

# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

New Series Volume 12, Issue 3

ISSN 0048-1742

May/June 2007



At the Hamilton Site in the fall of 1976: [back row, l to r] B. Jamieson, E. Dankjar, Paul Lennox, Gary Warrick, Bill Fitzgerald and kneeling: Bob Rozel, left, and Chris Ellis.

Photo by Stew Leslie

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# Ontario Archaeological Society

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## President's message

### Jean-Luc Pilon President, OAS

You would be surprised about the number and variety of e-mail that are sent to the OAS office, some of which are deflected my way. Some of these simply make you shake your head and wonder who is on first, and where is second anyway. While fishing around for a reasonable topic to discuss in this page I started to see some common elements between a number of these threads which I thought I would share with you all.

The Ambassador Bridge spans the Détroit River between Détroit, Michigan and Ontario's own motor-city, Windsor. It is privately owned by Mr. Matty Moroun of Detroit. According to an April 28, 2007, *Globe and Mail* article, since 1979, Mr. Moroun has been acquiring lands at either end of the bridge in order to construct a twin in response to increased international commerce. Smart man. Some of the hurdles in his way? Well, the actual decision to twin the Ambassador Bridge has not been taken, let alone invitations to build one. And, oh yes, a lot of old houses had grown up at the foot of the existing bridge. Let's remind ourselves of exactly where the Ambassador Bridge lands are on the Canadian side of the river; very near Assumption Church and the Huron Line. This is near the heart of la Pointe-de-Montréal, the old French settlement from New France days. In fact, an ancestor of mine, François Gaudet dit Marentette, sold land on which the Huron Mission (precursor of the Assumption Church) was relocated. Apparently, the City of

Windsor's master plan indicates that the lands along the shores of the Detroit River are mostly all high potential and have several known sites, including burials, to show you why the odds of encountering archaeological remains are so high. Here's the twist. Mr. Moroun, in a natural expectation of offering a sound project, has applied for and received permission from the City of Windsor to demolish those old buildings where he would construct the new bridge. For demolition, no archaeological assessments are required in spite of high potential or proximity to known sites. A representative from the Ministry of Culture recognized that this is a "loophole". Happily, an archaeological consultant has been hired to monitor the demolition—which everyone knows involves disturbance of the upper soil layers. But it took some sustained lobbying by the Windsor Chapter of the OAS to have this happen. While it is better to see monitoring, what is required is a proper assessment. Of course, bridge construction will require an assessment, so why not undertake it now rather than watch for signs of destruction? So far, the signs are encouraging.

Let's go to Toronto and the redevelopment of properties now located along its former waterfront. For some time, various new constructions have impinged upon surviving bits and pieces of Toronto's former waterfront with docks and wharfs occasionally being discovered. Sometimes someone notices. Sometimes they don't. Last year, an accidental discovery resulted in a sawn-off piece of a wharf being

offered to Fort York. I can just imagine the conservation issues surrounding that. I would in fact be quite keen to see how it has fared to date. Recently, an individual who manages landfill transportation from Toronto to a site near Ottawa related how the fill being removed from construction sites in the old part of Toronto are just loaded with old bottles and various bits and pieces of archaeological heritage. Apparently this soil was "contaminated". As such, I can only imagine that expeditious removal is the order of the day. But how much of our collective heritage can we write off in the name safety concerns? Should we not be looking to determine safe ways of documenting the resource before carting it off?

Other examples of recent developments that appear to lack what we might consider proper regard for known or potential archaeological resources have recently been pointed out in Sault Ste-Marie and Ottawa. Even in my own hometown of Vankleek Hill, while a heritage building restoration resulted in an archaeological assessment (to their credit), the follow-up monitoring was dispensed with for no apparent good reason. While not ill-intentioned, the result, nonetheless was a box of objects being presented to the excavator after the fact. Without any doubt, there are similar stories playing out across the province throughout the year.

