



ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

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Western Ontario
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Ottawa, Ontario

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DECEMBER BANQUET ANNOUNCEMENT INSIDE

MONTHLY MEETING

This month's General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th November 1971 at 8:00 p.m. in the Archaeology Laboratory, Room 561, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street, Toronto.

The speaker for this meeting will be Professor K. Dawson of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Lakehead University.

Professor Dawson's topic for the evening will be:
"Archaeology and Youth Opportunities on the North Shore of Lake Superior."

Our speaker at the October meeting was Mrs. M. Latta. Her topic, "The Robitaille Site: A Contact Period Huron Village" was very informative. On behalf of our members I would like to thank Marti for taking the time to speak to us on that occasion and for allowing us to print the information for those who were unable to attend:

The Robitaille Site (BeHa-3) is located on the Penetang Peninsula, jutting into the southeast corner of Georgian Bay. The site itself is situated on a high spur of land, lying between a fairly steep-walled ravine to the north and a swamp to the south. The Penetang Peninsula appears to have been occupied by the ancestors of the Hurons for perhaps two centuries before the arrival of Europeans. The Robitaille Site, with an extensive array of European trade goods, represents a point near the end of that cultural continuum.

Excavations in the summer of 1969 had exposed one complete longhouse, plus traces of several others, and a section of palisade. In the summer of 1970, we decided to expand operations by digging in seven different midden accumulations in various parts of the village. In part, this approach was intended to study features of midden homogeneity, of infra-site variations which might reflect variations in wealth or social position, and of ceramic decorative techniques. While the quantification is still in process, there appears to be some support for inferring variations, at least.

The ceramics at the Robitaille Site are for the most part very simply decorated. Almost two-thirds of the rim sherds show the oblique-parallel lines of the Huron Incised type on the collar. Necks are plain in all but three cases. As a rule, the body of the pot is a spheroid with decoration confined to a single string of punctates around the shoulder.

Sidey Notched rims are the next most common; here lip notching is added to the Huron Incised type described above. These two types make up more than three-fourths of the rim sherds. Castellations are usually of the Notched and Grooved type. They are often flat, but may project at a sharp angle, and several handles were uncovered, usually attached to the projecting point of the castellation.

Stone was poorly worked, and rarely found. An exception were the eleven thin triangular projectile points. Two very rough scrapers and one possible drill completed the chipped stone inventory. Even flint debitage was rare.

The ground stone tools were much more impressive. Three adzes were found, including one partly finished specimen. Several whetstones and a mortar have deep wear-scars from repeated rubbing. Perhaps the most impressive ground stone tools are the remains of three effigy pipes, with human, dog, and bear heads, respectively.

The ceramic pipe sample was large enough to provide some interesting thoughts. It was noticed that most of the Blowing Face pipes were made with skeleton bodies. In no case was the effigy head intact, and we never found any of the heads, although we found nine Blowing Face type bowls. Perhaps these pipes were made for a special purpose, such as curing ceremonies, and then ritually broken. The most common pipe type was a small Apple-bowl Ring. The broad, flat Iroquois Trumpet variety was also popular. Effigies included Blowing Face, Dog, Duck, Wolf, Human Head and Owl.

Artifacts of European origin were primarily utilitarian. Iron knives, awls, a chisel, axe heads, and many fragments of brass kettle were found throughout the site. A number of glass beads, a brass jingle and a round brass pendant were for ornamental purposes. Most of these objects, including the beads, were broken or gave evidence of extensive wear. Evidently trade goods were not so rare that they had value beyond their functional attributes, but at the same time thrade materials were not so common that items were casually discarded. From this evidence, I suspect that the site may have been occupied during the middle period of European contact - perhaps 1620-1635.

