

The Ontario Archaeological Society



ARCH NOTES - edited by Nancy Powell

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EXECUTIVE

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Welcome back to the second half of the 1963 season. As you'll notice there are several new factors about the Association. Notice the masthead. We hope you like it and that under this masthead we'll be giving you the kind of information you will be looking for this season.

Among other changes will be the unfortunate absence of our president Dr. Paul Karrow who has taken up a teaching post at the University of Waterloo. I think that there is no doubt about the fact that much of the progress of the Society during the past few years is due to the work of such people as Dr. Karrow. Much as we would like to see him with us the rest of the year and much as he would like to be with us I know that he will be unable to visit us very often. However, our vice-president, Dr. Rufus Churcher will probably have a few words to say on the subject at our first fall meeting.

While we are talking about things new, let me mention that we have some extremely interesting new members. More about them a little later but at this point I would like to mention one of the disappointments of this year -- the fact that a number of people did not produce their dues. A healthy association needs a good enthusiastic membership and that means active and paid up members.

Attached is a complete listing of the membership as it stands up to date. Would you please check the list and make sure that we have your correct address. We have had problems in the past when members forgot to notify the association they had moved and then complained that they were not receiving notices of meetings and our publications. May I also remind you to send in the registration forms which were recently mailed to the membership if you have not done so already.

I know we shall all welcome our new members. In particular I should like to mention Miss Claire Cresswell who has had the fortunate opportunity to visit

sites in such places as Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Jordan. Mr. Paul Park is another one of our new members and his archaeological background includes working with summer schools in Arizona and New Mexico and taking part as an observer in work by Cambridge University on England's oldest antiquity, Stonehenge.

Mr. James Prendergast joins our group with an extensive record of archaeological work behind him. He has participated in field parties under Macneish, Emerson, Wright and Ritchie. He has also directed field parties for a number of years under contract with the National Museum of Canada. He has worked in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Middle East.

Mr. Prendergast has written a number of reports on his work and he was kind enough to forward the society a complimentary copy of his latest publication. This is a report on the Payne site in Prince Edward County, and it is to be published in Bulletin No.193 of the National Museum of Canada. Interested members can contact the Librarian to read the Society's copy of this publication.

Indicating the wide interest cast by archaeology we find among our other new members Mr. Michael Whelton who works with the C.B.C. and Mr. Bill Waudby-Granger who is a writer, actor and editor here in Toronto.

RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM ON THE CONSTITUTION - The results of the postal referendum on the two proposed amendments to the constitution were as follows: a total of 48 ballots were sent to members (representing the number of paid up members at the time.) 25 ballots were returned, representing a 52% majority.

The voting for the proposed amendment governing the "Quorum" was 25 votes "For" and none "Against", i.e. 100% of ballots cast were in favour. The voting for the proposed amendment to the regulations governing "Membership" was 23 votes "For" and 2 votes "Against", i.e. 92% of the ballots cast were in favour.

Consequently both changes in the regulations have a majority of votes in their favour and are declared "Carried" and both regulations can now be altered in the Constitution and come in force immediately. It is now possible to begin the printing of our constitution and this will be gotten underway in the near future.

REPORT ON O.A.S. SPRING DIG - The spring dig of the Society took place this year on the outskirts of Hamilton on the weekend of May 18th. On the Saturday about half a dozen members assembled at the appointed place and collected some material. Not too many artifacts were found at this time. However, on Sunday this group gathered at the home of Bill Donaldson in Oshawa to clean, treat and codify their findings. When this was done Dr. Churcher completed an analysis of the Elliott and Robb site animal remains. The rest of the party worked on material from the Reesor II and Short sites. This has now been cleaned, treated and coded and is ready for restoration and analysis.

On Sunday a second group visited the Hamilton site and they were able to locate a great many more artifacts. We shall look forward to hearing about the results of both these visits in greater detail at one of our fall meetings.