But there is also good news from the Queen City. As I was finishing up this note, Michael Gregg of Preserve Archaeological Site of Toronto (P.A.S.T.) wrote to inform me that the Toronto city council

had decided to purchase the property which contains the Archie Little II site. That is great news. However, it's hard to find out much about the site itself as the reports have not been released by the property owners. Yet, the OAS and its members were asked to speak out in favour of the acquisition. In principle, it sounds great to be protecting the site for interpretation to the public. But it is disturbing that information pertaining to a public resource cannot be easily accessed, especially when public funds will be expended to buy the land.

But the best news of all is the call for proposals by the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation to develop an archaeological conservation management strategy. This couldn't come soon enough. Of course, that is only the first step, but it can only be hoped that this will lead to concrete efforts to safeguard and preserve information relating to the early

days of Ontario's capital.

A common thread running through all of this, and there is more that could be brought up from the various parts of Ontario, is that while we have newly revised legislation and the Ministry of Culture has restructured itself, ostensibly to provide better and more efficient service, there are still many significant areas where nothing is being done (just think about the horrible state of collections management in Ontario). There are "loopholes" where not only Mack trucks are driving through, but they are hauling away our archaeological heritage at the same time. How extensive is the network of "loopholes"? Good question. It might be a very good thing to actually try to find out how well-informed Ontario's municipalities are about their responsibilities for protecting archaeological heritage when planning developments within their

jurisdictions. When clear violations to the Heritage Act take place, perhaps we should be more vocal in writing letters to the Ministry if not the Minister. And if the spirit of the Heritage Act is violated, perhaps we need to be much more creative about finding ways to have it respected.

With the beginning of summer, a new round of professionally executed archaeological destruction will take place. Luckily reports will result from this work, but we may not be able to very easily benefit from the information contained in them. As construction activities go into heated overdrive, the inevitable silent destruction of unknown archaeological heritage will continue. Let's at least hope that we did what was reasonable to minimize such instances.

Have a good, safe and productive summer. Find lots. Learn lots.

## From the OAS office...

### **Lise Ferguson** **Executive Director**

Last year, I got together with reps from the Ontario Black History Society and the Ontario Museum Association and we "resurrected" the Ontario Heritage Alliance. While the OHA had been somewhat active over the past while, it had been more so several years ago, especially during consultations for the new Ontario Heritage Act. There are 13 provincial heritage organizations, and most are represented under the umbrella of the OHA. We meet approximately four times per year. We are hoping to organize a mall event where

PHOs will have info booths set up at a mall for a weekend, to promote the heritage organizations to the public. We will continue to look at this idea. The Ministry would also be welcome to participate. Other current PHO issues have included: Ministry funding, French language translation, Ontario Heritage Act enforcement issues, the sharing of a "super-scanner" among our groups, and others.

Here is a list of all the Provincial Heritage Organizations (PHOs) which receive funding from the Province of Ontario. The ones with \* are the usual Ontario Heritage Alliance participants:

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario  
Archives Association of Ontario  
Centre franco-ontarien de folklore\*  
Community Heritage Ontario\*  
Multicultural History Society of Ontario  
Ontario Archaeological Society\*  
Ontario Black History Society\*  
Ontario Genealogical Society\*  
Ontario Historical Society\*  
Ontario Museum Association\*  
Le Regroupement des

organismes du patrimoine  
franco-ontarien\*  
Save Ontario Shipwrecks\*  
Société franco-ontarienne  
d'histoire et de généalogie\*

### Youth digs

Here are two upcoming opportunities in archaeology for kids and teens:

**Adventures in Archaeology Camp** for ages 10 to 14 at Spadina Museum in Toronto, July 3 to 13 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students will learn to excavate and record artifacts in an actual dig with professionals from the Ontario Heritage Trust who will teach the basics of archaeology. \$350 for 9 days. Call 416-392-6910.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's **Boyd Archaeological Field School** will be held in July, with a mandatory intro session on June 3. This is a Grade 12 credit course. See [www.boydfieldschool.org](http://www.boydfieldschool.org). By the way, this field school has been in existence for over 30 years, and was the 2006 recipient of the Ottawa Chapter's Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award!

