

# THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST



SEASONAL CELEBRATION COMING UP  
WITH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
December 15, 2016 Details Page 9

Ottawa Chapter  
Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.  
PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5J1  
[www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca)

## BACKGROUND

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 the address below!

2014 Executive Committee: Please contact us through [ottawaoas@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaoas@gmail.com)

**President:** André Miller  
**Vice President:** Stacey Girling-Christie  
**Treasurer:** Bill MacLennan  
**Secretary:** Karen Lochhead  
**Directors at Large:** Bradley Drouin  
Elizabeth Imrie  
Ben Mortimer  
Glenna Roberts  
Sarah Taylor  
**Newsletter Editor:** Marian Clark  
**Webmaster:** Yvon Riendeau  
**Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award:** Lois King

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

**FEES:**

Individual: OAS \$36 w/ OA\* \$48 Ottawa \$20  
Family: OAS \$40 w /OA \$52 Ottawa \$25  
Students: OAS \$25 w/OA \$34 Ottawa \$12

Institutional/Corporate w/OA \$62

Life Membership w/OA \$800

\*Ontario Archaeology publication

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**Cover Photo :**

Courtesy of the Florida Public Archaeology Network,  
Northeastern Region, St. Augustine, Florida



## **Ontario Archaeological Society – Ottawa Chapter**

**André Miller - President**

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

*Archaeology is fascinating to people when it is communicated to them in plain language.*

*William H. Marquardt*

### **2016 – The Year in Review !!**

Having been involved in the Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society for over a decade, I have seen not only how the Ottawa Chapter and the OAS have changed and developed over that time, but also seeing where we might be heading in the future. I suppose that is what we do as archaeologists and advocates - study the past to get insights that will help us navigate into the future. I would like to underline that more collaboration took place between chapters this year and more are planned in a near future. I hope the last twelve months have been as rewarding for you as they have been for me, as we witness ideas and actions coming together and new ideas taking shape.

Before reviewing some of our accomplishments this year, I would like to thank the Executive that I work with most closely in order to achieve the Chapter objectives. Stacey Girling-Christie (Vice-President), Bill MacLennan (Treasurer), Glenna Roberts (Director at Large), have all continued to guide and support me through my second year as President. I also wish to thank Directors-at-Large Bradley Drouin, Ben Mortimer and Elizabeth Imrie, Sarah Taylor, Karen Lochhead (Secretary), Marian Clark Editor (The Ottawa Archaeologist), Yvon Riendeau (Webmaster), as well as our Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award contributors Lois King and Duncan, Sherry and Ian Dyck with Jim Montgomery for the Nominating Committee. Thank you for your ongoing dedicated and dependable service.

Our new Director at Large this year, Sarah Taylor, has done an outstanding job in her new role and we look forward to her continuing contribution. Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to my colleague, Stacey Girling. I have very much enjoyed working with Stacey on several initiatives over the year, most notably engaging the OAS members to participate at many events and to support the upcoming 2017 Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA) Symposium in Ottawa/Gatineau. I am encouraged by renewing the OAS relationship with the CAA and strengthening our engagement with the Ontario Archaeological Society. Stacey's thoughtfulness, insight, and good humour are much appreciated and will serve the Ottawa Chapter and OAS well over the coming years.

One of our most significant achievements this year has been maintaining our successful and long-standing Public Archaeology Events. Here's some highlights:

January 13<sup>th</sup>, the President Andre Miller delivered a presentation titled 'Where the past Meets the Present' to the North Grenville Historical Society (NGHS), in North Grenville, Ontario. The room was fully attended from members of the NGHS and members of the Ottawa Chapter. Many questions came from the audience who were very interested on the wide topics on the archaeology of the Great Region of Ottawa Valley. Thanks for the steering committee of NGHS for the invitation and for the preparation of this event.