Plans to hold a society dig this September had to be cancelled at the last minute. However, we hope to be able to locate another site suitable for us to work on sometime in October.

POTTERY MAKING SESSION - To help compensate for the disappointment of not having a dig this month we are planning to hold a pottery making session at the home of Bill Donaldson, 111 Riverside Drive North, Oshawa, This is to take place on Sunday, September 29, starting at 10.00 a.m.

As most of the artifacts collected on our digs are pottery remains we thought it would be a good idea for members to learn just what the Indians were up against when it came to making a pot with their bare hands. Last year the experiment was tried with great success and merriment under the able guidance of Miss Helen Devereux. We shall be using clay dug from the Rouge River. All you need to bring with you is lunch and wear your oldest clothes.

Anyone interested contact Miss Nancy Powell at 928-3673 during the day or 481-9585 during the evenings and weekend. Let me know if transportation is required or if you can offer a ride to anybody.

NEW SOCIETY FORMED - Our heartiest congratulations to the newly formed archaeological society in London, Ont. It has been named the Archaeological Society of Western Ontario. The first president is our old friend Dean Axelson and their able technical adviser is Dr. Wilf Jury of Western University. We wish it every success in its future endeavours and hope that many opportunities will arise in which we can co-operate on our activities.

We have heard news of the possibility of another society being formed as far away as Saskatchewan. There Dr. Thomas F. Kehoe of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History is exploring the possibilities of organizing a provincial archaeological society.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS - KEN DAWSON, Port Arthur reports of the possibility of yet another society or branch chapter being formed in Northern Ontario. Plans have been delayed for the present but we hope that such an organization can be formed in the near future.

Meanwhile Mr. Dawson has been busy in a number of other archaeological activities. He has been working on the Palaeo-Indian site near the Lakehead with Jim Wright for the National Museum of Canada. We shall discuss this operation in greater detail later. After finishing his work on the Lake Superior site Mr. Dawson planned to take a canoe down the Kabinakagami River and from there go to Fort Albany to join Walter Kenyon for a week. Following that Mr. Dawson was to provide archaeological supervision of a skin diving operation on the Kaministiquia River to salvage trade goods from the fur trading period. This is a joint venture of the Royal Ontario Museum and the Minnesota Historical Society which is being sponsored by the Quetico Foundation under a small grant (\$200) provided to the Thunder Bay Historical Society.

BILL DONALDSON, Oshawa reports that he has complete an analysis of the Elliott site material. He has also managed to fully restore seven pottery vessels, the largest of which is about 19" in height and the smallest barely 3". BILL RENISON has photographed this material providing the Society with a photographic record in black and white and 35 mm. colour slides. We shall look forward to reading Mr. Donaldson's report on this important site.

An exhibition of the Elliott site material was prepared by Mr. Donaldson with the help of Dr. and Mrs. C.H.D. CLARKE. This is now on permanent display

at the Agincourt Collegiate Institute in a specially constructed case measuring 4' x 6' x 2'. Mr. Donaldson extends the lion's share of the credit for marking this exhibit possible to the Clarkes for carrying out most of the negotiations and arranging to have the explanatory cards printed.

Bill is now working on an analysis of material from the King's Forest Park site. He has completed three plates of drawings to illustrate a short report on this site.

At Mr. FOREST DILLING'S invitation Mr. Donaldson accompanied him to check a report of an Indian site near the lakeshore at Newcastle, Ont. They discovered a few chipped stone netsinkers, flint chips and burnt bone but the site was probably no more than a fishing campsite of very short duration, possibly during the Point Peninsula period.

LYN SOUCY has been working on material from the Draper site assisted by BILL and HELEN DONALDSON and Mrs. FINNIGAN.

OTHER SUMMER ACTIVITIES - ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND. Miss Helen Devereux of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto directed a field party on St. Joseph's Island this summer. This work is being carried out for the Historic Sites Board and the National Museum of Canada. St. Joseph's Island which is just west of Manitoulin Island was the fort site of Jesuit missionaries. Miss Devereux was working with a small crew including O.A.S. member PETER RAMSDEN and Dr. Emerson's son Bruce. We hope to hear more about her work later in the year.