The faunal material is particularly interesting. Dr. Howard Savage, who has very kindly supervised the bone identification and evaluation, has made a number of very interesting observations. First, while there is a fairly large amount of fishbone, the mammal bone is rather scarce. Among the mammal elements, by far the most common is the domestic dog, Canis canis, which comprises between one half and two-thirds of the bone elements. Other mammalian species are represented at roughly the same low frequency: deer, bear, wolf, beaver, otter, woodchuck, snowshoe hare, grey squirrel, chipmonk, mice and voles. It seems safe to say that the Robitaille inhabitants were eating little deer or bear, the mammal foods most often described by the ethnographic sources. It appears that dogs were being eaten, in fairly large numbers, and with continuing frequency, since dog remains are as common at the bottom of middens as at the top. There are at least two possible explanations for this situation.

Dog meat was frequently consumed as part of curing rituals, or at various other ceremonial occasions such as the Green Corn Feast. One of the first consequences of the European contact with the Hurons were a series of plagues among the Indians, who had no natural or acquired immunity to European childhood diseases such as measles or smallpox. There are mentions at various points in the Jesuit Relations of whole villages sick, or decimated. Curing ceremonies, with dog eating, must have been extremely common at this period.

Another possibility is that large mammals, other than the domestic dog, were becoming rare in the Penetang Peninsula, due to overhunting, overcrowding of the human population and

deforestation. Sagard-Theodat remarked that in his journeys in Huronia he rarely became lost in the forest, but often went astray in the cornfields. Overcrowding in this circumscribed region could quickly lead to a considerable reduction, or even elimination, of local populations of game animals. More agricultural produce would be needed to feed the increasing number of residents, and this would involve clearing more forest, and destroying still more of the habitat of those game animals, and thus the downward spiral would begin again.

The analysis is not yet finished, but it is evident that many factors were at work in the Robitaille Site, and each must be weighed carefully. Only by consideration of all aspects of each occupation can the archaeologist pass beyond technical analysis and chronology to the anthropological evaluation of culture and culture processes.

Thanks again, Marti!

The attendance at last month's meeting was just great with about 100 people there, including Dr. WE. Taylor, Director of the National Museum of Man, Drs. J.E. Anderson and W.C. Noble of MacMaster University, Dr. R. Johnston of Trent University and Dr. J. Tuck of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

It has been requested that the following letter appear in Arch Notes.

October 20, 1971.

Dr. Norman Emerson,
Dept. of Anthropology,
University of Toronto.

Dear Dr. Emerson:

I just received the October issue of Arch Notes and read with interest the talk you gave to the society on September 15. I would like to comment on a couple of matters you brought up and about which there seems to be some confusion. The first concerns the brief drawn up by a number of archaeologists in the province concerning the need for additional antiquities law and a Provincial Archaeologist. You mention that the brief was forwarded to the government of Ontario by the Director of the Museum, Mr. Peter Swann. This is not correct. As I recall from our last meeting, three people were asked to present the brief: Prof. Ken Dawson, Prof. Kenneth Kidd, and Dr. Walter Kenyon. By the time the final draft was completed there was a general feeling that its presentation should be delayed until after the elections. What I wish to clarify is that the brief represents the thinking of a group of archaeologists and will be presented this fall on their behalf. While Mr. Swann supports our proposals, he is not directly involved in the matter nor is the Museum except through Dr. Kenyon and myself.

I believe that the brief is being confused with a letter which the Director, acting on the advice of Dr. Kenyon and myself, sent to the Minister of University Affairs on March 3. This expresses our concern about the excavation of archaeological sites as class projects by elementary and secondary school students without the supervision of professional archaeologists. In response to this letter and other correspondence, Mr. J. K. Crossley, Director of Curriculum of the Ontario Department of Education, sent a memorandum to schools throughout the province requesting teachers not to organize class excavations unless properly supervised by archaeologists. Since that time Dr. Kenyon and I have continued to correspond with teachers and various school boards about this and in the spring we are planning to attend teachers conventions to discuss the problem further.

