decontie from Kichigan Zibi at Maniwaki ensured that Bill was smudged (outside in the rain) before presenting the sacred images, and Fred MacGregor and his sister from the same First Nation contributed substantially to the discussion period. The session began and ended with prayers in the language of the Anishinabeg. Thank you to all involved for helping us increase our understanding and respect of these remarkable cultural features and their continuing place in the aboriginal world.

May 13 is the date for our traditional end of season social. This year we thought to change it from an after supper party to a pot luck supper. After food and drink, we had an informal meeting on the 2011 symposium. What issues in today's archaeology should be discussed? How broadly or locally should we invite papers. It may seem a long time 'til next winter when we send out a call for papers, but decisions are being made (location, location, location) as Ottawa is a popular place for conferences. Do we go for concurrent sessions and/or a longer event, perhaps beginning Friday rather than Saturday? Stacey Girling-Christie chaired the discussion in her role of symposium chair. She is well on the way to having a core committee set up. She is an ideal person to take on this responsibility having good connections throughout the archaeology community and as a member of the executive she has been analyzing the OAS Symposium Guidelines for the last few months. Thank you, Stacey. We all offer our support in creating a great event to celebrate the chapter's 40th anniversary, not to mention the OAS 60th. Meanwhile, don't forget the 2010 symposium at Killarney.

The weekend of July 10 should go on your calendar for Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Provincial Park. Rory Mackay gives details elsewhere in this issue. I hope to see you there. And since the Basin Depot dig of last October, people have asked where will we dig this year. Planning for that took one full year, and we have nothing definite on the books at the moment. Two traditional public archaeology dates in the summer have as yet to be confirmed by the City of Ottawa, Colonel By Day on the first Monday in August and Riverfest at Pinhey's Point, usually the last weekend in August. We would appreciate your enthusiastic presence at either of these if you are in town. So stay tuned.

Thursday September 16 will mark our return to the Routhier Centre (the third Thursday of the month). A faunal workshop with Matt Betts of CMC! See you there if not before.

Remembering Professor Colin Wells, Classical Archaeologist

By Jean-François Beaulieu

On Sunday April 25th 2010 a memorial service was held at the Notre Dame Basilica in Ottawa. This was to honor Colin Wells, a former professor of Classical Studies from the University of Ottawa who later held the position of T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor of Classical Studies, at Trinity University in San Antonio Texas. Professor Wells taught me Roman History and also field methods of archaeology. He was a dedicated and knowledgeable person. He served also as the Director of the Department of Classical studies and was also a co-founder of the Museum of Classical Studies. Professor Wells was also the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Professor Wells was also involved with many activities of the AIA. For many years Professor Wells headed up a 2nd Canadian Team Excavations and Research Project at ancient Carthage in Tunisia. Many students from the Ottawa area participated and learned about life in this famous Roman city. I always wanted to go to Carthage and dig with Wells, but was unable to go for various circumstances. So, I went to Paros. Profess Wells had just started retirement years in Northern France at Don Jean. He passed away March 11, 2010 after a brief illness at his family home in Wales.

There were numerous colleagues and former students that came to pay their respects. The service lasted roughly almost 2 hours. His widow Kate was present. Also Professor Bloedow and his wife. Professor Rousell and his wife. There former students and old acquaintances such as Ariane Burke of the University of Montréal, Mylene Francescon who did her M.A. thesis with Professor Wells and Hélène Leclerc of Concordia University. There were other university of Ottawa colleagues and officials attending the service. The service had beautiful organ music which echoed throughout the Basilica with the church choir singing. A packed reception followed at the home of Professor Michel Roussel. There were lots of photos at the Roussel apartment where people could look at Professor Wells during his career and in his retirement years.

OAS Awards

The July 1 deadline for nominations for OAS awards is fast approaching. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to Ontario Archaeology? Please take some time to consider individuals who would be suitable candidates for an award. Due to a lack of nominations, it has been some time since several of these awards have been granted. We are confident that with a robust list of candidates, our awards programme will be reinvigorated.