Here is an interesting new web project—have you heard about this? The rather grandiose title is “Encyclopedia of Life” at [www.Eol.org](http://www.Eol.org) and the website is going to take years to build, so the title is fine! The blurb from the website says: “Ultimately, the Encyclopedia will serve as an online reference source and database for every one of the 1.8 million species that are named and known on this planet, as well as all those later discovered and described. Encyclopedia of Life will be used as both a teaching

and a learning tool, helping scientists, educators, students, and the community at large gain a better understanding of this planet and all who inhabit it.”

### Chapters' Corner

See the back page of Arch Notes for contact information, and remember, you can link to OAS Chapters through our website at [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca). Most chapters do not hold regular meetings during the summer, but some have other events.

Congratulations and welcome to the newest member of the OAS family, the HURONIA Chapter (inaugurated May 16, 2007!!!)

#### Hamilton

See the website for more information on the summer event, Archaeological Survey - Reconnaissance of the Reimer/Boyd Sites with Project Director James B. Bandow. This is

open to OAS members only!

#### London

Once again this year the London Chapter will be partnering with Longwoods Conservation Area in Delaware for the annual Archaeology Day on Sunday July 15, 2007. London Chapter members will get free admission to the conservation area and will gather at noon for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon members such as Chris Ellis and Jim Keron will be on hand to help in identifying artifacts brought in by the general public. More details will be posted on the Chapter's website as the program is finalized.

#### Ottawa

By the time of this newsletter, the Ottawa Chapter will have celebrated its special “35-plus-one” anniversary. Hope to hear about the party! Congratulations to the Ottawa Chapter!

## Archeostore.com

### Catering to the needs of archaeologists

Archeostore.com is an ecommerce website catering to the needs of archaeologists. We have tool kits for students and archaeologists. We have a selection of over 50 products in 9 categories including hand tools, small equipment, stationery items, safety equipment, surveying tools and various supplies. Please visit the website for more information. Contact: Jean-François Beaulieu, M.A. in History at

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# Changes to the Constitution

The Board of Directors undertook a review of the Constitution earlier in the year, and is recommending certain changes. With the exception of one clause, all changes are of a minor administrative nature, or add clarity to items that may be seen to contain ambiguities.

The exception is Clause 5 of Article 1, where the Board is recommending deletion of the entire clause, which is as follows;

“All artifacts from excavations and surveys conducted by the Society shall be deposited in an appropriate repository, and subject to legislation, where applicable.”

The reason for this deletion is that the Society is not the custodian of any artifacts or surveys at this time, nor is it expected to be a custodian in the near future. Furthermore, the retention of this clause in the Constitution implies to members of the public that read the website, that the Society does have artifacts and surveys that could be accessed by members or the public, and that these artifacts and surveys are in an appropriate repository.

All recommended changes are contained in Articles 1, 5 and 6.

Members who wish to obtain a complete version of all the recommended changes should contact the office, and a copy will be provided by mail.

Members who wish to cast a vote on these recommended changes, but who cannot attend the upcoming Annual Business Meeting, may vote by Proxy. The Agenda for the meeting and a proxy form is provided elsewhere in this issue of Arch Notes.

**Henry van Lieshout**  
**Secretary and Treasurer**

## Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

When: Sunday, November 4, 2007

Where: At the Confederation Place Hotel, Kingston, Ontario.

Exactly when: At 8 a.m.

1. President's opening remarks
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters arising from these Minutes
4. President's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Chapter Reports
7. Next Symposium
8. Election of Directors
9. Constitution changes (See notice of recommended changes in the column to the left)
10. Other business
11. Adjournment



# The Ontario Archaeological Society

## Proxy Form

I \_\_\_\_\_, a member in good standing of the Society, hereby exercise my right of proxy by identifying:

\_\_\_\_\_, a voting member in good standing, or

the Chair of the Annual Business Meeting

as my proxy to attend, act, and vote on my behalf at the Annual Business Meeting of members to be held at 8:00 a.m. on November 4, 2007.

