



# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

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Not your typical archaeological find: Jean-Luc Pilon describes his experiences digging at an important Canadian World War 1 battle site, starting on p. 15. Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

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# Ontario Archaeological Society

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## President's message

**By Jean-Luc Pilon  
President**

I was recently at a meeting of the Kingston OAS Symposium planning committee and as a result I can assure you that this fall's event will be very worthwhile attending, not only because of the themes that have been proposed (see the call for papers in this issue), but also because of the historically steeped setting in which it will take place and the activities that are being planned. The heritage community in Kingston has a long history (did you know that next year the Catarqui Archaeological Research Foundation will be 25 years old? Congratulations!) and is proudly independent. They have much to be admired for and emulated, so make plans now to come and dip your toes into Ontario's long and complex past at the mouth of the Catarqui River at the beginning of November, 2007.

What do *Archaeology* magazine and *The Beaver* magazine have in common? Initially, not much, but bear with me. At the end of February, I picked up a copy of *Archaeology* in an airport newsstand. In it I read an interesting article by Roger Atwood titled "Publish or Be Punished: Israel cracks down on delinquent diggers" (March/April 2007). I was astonished to read how the Israel Antiquities Authority has taken a tough stand with projects and researchers, no matter how well funded they are, who fail to share their discoveries with a wider audience. While there are many intricacies to the tale (pick up a copy and

see for yourself), the bottom line is that licensing authorities can no longer accept the destruction of sites by archaeologists without efforts to actually use the information beyond the minimal requirements of license reports. I couldn't help but think of the situation here in Canada and in Ontario in particular. Literally hundreds of sites every year are discovered, registered, sampled and excavated, yet beyond compliance reports, their destruction serves no obvious purpose. At the same time, consultants can legitimately point out that they do not have the time or the resources to undertake analysis and publication on their own. And the developers, it goes without saying, are concerned with getting on with their work, not necessarily expanding our understanding of the past. Pivotal in this discussion is the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the requirements that it places on the archaeological consulting process. There may be legal questions which come into play about how much the developers can be asked to pay, but as a profession, archaeology in some respects has become a blind executioner, where we should be more like the *Médecins sans frontières* of the past.

The second part of the initial question was about *The Beaver* magazine. Actually, Holly Martelle brought my attention to the June-July 2006 issue that featured "Canada's Top 10 Archaeological Sites". Wow, what a choice Ann Chandler had to make. Look through the list. There are sites from Newfoundland, Labrador,

P.E.I., Nova Scotia, Québec, Alberta, the Plains, Yukon, British Columbia. What do you feel like at this moment? Neglected and rejected? Here is insult to injury—Chandler added two more stories at the end of the "Top 10": one on possible Dorset-Norse contacts in the Eastern Arctic and a short section on "Walking with Dinosaurs"!! Ontario did not place in the "Top 10" and did not even merit an honorable mention. Does this mean that Ontario's archaeological past pales in comparison to these and other sites? Not by a long shot in my opinion! We could sit down and discuss how the list was arrived at, who was asked to suggest sites, how the questions were asked, what were the criteria for being considered a "top" site, etc., but this would be circular and futile. At the same time, we might also come to the realization that the story of Ontario's archaeological past is just not getting out there to a wider public; in fact, it is even difficult for archaeologists to know what is going on just down the road.

In Ontario, just about all of the archaeology being done takes place because of the needs of development and impact studies. The context of this work is such that the point of the exercise has become to clear the archaeological concern on a property and then get on with the development. Government does not impose any necessity to publish and so contracts cannot include funds for analysis and publication. A consultant earning a living then goes on to the next project

and the backlog simply continues to grow. There are, of course, exceptions to this broad statement, but as a general trend it is unfortunately too true. What is the solution? Something drastic like the Israel Antiquities Authority imposed? That couldn't last long because then developments across the province would grind to a halt. The first step, however, might be for the Ministry to at least recognize that it is an issue and bring concerned players to a table to take stock of the situation and discuss options and strategies.

On a more positive note, in my first President's Message to you, I foretold of canoe races on the Rideau Canal for the National Capital's Winterlude instead of the usual skating. Two weeks after writing those words, temperatures

plummeted and we no longer spoke of global warming, but of record cold temperatures for February. So go figure.

What I find interesting in these discussions of global warming and the greenhouse effect is the lack of time depth. Serious commentators will speak of trends developed over the past century. Some even go back to the Middle Ages. This is all in the recent past and there really has not been enough time to develop significant trends. Much data exist on global temperature fluctuations spanning centuries and millennia since the end of the last ice age, yet we hardly ever hear scientists share with us insights from these studies. How did people cope in the past with climate change? Do archaeologists have something to add to the debate? Is there really

something to learn from the past that can help us prepare for the future? Plus ça change, plus c'est pareil!

Enfin, je me dois de terminer cette note avec quelques mots en français pour les lecteurs francophones. Il y a une tradition parmi les gens de chez nous de s'accommoder, de ne pas brasser la soupe inutilement. En toute douceur, il y a peut-être une occasion pour prendre un peu de place sur la scène de l'archéologie en Ontario. Si vous en avez l'envie, faites-nous des suggestions pour augmenter l'utilisation du français là où un besoin réel existe au sein de la société ontarienne d'archéologie. Soyez rassurés que toutes vos idées sont les plus bienvenues!

## From the OAS office...

### Lise Ferguson, Executive Director

Spring has sprung! OAS Chapters are getting busy again after most had a break during part of our cold Ontario winter, and there are lots of other goings-on, some of which I will highlight here.

### Chapters' Corner

(see the websites for the most up-to-date information; you can link to the Chapters through the OAS website at [ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://ontarioarchaeology.on.ca))

### Hamilton

April 5, 7 pm, Dundurn Castle - White Raven: An Evening With Author & Archaeologist Deborah Cannon. Join the Hamilton

Chapter to celebrate the release of White Raven with the author as she takes us into the fictional world of archaeology, ancient myths, and a bitter feud between environmentalists and loggers! Autographed books are for sale (\$25) to raise funds for the Hamilton Chapter. Free admission; RSVPs recommended. Advance orders guarantee a signing. Light refreshments will be served.