We are going to do everything we can to stop unauthorized excavations by Ontario's schools. On the other hand, we also realize, as you yourself do, that we cannot be entirely negative in our approach. Consequently, we are going to see what arrangements can be made for selected school classes to visit and/or take part in excavations conducted by the Museum or universities in the area. The class visits would be scheduled well in advance and would involve only a small number of students who would take part for only a day simply so they could see what field work is like. This, at least is what the Toronto Board of Education would like and I will

be writing to you again later and several other archaeologists to see what might be arranged.

Sincerely,

Peter Storck,
Assistant Curator

The following is extracted from a memo from the Ontario Department of Education:

Memorandum to: Regional Directors of Education
Directors of Education
Superintendents of Separate Schools
Principals of Schools

2. Archaeology and Archaeological Sites

Student interest in the excavation of historical sites and archaeology in general, is widespread in the province. Archaeological sites are a "non-renewable" resource, and new knowledge, as distinct from corroboration of previous knowledge, is most likely to be achieved by trained archaeologists. For these two reasons, teachers and students should not excavate a site without the supervision of an archaeologist.

In all ten regions of the province, program consultants in classics and in history can assist teachers in locating skilled archaeologists, and with curriculum matters related to archaeology.

May 25, 1971

J. F. Kinlin,
Assistant Deputy Minister.

A Brief Concerning
The Destruction of Ontario's Archaeological
Resources with Suggestions for Immediate Action.

Presented by:

- Kenneth Dawson, Lakehead University
- J. N. Emerson, University of Toronto
- William Hurley, University of Toronto
- Wilfrid Jury, University of Western Ontario
- Walter Kenyon, Royal Ontario Museum
- Kenneth Kidd, Trent University
- Albert Mohr, University of Toronto
- William Noble, McMaster University
- William Roosa, Waterloo University
- Peter Storck, Royal Ontario Museum
- Romas Vastokas, Trent University
- Norman Wagner, Waterloo Lutheran University

January 1971

Resume

The prehistory of Ontario is being destroyed at a rapidly increasing rate. Much of this destruction could be averted or at least minimized by the establishment of a central agency responsible for a province-wide survey of our archaeological resources. With this information, it would be possible to coordinate and more effectively direct our efforts to preserve sites from unnecessary destruction and salvage valuable information from others before they are destroyed by urban expansion, etc. We strongly urge the introduction of legislation establishing a Provincial Archaeologist and an Ontario Board of Archaeology to accomplish these objectives. Additional legislation requiring licenses of all persons conducting archaeological field work is also requested since it would facilitate the centralization of information on research throughout the province and, secondly, it would provide only qualified persons with authorization to excavate.

The Brief

The problem

One of Ontario's nonrenewable natural resources is being destroyed at an alarming rate. We are referring to the records of man's prehistory in Canada - records which go back at least 10,000 years to the closing phases of the Ice Age. The surviving remains of these prehistoric peoples are still largely buried in the soil but before we will be able to mount sufficient effort to record and preserve even a fraction of them, it may be too late. The only remedy is to take immediate action.

Trees felled without concern for the future require years to replace. Water polluted recklessly requires both time and expense to be cleaned up once more. These and many other resources can eventually be reclaimed. This is not true, however, of the materials sought out by the archaeologist. Once the context of the artifacts and other prehistoric remains becomes disturbed, the objects themselves lose their primary value as providers of information. Each time a dam is built, large numbers of prehistoric sites are destroyed or permanently flooded and possibly buried by many feet of silt and mud. Each time a bulldozer levels a field for a new subdivision, or a new gravel pit is opened, or a farmer employs a new deep-plowing technique, one or possibly several irreplaceable sites are destroyed and another aspect of our prehistory may be lost forever.

Our technological prowess will surely continue to expand. Although in the long run it appears inevitable that these very activities will totally destroy the unwritten records of our past, must we follow the same path here as we have with pollution of other resources? We do not plead for the perpetual preservation of every camp ground or stopping place in history. Surely a realistic compromise can and must be sought which will enable us to obtain a sufficient amount of information to provide at least a partial understanding of the prehistory of this province.

