



ARCH NOTES

University of Western Ontario

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

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June, 1971

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Editor, ARCH NOTES
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66 Roe Ave.,
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(See Page 4)

MAMMOTH SPRING DIG

June 19, 1971

McLEOD SALVAGE OPERATION

This month's meeting will take the form of a spring dig, to be held at the McLeod Site in Oshawa, Ontario. The site is located at the southeast corner of Rossland and Thornton Roads. Follow 401 to Thickson Rd. north, proceed to the second traffic light (Rossland), turn right and head east to Thornton Rd.

The main interest of the day will be settlement patterns. The sod and top soil will have been removed beforehand, so all you will have to do is trowel your 5-foot square, and look for posts, pits, hearths, etc. (Sound like the work has been done?).

Mrs. B. Gummow is still organizing rides, so if you have space in a car, or are looking for space, please call her at 928-3296.

Things to bring for digging: 1) 1-4" mason's pointing trowel; 2) 1-6' tape measure or yard stick; 3) 1 note book; 4) pencils; 5) clip board; 6) work gloves; 7) kneeling pad; 8) whisk broom and dust pan.

(ref:- R.D. Axelson, ARCH NOTES #69-4, April 1969.)

SOCIALIZING

After the day of digging, members and guests are invited to bring along their own Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Steaks or whatever to Barbeque at W.S. Donaldson's, 111 Riverside Dr., N., Oshawa. Directions will be given out at the McLeod site as to how to find Bill's place. If you get lost somewhere along the way, phone in Oshawa to 728-5880. See you on June 19th!!!!

ABSTRACT OF MR. WAY'S TALK AT THE APRIL MEETING

"I spoke for about an hour on excavations of Thule Eskimo burials done during July and August 1970 at Saglek Bay, Labrador, and gave a brief resume of Thule Culture and it's late entrance into Labrador. I mentioned problems of weather, difficulties due to previous 'grave robbers' looting artifacts which could aid in determining dates for some of the graves, and disturbance of the bones resulting from the previous looting.

"During the six weeks in the field, I excavated 47 graves and recovered 77 skeletons. The graves, rectangular rock cairns built on the surface, contained single, double, or quadruple burials. The burials were almost always fully extended and lying on the back. In only one case was a triple burial discovered representing a male and two females. This was a fairly recent burial (1880-1910) and was unique in that all the individuals were sprawled on the grave floor face down and one of the women still had leather straps binding her ankles together.

"Grave goods from different graves and different areas of the island demonstrate the transition of the resident population from pre-Contact times to around 1900 with an increasing shift to iron tools and other trade items. Grave goods include soapstone bowls and lamps, stone (slate) ulus, bone knives, pounded copper pendants, iron ulus and knives, beads of shell, stone and glass, wooden bowls, ivory needle cases and bone combs. Radio carbon dates from associated houses set the earliest time horizon at approximately 1400 ± 50 years."

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Will any member who is having trouble receiving Arch-Notes, either occasionally or continually, please contact Mrs. M. Zaputovich at 921-4940 (from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm). The tardiness of the post office in delivering Arch-Notes has been drawn to their attention and they have asked our co-operation in helping them to clear up this problem. Also, if Arch-Notes is being delivered very late (i.e. after the meeting date), please let us know.

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If any members wish to purchase back issues of Ontario Archaeology they may do so by asking Marie Zaputovich at any General Meeting, or by writing to her at 484 Avenue Road, Apt. 606, Toronto 195, Ontario. Copies are two dollars (\$2.00) plus thirty-five cents (35¢) for each edition. If you get them from her at the meetings, you save 35¢ for postage and handling.

Some copies are temporarily out-of-print, but she can take your order for future delivery.

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And here is a recent report on the activities of the Ottawa Chapter of the O.A.S.

"Although preoccupation with its formative stages made it impossible for the new Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Archaeological Society to organize its own dig this season, the branch has enjoyed an extensive outline of current research through addresses by members of the staff of the Archaeology Division, National Museum of Man.