### Public Events - 2007

May - Map, Compass, & Survey Workshop

TBA - Basic to advanced map and compass skills for students of archaeology. Topics include triangulation, map reading, vectors and radials, calculating distance (tran-

sit), GPS, and others.

May (weekends) - Ancient Pathways Project: Pedestrian Surveys within the Dundas Valley Project. Spokesperson, Dr. Bob Henderson (McMaster U.).

Summer -TBA Archaeological Survey - Reconnaissance of the Reimer/Boyd Sites Project Director - James B. Bandow. Open to OAS members only!

### London

April 12 - The speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Chris Watts, University of Toronto, who will talk about his work on Western Basin sites in southwestern Ontario in a presentation entitled "Pot/Potter Hybrids and Networks of Agency in Late Woodland

Southwestern Ontario, ca. AD 900-1300”.

### **Ottawa**

May 10 - The “35 + 1” Anniversary of the Ottawa Chapter with cake and refreshments. OAS members and friends are welcome. Check the Ottawa Chapter website for details as they develop.

### **Toronto**

April 18 - Jim Sherratt, University of Toronto at Mississauga, will be speaking on “19th Century Peel: (As)sorted Tales of Pioneering Life”. Over the last five years, D.R. Poulton and Associates have excavated a large number of 19th century farmsteads in Peel County. Each archaeological investigation of a historic site is unique, providing insight into the first century of pioneer life in Upper Canada. The story of the G. Bland, P. McClure and J. Leflar sites are no exceptions. The G. Bland site represents a wealthy pioneer family while the J. Leflar site gives us a glimpse of a young widow’s struggle in the backwoods of Canada.

### **Call for papers**

The City of Cambridge Archives Board invites you to join them on October 20, 2007, for History on the Grand, a one-day local history symposium to be held at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in downtown Cambridge. The aim of this symposium is to provide a forum for members of the academic community, historical and heritage groups, historic sites, museums and archives and the general public to share research and discuss issues arising from the study of

local history and making history public. We invite proposals for papers on a wide range of themes, including native history and archaeology, and others. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2007, and presenters will be notified by June 15, 2007. For further information please contact: Jim Quantrell, City of Cambridge Archives at [quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca](mailto:quantrellj@city.cambridge.on.ca); additional information at: [www.city.cambridge.on.ca](http://www.city.cambridge.on.ca)

### **New book**

*Words of the Huron* by John L. Steckley (Wilfrid Laurier Press) - see [www.wlupress.wlu.ca/press/Catalog/steckley.shtml](http://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/press/Catalog/steckley.shtml)

*Words of the Huron* is an investigation into seventeenth-century Huron culture through a kind of linguistic archaeology of a language that died midway through the twentieth century. John Steckley explores a range of topics, including: the construction of longhouses and wooden armour; the use of words for trees in village names; the social anthropological standards of kinship terms and clans; Huron conceptualizing of European-borne disease; the spirit realm of *orenda*; Huron nations and kinship groups; relationship to the environment; material culture; and the relationship between the French missionaries and settlers and the Huron people. Steckley’s source material includes the first dictionary of any Aboriginal language, Recollect Brother Gabriel Sagard’s Huron phrasebook, published in 1632, and the sophisticated Jesuit missionary study of the language from the 1620s to the 1740s,

beginning with the work of Father Jean de Brébeuf. The only book of its kind, *Words of the Huron* will spark discussion among scholars, students and anyone interested in North American archaeology, Native studies, cultural anthropology, and seventeenth-century North American history.

John L. Steckley has taught at Humber College since 1983 in the areas of Aboriginal languages, culture, and history. His books include: *Beyond Their Years: Five Native Women’s Stories*; *Full Circle: Canada’s First Nations*; *Aboriginal Voices and the Politics of Representation in Canadian Introductory Sociology Textbooks* and *De Religione: Telling the 17th Century Jesuit Story in Huron to the Iroquois*. In 1999, he was adopted into the Wyandot tribe of Kansas. (He is also a past-President of the OAS!)

### **Significant heritage lands protected under Natural Spaces Program**

On March 15, there was an announcement by the Ontario Heritage Trust: The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the OHT; David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources; and Caroline Di Cocco, Minister of Culture, announced the approval of 26 funding applications to acquire significant natural heritage lands through Ontario’s Natural Spaces Program. This program provides tools and resources to help landowners voluntarily contribute to the stewardship of Ontario’s rich natural heritage. The MNR granted \$6 million to the OHT to acquire and secure significant natural heritage

properties. The Trust used the funding to establish the "Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program".

"This program is helping to preserve and restore a diverse system of natural areas across southern Ontario," said Minister Ramsay. "We will continue to work with landowners, First Nations and other partners to further the protection and stewardship of natural spaces."

The 26 approved applications were submitted by a range of part-

ners including trail and field naturalist organizations, several conservation authorities and one municipality. The proposed land acquisitions include over 750 hectares (nearly 1,900 acres) of provincially significant natural heritage lands. The Trust's contribution to these proposed land acquisitions is \$2.5 million, which will be matched by the partners. For more information, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/2z6ct9>

### **Ancient Peru Unearthed**

The Royal Ontario Museum presents an exhibition of pre-Inca artifacts highlighting the ancient Sicán culture. See:

[www.rom.on.ca/peru](http://www.rom.on.ca/peru)

### **Doors Open Ontario**

From March through October a number of towns and cities will be swinging a lot of "Doors Open" to heritage buildings and other sites not normally open to the public. For info:

[www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca)

## **EcoArchaeology Weekend for Adults— Murphys Point Provincial Park**

**Friday, September 14 to  
Sunday, September 24**

A successful archaeology project has been going on at Murphys Point Provincial Park since 2001. The McParlan House/Burgess Mill site dates to the early nineteenth century and includes remains from a farmstead, a sawmill and a blacksmith shop. Since 2004, elementary students have been

involved in excavation at the site for a week each Fall under the supervision of professional archaeologists and members of the Ottawa Chapter. The Hogg Bay Committee of the Friends of Murphys Point Park is now ready to expand this project to the general adult population and has designed a unique ecoarchaeology weekend experience that will

include lots of excavation, guided hikes, canoeing, and great accommodation and meals. For more information, a fee schedule or to register, see [www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca](http://www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca), e-mail [friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca](mailto:friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca) or call Beth at (613) 267-5340. Space is limited—please register by July 31.