Why do we care?

We are concerned primarily because we strongly believe that the current affairs in which we participate cannot be entirely understood, much less intelligently directed, unless we look beyond ourselves and our own recent history. As individuals and members of a particular society we are the products and recipients of tens of thousands of years of human development. A knowledge of and a respect for this past is essential for our survival. The right to this information is and must be considered a human birthright. It follows, therefore, that no individual may act in a way which unduly endangers or destroys the public right to this knowledge. No one "owns" archaeological data. In a way comparable to a great work of art, there is an undefineable but nevertheless real sense in which this information belongs to the heritage of every man. Although it is often overlooked, the divisiveness in our time, which we all lament, is a relatively modern phenomenon. It is surely not too strong to suggest that the unity among men which we long to foster may become more readily apparent as we penetrate the history of our origins and early organizations in this province.

How bad is it?

Although numerous instances could be cited where sites have been badly damaged or completely destroyed, it is presently impossible for us to fully assess the amount of destruction which has and is occurring throughout the province. The reason for this is very simple. No adequate survey of this resource has been carried out. When public minded citizens report a significant find or offer to cooperate with competent archaeologists, no body with any authority exists to take immediate and appropriate action. As a result, a handful of professionals work in relative isolation from one another, apart from informal sharing of experiences and tentative conclusions.

What can be done?

A program to alter the current state of affairs is quite feasible and could be initiated immediately. Several key aspects should be stressed.

- 1) Organization -- a number of existing agencies in both the public and private sectors are currently involved in activities that are directly or indirectly related to archaeological work. Coordination of our efforts is critical if we are to make the best of available funds and trained personnel. In order to accomplish this we propose the establishment of a Provincial Archaeologist and a Ontario Board of Archaeology. These could begin to function immediately. A central repository could be established to provide, at the very minimum, a complete picture of current research. A start could also be made on developing an exhaustive survey of all sites in the province. Having established a central information office, it would be possible to have files up-dated with each new discovery, eventually making it possible for some provision for salvage excavations whenever sites become threatened by new housing developments, highways, etc.

2) Legislation - most Canadian provinces and many American states have passed legislation to accomplish objectives similar to those discussed above. We are convinced that the citizens of Ontario would welcome comparable protection. We propose, therefore, that legislation be enacted requiring a permit for any type of archaeological excavation and/or field work in the province. This will provide a means of determining the amount and nature of archaeological work throughout Ontario at any one time, information which is not currently available. The permit system should also provide some measure of control over the quality of archaeological work.

3) Education - while the laws and statutes passed by any government are a necessary and important first step in preserving and salvaging our prehistoric past, only an enlightened attitude on the part of the general public will ensure that such a program will succeed. The current concern with pollution and the public outcry against it evidences the growing desire on the part of our people to treat our resources with respect. The time has come for every avenue of public education to be used in informing the people of Ontario of the significance of our prehistory as well as warning of its imminent destruction if our present course is not altered.

A report from our Ottawa Chapter

The opening meeting of the Ottawa Branch of the O.A.S. was held at the National Museum of Man at Bell's Corners October 22, 1971. Dr. James V. Wright gave an illustrated address on, "The Rodwell Site: A Mid-14th Century Iroquois Village."

The site situated at Fort Elgin Ontario on a sand escarpment overlooking Lake Huron was excavated completely this past summer by a crew of thirteen under the direction of Dr. Wright jointly sponsored by the National Museum of Man and the Royal Ontario Museum. The excavation technique involved initially bulldozing the essentially sterile plough zone, then baring the features by careful shovelling and finally after plotting the features by triangulation excavating them individually.

Twelve long houses, ranging from 42 to 139 feet in length, surrounded by a double palasade were located, housing an estimated population of 500 people over a probable occupation of 10 to 20 years. A radio-carbon date of 1340-75 was obtained from one of the over 1600 pits excavated. The pits produced over a ton of material including: potsherds and pipes, stone arrowheads, hammers, adzes and abraders, bone awls, arrowheads, bangles and needles as well as carbonized corn. Preliminary faunal analysis indicated abundant fish as well as turtle, deer, dog, bear and moose bone.