Dr. James V. Wright, mentor of the branch who called together local members of the OAS and others known to be interested in archaeology, opened the series of talks on April 13th, 1970 with a well-illustrated, detailed outline of the prehistory of Ontario.

On May 11th, Dr. David Sanger presented details of his research in the Passamaquoddy Bay region of New Brunswick. Ten sites excavated there range in age from about 400 B.C. to the historic period. Any earlier sites around the bay would now be submerged for sea level there has been rising at the rate of about one foot per century.

From 400 B.C. to about 1,000 A.D., the Indians occupied semi-subterranean houses.

An extensive range of bone artifacts was recovered from the large shell middens at various sites. Deer were common food before 1,000 A.D., and moose in later times.

Dr. Sanger pointed out that the inhabitants of the Maritimes seem to have developed their own, distinctive projectile point and ceramic styles from about 2,000 years ago. He had found no trace of Early Woodland ceramics nor projectile points. The earliest pottery recovered dates to about 50 A.D. and includes pseudo scallop shell and dentate. There has been no evidence of agriculture around the bay. There are no ceramic pipes, though some stone pipes come from the earlier occupations. Excavations have not revealed any projectile points similar to the Iroquoian points of the St. Lawrence Valley.

Dr. George F. MacDonald spoke on "Paleo-Indians of the Northeast" at the June 4 meeting, giving not only a broad review of fluted point finds and variations in the points across the continent, but also extensive detail on the Debert Site.

The Ottawa Branch elected Clyde C. Kennedy, 30 Nanaimo Drive, Ottawa, as president, and Dr. Don S. Robertson, 35½ Faraday Crescent, Deep River, vice-president. The next meeting of the branch will be held October 22nd."

You've probably already noticed that the following are enclosed:- 1 copy of ARCH NOTES
1 copy of the 1971 Membership List
1 copy of ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY #16

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C.A.A. MEMBERSHIPS

We are reminded that membership for the 1971-72 fiscal year became due April 1. If you wish to continue your membership, please return your card along with a cheque of money order for three dollars (\$3.00) to:- Secretary-Treasurer,
Canadian Archaeological Association,
10 Cuthbert Cres.,
Toronto 295, Ontario.

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NODWELL RESTORATION PROJECT

Our longstanding and active member, Fritz Knechtel of Hanover, has over the past several years kept us informed on the progress of events regarding the Nodwell Indian Village Project, Port Elgin, Ont.

This two-to-three acre site consists of an ancestral Petun-Neutral-Huron-Erie village, dated about 1400 A.D. The remains there represent a complete, double-palisaded village, with population of about 1000 early farmers.

Long known, this site had been tested previous to 1969 by Thomas Lee, Fritz Knechtel and Jim Wright. In 1969 Wright undertook further texting which revealed extensive palisades, numerous longhouses and other features. With the value of the site now well established, a local civic committee undertook to promote interest in the preservation of the site from urban sprawl. Attempts began to obtain the acreage from the developer by exchange of properties.

By February 1971, stage one had been successfully concluded with the completion of legalities concerning the exchange of properties, and the designation of the site as parkland development area. The Town Council appointed a committee of citizens to work with its Industrial and Promotion Committee as a Tourist and Industry Division, including the Nodwell Indian Village Restoration Project.

In March of 1971 stage two of the project was ensured when the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, became committed to the excavation of the site in order to determine the complete plan of the village.

Stage three, reconstruction of the Nodwell Village, it is hoped will follow the excavation of the site. However, whether this becomes a reality will depend upon continued good response to the solicitations for funds which are being made widely by the committee for the Nodwell Indian Village Restoration Fund.

Our President, Dr. J.V. Wright will be supervising the operations at the Nodwell site this summer, and has invited any interested members to visit, dig in the middens and see how to operate in 50-foot squares (sic).

He said they can provide an area to dig, but members should bring their own food and tents.

