

THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST

A TRADITION SINCE 1976



Members of the Ottawa chapter of the OAS were among those who took advantage of the invitation to join former Park Superintendent Jim Fraser on one of the Hikes of the Little Bonnechere during the last weekend of September 2007.

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The Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society
PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5J1
www.canadianarchaeology/associations/ontario/ottawaoas/otchh.htm

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 do not hesitate to send your ideas to the editor or to anyone on the Executive.

Your 2006 Executive Committee

President: Heather Stronach, (819) 685-0321 or hsassociates@sympatico.ca

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Bill MacLennan, (613) 759-7067 or maclennanB@em.agr.ca

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Webmaster: Yvon Riendeau, yvon.riendeau@sympatico.ca

Membership Information

Please note that to be eligible for membership in the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS, one needs to be a member of The Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.

OAS FEES:

Individual: \$34 w/ OA \$46

Family: \$38 w /OA \$50

Students: \$23 w/OA \$32

Institutional/Corporate w/OA \$60

Life Membership w/OA \$750

Payable to:

The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

1444 Queen Street East, Suite 102

Toronto ON M4L 1E1

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CHAPTER FEES:

Individual: \$19

Family: \$23

Full time student: \$12

Payable to:

Ottawa Chapter, OAS

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Heather Stronach



As I write, the leaves are changing and there is a canvas of colour in the Gatineau Hills; the Canada geese are forming to fly south; there have been gentle breezes, some exceedingly hot days and just enough rain. In all..... a glorious Fall! As we move through October, I wish for more of the same, at least until my yard work is done!

The Chapter has had a busy summer and early Fall at Bonnechere Provincial Parks with the annual Public Archaeology Day, a visioning session with the Friends and partners of the Park, and a hike along the Little Bonnechere conducted by Jim Fraser. For the first time this year, the Chapter participated in Pinhey's Point Riverfest. It was a lot of fun and we plan to participate again next year. In early October, the Chapter was represented again this year in the very successful Hogs Bay Project at Murphy's Point Provincial Park.

Under the able leadership of Peggy Smyth, Administrator of the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award, and the PAPA Nominations Committee – Chair - Lois Duncan; Members - Alistair Jolly and André Miller, nominations for this award have been processed and the recipient(s) will be announced shortly.

I am very pleased to announce that Carmen Bauer has agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2008 Executive. If you are thinking of becoming more involved and would like to know what a position entails, please call one of the current Executive or speak with Carmen. (See Upcoming Events and Activities.)

Don't forget to register for the Annual OAS Symposium to be held in Kingston, November 2-4. For more information, check the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation website – www.carf.info/misc/oas_symposium/ or the OAS website: www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca I look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Heather

Our next Ottawa Chapter Meeting....

Join us at the Routhier Community Centre on Thursday, November 8th at 7:30pm
for a presentation by Mr. Steve Dezort,
Program Manager, Bytown Museum

“Living Landscape: 400 years of the Ottawa Area”

GORDON DULMAGE WATSON

(From the Ottawa Citizen) Peacefully in hospital with family on July 15th, 2007 in his 91st year. He will be dearly missed by his children John (Mary) of Vancouver, James of Oshawa, Elizabeth Hill (Clyde), grandsons Adam (Christine) and Michael of North Gower, Kathleen (Bryan) of Calgary and David of Richmond as well as many nephews and nieces and their children. He was predeceased by his wife Margaret and brother Harold.

Gordon had a B.A. Degree in Honours Physics from the University of Saskatchewan and an M.A. in Anthropology (Archaeology) from Trent University. He had a tremendous love of Canada and served his country throughout his life. He joined the Army C.O.T.C. at the U. of Sask and was assigned by the DND as instructor of Radar Training for Navy and Air Force officers at the University of Western Ontario. He was posted to the Artillery Proof Establishment where he conducted scientific test for ammunition during WWII. He was Deputy Superintendant of the Internal Ballistics Laboratory and was Scientific Observer during the winter of 45-46 on the joint Canadian Army-RCAF Exercise "Musk-ox" which traveled 2800 miles by snowmobile in the Arctic to test Army ground equipment. After the war, he and Margaret moved to Dayton, Ohio when he was posted to the US Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He also had various assignments, some of which included Defence Research Attaché, Canadian Embassy, Washington D.C., Chief of Personnel and Chief of Plans, Defense Research Board, Ottawa. He was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1953 and Centennial Medal in 1967.