The remoteness of the village from others of its kind 80 miles inland in Simcoe County and the discovery of copper implements suggest that the village may have been constructed for the purpose of trade with Algonkian people to the north-west.

Our thanks to Dr. D. S. Robertson for this report.

O. A. S. BANQUET - MEETING, DECEMBER 3, 1971

After Archaeological Lab meetings all year, the Banquet Room of the Lichee Garden, 118 Elizabeth St., Toronto will be the place for O. A. S. members and their guests to hold the last meeting of 1971 on Friday, December 3rd. Socializing from 6:30 pm, dinner of chicken chow mein, breaded shrimp, egg rolls, etc., etc. at 7:00 pm, then a short Business Meeting, and a talk by Dr. Roscoe Wilmeth of the National Museum of Man. The subject of Dr. Wilmeth's talk will be "Radiocarbon Samples I Have Known".

All of this for \$5.00 per person (refreshments from Lichee Garden's Bar - extra). Who can do better?

Please fill in the form below, and give or send your cheque (made out to the Ontario Archaeological Society) to our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Marion Press. The Meeting on November 17 will be a convenient time. This form will be stamped and returned to you, as your ticket of admission to the banquet. Lichee Garden must know the number of people expected the day before the banquet.

See you at Lichee Garden on December 3, 1971.

Howard Savage,
Program Convener.

To:- Mrs. Marion Press,
Corresponding Secretary,
Apt. 1510,
95 High Park Ave.,
Toronto 165, Ontario.

I will be attending the O.A.S. Banquet at Lichee Garden.

There will be _____ people in my party.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____ (@ \$5.00/person).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

(Cheques should be made payable to the Ontario Archaeological Society)

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members, and hope they will participate in all the activities of the Society.

MaryLou Brennan	Toronto, Ontario
Mr.&Mrs. J.A. Davies	Willowdale, Ontario
Faith Lee	Toronto, Ontario
Maryanne Moir	Scarborough, Ontario
Lawrence Boyko	Port Hope, Ontario
Ann Reeves	Scarborough, Ontario
David Simmonds	Toronto, Ontario
Linda Tinitis	Scarborough, Ontario
Isabella Czuba	Toronto, Ontario
Marion Gassenauer	Toronto, Ontario
Margot Murray	Scarborough, Ontario

* * * * *

Gloria Schimmel, in charge of O.A.S. Exhibits, has reported that the O.A.S. display case at the Boyd Conservation Area, near Woodbridge, was broken into last spring, and a number of artifacts stolen, none of which have been recovered. These artifacts, labelled with their O.A.S. numbers, are as follows:

O.A.S. 100	Bone awl, 6½ inches long
101	Polished antler tine
102	Worked antler tine
103	Undecorated, clay pipe bowl
104	Snake effigy clay pipe, with shell insert eyes
105	Deer toe bone, flattened and polished
106	Stone adze, bit end
108	Charred food remains
109	Projectile point
110	Projectile point
111	Projectile point
112	Projectile point

Gloria is most interested in learning the whereabouts of any of these artifacts, and may be contacted by mail at R.R. #1, Beeton, or by telephone at 729-2755.

* * * * *

The nominating committee for the next election has been appointed by the executive. It is as follows: T. Kenyon, M. Zaputovich and B. Rennison. Anyone wishing to stand for election, or wishing to nominate someone, is asked to contact the committee as soon as possible. The slate of candidates and the Ballot will be published in the December issue of ARCH NOTES.

LIBRARY NOTES

Greetings!

As newly-appointed O.A.S. Librarian, I beg your indulgence for a short period - at least until I have had an opportunity to get organized. It would be much appreciated if those of you who have O.A.S. Library material would call or write to let me know what items you have, and when you expect to be able to return them.