FORT ALBANY. Way up on the west shore of James Bay WALTER KENYON continues work on the excavation of a French fort at Fort Albany. We will hope Walter can find time to inform and entertain us with his work on this site.

HOCKLEY VALLEY SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS. - Dr. Emerson gave a series of talks on Canadian archaeology at the new Hockley Valley School. One of the results of that talk provided ample evidence of what I think most of us know to be true -- given the chance most people are very interested in archaeology. After attending Dr. Emerson's lectures letters were received by me expressing interest in the subject. One writer in Niagara Falls is so enthusiastic that she wishes to join our society.

PORT ARTHUR. Excavations were carried out in the Port Arthur area this summer at the Cummins site named after the man who first became interested in the site. The dig under the direction of the National Museum of Canada with Mr. J.V. Wright representing the Museum turned out a rich and extensive archaeological find on what had been a Palaeo-Indian workshop site. The site is believed to be not earlier than 7,000 years old and not later than 6,000 years. Located along an ancient beach, now several miles inland, the area was quarried by the Indians to manufacture blades, projectile points, scrapers and other stone tools. A few fragments of cremated human bone were found at what seems to be a disturbed burial ground and work is still continuing on several charcoal pits.

I had intended to include a report on the University of Toronto Field Training School at Cahigue prepared by one of the students, Mr. Alan Deacon, in this issue. However, it proved so interesting and difficult to cut that I decided to hold it over and run it in full in the next issue of Arch Notes.

REMINDER: Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting is being held this year in Philadelphia, Pa. on November 9-10. See you there!

P.P.S. About our pottery making session on the 29th. Bring as many old rags as you can as well as your lunch! And don't forget to wear old clothes and be there as soon after 10 a.m. as you can.

Check a report of an Indian site near the lakehouse at Haverhill, Ont. They discovered a few things about the site. It is a prehistoric site and the site was probably no more than a living cache of very short duration, possibly during the late Prehistoric period.

LYN BOBBY has been working on material from the Upper site assisted by BILL and MAREN DOWNLON and Mrs. WILSON.

OTHER MUSEUM ACTIVITIES - ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND. Miss Helen Pearson of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto directed a field party on St. Joseph's Island this summer. This work is being carried out for the Historic Sites Board and the National Museum of Canada. St. Joseph's Island which is just west of Manitowish Island and the fort site of Joseph's Island. Miss Pearson was working with a small crew including O.A.C. member JOHN LAMBERT and Mrs. Downlon. We hope to hear more about her work later in the year.

FORT ALBANY. Way up on the west shore of Lake St. Lawrence conditions work on the excavation of a French fort at Fort Albany. We will hope Walter can find time to follow and entertain us with his work on this site.

HONEY VALLEY SCHOOL OF LIME RITE. Dr. Pearson gave a series of talks on Canadian archaeology at the new Honey Valley School. One of the results of that talk provided ample evidence of what I think must be known to be true -- given the chance most people are very interested in archaeology. After attending Dr. Pearson's lectures I have been very interested in an expanding interest in the subject. The writer in Niagara Falls is so enthusiastic that she wishes to join our society.

FORT ARTHUR. Excavations were carried out in the fort site area this summer at the Gowing site again after the man who first became interested in the site. The dig under the direction of the National Museum of Canada with Mr. J.V. Wright representing the Museum turned out a rich and extensive archaeological find on what had been a village-Indian workshop site. The site is believed to be not earlier than 7,000 years old and not later than 6,000 years. Located along an ancient beach, now covered with inland, the area was quarried by the Indians to manufacture blades, projectile points, spearheads and other stone tools. A few fragments of ground human bone were found at what seems to be a disturbed burial ground and work is still continuing on several classical sites.