1. Regarding agenda item 9 on the Agenda for the Meeting for which I have full knowledge and understanding – (circle one of)

For      Against      Abstain      At Proxy's Discretion

2. Regarding amendments from the floor regarding agenda item 9 in the Notice of Meeting –(circle one of)

For      Against      Abstain      At Proxy's Discretion

3. Regarding items that arise in Other Business – (circle one of)

For      Against      Abstain      At Proxy's Discretion

### Optional

I wish to present the following amendment to Agenda Item No 9, which I wish my proxy holder to propose:

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Further, I wish to register the following limitations to the exercise of my proxy with respect to any Agenda Item or amendments thereto:

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The due date at the office for this Proxy is close of business on Monday, October 29, 2007. Any proxies received after close of business on this date will not be considered.

## Hurononia Chapter news

### Teresa Wagner Vice President

On May 16, 2007, the inaugural meeting of the newest chapter of the OAS, the Huronia Chapter, took place at the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre in Midland. With approximately 24 people in attendance (representing several cities and towns in the area including Barrie, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach, and Elmvale), the meeting was called to order by Chapter President Marilyn Cornies.

After a brief introduction of the chapter, its aims, and its interim executive committee, the meeting opened with a smudging ceremony and traditional opening prayer led by Frances and David "Wennisleiio" Jock. Following the opening ceremonies, Michael Henry presented his paper entitled "Feast on the Dead" which he delivered at the CAA Symposium in May, 2006. The floor was then



open to questions, comments, and discussion regarding both Mr. Henry's paper and the new chapter itself. After the chapter meeting, those present became better acquainted over refreshments and discussed ideas for future chapter events and goals.

The Huronia chapter would like to thank Frances and David for

their time and conducting the opening ceremony, Michael for sharing his research with all present, AMICK Consultants Limited for providing refreshments, and the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre for generously providing their excellent meeting facilities and equipment.

## Archaeological Travel

*Odyssey, Adventures in Archaeology offers small group tours exploring the antiquities of Europe and the Near East. All trips are lead by professional archaeologists, experts in their respective fields. Small groups mean we can avoid the big bus tours, spend more quality time at each site and visit the out of the way places.*

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## Correction

In our last issue, a huge error inadvertently crept into the subhead of the notice of the Murphys Point dig.

The dig runs for only one weekend, from May 14 to May 16, not to May 24.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused readers.



# A brief report on a Killarney Pukaskwa Pit (BIHi-10)

**By Patrick Julig**

Most Ontario archaeologists have heard about the Pukaskwa pits sites that are named after the location in Pukaskwa National Park, on the northeast shore of Lake Superior. These enigmatic rock structures and pits in raised cobble beaches were reported on in detail by Ken Dawson (1975). Various similar rock structures and pits are also occasionally found and reported along the Ottawa River, Lake Nipissing and Georgian Bay and the North Shore as well northern Lake Superior, throughout the Ojibway territory. They have been interpreted in various ways including as spiritual type sites as well as hunting pits and other functions. This report is on a typical "Pukaskwa pit" from the Killarney Park area which we recorded last year as part of the adjacent Point Grondine vicinity

site survey, which has been ongoing for several years (Julig et al 2007).

The Killarney Ridge Pit Site (BIHi-10) is an unusual pit site, within a raised boulder field, and is located within the western edge of Killarney Park. The site (Figure 1) has similarities to the vision (quest) pits, or "Pukaskwa pits", reported on raised cobble beaches on the North Shore of Lake Superior (Dawson 1975). It could also be a hunting pit, but this is considered unlikely as it has all the features and context of a typical Pukaskwa pit.