Please review the short descriptions of the awards below and refer to the OAS website (www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/awards.php) for a complete list and full description of each nomination criteria.

The *J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal* is awarded on occasion to an outstanding Ontario non-professional archaeologist whose life's work has been consistently of the highest standard, who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology and who has earned acclaim for excellence and achievement. It is the highest honour the Society can bestow. The award has not been handed out in a decade and we are eager to reinstitute this highest honour.

The *Ian and Tim Kenyon Memorial Award* is awarded to non-professional archaeologists who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology and who has earned acclaim for excellence and achievement. Next to the *J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal*, it is the highest recognition that the Society can bestow.

The *Heritage Preservation Award* is given in recognition of a significant voluntary contribution to heritage preservation within the Province of Ontario, above the requirements of Canadian law, with a year prior to the announcement of the award. It may be awarded to an individual or to an organization.

Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award. Individuals, groups and organizations are all eligible for this award which recognizes excellence in the promotion of public interest in the study of archaeology through the use of displays, workshops, training, site tours and/or the development of educational programmes and materials. Past winners have also been recognized for fostering awareness of cultural resources and heritage preservation and efforts to advance the ethical practice of archaeology.

Nominations for all awards should be submitted to the Director of Membership Services (alistairjolly@hotmail.com) by July 1, 2010. We are eagerly awaiting your submissions.



O.A.S. Symposium 2010



Call for Papers

(Deadline for abstracts - June 15)

SHIBAONANING *THE PLACE OF THE CLEAR PASSAGE*

The 37th annual symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held Sept. 24-26, 2010 in Killarney Ontario. The organizing committee invites abstracts for the following sessions:

Pits, piles, quarries and petroglyphs:
Archaeology of the Canadian Shield

Friend or Foe?
A Dialogue on Aboriginal-Archaeological Relationship

Geoarchaeology and Archaeometry

There will also be an open conference session and an open poster session.
For more information or to submit a 150 word abstract, please contact

symposium@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

The conference will be held at

The Killarney Bay Inn
(705) 287-2011 or 1-800-265-9689
Noble Street, Killarney, ONP0M 2A0
(www.killarneybayinn.ca).

Archaeo Apprentice Program at Murphy's Point Park



Murphy's Point Park located on Big Rideau Lake just south of Perth is the ideal spot for some summer digging. Rich in history and built heritage sites, the Park is perfect for archaeological investigations. The Friends of the Park conducted their 6th professional field school program for local Grade 4, 5 and 6 students. The students get a head start to their time in the field. The Friends have developed a workbook with background information, forms and class room activities to give them an orientation before they get to the site. This greatly enhances their experience and knowledge making the field activities even more meaningful. In addition to providing interpretation of the past, hands-on archaeology brings in elements of science, mathematics, language. They explore 19th- and 20th-century history at the historic McParlan House site (circa 1820) and the ruins of the Burgess Mill, which is one of the earliest saw mills on the Big Rideau. The weather cooperated, the bugs were not too bad, and the students did an excellent job of uncovering more of the sites' secrets. Two distinct areas were the subject of investigation this year – 1. the area believed to have housed some mill workers and barns and 2. a blacksmith workshop area. Each site revealed lots of artifacts and each class got an opportunity to see how the objects are cleaned and identified. The Park staff led the students on guided hikes, which included not only information on the local flora and fauna of the park, but also on the cultural history that forms part of the park's interpretive program. The week long excavation is carried out by professional archaeologists Brenda Kennett and Jeff Earl along with field technicians and volunteers – several from the Ottawa Chapter. The project is independent from the Park projects and the Friends must raise significant funds each year to support the professional fees and costs to carry out all the activities. Kudos to everyone involved this year and looking forward to 2011 for more discoveries.