## **Introducing the Huronia Chapter**

**By Marilyn E. Cornies**

In the past few years I have had the opportunity to be involved in archaeological surveys and excavations in that part of Ontario widely known as Huronia. The present residents of Huronia possess an impressive amount of both passion and knowledge of the history of the area. What was lacking was a forum in which to share this

knowledge. A local Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society seemed the ideal solution.

The formation of a Huronia chapter rapidly gained support and John Raynor, Michael Henry and I applied to the Society. We could not have accomplished this without the assistance of the OAS members in good standing who supported our application. Special

thanks to Michelle Bedard, Ellen Blaubergs, Dale Elder, Alicia Hawkins, Jamie Hunter, Marg Raynor, Teresa Wagner and Jason Wootton-Radko. We would also like to thank those individuals who have applied to be members of the chapter. Additionally, members of the Board of Directors of the provincial body of the OAS must be thanked for their encourage-

ment and support of our new chapter. Our application was accepted and we were then faced with the daunting task of organizing the chapter. An interim executive was elected to deal with the many nuts and bolts. The interim executive consists of Marilyn Cornies, president; Teresa Wagner, vice-president; and Marg Raynor, secretary/treasurer.

### First meeting

The first meeting of the Huronia Chapter of the OAS will be held May 16, 2007, at 7 p.m. in Midland. It will be at the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, with subsequent meetings to be held at the Georgian Bay Métis Council (addresses below). Anyone wanting to attend can e-mail me at [mcornies@amick.ca](mailto:mcornies@amick.ca).

The meeting will be opened with a smudging ceremony followed by the signing of the charter. A short meeting will then be held to inform members of upcoming events and to solicit member ideas for chapter activities. We will also be actively soliciting member feedback and suggestions on some of the preliminary ideas on the goals and objectives of the chapter. Refreshments will be offered and time allotted to allow members to become acquainted with each other.

A number of preliminary ideas have been developed in consultation with our founding members. In the short term the Chapter intends to set up an interactive web page and a Chapter newsletter. It has been suggested that the newsletter be issued in a digital format to reduce costs and the time required to produce each issue.

The name and logo for the newsletter is to be determined by the members.

Ideas for long-term goals are many and ambitious. Public education and awareness are to be major components of the Huronia Chapter. The intention is to enhance the linkages between heritage groups, local municipalities and First Nations communities and organizations with an interest in the rich heritage of Huronia. The knowledge of avocational and local informants in the area is vast. The chapter intends to collect and record this information in an effort to enhance the current historical and archaeological record.

The Chapter aims to compile the historical records from existing primary and secondary works as well as to map the historical geography with reference to both events and locations. Research will be conducted in an effort to place known sites within the chronology of Huronia. The next step will then be the publication of these records in an accessible public format. The Chapter will encourage the preservation of significant sacred, historic and cultural sites.

The Chapter also hopes to assist in the promotion of the area as a historic site destination by working with the tourism industry, which is of great importance to the area. All of this, of course, is subject to the input of the membership and is offered only to form the basis of discussion.

The interim executive has been working diligently in an effort to ensure that the Huronia chapter will be an interactive chapter with involvement from its members.

We hope to see many of you at

our inaugural meeting.

Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre  
175 Yonge Street  
Midland, Ontario  
Phone (705) 526-5589  
[www.gbnfc.com](http://www.gbnfc.com)

Georgian Bay Métis Council  
Unit 301  
9170 County Road 93  
Midland, Ontario  
Phone (705) 526-6335  
(above The Source)

## Correction

In our last issue, an error inadvertently crept into the article about Åke Hultkrantz in the Web reference for the Shaman journal website. It should be:

[www.folkscene.hum](http://www.folkscene.hum)

not [www.folkscene.hu](http://www.folkscene.hu)

We regret any confusion this may have caused readers.



# Volunteer Positions Available

# H.A.P.

Haldimand Archaeological Project

"Giving the past a future"

## **Haldimand Archaeological Project**

A partnership of trained archaeologists and community residents designed to explore, study, and share the archaeological heritage of Haldimand County.

Energetic Volunteers needed for a variety of field excavation activities in Haldimand County (60km west of Hamilton).

### **Dates for Phase 1:**

July 4th to August 10th, 2007

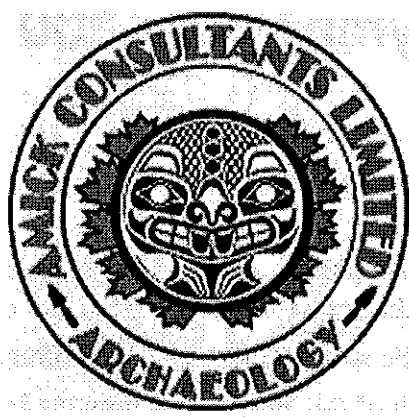
This fieldwork opportunity can be used as work experience for future archaeological work and research.

Fieldwork experience an asset.

### **All inquiries please contact:**

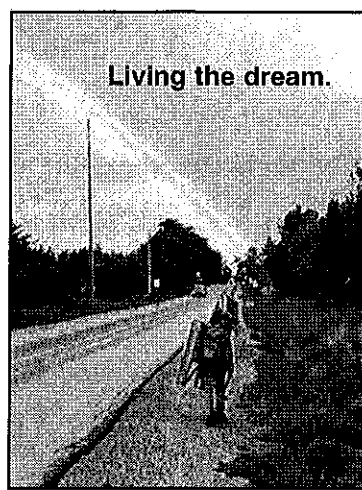
Mr. W.L. Bruechert  
HAP07@Canada.com





Do you want to travel to exotic locations? While getting paid?