Following his retirement, Gordon completed his M.A. at Trent. Since 1975, he has participated in an archaeological research program involving excavating Aboriginal sites as old as 10,000 years. He has published reports in the archaeological journals of Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. He was a founding member of the Ontario Archaeological Society (Ottawa Chapter). He was awarded the J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal, the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award and the Spirit of Trent Award for his outstanding contributions toward archaeological research. Gordon was active in church and community affairs. He has served on the Board of the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton.

Gordon will be remembered as a person who gave much more to this world than he ever took.



Jean-Luc Pilon, President OAS, Gordon Watson,
Heather Stronach, President Ottawa Chapter (July 2007).

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS "WELL" **(HIKE ALONG THE LITTLE BONNECHERE)**

- Text and photos by Rory MacKay -

The last weekend of September 2007 on the Bonnechere River was glorious. It was especially so for the members of the Ottawa chapter of the OAS who took advantage of the invitation to join former Park Superintendent Jim Fraser on one of the Hikes of the Little Bonnechere. Only weeks before the trail selected was blocked by windfalls, but, thanks to Acting Superintendent of Bonnechere Parks, Paul Smith, the trail to the McGuey farm was cleared. Joining the OAS members were some local residents and some Bonnechere Park campers, as well as a crew of students from Algonquin College on a field trip with our archaeological expert Tom Ballantine.



Nestled on the banks of the Little Bonnechere River, inside Algonquin Park, the McGuey family struggled to survive "back in the lumber", growing crops, working in the lumber camps, running a stopping place, and much more, from about 1875 to 1906. The modern access road to the farm dates from the 1960s. Rory MacKay, who had visited the farm in the 1970s as part of his early work on the Bonnechere, remarked that the vegetation surrounding the farm had grown up quite a bit since his last visit. Tom Ballantine noted that there were probably more people on the farm that day than had been there in over 100 years. A quick look around the fields revealed a number of apparent foundations, and over near the location of the original house a number of small artifacts were noted on the ground. Bonnechere Park's Paul Smith discovered an old bottle, which was photographed and returned to the soil, to await recovery and study by an archaeologist willing to write a report. This day was a day without paperwork.

Farther along the road, past some washouts, the group stopped at the Bonnechere River, where once there had been a bridge over a dam. Rory noted that he had been able to drive over that bridge when he visited in 1979. He recounted the importance of establishing just how long it had been since an elderly interview source had visited an "intact" historic site. Underlying the supports for the more recent bridge were the much older foundations of the dam. It was a beautiful autumn walk back to the cars.

Following lunch at Basin Depot and reminiscences of chapter work on the site from 1996 to 1998, Tom's crew set out for the La Fleur Homestead, site of chapter digs only a few years ago, while the rest of our group stopped to view what was left of the buildings at Paddy Garvey's

farm. Underneath three very large spruce trees lies a mound delineating the old house. Nearby were other signs of human habitation, including an apparent foundation for a large outbuilding, and a neatly made stone foundation for what Ken Swayze speculated may have been the milk house. Most impressive of all was----- you guessed it, a stone lined well.



No better end to a perfect day of exploring potential sites for archaeology could be had than the fine food prepared by The Friends of Bonnechere Parks and the camaraderie of an evening spent with friends new and old. Jim Fraser's father Al, photographic recorder of many of our digs, joined others of our group, such as Dave Croft, as a recipient of the Friends of Bonnechere Directors' Award. Later, the traditional evening discussions were carried out in the comfortable surroundings of the Park staff house.