Heritage Day this year was held on February 16, 2016, with information displays from the Ottawa Chapter and mingling with over 40 exhibitors at the 2016 Heritage Showcase. Visitors found out again how heritage is being celebrated in our community and learned about services offered by local heritage organizations, public programs and special initiatives, as well as professional development and volunteer opportunities.

In May 2016, we organized an evening to present a movie related on archaeology (*The Curse of the Axe*) and potluck at party room chez Glenna. Many members came with nibbles and food to share, but we could not show the movie because of technical problems. Anyway it was an opportunity to meet the members for a second time this year.

We were at Tay Valley 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary which took place on the Sunday, June 12, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Marian Clark and Brenda Kennett, were involved in archaeological activities for the public. On a wet rainy summer day, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with a hands-on display, ceramic workshop and pot making, we participated in Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Provincial Park. André Miller, Ottawa Chapter President, Stacey Girling-Christie Vice-president, Marian Clark Newsletter Editor, Glenna Roberts, Bill McLennan Treasurer, Rory McKay member, all took part in Bonnechere Provincial Park at Archaeology Day. It was held inside the Davenport Building with the collaboration of Park staff. It was a great success for all, with at least 84 participants from the public (kids and adults).

Again this year in August, Archéo-Québec featured *Le mois d'archéologie/Archaeology month*, which crossed the Ottawa River for the third time. The cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, the Museum of History, the Bytown Museum, the National Capital Commission, Heritage Ottawa, Algonquians of Pikwakanagan, Kitigan Zibi and members of the Ottawa Chapter participated with displays, presentations, dig opportunities, talks and guided walks. The archaeology month has become an Ottawa region rendez-vous. Also in August the Ottawa Chapter participated in Ottawa's Colonel By Day. This year Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August was the opportunity for the Chapter enjoy this event. Bytown Days is an outdoor, heritage-themed celebration, which commemorates the creation of the Rideau Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site and Bytown, now Ottawa, Canada's Capital! This year's event was celebrating the workers who laboured to build the Canal, their families, and their lives - lived and lost.

**Speakers at Routhier Community Centre or tours at our regular monthly meetings in 2016 included:**

- Andre Miller. Archaeologist, Presenting: *Settlements through Time: Archaeological Investigations at Opémican Park, 2014-2015* at Routhier Community Centre in Ottawa on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.
- Ian Badgley, Presentation and hands-on Workshop: *Archaeological Finds at Leamy Lake Park*. February 2016.
- Karen Ryan Ph. D., Curator, Northern Canada at the Museum of History was our guide for a *History Tour of the Vikings Exhibition* at Museum of History on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- Ian Dyck Ph. D. Archaeologist, Former Curator at the Museum of History gave us an important presentation on *W. B. Nickerson and Canadian Prairies Archaeology 1912 to 1915* in Ottawa on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.
- Bradley Drouin, brought us again his ultra-popular *display and lessons in lithic knapping*. Bradley, an archaeologist with Golder Associates based in Ottawa, has honed his skills over the years and we were delighted that he agreed once again to share them with us.
- International Archaeology Day, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at University of Ottawa, Bradley Drouin demonstrated his knapping talents and Glenna took the Chapter's broken pottery display and reconstruction of vessels workshop. Several University archaeology students gave mini-lectures in the afternoon
- Sarah Taylor Ph.D. did the presentation *An Archaeological Tour of China in 13 Sites and Artefacts*. Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>.
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- Carley Crann, gave a *Tour of the André E. Lalonde AMS Laboratory* located at the brand new Advanced Research Complex (ARC) at the University of Ottawa. The A.E. Lalonde AMS Laboratory hosts Canada's only accelerator mass spectrometer (AMS).

The Ottawa Chapter social media reach has expanded beyond our original web site to include services such as Facebook and Twitter. In addition, the on-going need to keep these services current, with respect to both content and appearance, and to moderate posts by members and the public was exceeding the capacity of any one individual. The sites and postings include information about archaeology in the Ottawa/Gatineau area as well as Chapter and OAS activities. We still continue to distribute business cards and pamphlets at public events with our web-site address. It is an economical way to encourage people to look up further details about the Chapter and OAS. We still receive several enquiries from the public each month on our contact@ottawaoas.ca email address. At the beginning of 2016 our webmaster Yvon Riendeau gave his precious advice and helped to transfer our website to the new platform of the OAS Inc.