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AMICK Consultants Limited is currently looking for 2 Field Directors and 10–20 Field Crew Members for the upcoming 2007 field season. Candidates applying for the Field Director position must have, or be eligible for, an archaeological licence. Experience in report writing and artifact analysis is an asset. Field Crew Applicants do not require field experience although it is an asset. Pay is negotiable and will be dependent upon experience and skill sets. For qualifying personnel, there is potential for employment to extend through the winter months following the end of the field season. Full-time, permanent employment is a possibility based on qualifications and skill sets. We are looking for people to work out of each of our two offices: in London, and in Port McNicoll (near Midland).

AMICK Consultants Limited has several archaeological site excavations to complete in the upcoming field season, as well as numerous property assessments and test excavations.

Although our fieldwork will likely begin before the end of March and could last until mid-December, we welcome applications for employment from students seeking summer work.

Resumes will be accepted only at the Lakelands District Office. All interviews will be held at the Lakelands District Office. If you have a preference for location, please note which district to which you are applying.



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Fax: 705-534-7855  
Via e-mail: [mmilne@amick.ca](mailto:mmilne@amick.ca)

# Either Side of Contact—OAS Symposium 2007

## Call for Papers and Posters

From 2 to 4 November 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 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century French fur trade post Fort Frontenac, and the strategic military and commercial centre of British Upper Canada during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Much of this legacy still remains in the town's architecture and street names.

Reflecting Kingston's diverse heritage, we invite papers and posters exploring the range of Ontario's human past from prehistory to the historic period. Themes we wish to include are:

- Defence and Modified Landscapes
- Approaches to Material Culture Research
- Cultures in Contact
- Cultural Resource Management in Ontario: Everyone has a Role

Interested participants please send titles and abstracts to:

Program Committee  
 OAS Symposium 2007  
 Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation  
 72 Gilmour Avenue  
 Kingston, Ontario K7M 9G6

or by e-mail in Word or Word Perfect format to:

sue@carf.info

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 information at [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca) and [www.carf.info](http://www.carf.info) as well as forthcoming *Arch Notes*.

See you in Kingston!

# Paul William Sweetman

*From the Toronto Star February 21, 2007, 10:36 AM*

SWEETMAN, Paul William. Peacefully, in his 90th year, on Saturday, February 17, 2007, in Brighton, Ontario. Paul was predeceased by his wife Helen Pauline (Polly), son Nicholas Paul and sister Eleanor Bissell. Beloved father of Jill Osborne (Gordon). Sadly missed by daughter in law Sandra, grandchildren Rebecca and Lauren Sweetman and Pdraig Osborne. Uncle of Lynn Gardner and family, Margaret Bissell and Mary Bissell and family. Retired Supervisor of Music with the Scarborough Board of Education. Past President of The Ontario Archaeological Society, 2006 recipient of The Pendergast Award. Composer and Music Director of his much loved Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. A reception [was] held at the HUMPHREY FUNERAL HOME A.W. MILES CHAPEL, 1403 Bayview Avenue (south of Eglinton Avenue East), on Saturday, February 24, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Leaside Room. Donations may be made in Paul's memory to the Canadian Cancer Society, 20 Holly Street, Suite 101, Toronto, ON M4S 3B1.

*From Charles Garrad*

Paul Sweetman died in Brighton, Ontario, but a Reception was held in Toronto on Saturday February 24th, which enabled Mima Kapches, Peter Carruthers, Ella and Charlie Garrad to attend to represent the OAS and Paul's archaeological interests. We were greatly outnumbered by his former music and choral students, some of which most impressively sang a group presentation of the Lord's Prayer. Charlie was then invited to read an item he had written for *Arch Notes* titled "My Recollections of Paul W. Sweetman, Archaeologist". Afterward, a number of those in attendance said they had known nothing about Paul's archaeological interest and were quite astounded to learn of it, especially his role in the preservation of the Peterborough Petroglyphs.

## My Recollections of Paul W. Sweetman, Archaeologist

**By Charles Garrad**

I first met Paul back in the 1960s when I was befriended by Paul's principal archaeological colleagues, Ken Kidd and Frank Ridley. After Frank died in 1985 I began visiting Paul and Polly periodically. I learned they were both retired teachers and had met at OCE. They married in 1942, had a daughter Jill, and a son Nicholas. After Polly and Nick had passed on, and Paul moved to an apartment, their big cat named Tina adjusted and became Paul's companion, almost to the end. At that time Paul had an archaeological laboratory set up at his house in Don Mills and was busy restoring ceramics pots from several archaeological sites which he had helped excavate. Archaeology was only one of Paul's eclectic interests. His principal interest was music—he was a graduate of the Faculty of Music under Sir Ernest

MacMillan—and a music teacher throughout his teaching career. He was also interested in military history, particularly the career of Napoleon. Paul's last major trip just a few years ago was to Vienna, both for the music, and to visit Austerlitz. Paul knew every detail of the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805, when Napoleon defeated a larger Austrian and Russian force.

Paul told me how he and Polly had met Kenneth and Martha Kidd from the ROM at a party in 1947. Ken was writing his book on his work at Ste. Marie Among the Hurons and was now looking for volunteers to assist him at the Ossossane ossuary. Paul insisted the real reason he was invited to join the crew was that he was the only one who could drive and had a driving licence, but he was being modest. It was at Ossossane that Paul met Frank Ridley, who had found

the ossuary, persuaded the owner to deed it to the ROM, and arranged for the ROM to excavate it, and later even made and built the sign which marks the ossuary site today.

This was not Paul's first exposure to things archaeological. As a schoolboy, Paul's best friend was Claude Bissell, later President of the University of Toronto. Together they used to pick up arrowpoints and artifacts when houses were being built at Baby Point. They even became related when Paul's sister married Lester Bissell.