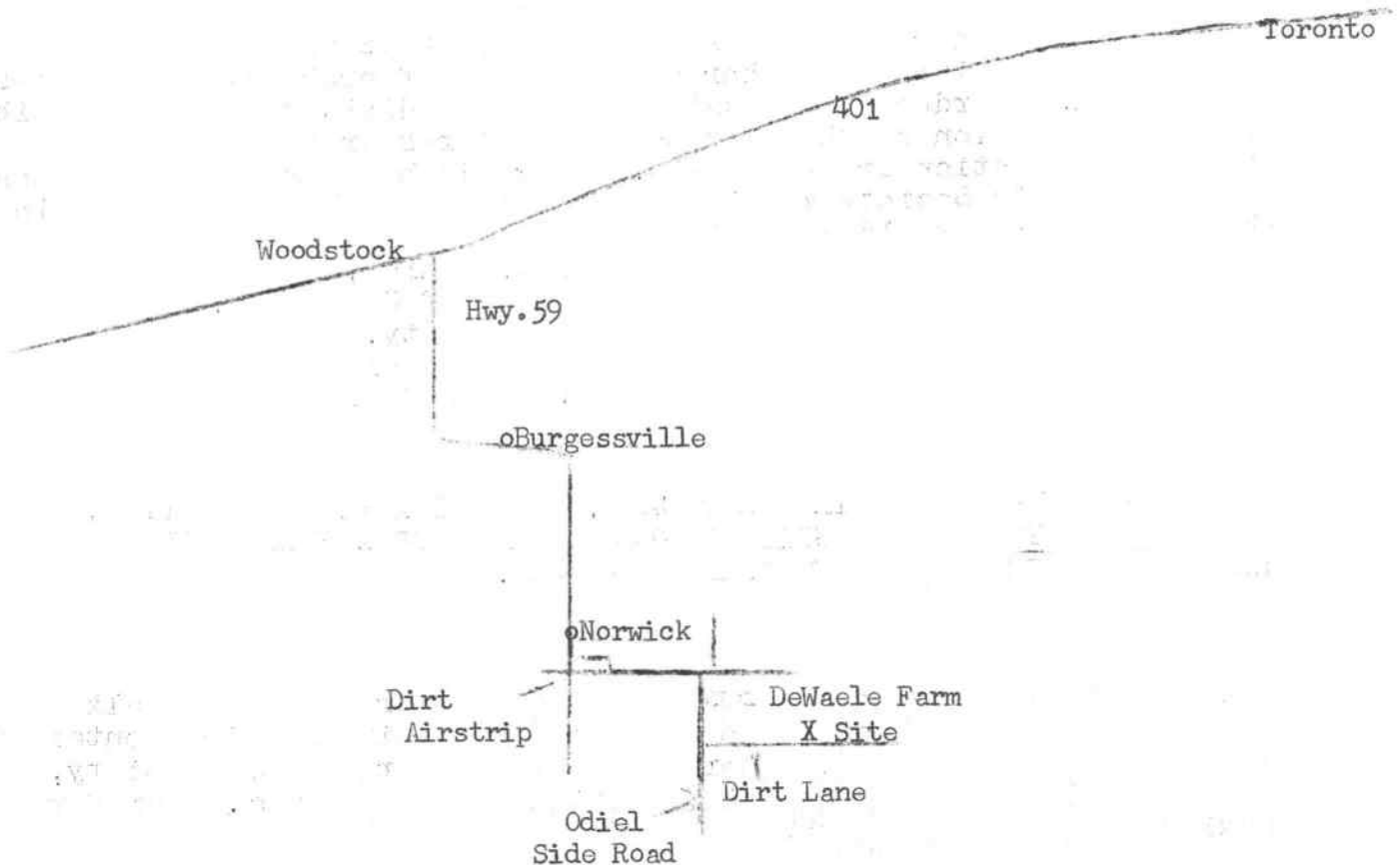
Guests are welcome at Nodwell between June 15 and July 15. The site is located in Port Elgin, Ontario at the corner of High and Market Sts. They tell us the natives are friendly, and will gladly give you directions, should you need them to find the site.