Marian Clark, volunteer

Photos from the Friends website www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca

Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Park

One of the cornerstones of our chapter activity is our outreach to the public. “Archaeology Day in the Park” was an outreach program begun many years ago by the Ottawa Chapter. For many years it took place annually at Charleston Lake Provincial Park, then about 1995 it was moved to Bonnechere Provincial Park.

This year we are once again being given the opportunity to return to Bonnechere Park to present archaeological displays and activities to an appreciative public. To assist the park staff, this year we have moved Archaeology Day to July 10th. This will give us a chance to explain archaeology to an entirely different group of campers.

Superintendent Paul Smith will set aside the group camping area for us, site of many past opportunities for chapter members to gather for a campfire on both Friday and Saturday nights. If we camp there, it will be at no cost to our members. In the past, chapter members have set up displays on historical and pre-contact archaeology and culture, and park visitors have hands-on experiences both in mending historical ceramics and constructing clay pots. A program outlining the work we did at Basin Depot last October will be presented in the evening. We hope that enough members will participate this year to allow us to continue our excellent level of public education about our collective passion. While it is possible to dash to the park and back the same day, to perform a duty, it is much more relaxing to make a weekend of it and enjoy a beautiful park and beach, and of course the fellowship of the campfire.

An early indication of intention to attend would be appreciated; please e-mail me at rmackay3@cogeco.ca.

Rory MacKay, Director of Public Archaeology, Ottawa Chapter OAS

Photo courtesy of Rory



COMING EVENTS

Mark these dates on your 2010 calendar!!

May 31 – June 7 Hot off the press! Bonnechere Park is making the Davenport Centre and Staff House available for cataloguing of last year’s Basin Depot dig. Please let Rory or Ken know if you are interested in participating – weekday or weekend? (rmackay3@cogeco.ca, kenswayze@hotmail.com).

June 16-20 - Conference, Exploring New World Transitions: from Seasonal Presence to Permanent Settlement, the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, Memorial University & Bournemouth University St. John’s Newfoundland <http://www.mun.ca/archaeology/spma>

**July 10 Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Parks
See story on page 8 and contact Rory for details**

August 7 - Junior Archaeologist Club – every Saturday in August - archaeological information & programming for the younger crowd at Pinhey’s Point Park, advance registration needed 613-832-4347

August 2 - Colonel By Day at the Bytown Museum, Rideau Canal. 11 am to 3 pm

September 16 Ottawa Chapter reconvenes, 7:30 at the Routhier Centre, Matthew Betts, Canadian Museum of Civilization, faunal identification workshop.

September 24-26 OAS Symposium - Killarney Provincial Park

October 28-31 - Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Lancaster, Pennsylvania <http://www.cneha.org>

Last word (source unknown)

After having dug to a depth of 10 metres last year, scientists in New York state found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 year ago.

Not to be outdone by New Yorkers, California scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after, the LA Times wrote: “California archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers.”

One week later, the “Moose Jaw Times Herald” in Saskatchewan reported the following: “After digging as deep as 30 metres in sagebrush fields new Moose Jaw, Ole Karbaluski, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Saskatchewan had already gone wireless.”

The end.

Please renew your membership if you have not already done so.

THE OTTAWA CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O.BOX 4939, STATION E, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, K1S 5J1

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Membership in OAS Inc. Toronto?

Yes _____ No _____

To be a member of the Ottawa Chapter, OAS, it is necessary also to be a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. The Ottawa Chapter does not collect dues for the OAS Inc. For membership information please consult www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca. Notification for renewal is made directly from the Toronto Office.

Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award: _____

Please provide a separate cheque for any donation to the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award. These funds are administered separately by the Ottawa Chapter on behalf of the OAS.

**Please make cheques payable to Ottawa Chapter, OAS and mail to our postal box above
Donations over \$10 will receive a charitable receipt through OAS, Inc**