At the time Paul became involved in music as a career, the musical superintendent for the Toronto Public School Board was Alexander T. Cringan, who was the expert on Iroquois Indian music and had published several articles in the Ontario Archaeological Reports series for David Boyle (Boyle 1898:144-156; Cringan 1900, 1903, 1906).

In 1957 Paul was teaching at Lawrence Park Collegiate and there he introduced an archaeological programme. He was, at the time (1957, 1958), president of The Ontario Archaeological Society. Paul and his students excavated the Brimley Road site and at Woodbridge. Beginning in 1962 he operated Saturday morning classes for gifted students and they excavated a site in Victoria County. Two of the gifted students went into archaeology: Roberta O'Brien and Peter Hamalainen. Frank Ridley took over Paul's teaching in 1964-65 when the Sweetman family took a sabbatical to U.K. Paul spent a year in the British Museum reading music manuscripts. Not long after they returned (1967) Paul became Director

of Music for the Scarborough School Board and retained that position until he retired in 1977.

I gradually came to learn Paul's memories and opinions of Ontario during the war, of the state of education at various times, of his musical performances, training choirs, and promoting the music of Gilbert and Sullivan. Also of his sense of humour, wit, and intellectual skills which made him fun to visit. He produced two kinds of archaeological reports, formal, for the government and for publication, and humorous, for private circulation among his friends, the latter copiously illustrated with clever cartoons and def-

initely not for wider distribution. Paul initially wrote of his friend Frank Ridley as the Reverend and Right Honourable, but after Paul invented a fictitious University of Kleinberg, which awarded Ridley the one and only Ph.D. it ever granted, it was thereafter Dr. Ridley.

These reports had best remain private, but I will cite Paul's Recipe for Northern Coffee written in 1953: Take three handfuls of coffee, add one soiled sock, five ants, four black flies, one

gallon of water. Boil for two hours, filter and serve.

In the 1950s and '60s Paul conducted archaeological work with and for Ken Kidd at the ROM, Thomas McIlwraith and Norman Emerson at the UofT, for the Historic Sites Board, and with Frank Ridley privately. Paul's reports for the Historic Sites Board are now in the Ontario Archives. In 1954 Paul was asked to be part of an expedition to investigate the newly discovered Peterborough Petroglyphs. The country through which the crew hiked was then absolutely primitive. To cross one stream they undressed and carried their



Paul Sweetman, at the Ault Park site some time in 1957.

Emerson Archaeological Photographic Archives, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto; catalogue # EgFr-1-17

clothes on their heads. One result of the expedition was Paul's first publication in Ontario History (Sweetman 1955). Another result was the preservation of the Petroglyphs on Paul's recommendation (Vastokas & Vastokas 1973:10,143n8). The next year, 1955, was the joint Ridley/Sweetman expedition to Moose Factory and Moose River. In all Paul published archaeological reports in five outlets, and privately, and there are unpublished reports in the Ontario Archives.

In 1959 Paul and his friend Frank Ridley were invited to be part of a Canadian delegation to China. Paul represented the City of Toronto and the Toronto School Board; Paul and Frank together represented Ontario archaeology. In China, Paul visited various schools, studied their curricula, met teachers, principals and officials, and was astounded to find that in supposedly insular China, embargoed by the Americans, largely abandoned by Russia, they were teaching 52 languages in preparation for the day that China would again be a member of the world community. Paul told me that at the time the best place in the world to learn Swahili, or Zulu, or Finish, was in Peking. Paul and Frank were taken to the major archaeological sites in both China and Russia, where they stayed several weeks on their way home. Paul particularly remembered the archaeological section of the Museum of Russia on the Red Square in Moscow, opposite his hotel. Paul's report to the Toronto Board of Education would be interesting reading if it could be retrieved from the Board's archives.

Both Paul and Frank returned to Canada with a love for China and the wish to reciprocate the hospitality they had received. The Sweetmans and Ridleys kept open houses for Chinese officials, delegations, the Peking Opera, ballets and the like when they visited Toronto.

Paul took a deep satisfaction over the outcome of what seemed a minor event. At the Ault Park site in 1957, Paul, ever the teacher, lectured the student excavators around the evening campfire about Ontario archaeology. One of the University of Toronto students was 18-year-old Bruce Trigger. Bruce later went to Harvard, and returned to Canada to become Canada's foremost anthropologist. In Paul's later years, Bruce wrote to him to say that, looking back on his career, he learned more from Paul at the evening

campfire at Ault Park than he had at any University. Other recognition in Paul's later years included an Honorary Life Membership, and a Fifty Year Membership recognition, from The Ontario Archaeological Society (2004 Arch Notes).

In his last publication, Bruce Trigger named many people who had influenced his life, including "Paul Sweetman, a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society, encouraged my archaeological interests" (Trigger 2006:231). Paul encouraged many, and his influence will live on, both directly and indirectly through those he inspired. Those of us who knew him enjoyed being with him. I am fortunate to have been one of them.

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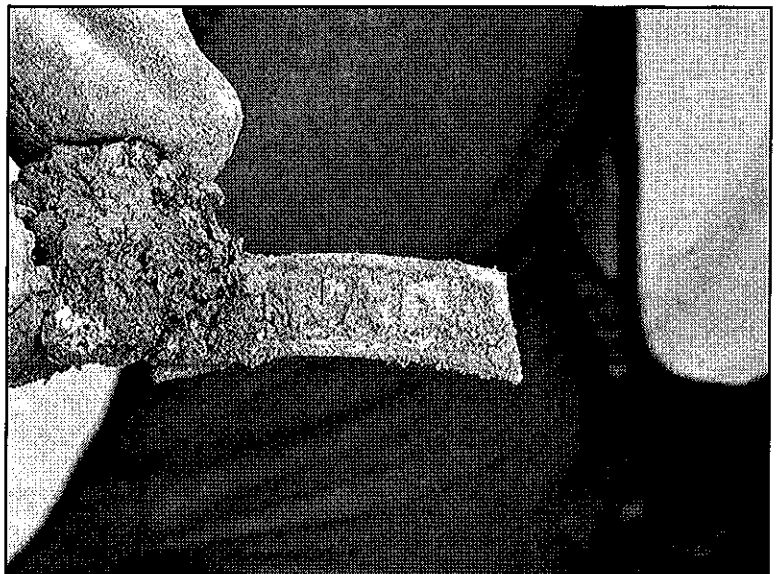
# Digging Into Vimy Ridge: Challenging our History

By Jean-Luc Pilon

Curator of Ontario Archaeology  
Canadian Museum of Civilization  
Gatineau, QC

For several years now, there has been a very fruitful collaboration between YAP Films, a Toronto-based documentary filmmaker, and No Man's Land, a U.K.-based archaeological/historical battlefield investigation group. Together, archaeological and historical investigations have featured prominently in a number of documentaries and a television series in the U.K. that deal with scientific investigations into the trenches of the First World War.