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Our Past-President, Dr. J.N. Emerson, will be supervising operations at the DeWaele site (see map), and has extended the same invitation to members to come along and dig, but again please bring your own food and lodgings. The work there will carry on from mid-June to the end of July.

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So if there are any members floating around with nothing to do on your vacations this summer, keep these places in mind.



B O O K N O T E

"Members of the Society might be interested to know that Champlain's 1615-1618 journal has been reprinted. This section of his works includes the trip to Huronia, the Petun and raids on an Onondaga village in upper New York State. The 1615-1618 journal is by far the most interesting for archaeologists as it is the earliest account of the Hurons, and except for Sagard's LONG JOURNEY, the only account of the Huron prior to the destruction of their culture by small pox, war and Christianity.

Champlain, S. de: Voyage to New France, 1615-1618.
Macklem, M. (trans.); Trudel, M. (introd.),
Oberon Press, 1970. \$2.95

I don't know how many book stores have this volume in stock, I got my copy at Britnell's on Yonge St."

C.F. Heidenreich, Editor,
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY

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"PRESERVING THE TORONTO AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES"

"A group sponsored by the Department of the Secretary of State wishes to determine the number and location of archaeological sites in Toronto, in order to evaluate the present disturbance and possible future destruction of those archaeological resources requiring urgent preservation or excavation. It would be appreciated if those members of this Society knowing the location of these resources in the Toronto area would contact:

Mr. V. A. Konrad,
Department of Geography,
York University,
Downsview, Ontario.
Phone:- 635-3524.

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THE POSITION OF LIBRARIAN IS VACANT, AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, YOUR ARCH-NOTES EDITOR WILL BE GLAD TO RECEIVE ANY AND ALL MATERIAL INTENDED FOR THE O. A. S. LIBRARY.

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The following pages are devoted to a transcript of the talk given by Mr. J. Dear at the May meeting. The information contained in the talk should be of interest to all members of the Society, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Dear for making it available to us.

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That's it, folks! Have a good summer, and look for the September issue of ARCH-NOTES!

THE WALSWEEER SITE

by J. Dear

Introduction

The site under investigation lies about 500' from the Pefferlaw River near the village of Pefferlaw, now the seat of regional government for Georgina Township. The Pefferlaw River is a preglacial brook known to the Indians of the area as the Mucatoo River. It has its origin in the deep valleys close to Goodwood and after flowing through considerable marsh land empties into Lake Simcoe. There are outcroppings of bedrock giving rise to a few very shallow rapids not far from the site. Pefferlaw, established in 1926 prospered as a result of it's logging, and a mill was set up including a dam. It is known that walnut trees were in prevalence before 1900 in the region. In 1911 the railroad went through the area crossing the river at a point where artifacts were present. Pot hunters have apparently searched the bank for ceramic and lithic materials since that time.

In 1963 I became interested in the site as the result of a bag of pottery being brought in to the Sutton District High School where I teach, by a boy, then in Grade 10, now the late Harry Walsweer. Dr. Walter Kenyon was informed of the site and on April 14, 1963 he came up and went over the area with me and considered at that time that from the provenience of the river that it would represent an early fishing site. At that time I obtained the authority from Dr. Kenyon and from the present owners of the land, to survey the area.

Vegetation

The surface of the site is almost devoid of major trees. Several cedars and hawthorn bushes interrupt the site at two places. The sandy lake bottom soil is sparsely covered with grasses, raspberry bushes, sheep sorrel, mullein, milkweed and Joe Pye weed. On either side of the site there are very old elm trees and a mature maple bush to the northeast down river. Tests for acidity of the soil have been taken by the Soils Department at Guelph University and they range from 5.6 to 6.7. Such figures represent an almost neutral to acid type soil as is supported by the presence of sheep sorrel.