Many thanks to all who contributed to another great weekend for the OAS at Bonnechere Provincial Park. We can hardly wait until next year.

NOTICE

Ottawa Chapter, OAS - Election of Officers for 2008

This year's Nomination Committee is chaired by Carmen Bauer, who can be reached at 819-684-4784 or via email at carmenbauer@sympatico.ca. Nominations may be made in advance to the committee or at the Annual General Meeting. All Executive positions are open for nomination. Candidates for the Executive must be fully paid up members of the OAS and the Ottawa Chapter at time of nomination.

REPORT OF PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY ACTIVITIES JUNE TO OCTOBER 2007

- André Miller -

1 - Colonel By Anniversary Celebrations – Bytown Museum – August 6

On behalf of the Ottawa Chapter, Lois King and Glenna Roberts attended the Colonel By Anniversary Celebrations by the Rideau Canal on August 6th. They spent several hours promoting the Ottawa Chapter, walking people through the activities portrayed on the Chapter Display Board and handing out the Chapter's website cards. They were surrounded by musket-carrying soldiers, Irish singers and dancers, and even 'Colonel By' himself and his 'wife'! Glenna was interviewed by a reporter from 'Metro' and quoted a few days later. It was a fun day!

2 – Archaeology Day – Bonnechere Provincial Parks – August 18

- Throughout the morning, youngsters learned about the basics of historic and prehistoric archaeology by participating in hands-on demonstrations. There was a lot of interest, particularly in pottery making. The Chapter was very fortunate to receive surplus display boards from Bonnechere Provincial Parks. We will have no trouble putting these to good use!
- The afternoon visioning session with the Friends of Bonnechere Provincial Parks and partners consisted of a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). We all agreed to the importance of clear and open communication among the partners and, in particular, to verifying availability before posting dates for events. We all supported the proposed outcome to return to Basin Depot in 2009 to complete the project that was ongoing for several years.

3 – Riverfest – Pinhey's Point Park – August 26

Sunday August 26th was a high-energy day with over 100 visitors stopping by our display. Also, there was an opportunity where youngsters were introduced to an 'archaeological' dig. This was a very successful day so the Chapter plans to participate in Riverfest again next year. Consider joining us; it was a lot of fun and extremely varied and interesting. Our goal is to work more extensively with Pinhey's Point Park in 2008. The Media was present and, as Director of Public Archaeology, I was interviewed on CBC Radio 2 as part of the publicity for this event.

4 – Hoggs Bay – Murphy's Point Provincial Park – October 1-5

There was no less enthusiasm this year than in previous years when approximately 140 Grade 5 students from schools in the Perth-Smith Falls-Lanark area participated in an archaeological dig at McParlan House in Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Chapter members participated as volunteers as they have each year. The licensed archaeologists – Brenda Kennett and Jeff Earl – will provide a full story in a future *Ottawa Archaeologist*.

UPDATES & MUSINGS

Archaeology is Everywhere! (Glenna Roberts)

In Toronto from an upper floor of the Downtown Hilton Hotel, I recently saw to my great surprise what looked like an archaeological excavation way down at the street level. It was just west of the intersection of Adelaide and University, so I took a walk in that direction. Indeed, there were stone foundations neatly uncovered, with evidences of heating systems, pipes and wires in situ, looking not unlike the remains at Lebreton Flats. It was lunchtime and no one was working, so no one to ask. Later when I went by there were five young workers shovelling back-dirt and picking at the rubble with trowels. With tall fencing between us and with no one visibly in charge to give me a guided tour, I just watched. [A passing Toronto street-resident offered to supply the crew with a beer through the barrier that protected the site (or them!).]

One of the young workers on the site was wearing an ASI T-shirt. I had heard a news item earlier in the summer about a construction project being held up in Toronto due to the discovery of the remains of old buildings. I think Rob MacDonald has an amazing story to tell us, not just about the site but the process by which a major condominium project has been delayed for some months for heritage protection. Let's hear it, Rob.