The award-winning filmmaker, headed by Elliott Halpern and Pauline Duffy, has a commendable record of contributing to the development of awareness, on the part of Canadians, of the military history of Canada. It was their efforts, for example, which largely resulted in locating, recording and quite literally saving priceless colour film footage taken during the



Corroded "CANADA" shoulder title found beside the duckboards at the very bottom of a test unit straddling the fighting trench from which the Royal Canadian Regiment sprung forward on the morning of the 9th of April, 1917, never needing to return there, having won the day.

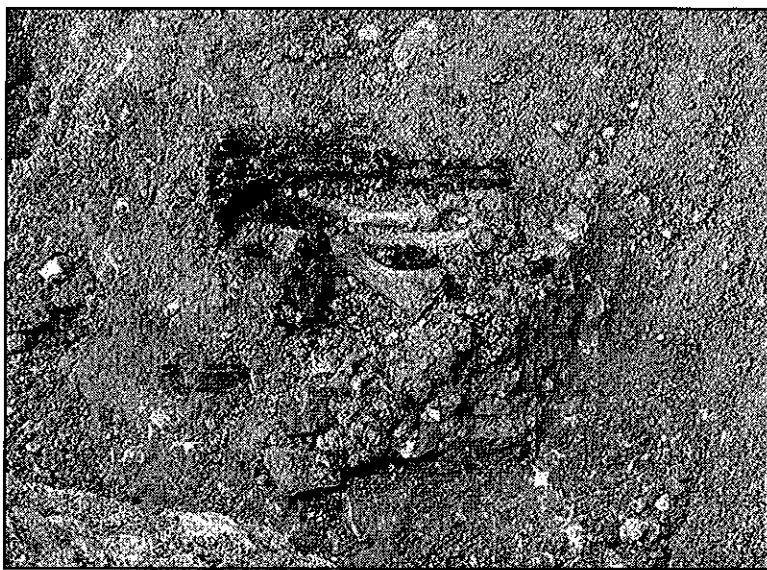
Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

Second World War when they made "Canada's War in Colour".

The No Man's Land group is an association of indi-

viduals who share a passion for archaeology—and battlefield archaeology in particular. Among them are amateur archaeologists, historians, archivists and consulting archaeologists. To date, their field activities have been carried out in northern France and in adjacent Belgium. Their work has added rich, concrete details to our understanding of well-known events such as the battle at Beaumont-Hamel, where the Newfoundland Regiment was decimated on the

have recently been accorded burials in military cemeteries with markers bearing their names, alongside their former comrades in arms. While this may only be symbolic, it has had very significant impacts on descendants of these soldiers whose fates were never known. It also serves as a reminder to us that wars kill individuals who had names and life histories, not only faceless, generic soldiers wearing grey uniforms captured in fading black and white photographs.



A grim reminder of the reality of war: articulated foot bones with the remains of a British-issue boot. This foot appeared to have been shovelled into a sandbag used in protecting the entrance to a tunnel which brought troops forward during the battle of Vimy Ridge.

Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

first day of the Battle of the Somme, July 1, 1916.

The nature of warfare in 1914–1918 was such that in the course of the excavations carried out by the No Man's Land group, human remains are frequently encountered. Tens of thousands of Commonwealth soldiers went missing and were never recovered from those fields of mud and glory. Often these grisly remains are quite literally stray bones—evidence that bombs, shells and grenades were very lethal and quite effective. These scattered remains can also attest to in-field burials that became forgotten and were later disturbed.

In some rare instances, in-field burials were recovered intact by No Man's Land excavators and the application of forensic methods allowed some of the deceased individuals to actually be identified. As a result of this work, some First World War soldiers

### **Battlefield Archaeology**

Battlefield archaeology is a relatively new area of archaeological inquiry, which took on a much more scientific orientation following the widely publicized work of Douglas Scott and his colleagues. They systematically plotted artifacts on the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, where Lt. Col. George A. Custer made his last mistake, to the detriment not only of himself, but of 210 men of the US 7th Cavalry and unknown numbers of Native warriors on June 25, 1876. Thus, our understanding of these events, which had only been transmitted through incomplete oral accounts, was greatly enhanced and a markedly different view of this battle has emerged.

Since then, an ever-widening range of scientific techniques have been applied to battlefields, both ancient and recent, and have thus led to a better understanding of

the actions which actually transpired there, relatively freer from the biases that can so easily enter into official and even unofficial records of the times. In many instances, archaeology is the only source of information about some battles that, save for the knowledge of their occurrence, went essentially undocumented.

### **The Battle of Vimy Ridge – History, Documentaries and Archaeology**

April 9, 2007, marked the 90th anniversary of a First World War battle that has particular resonance for Canadians: the Battle of Vimy Ridge. This battle has taken on near mythical proportions, being hailed by Brigadier-General Alexander E. Ross as the moment when the young Dominion rose to an important challenge, and “It was Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific on parade. I thought then that in those few

minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation.”

To mark this anniversary and also to present new information and perspectives on that Easter Monday battle, YAP Films undertook to produce a documentary of the battle and battlefield—*Vimy: From Heaven to Hell*. In fact, their approach was to examine the aerial component, the ground level perspective, and the subterranean element, as all three areas contributed to the overall success of those four days.