Surveying

A datum line was established through the length of the site for a distance of 1200'. Three hundred feet of the site lies on the east side of the railroad track while 900' lies on the west side. Prior to the staking of this line, elevations were taken using the bronze benchmark on the Pefferlaw dam as starting point. The site was found to be 46' above present water level. Lake Simcoe water level taken at Bonnie Boats in Jackson's Point was 617' above sea level while most parts of the site ranged from 654' to 663'. The soil of the site was found to be of blow sand rather than of water laden deposit. This was ascertained by excavating a completed 5' square to a depth of 8' and having it studied by a Mr. Walter Creswick who has been an expert on projects in the middle East.

All of the surveying was carried out using chain and transit. Three areas have been excavated separately owing to the natural division made by the railroad track and also because of the topography. Separate grid systems were laid out for the three areas and 5' squares maintaining 3" levels were studied. Each grid in area A (the first area studied) consisted of a series of five-foot squares lettered "A" to "r" from west to east, and numbered "1" to "20" from north to south. More recently in area B we have changed our

system of numbering by referring to a given square as W-S₁W₅. I find this method much superior to the earlier one used because if I wanted to excavate beyond A-1 I had to give it a prime number and I found this difficult when cataloguing and labelling artifacts. A combined area of 5750 square feet, comprising 5' squares has been excavated. The Borden number BbGt-1 has been assigned to the Walsweer site.

Five years ago I addressed our society and at that time stated that the site was multi-component involving possible early to Late Middle Woodland material as the result of excavations in areas A and B of the site. Since that time area C on the eastern end of the site has been partially excavated and this region has a deposit of Pickering, Woodland and Iroquois material. A total of 52 squares have been excavated in area A, 106 in area B and 70 in area C.

Features

Only recently have hearths and cache pits been discovered. In area C a cache pit was excavated. The absence of rocks surrounding this 29" diameter pit was noted. The only objects found were food remains, corn, mollusc shell in a complete state of decay and small mammal bones. The pit was 9" deep. Bark of some kind lined the base containing the charcoal covered materials. An ornate effigy pipe resembling an alligator with very fine incising on the bowl and stem was found in the first level only 6" from this pit but whether it relates directly to the peoples who made the cache pit is not possible to determine. In area B post molds have been followed for a distance of 30' and 3 strange deposits of fossiliferous limestone piled on each other in circular pits have been located inside the concavity formed by the post molds.

Ceramic materials

The pottery left at this site is by far the most dominant artifact. It is believed that the pottery clay would have been readily obtainable on the sides of the river bank within several hundred yards of the area under excavation. In colour, the fragments range from buff to black. In hardness as measured by Moh's scale, movement of sherds from the site of breaking as reconstructed sherds are often 20-40' distant from the major accumulation of sherds of a specific vessel.

Oral diameters were obtained by comparing each large rim fragment with a series of concentric circles drawn on bristol board. After checking the results of several individuals it was concluded that this method is only valid for rimsherds of approx. 2" and more in size. Smaller rims were found to fit neatly a 7, 8, or 9" circle. It is apparent that those sherds that give a valid measure of oral diameter have an average of 9 inches.

Toy pots

Only 32 such vessels were obtained from the site, none of which were possible to reconstruct. The workmanship on these vessels was substandard compared to the larger vessels, however the smoothness of these was no less than that of others. Incising, linear dentate, cording and plain decorative designs were noted. These vessels were between 1 and 2" in oral diameter.

Pipes

A total of 14 pipe fragments have been excavated. One complete effigy pipe was reconstructed. The bowl was found in area C in the fall of 1964 (Nov. 10) and on April 21, 1966 the stem was found 40' away. This spring, prior to our last meeting, another effigy pipe bowl and stem fragments were discovered in area B in level 1. The bowl has 4 Indian faces on each of its four corners and it has been suggested to me that these are somewhat similar to pipes excavated on Neutral sites and the four faces may be representative

of the four corners of the earth or the four winds.

Lithic industry

Forty-three major flint goods along with small flint chippings occur in all areas of the site indicating the making of subsistence tools.

