



ARCH-NOTES

No. 66-7

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EXECUTIVE

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This month, in place of the regular third Wednesday evening meeting, The Ontario Archaeological Society will conduct a "dig" at the Beeton prehistoric village site during the weekend of September 24th.

This site, located just south of Beeton, Ontario (see sketch) has been under investigation by The O.A.S. since last June and promises to reveal much on the prehistoric Iroquoian occupation of this area.

Middens up to two feet in depth have been encountered and quite a number of artifacts recovered to date (sample illustrated on next page). Post moulds have been discovered and hopes are high that recognizable settlement patterns will emerge before the onset of winter.

Work will commence at 9.30 a.m., Saturday, September 24th. Those wishing to participate should arrive by that time, if possible, with the basic tools required - 5" pointing trowel, grapefruit knife, 1" paint brush, dust pan, whisk broom, pocket ruler, pencil, and 6' steel tape - and a lunch. Members in the Toronto area requiring transportation or having room for an extra passenger in their car should call Dr. Axelson (Tel. 445-3222) as soon as possible to arrange accomodations.

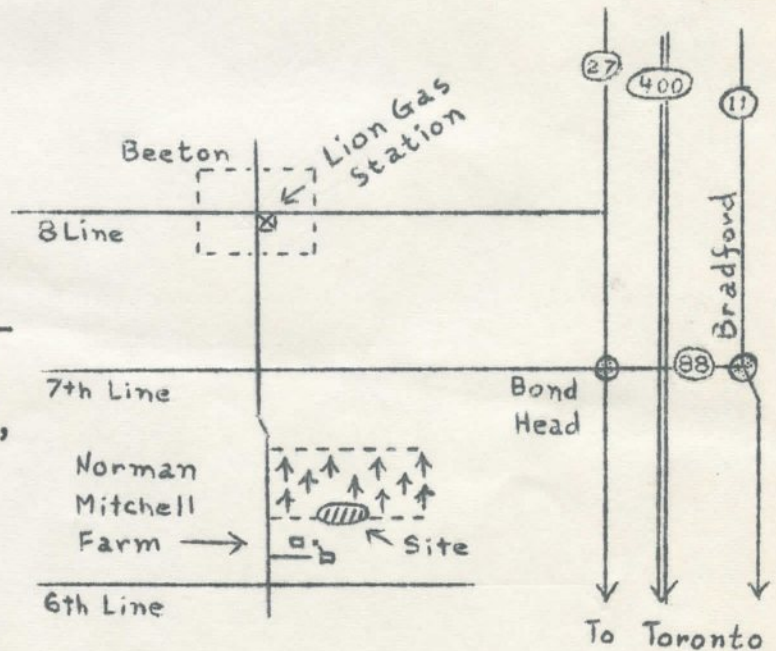




Figure A. Painted human skull gorget or rattle.
 Figures B,C. Clay pipes.
 Figures D to Q. Pottery rim sherds.

THE JUNE MEETING

In a progress report on the Walsweer site, near Pefferlaw, Ontario, Mr. Jack Dear revealed that he had excavated 4500 square feet of this 12 acre, multi-component site, bringing to light several interesting features, but no discernable settlement patterns. The recovered artifacts indicate that the site was occupied during the late Archaic, Early, Middle, and Late Woodland periods, but that it was apparently abandoned prior to the 17th. Century.

Mr. George Gee described his work - mostly surface surveys - in the Dundas and Grand River areas. He reported that most of the Archaic material was to be found on the Niagara Escarpment, and that the banks of the Grand River produced many artifacts of the Historic period.

It was pointed out that though some of the better known historic sites had been looted by collectors for over a century, careful coverage of previously worked areas could still produce useful information to the archaeologist.

One artifact Mr. Gee felt to be peculiar to the Neutral area was a serreted-edge flint tool.

Mr. Dear and Mr. Gee both exhibited many of the artifacts from their sites, and keen interest was shown in the discussion period which followed their presentations.

During the business portion of this meeting it was decided to adopt three excavation and survey record forms prepared by Dr. Axelson. These have now been printed and will be used in all future field work.

The Rules and Ethics Committee's motion on changes to the Constitution was carried unanimously after the deletion of the words "or pass a By-Law" in item 8 of their motion (see Arch-Notes No. 66-6).

Members in attendance viewed several excellent proposals for a new O.A.S. crest but decided to defer further action on this matter until the January meeting.

Mr. Charles Garrad advised the membership that an excellent new Indian display had been opened at the Brant Museum. Represented in this display are all stages of Indian occupation from the last glacial retreat to the time of Joseph Brant.

PUBLICATION No. 9

By now all members should have received and read their copy of Ontario Archaeology, Publication No. 9.