In support of that documentary, YAP once again enlisted the collaboration of the No Man’s Land group to carry out excavations within the Vimy battlefield. It has been a tradition with the No Man’s Land group to include in their activities persons with particular connections to the battlefield. For example, in the case of their Beaumont-Hamel excavations, currently serving members of the Newfoundland Regiment were brought to the site to retrace some of the footsteps of their predecessors. At Vimy, I and my son Thomas (currently working at the Canadian War Museum as a guide) were invited to take part in the week-long excavations. It goes without saying that we gladly accepted.

Excavations took place between the 1st and 6th of October, 2006. While this would normally be a bit late in the season for outdoor work, the weather for most of October in France, like here in Canada, proved to be very atypical and was actually very pleasant. A seventh day of work at the site was added that had not been planned and which consisted of aerial photography and last minute cleaning up. Thomas and I unfortunately had already made plans to be elsewhere.

Canada was granted by France, in perpetuity, a significant portion of Vimy Ridge to serve as a memorial to its fallen soldiers, and today the site is administered by Veterans Affairs Canada. In the past, they have allowed—and indeed welcomed—a group of historically-minded military engineers into the labyrinth of tunnels and subways which criss-cross Vimy Ridge. Unfortunately VAC did not grant permission to the No Man’s Land group to undertake surface archaeo-

logical investigations for this documentary project. We therefore found ourselves less than three metres from the fence which marks the edge of Canadian land in France, while, ironically, setting up a small base of operations within the footprint of Canadian memorial lands.

Previous historical research by No Man’s Land historians indicated that the area of interest included the entrance to a tunnel as well as portions of the fighting



The headstone of Montreal native Lieutenant Marvin Jay Workman of the 75th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, who died during the assault on Vimy Ridge, April 9th, 1917. Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

trench from which the Royal Canadian Regiment dashed forward in the early morning hours of Easter Monday, 1917. Excavations were oriented mainly toward obtaining details pertaining to these two features. Additionally, two secondary excavation areas were also opened up. One was a short section through

a possible communications trench, and the other was in an area which proved to be very complex, with an earlier French trench that was filled in and later impacted by at least two artillery shells whose deep craters served as a dump at the end of the war.

While these goals seem straight-forward, a few words of qualification are in order. A first element to point out is that while the RCR may have used the fighting trench in this sector on April 9, 1917, the trench itself and the area in general had been continuously fought over since basically the beginning of the war by both French and German troops. This history greatly increased the anticipated level of archaeological complexity.

This situation was further exacerbated following the war when Chinese Labour Battalions were brought in to smooth over the landscape in order to return it to its original use as farmland. They undertook to fill in the trenches and earthworks, and generally clean up the refuse of war. In doing so, several hundred of these workmen died since the landscape still had plenty of deadly, unexploded ammunition laying about or lying just below the surface. In fact, it still does. The local regional archaeologist, Monsieur Alain Jacques, informed me that on average one per-



Rifle ammunition was issued in bandoleers to facilitate their transportation in the field. Twin clips of five British .303 bullets would be placed into each pocket of the bandoleer. While the leather or more likely canvas bandoleer has long since rotted away, the bullets remain in the same position as when they were dropped. Moreover, the bullets remain quite live and experiments showed that the cordite they still contain is still highly flammable.

Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

son dies in the Picardie region every year as a result of contact with live explosives. The First World War is a conflict that continues to take lives 90 years later.

### Some Personal Experiences

As I was only an excavator on this project, I will not attempt to summarize the findings of that week's worth of work. Rather, I will review several otherwise innocuous facts that emerged as the week wore on.

A first point, which may appear laughable to many, is the soil. Under the sod, the undisturbed soil consists of a very fine limon (silt). The soil is clearly high in iron oxides and has a distinct buff to orange colour. While it only rained on one day, the soil never really dried out and the evening dampness or mist would produce a surface which had a very definite greasiness to it, such that before long, boots, gloves, knees and bottoms were coloured with the buff limon. From now on, when I view black and white photographs taken at Vimy Ridge, or elsewhere for that matter in northwestern France or in Belgium during the First World War, I can add the colour of the dirt to the grey tones and thus begin to colorize that decades-old, monochromatic conflict.

When even slightly wet, the surface of the limon rapidly transformed itself into a thick and heavy layer tenaciously adhering to the bottoms of our boots. It is a remarkable material, as if in some way, the iron oxides there now include iron compounds derived from human haemoglobin that has become locked into this soil but which seeks the earliest opportunity to leave, even if on the bottom of a boot. Again, fading photographs of soldiers returning from the trench often afford a glimpse of this unctuous material whose weight I can now estimate and actually feel.

While the scars of war on the French landscape have faded, the scabs are still quite thin. Live artillery shells, grenades and mortar bombs continue to exact a toll on the local farmers who still plough up the residues of war. While most of this material is harmless ferraille (iron bits), as they call it, some are deadly. In our excavations, we encountered 16 Stokes mortar bombs, numerous mortar firing mechanisms,

innumerable live bullets and at least two unexploded, live hand grenades. Thankfully, there were two professional bomb disposal experts on the No Man's Land crew, who defused or otherwise removed to a safe place these dangerous artifacts for later disposal by the French military.