In February the Memorandum of Understanding with OAS Inc. was signed and submitted. André Miller, continues to represent the OAS Ottawa Chapter on the Board of Directors of Association des Archéologues professionnels du Québec (AAQ) as Webmaster and as chair of the Nomination and Award Committee. André attended the AGM of the AAQ in Montmagny, Québec in May 2016.

Our membership continues to hold steady with between 50 and 60 members, about half of whom live in the immediate Ottawa area. About 200 people altogether attended our monthly meetings and represent both a core of long-term supporters and many new very interested observers from the public. Communication with members relies on direct e-mails from the President and the *Ottawa Archaeologist* newsletter, published a few times per year, distributed mainly by e-mail, also available on our web site.

### ***SPIRITS OF THE LITTLE BONNECHERE, Second Edition now in Print – by Rory MacKay***

Way back in 1994 some members of the Ottawa Chapter were invited to attend a mini-conference on archaeology at Foy Provincial Park, organized by Park Superintendent Jim Fraser and Regional Archaeologist Chris J.-Andersen. Attending as well was a fellow who had spent many years studying the history of the Bonnechere River. Rory MacKay had first become interested in that history in the winter of 1975-76, when he met and interviewed four octogenarians who had grown up on farms in the Algonquin Park section of the Bonnechere River. With the encouragement of Jim Fraser, Rory was putting to computer and paper what he had learned.

OAS members met again at Bonnechere Provincial Park in 1995 to determine what level of interest there was in investigating the archaeological resources of the section of the Bonnechere River upstream from Round Lake. Plans were made to investigate the logging depot known as Basin Depot, in Algonquin Provincial Park, primarily because it was accessible by road.

Shovel testing at Basin Depot began one weekend the next spring, and continued over a weekend in the fall. Rory's book *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, published by the Friends of Bonnechere parks in 1996, provided much background material. The tragic death of Peggi Armstrong Ottawa Chapter member, influenced the work on the River, but did not deter it. Over roughly two decades, in one location or another along the "Little Bonnechere" River, the Ottawa Chapter was actively doing archaeology.

By 2015 there were no active digs, but some investigations regarding an old farm were still being carried out. The last copy of *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere* was sold. The Friends of Bonnechere Parks were invited to reprint the book, but declined. Not wanting the history of the river to be "lost" except in libraries and used bookstores, Rory approached The Friends of Algonquin Park to consider a reprinting, but that was not to happen. Instead, Rory and The Friends of Algonquin Park have produced a Second Edition of the

book, with corrections and updates incorporated into the original text and a short, illustrated, new chapter about our investigations as an OAS Chapter, including the public archaeology activities. An index was added as well. A copy of the *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere: A history of Exploration, Logging and Settlement, 1800 to 1920, Second Edition* can be purchased from The Friends of Algonquin Park, at the Algonquin Visitor Centre, or online at [http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark/00130.html?id=7cQ6Lnbn&mv\\_pc=33](http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark/00130.html?id=7cQ6Lnbn&mv_pc=33). All profits from the sale of this book help to fund the fine work of The Friends of Algonquin Park.



It may seem as if she was all alone, but there were others beside Marian Clark working at the McIntyre clearing as well.