Thanks to a grant from The Department of Tourism and Information of the Government of Ontario, we have been able to greatly increase the content of this publication, and thanks to the efforts of Dr. C.S. Churcher, Editor and Chairman of the Publications Committee, the selected papers cover a larger area of our Province than in the past. You will notice that this issue included site reports from eastern, northern and western Ontario, and also a handy reference to authors

dealing with archaeology in all parts of Ontario.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

After a motor trip that included visits to many archaeological sites in Ontario - the most memorable being the Serpent Mounds at Rice Lake and the Sheguiandah site on Manitoulin Island - Dr. Dean Axelson spent several weeks this summer excavating the early Iroquoian Van site, near Aylmer, Ontario.

Dean informs us that the Van site has produced much useful data. Settlement patterns are beginning to appear and a burial has been uncovered. He expects to present a preliminary report on this work to the Society in the near future.

At press time it was learned that Dean had begun excavating an early Contact ossuary near Milton, Ontario.

Dr. J.E. Anderson, who has returned to the University of Toronto to carry out further research in Human Osteology, has just completed a six week excavation of another ossuary near Milton. He was assisted in this work by our newest member, Mr. Jerome Cybulski.

After a side trip to several archaeological sites in the American Southwest, Mr. Jan Roraas will assist in the excavation of a prehistoric site in Kansas this month.

Mr. Paul Park is now in England for a year's study of educational techniques. While there he plans to visit several archaeological sites and exhibits in England and on the Continent - particularly in Germany and Sweden.

Upon termination of the Jerusalem excavation this year, Dr. A.D. Tushingham intends to return to Iran to follow up several avenues of study opened up by his work on the Crown Jewels project last spring.

Miss. Phyllis Bowland included several archaeological sites in her tour of Australia this summer. Probably the best known to most people in this country was the famous Ayers Rock, in the heart of the continent.

A doctoral thesis - entitled, "The Sopher Site, Cemetery, and Ossuary: A Transitional Late Prehistoric - Protohistoric Northern Huron Village Pattern (c. 1570 - 1590)." - based on the results of an excavation jointly sponsored by the University of Toronto and the National Museum of Canada, and soon to be published by the latter institution, took up most of Mr. William Noble's spare time early this summer. July and August, however, were devoted to a 600 mile water survey for archaeological sites near the eastern end of Great Slave Lake, N.W.T., under the sponsorship of the National Museum of Canada.

In June, Dr. C.S. Churcher set up a joint camp just north of Medicine Hat, Alberta, with a University of Alberta crew headed by Dr. Ruth Gruhn. While the University of Alberta crew excavated a site they hoped would yield large side-notched points in association with extinct bison, Dr. Churcher dug a paleontological deposit containing Pleistocene vertebrate animals.

Mr. Walter Kenyon was busy this summer overseeing the excavation of the Royal Ontario Museum's LSM-7 burial mound at Long Sault Rapids on Rainy River. This Mound is expected to provide much information on the burial cult which was responsible for the construction of quite a number of these artificial hills along a mile and a half stretch of the river.

Mr. Joseph Palacio assisted Mr. Kenyon on the LSM-7 mound until the end of June, when he moved quite a distance geographically and archaeologically to participate in Dr. J.N. Emerson's excavation of the historic Huron village of Cahiaque, near Warminster, Ontario.

We are pleased to introduce and welcome the eight new members - seven from Ontario and one from New York - who have joined the Society in the second half of our 1966 season - - - Mr. Richard Shaver, Scotland; Mr. John W. Barton, Windsor; Dr. William Greg, Oakville; Mr. James L. Secord, Thamesville; Mr. W.S. Donaldson, Chatham; Miss Leslie King, Hamilton; Mr. Jerome S. Cybulski, Toronto, and the Nassau County Museum of Natural History, Long Island, New York.

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Your editor found himself pretty well tied up this summer, but did manage a two-day salvage excavation on an Archaic burial site near Thamesville, Ontario (to be reported on in Arch-Notes next month), and a hurried tour of archaeological sites and museums in Huronia.

Mr. Conrad Heidenreich, Field Director, and Mr. Palacio managed very well, we thought, to give us a thorough briefing on this year's activities at the Cahiaque site in the brief time available to us.

James V. Wright's latest archaeological paper, "The Ontario Iroquois Tradition", has now been published by the National Museum of Canada as Bulletin No. 210, Anthropological Series No. 75. This publication is a must for anyone concerned with the problem of the origin and early development of the Ontario Iroquoian tribes.

We seem to be running across a lot of archaeological enigmas these days. The latest is an engraved stone adze found by Mr. James Secord. We hope to bring you up to date on this item in next month's issue.

Before we could cut all the stencils for this issue of Arch-Notes, the old flu bug laid us low. Since this means that members outside the Toronto area will not have sufficient notice of this week's "dig" at the Beeton site, Dr. Axelson is arranging an additional "dig" for the following weekend. Anyone interested in this second "dig" should contact Dr. Axelson immediately.

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