The King Edward Site: Abstract of a Preliminary Report (André Miller)

During the week of May 14, 2007, the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS received information regarding the removal of potential artifacts from a construction site along King Edward Street, in particular, the area directly behind the Lester B Pearson building on Sussex Drive.

This site is in the north-central part of the City of Ottawa. Concerned that there might be evidence of an archaeological site, the Ottawa Chapter contacted Jim Mountain, Planner Cultural Resources with the City of Ottawa. An opportunity to visit the site was also requested in order to follow up on the information received and to determine if there was an archaeological site amid the construction.

On behalf of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS, Heather and I visited the construction site on the morning of May 30, 2007 for the purpose of conducting summary archaeological fieldwork. This preliminary research was done in accordance with provisions of the Ministry of Culture, under the Ontario Heritage Act. This preliminary work was to locate the newly discovered site, to assess the impact of road construction and the public removal of artifacts, and to identify all possible artifacts in the area.

We met with Phil Kerridge, a geotech expert with the City of Ottawa, and Randy, an engineer with Tomlinson Construction.

Based on the evidence at hand, the site appears to be a historic site dating between 1850-1950. The relatively large extent and depth of the cultural deposits and occupation of the site indicates this site was an important one. The possibility of a settlement site cannot be ruled out on the basis of the present evidence. Future research and analysis will, hopefully, resolve some of these questions.

We recommended that regardless of the interpretation and evaluation done of this site, further analysis by a licensed archaeologist and a material culture specialist is needed. We also recommend that additional test pits of the area be excavated by a licensed archaeologist.



UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium 2007

"Either Side of Contact"

November 2 to 4 - The Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation invites you to the historic city of Kingston, an area witnessing thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation, the site of 17th and 18th century French fur trade post Fort Frontenac, and the strategic military and commercial centre of British Upper Canada during the 19th century. Much of this legacy still remains in the town's architecture and street names. Conference sessions will be held at Confederation Place Hotel, on the waterfront and in the heart of downtown Kingston. The reception will be in the restored Memorial Hall of Kingston City Hall, a National Historic Site, while the Officers' Mess of Fort Frontenac will be the site of the banquet. Tours and workshops are currently being planned to take advantage of Kingston's over 20 museums and historic sites. Watch for more info at http://www.carf.info/misc/oas_symposium/ and at www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca.

AIA National Sponsored Lecture

Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 7:00 PM

The Battle that Stopped Rome: Archaeology of the Roman Military Disaster in the Teutoburg Forest, AD 9, by Peter Wells, University of Minnesota

Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa

AIA Lecture Series

Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 7:30 PM

Alahan: a new classical city in southern Turkey

Hugh Elton (Trent University) is Director of the Göksu Archaeological Project, an intensive and extensive survey in the Taurus Mountains of southern Turkey. In the modern village below the famous churches at Alahan, a previously unknown classical city with finds spanning the Hellenistic to late Roman era has come to light. Bring a friend and find out more! The embassy of Turkey will host a post-lecture reception.

Salon A, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington, Ottawa

Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG) Lecture Series

Wednesday, October 31, 2007 at 7:30 PM

Ancient Greek Cities in Libya: Cyrene and the Pentapolis

An illustrated lecture by Dr. Gerald Schaus, Chair,

Department of Archaeology, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Refreshments courtesy of the Embassy of Libya

National Library and Archives Auditorium, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Call for Papers - CAA conference 2008

May 7-11, Trent University Archaeological Research Centre /
Peterborough, Ontario

We are now actively soliciting papers and sessions on any aspect of archaeology for the 2008 annual meeting. Please send your title and a brief (150 word) abstract to us at caa2008@gmail.com.

Sessions are listed on the conference website at: <http://www.tuarc.trentu.ca/caa/en-1.html>

If you are interested in contributing to one or more of these sessions, please contact the chair directly. The timetabling of all events will only begin after January 2008.