8000 BODY SHERDS
DISTRIBUTION OF DECORATIVE TECHNIQUES (Walsweer Site)

Technique	%/Site	%A	%B	%C	Total
Plain	34.1	9.9	47.5	57.4	2724
Rib Paddled	16.8	35.1	39.6	25.3	1345
Pseudoscallop Shell	10.5	29.1	65.4	5.5	804
Rocker Stamping	8.9	54.5	23.7	21.8	716
Linear Dentate	3.9	25.3	67.2	7.5	308
Scarified	3.2	38.3	42.4	19.3	266
Internal Punctate	3.1	0	0	100.0	247
Incising	2.4	23.1	62.3	14.6	199
Splint Basketry Impressed	2.2	2.9	27.6	69.5	176
Corded	7.6	26.9	51.4	21.7	619
Combed	1.5	0	100.0	0	119
Striated	0.3	0	100.0	0	26
Waffle Design	0.5	4.2	66.6	29.2	48
Fabric Impressed	2.2	2.9	69.3	27.8	173
Miscellaneous	2.8				

RIMSHERD ANALYSIS (Walsweer site)

Total rims = 755

177

376

202

Type	#	AREA A		AREA B		AREA C		#	%
		%	#	%	#	%	#		
P.S.S.	177	37.8	67	27.6	104	2.9	6	23.4	
Cording	157	16.4	29	23.1	87	24	49	20.8	
Incised	109	6.8	12	11.9	45	24.4	52	14.4	
Push Pull	17	6.8	12	0	0	2.4	5	2.3	
Splint Basketry	14	4.5	8	.5	2	1.9	4	1.9	
Trailing	13	0	0	0	0	6.4	13	1.7	
Internal Punctate	51	0	0	.5	2	24	49	6.7	
External Punctate	1	0	0	0	0	.5	1	.1	
Linear Dentate	72	7.9	13	13.9	52	3.5	7	9.5	
Combed	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	.2	
Fabric Impressed	2	1.1	2	0	0	0	0	.2	
Rib Paddled	2	1.1	2	0	0	0	0	.2	
Pontille	2	1.1	2	0	0	0	0	.2	
Plain	13	0	0	1.3	5	17	88	1.7	
Notched Paddle	6	0	0	1.6	6	0	0	.6	
Punctate Collar	5	0	0	1.3	5	0	0	.6	
Fingernail incised	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	.2	
Incised Rocker	1	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	.1	
Unanalyzed	107	14.1	25	18	68	6.9	14	14.1	

FAUNAL ANALYSIS OF WALSWEER SITE

by Dr. Savage, U. of T.

Red fox (tooth - left lower first molar)
Chipmunk (right $\frac{1}{2}$ of mandible and also nose bone)
Beaver - mandible
Woodchuck - humerus
Deer - (left radius - not charred)
 (right epiphysis of a femur)
 (axis - no marks on it)
Moose
Wolf - (left upper canine)
Sucker species
Clam shell (bivalves)
Passenger pigeon (1) bone
Homo sapiens - (human skull fragment) carnivore tooth marks on it.

Conclusions

At this time rather than draw any definite conclusions, I feel that it is much wiser instead to speculate upon what has taken place at this site or sites. It was my earlier belief that due to the provenience of the river that it would be excellent for fishing in season, however, due to the paucity of fish remains excavated thus far, I feel that this was not the reason for living here. I have determined that Lake Algonquin would have been about 15' above the level of this site and its shoreline approx. 1 mile distant near Wilfred. This being the case, it can be considered that occupancy of the site could have been at a time after the Algonquin waters had dropped below this level. The presence of meadow-wood projectile points at this site indicates that the site was at least occupied as far back as 1000 B.C. I feel that this area has been utilized by small camping parties from at least early Point Peninsula times up to middle Iroquois times. It is possible that most of these peoples were more interested in food gathering (berries, nuts, sweetgrass, etc. While staying at the site pottery goods and lithic materials would have to be made for subsistence purposes and if the site extends back to at least early Woodland times we have an occupancy of 2500 years. If only 5 people came up every year to a site over a period of this duration it would represent considerable artifact material. Dr. Savage's analyses, it can be said that the faunal analysis would thus far indicate a spring-summer-fall occupancy as shown by the presence of beaver, muskrat, perch, sucher and clam shell species. It may be that larger animal kills were made further afield and the meat only taken back to camp.