Listed below are publications received over the past several months. I have tried to establish some sort of chronological-alphabetical order, and hope to have a complete list of holdings ready for you in the near future.

Betsy Gummow,
121 Sheppard Avenue
Pickering Township
Pickering, Ontario
Phone: 282-1965

Alabama Archaeological Society
STONES AND BONES NEWSLETTER,

March 1971
April 1971
June 1971
July 1971
August 1971
Sept 1971
Oct 1971
Nov 1971

American Museum of Natural History, Journal

NATURAL HISTORY, Vol. LXXIX, No. 9, Nov. 1970
LXXX 3 Mar 1971
LXXX 4 Apr 1971
LXXX 5 May 1971
LXXX 6 June-July 1971
LXXX 7 Aug-Sept 1971
LXXX 8 Oct 1971

ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF CANADA. Vol. 9, No. 3, 1971

Archaeological Council on Canadian Waterways.

ACCWA ACTIVITIES, Vol. 3, No. 1, Sept. 1971

Archaeological Society of Alberta.

NEWSLETTER, No. 26, Fall, 1971

Archaeological Society of Delaware.

INKSHERDS, Vol. XVI, No. 5, May 1971

Archaeological Society of Virginia
NEWSLETTER, No. 30, January 1971
35, April 1971
36, July 1971

Archaeological Society of Virginia
QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Vol. 25, No. 2, December 1970
25, 3, March 1971
25, 4, June 1971

(The) BOOK OF MORMON

BUTLER, B. M., HOOVER-BEESON ROCKSHELTER, 40Cn4, CANNON COUNTY
TENNESSEE
Tennessee Archaeological Society,
Miscellaneous Papers No. 9, 1971

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL, Vol. LXXXII, No. 2, February 1971

Canadian Historic Sites
OCCASIONAL PAPERS IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY, No. 2
3
4

Council for British Archaeology
CALENDAR OF EXCAVATIONS, March 1971

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology
NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1971

FORBIS, Richard G., A REVIEW OF ALBERTA ARCHAEOLOGY TO 1964
National Museum of Man
Publications in Archaeology, No. 1, 1970
(Two copies received)

JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, Vol. XVI, No. 2, December 1970

KENYON, Walter A., THE ARMSTRONG MOUND ON RAINY RIVER, ONTARIO
(reprint from Canadian Historic Sites,
Occasional Papers in Archaeology & History No. 3))

Manitoba Archaeological Society
NEWSLETTER, Vol. VII, No. 4, Winter 1970

MITCHELL, B. M., ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PETAWAWA RIVER: THE SECOND SITE
AT MONTGOMERY LAKE
(reprint from Michigan Archaeologist, Vol. 15,
No. 1-2, March-June, 1969)

Museums Association
MONTHLY BULLETIN, Vol. 10, No. 11, February 1971
10 12, March 1971

New York State Archaeological Association
THE BULLETIN, No. 50, November 1970
51, March 1971
52, July 1971

Ontario Underwater Council

O. U. C. DIVING NEWS, Vol. 4, No. 2, March 1971.

Peabody Museum

BOOKS ON ANTHROPOLOGY, May 1971

Royal Ontario Museum

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER, N.S., No. 70, March 1971

71, April 1971

72, May 1971

Royal Ontario Museum Bulletin

ROTUNDA, Vol. 4, No. 3, Summer 1971

4, 4, Fall 1971

Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER, No. 32, March 1971

33, June 1971

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGIST, Vol. 38, Nos. 1-4, December 1968

41, Nos. 1-2, April 1971

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST, Vol. XXVI, No. 1, Spring 1971

WALKER, Iain C., NOTE ON THE BETHABARA, NORTH CAROLINA,
TOBACCOPIPES

(extract from Conference on Historic Site
Archaeology, Papers, No. 4, 1969)

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And, that't it, folks! At Last! Many thanks to the typists
who worked so hard to get this issue together.

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