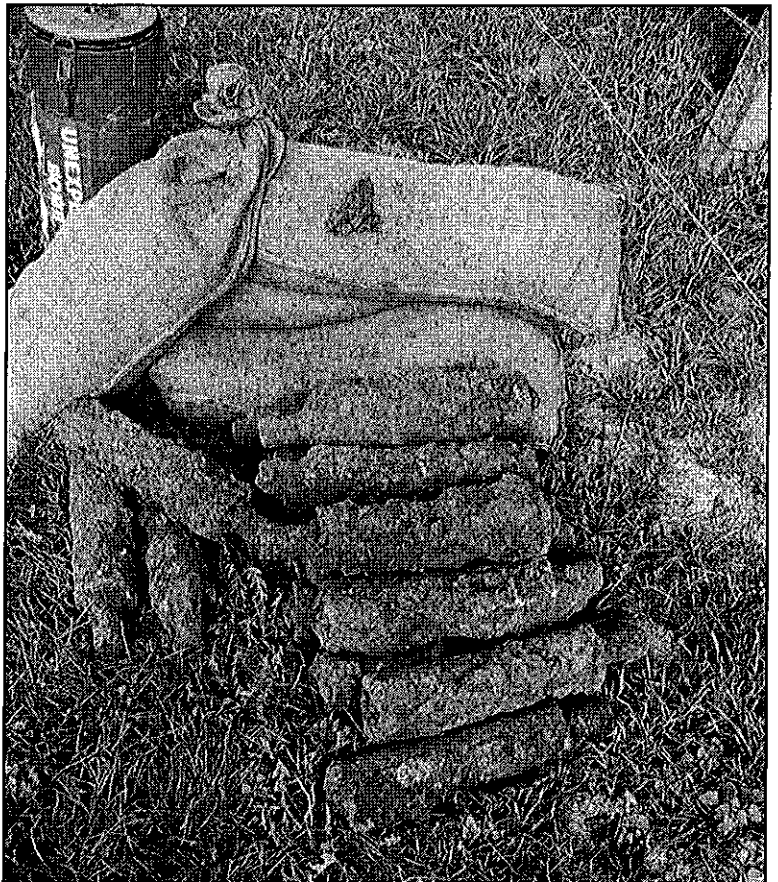
On one occasion, everyone quickly scrambled upwind from one of the excavation areas as a distinct smell was perceived (somewhat akin to garlic?) in the bottom of one of the deep pits. While it could not be determined where the smell had originated, nor its actual nature, there is a very real possibility of coming across various deadly gas canisters used by both sides during the Great War. As such, the site was bedecked with ribbons indicating at all times to excavators the current wind directions.

Excavation methods were not those I am accustomed to employing. While trowels were very much part of the inventory of implements used, the greatest part of the excavated soil was removed with shovels, having first been loosened with pick axes. Considering the mere possibility of slamming the pick onto a live grenade or mortar bomb, it is quite amazing that this was the preferred excavation tool. Looking back, however, it is easy to see that only a fraction of the area that we eventually did excavate would have been opened up if trowels had been the main earth-movers. There were practical considerations. The archaeological crew was made up of volunteers using up holiday time, and the logistics were being paid for by a film company who was intent on obtaining film footage, perhaps not at the expense of safety or ethics, but they were not principally interested in the minutia which could have been salvaged through the application of more delicate techniques.

At the same time, the complexity I alluded to earlier meant that the only time we could be relatively certain of dealing with deposits relating to April 9, 1917, was when



A hand grenade being handled after being rendered harmless by a bomb disposal expert.  
Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon



Unused Stokes mortar bombs placed in a restricted area, awaiting disposal by the French military. Artifacts such as these remain deadly and continue to hurt and kill.  
Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon



we found ourselves on the very bottom of the trenches. Even then, that was no guarantee that this was the case since mixing of artifacts from earlier uses of the trench could easily occur there up to the moment of "going over the top". Yet, the refuse dragged into the trenches after the war and the fill gathered from the surrounding battlefield still has a story to tell. After all, archaeology is mostly about finding refuse, documenting its contexts and interpreting its significance. The imperatives of a documentary film impose difficult choices, much like the excavation of a multi-component, stratified site does. If we are interested only in the earlier component, do we plough through the later layers without regard for the story they have to tell? If there is a limited budget and especially a finite amount of time allocated for the excavation, can we limit the film footage to good examples of fine excavation techniques but few discoveries and results relating to the theme of the documentary?

Over the course of the week of excavations, a remarkable quantity of artifacts was recovered. In addition to live ammunition, bullets and casings, live grenades and mortar bombs, a wide range of military artifacts were recovered including shrapnel artillery shell casing fragments, artillery shell fuses, bottles and bottle glass, rum jars, tobacco and cigarette tins, barbed wire fragments, French uniform buttons, a French helmet, wheels from a cart used on a wooden track in the Commons Tunnel, a reinforced air hose common up from the tunnel, innumerable corned beef and petrol tins, strands of communication wire, mortar detonation devices, grenade and mortar pins, a human femur, a human foot in the remains of a boot and other unidentified items.

Especially in the lower reaches of the trenches, most of the artifacts are believed to relate to the last group of soldiers to have used these trenches, the Canadians, yet incredibly there was only one artifact which clearly indicated there had been Canadians among there: a single, curving, corroded brass shoulder title, with letters

spelling out the word CANADA raised from the obverse face. Otherwise, the items found were mostly of British manufacture.

This is not surprising as the Canadian Expeditionary Force received most of its supplies and equipment from British sources if not directly from the British army. We must also remember that while Canadians note with justifiable pride the concerted efforts of its four divisions at Vimy Ridge, there were also British soldiers advancing on the ridge that day. Moreover, the artillery support was heavily British and the creeping barrage they provided was crucial to the success of the day.

Occasionally, some German and French bullet cas-



The ploughzone over a section of the RCR fighting trench was mechanically removed to expedite excavations. The outline of the trench is clearly visible as the trench fill contained various artifacts and especially fragments of chalk, and stands out in contrast to the homogeneous, *limon* of the surrounding undisturbed surface.

Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon



ings were recovered as well, reminding us of the earlier contest to control this strategic ridge. Of course, some of the more ubiquitous items such as shell fragments and barbed wire could also relate to these other soldiers.

### **A Question of Perspective**

The Battle of Vimy Ridge is many things to many people. For Canadians, it is a critical moment in our evolving sense of nationhood. For the British, this was part of a larger offensive, the Battle of Arras, which began on Easter Monday 1917 and continued on until the middle of May. From their perspective, no strategic breakthrough was achieved overall. For the Germans, the loss of Vimy Ridge was a major blow and the beginning of the end. Thus, perspective plays such an important role in interpreting the very same set of events and facts. No single interpretation is any more valid than the next, a lesson we do well to remember.

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