The "Chronology Crew" undertook our longest and most extensive dig at Basin Depot and we even got a write up in *Archaeology Magazine*

**Note:** This year, 2016, marks 20 years of collaboration between the Ottawa Chapter with Bonnechere Parks. The commitment of the Parks staff and the Friends organizations to furthering knowledge of the past and hosting the ever enthusiastic volunteers from the OAS and local community will keep the "Spirits" alive in all of us. Congratulations Rory, your dedication over the years has contributed enormously to the historic and archaeological record for Algonquin and Bonnechere Parks. Marian Clark

**TOUR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH COMPLEX (ARC) at the University of Ottawa**  
**Article by Joe Wittwer, Photographs courtesy of Christopher Studholme, and Carly Crann**  
**ARC, Andre Lalonde AMS Laboratory**



Carly Crann leads the tour around the Advanced Research Complex

On Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 five members of the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeology Society took part in a tour of the new Advanced Research Complex (ARC) complex at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa). The ARC guide, Carley Crann was extremely knowledgeable which made for a most interesting and informative time. The tour proceeded through the G. G. Hatch Stable Isotope Laboratory, the geological and the radiocarbon laboratories, ending with the André E. Lalonde Accelerator Mass Spectrometer (AMS) laboratory. Members were informed that due to the radioactive carbon 14 (<sup>14</sup>C) half-life, the period of time after which half of a given sample will have decayed, is about 5,730 years. Consequently, the oldest dates that can be reliably measured by <sup>14</sup>C dating are around 50,000 years, which represents about 10 half-lives.



Members Glenna Roberts, Lois King, Bill MacLennan and Joe Wittwer on a learning curve!



In the radiocarbon preparatory laboratory, members were shown standard samples used in the analysis process as controls. One of the control samples was comprised of mammoth bone from the Yukon that is much older than the radiocarbon age limit. In addition, Ms Crann showed an actual sample of a penguin toe from Antarctica. She explained the sampling process and preparation required to perform the <sup>14</sup>C analysis on the toe. Once run through the AMS, it proved to be about 1,000 years old. (Time for some fresh nail polish perhaps?)

As part of the sampling process explanation, it became apparent that long gone are the days when whole bones and mega-sized samples were required to perform a reasonable <sup>14</sup>C analysis. Due to advances in methodology and technology, incredibly small sample sizes are now possible for analysis and dating. Members were cautioned, however, about extraneous carbon contamination in situ as well as proper sample handling. For example, bone samples should be completely cleaned and kept dry in order to prevent mould from forming. In addition, it was pointed out that from an analytical perspective the use of tin foil to wrap up samples was not recommended. The preferred sample containers would be zip lock baggies or glass vials/jars, in order to prevent the loss (and mess) of sample particles when the container is opened.

Once the sample is cleaned up physically and chemically, and the appropriate fraction of material selected (e.g. collagen extraction from bone), a few milligrams of clean material is combusted to CO<sub>2</sub> and then converted into elemental carbon. The graphitization process (conversion from CO<sub>2</sub> to C) is completed using state of the art equipment developed and constructed in-house by uOttawa physicists and engineering experts. The entire system was designed with an automated fail-safe system to ensure the proper sequence of valve openings and closing are performed to prevent any equipment and sample damage.

The graphitized samples are then funneled into aluminum targets, pressed, screwed onto bases, and brought downstairs to be placed in a 200 position carousel. The carousel is a circular metal disc with slots into which the sample holders are placed. Due to the roundness of the carousel it is referred to as "*the wheel*".

It is the sample “*wheel*” which is secured into the “source” so that the samples can be sputtered with caesium and then carbon can enter into the AMS as a negatively charged ion beam.

The highlight of the tour was the AMS hall which houses the 3 million volt accelerator. The accelerator is an impressive apparatus in the shape of a backwards “J” the length of almost half a football field. The AMS allows the separation of the three carbon isotopes,  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  which are not radioactive, from  $^{14}\text{C}$  and count each  $^{14}\text{C}$  atom captured in the detector.



The 3 million volt accelerator at the A.E. Lalonde AMS Laboratory (University of Ottawa).