About eight years ago, Mr. Scott Card of Killarney found the pit while trekking through this area to the shore from a Killarney trail and reported it to us. The boulder area in which the pit was constructed is on the southeast edge of a ridge facing the entrance to



Killarney Ridge Pit site (BIHi-10). Pit feature in foreground and Scott Card of Killarney who reported the site is walking across boulder area. This is a "boulder-lined pit" with raised sides, with entrance at lower right corner of figure. This is classified as a "Type A" Pukaskwa pit, according to the classification by [Dawson 1974]. Photo by P. Julig

Collins Inlet at an elevation of about 200 metres. This boulder field is composed of rounded, medium-sized (20–30 cm) granite boulders and has a depth of about 0.4 metres. The long axis is about 2.3 metres by 2.0 metres wide. The boulders within the pit have less lichen cover than the other boulders in the field, indicating that they were moved in construction well after the boulders were last covered with waters of Lake Nipissing (Level), which was about 5,500 years ago. Based on the very few lichens on boulders at the base of the pit, it is estimated the pit feature may be about 500 years old or less.

This site should not be disturbed and its exact location not disclosed, or it could easily be damaged. It is a rare spiritual type site for this region. Based on comparison to the Pukaskwa pit structures recorded in Pukaskwa Park along Lake Superior this particular stone feature would be classified as Type A “Invocation structure”; in particular, an “Oracle grot”. It is believed these were used by the Algonquin shamans (Dawson 1975: 11), possibly from the Nipissing, who moved to this region in early historic times. Sagard referred to the people seeking oracles in isolated towers as Epicerings, and Champlain referred to them as Nipissings (Wrong 1939). Such sites are known from the Ottawa Valley through Lake Nipissing and to Lake Superior, the traditional Ojibwa territory.

Other local rock structure type sites have been reported in earlier survey in Killarney Park (K. Buchanan, in 1976, Cam Rock Structure, CaHi-8, from MCL site records), and pits and small rock mounds have also been reported to us by local elders and others on several nearby islands in Georgian Bay. These have not yet been formally surveyed or listed as sites, however some of these locations they may be surveyed in the near future.

## Summary

The following is a brief general summary of results of the Point Grondine Survey and the rock structure Killarney Ridge Pit Site (BlHi-10).

1. This survey has provided evidence that the shoreline of Point Grondine and Collins Inlet has been used for a variety of purposes, and most of the beaches have some historic and/or prehistoric artifacts, and are multicomponent sites.

2. Most of these shoreline sites are likely from

short-term stays and used as summer encampments, not as major habitation sites.

3. Several sites at stream entrances have likely been used more regularly as fishing locations during spring and fall spawning and may have earlier prehistoric components on higher terraces.

4. The pictograph, burial mounds, and rock structure sites indicate that the current and higher shorelines were also used by the traditional native populations (Ojibwas, Odawa and others) for socio-religious purposes. These spiritual and sacred sites must be protected and their locations not published.

5. The presence of the Pukaskwa pit rock structure (Oracle grot), suggests a previously poorly reported prehistoric ceremonialism for this region, similar to those reported along raised Lake Superior beaches.

6. Since some of these sites are higher and more ancient beaches, an extended prehistoric sequence appears evident.

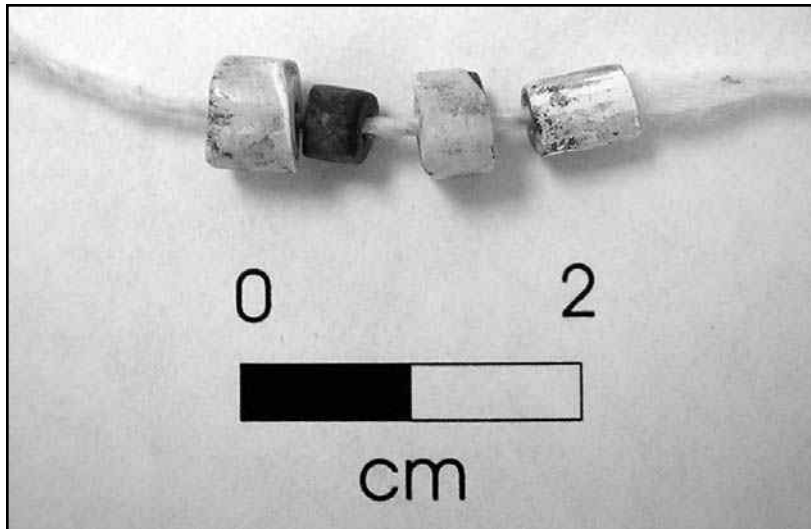
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1939 *The Long Journey to the Country of the Hurons, by Father Gabriel Sagard*. Champlain Society, Vol. 25. Toronto.