From our studies we have proven that pottery was made at the site rather than being traded or brought there. The presence of mortice and tenon joints shows the method of manufacture. Drill holes made on a number of bodychards is proof that the Indian ladies that made these vessels were concerned about the ultimate destruction of their work.

I feel that some of the vessels like "splint basketry impressed" as shown to me by Professor Emerson represents a technique for pottery making that may have some basis for further study. I would like to think that some vessels were made by impressing the clay into a wicker basket with a paddle followed by firing. This process would of course remove all trace of the basketry except for its imprint on the vessel.

After examination of 8000 bodysherds and close to 800 rimsherds from this site, I cannot but comment upon one of many aspects that I cannot yet

understand. Each of the rimsherds from this site reminds me of separate finger prints, each different and never exactly repeated. Why are there no duplicate vessels? Why wouldn't one lady back in Middle Woodland times make another vessel like the others? Even if only one lady came up with a camping expedition I would feel that she would make more than one vessel and I see no reason why they should all be different from one another. I know we wouldn't obtain pottery types unless we had some vessel on some distant site to relate to, however, why shouldn't we be excavating partially complete vessels from the same site that look identical?

Now for some speculations on trends in the Walsweer site areas. Dr. Wright mentions that St. Lawrence Pseudo Scallop shell as a decorative technique is predominantly early and decreases with time. The overall percentage of this technique is indicated to be 22.6 and indicates an occupancy in middle Woodland times. The comparatively low percent of Linear dentate stamping (9.5) places the occupancy fairly early in the above period. On the other hand, plain rims as a decorative technique (1.7%) shows a close similarity in this respect to the "Donaldson site". The fairly large representation of cord impressed (20.8%) may represent a survival from the preceding Early Woodland period and an introduction from the Hopewellian tradition. 20.8% agrees fairly closely with the "Malcolm site" excavated by Drs. Dailey and Wright in 1955. The above site is located 3 miles west of Cornwall. Pseudo Scallop Shell drops from 37.8% in Area A to 2.9% in Area C. Area C has 24.2% Pickering material, including also Ontario Iroquois pottery types like Pound Necked, Lawson opposed and Sidey notched. Ribbed paddle is higher in area B but still shows 25.3% in area C which I feel represents a later occupation. Splint basketry which is 2.2% for the overall site shows a high of 69.5% in area C for bodysherds but 28.6% for rimsherds. What does this mean?

I feel that unless one has a complete woodland vessel to work with many speculations about their nature may be false. The design techniques are so varied, incising over corded, pseudoscallop shell rocker stamping over ribbed paddle, incising over pseudoscallop shell for example. From the everted lip to perhaps the conical base decoration may pass from oblique pseudoscallop shell to the left, followed by horizontal incising over vertical pseudoscalloshell, followed by obliques to the right. Any conclusions that a certain potter was either left or right handed because she made the obliques in a certain direction can only be clearly stated if the vessel from lip to base is at hand, otherwise the idea about the potter may be completely erroneous.

There is a great amount of detailed analysis that has to be made on this site material and I apologize for still being in the process. There is the "Hind site" and the "Short site". People like myself to excavate and understand a site in all the complexities of culture must have a great deal of foresight and still greater revelations of insight in order to understand the patterns left behind in the soil by our ancestors. If we are to understand a site we must not only excavate and analyze artifacts but we must listen to nature for all it does is for a reason and when we see mulleins growing on a midden or poison ivy growing on a mound we must ask -- why the floral distribution in the area?

My hearty thanks are extended to Dr. Norman Emerson and William Donaldson for helping with analysis and photography, Dr. Savage for his analysis of the faunal material and the energies and interest of those students from Sutton District High School who have made this report a reality.