In the realm of radiocarbon dating, nitrogen-14 ( $^{14}\text{N}$ ) has the same atomic mass as  $^{14}\text{C}$ . Taking into account that the earth’s atmosphere is comprised predominately of nitrogen gas, i.e. over 78%, in the past  $^{14}\text{N}$  had been a major interference of radiocarbon analysis. Over a number of years, however, research conducted by Dr. Ted Litherland at IsoTrace (now decommissioned) clearly demonstrated that  $^{14}\text{N}$  did not create any interference in AMS (does not form negative ions) which allowed for enhanced detection and accuracy in  $^{14}\text{C}$  determination. The AMS is not solely used for  $^{14}\text{C}$  determination, but is shared with other isotopes such as radioiodine ( $^{129}\text{I}$ ) and tritium. Therefore, a “*wheel*” of 200 samples for  $^{14}\text{C}$  analysis is typically scheduled to be run about once per month, known in-house as “*beam time*”. The AMS laboratory does accept samples for radiocarbon dating from individuals under commercial rates with an expected 6-8 week turn-around time (but often quicker).

The tour of the ARC laboratories and the AMS was most enjoyable and enlightening. It is also gratifying to see that Canada’s only AMS laboratory is in the capable hands of top notch, learned and passionate group of people currently at the ARC.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2017 – Sherry Dyck Chair

In accordance with the Constitution of the Ottawa Chapter, OAS, the Nominating Committee consisting of Sherry Dyck Chair, Ian Dyck and Jim Montgomery Members, has canvassed potential candidates and secured a list of people who are willing to allow their names to stand for nomination to the 2017 Ottawa Chapter executive committee. They are as follows:

President: Andre Miller

Vice-President: Stacey Girling-Christie

Treasurer: Bill MacLennan

Secretary: Karen Lochhead

Directors-at-Large: Bradley Drouin, Elizabeth Imrie, Ben Mortimer, Glenna Roberts, and Sarah Taylor.

In addition, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting with the consent of the nominee and provided that the nominators and nominees are members in good standing of the Ontario Archaeological Society and the Ottawa Chapter. We are very thankful for the dedication of the 2016 Executive Committee and their agreeing to continue in 2017.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 15, 2016  
Party Room, 20 Driveway, (chez Glenna Roberts)

Approval of Agenda  
Approval of Minutes of AGM of 2015  
Executive Reports 2016: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Directors at Large  
Report of Nominating Committee: Sherry Dyck, Chair  
Election of Officers for 2017  
Adjournment of meeting

Pot Luck Supper, Door Prize Draw: Members are encouraged to bring a contribution for the gift exchange, value under \$20. 20 Driveway is a high rise at the east end of MacLaren St. at the Canal, west side across the pedestrian bridge from the Campus transit station, immediately south of Somerset Street East. Some parking in lot, mostly on street. Ring 107.

## **NEWS AND NOTES AND COMING EVENTS**

Get all your updates on [www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca) with links to our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Unless otherwise noted all Chapter meetings take place September to May the third Thursday of the month at the City of Ottawa Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues St. corner Cumberland St. Main Floor, parking available.

December 15, Annual General Meeting and Seasonal Celebration, Ottawa Chapter OAS  
Party Room, 20 Driveway, Ottawa

January 5-8 Archaeological Institute of American Annual Meeting and Conference, Toronto  
Sheraton Centre – Academic Sessions, Public Lectures, Tours and more  
[www.archaeological.org/meeting](http://www.archaeological.org/meeting)

January 19 Monthly Meeting - *From Puddle to Cement: The Development and Evolution of the Federal Canal System*, Barbara Leskovec, Archaeologist, Parks Canada, 7:30 p.m. Routhier Centre

February 26 *Native and Greek in Ancient Apulia: Contextualizing a recent acquisition by the Museum of Classical Antiquities of the University of Ottawa*. By Antonia Holden, 2 p.m. Desmarais Bldg. University of Ottawa

Correction: The second issue of the *Ottawa Archaeologist* in 2016 showed it as Vol. 44 #1 – it should have read Vol. 44 #2. The Editor