## Acknowledgements

The Point Grondine survey work was funded and organized by the Wikwemikong Heritage Organization, of the Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation, with some funding also provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The author of this brief report acknowledges the help and assistance of co-workers and avocational archaeologists Henry Pitawanakwat and Carol Peltier, and of Scott Card, of Killarney, who took us to this special site.

# Is that a shell bead—or could it be “counterfeit” wampum?



Beads recovered in the 2006 investigation at BeGx-25.

Photo by A. Hawkins

## By Alicia Hawkins

In 2006, students from Laurentian University and University of Toronto revisited BeGx-25, the site that F. Ridley (1947) identified as Ossossané village. We discovered four beads in one of the four small (50 cm by 50 cm) test units that we dug. Three of these are shell beads that are longer than discoidal beads, but slightly shorter than wampum beads (Ceci 1989). The fourth bead is a dark-coloured bead of approximately the same dimensions, which we originally assumed to be shell. However, when examined under the microscope, it didn't show any evidence of lamination and there appeared to be visible grains in the matrix. Therefore, it seems the bead was made from siltstone or sandstone, not shell.

I had on hand several white and dark beads from excavations in the 1980s at Thomson Walker (BeGv-3). An anonymous cataloguer identified these beads as “shell” and “wampum”, but under the microscope some of these also appear to be made from sandstone or siltstone.

According to L. Jordan (1997) there is evidence from elsewhere that materials other than shell were used for wampum:

A New Netherland ordinance of May 30, 1650 mentioned there had been problems with loose wampum for a long time and that imitation

beads of “Stone, Bone, Glass, Muscle-shells, Horn, yea even of Wood” were found in circulation. (Laws, p. 115)

He goes on to cite a 1648 New Haven court decision ordering destruction of “stone wampum”.

How common is this in Ontario? Have you encountered stone wampum-like beads on contact period Wendat sites? Does anyone have any evidence of production here, or were these stone beads brought into Ontario along the same routes as shell wampum? If you have any ideas about this please email me:

[ahawkins@laurentian.ca](mailto:ahawkins@laurentian.ca).

## References

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1989 Tracing Wampum's Origins: Shell Bead Evidence from Archaeological Sites in Western and Coastal New York. In *Proceedings of the 1986 Shell Bead Conference*, edited by Charles F. Hayes III, pp. 63-80. Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester, NY.

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1947 A Search for Ossossane and its Environs. *Ontario History* 39:7-14.

# 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!

# The CAA Tuck tour of Newfoundland and Labrador May 2007

**By Mima Kapches**

The Canadian Archaeological Association Annual Meeting was held in St. John's, Newfoundland May 15-19, 2007. During those meetings I was able to join a tour to the early 17th century British site of Ferryland on the Avalon Peninsula with Dr. Jim Tuck as well as take a puffin-watching boat ride at Bay Bulls (too early for whales). Touring around St. John's was also a treat. Signal Hill is awesome and a walk up/down its precipitous slopes is not to be missed. The newly opened Newfoundland and Labrador museum/archives called The Rooms is worth a visit. There is a café on the fourth floor with a panoramic view of the city where a light lunch is available and at each table are a set of binoculars so that you can watch the boats coming in and out of the narrows leading to the harbour (Figure 1). The locals are quite opinionated about The Rooms and I can tell you that most cab drivers don't like it, though none of the cabbies I talked to had been in it yet!

Although these were interesting excursions in and of themselves they are not the focus of this article.

From 20-23 May an intrepid busload of 48 archaeologists led by Jim Tuck toured six significant archaeological sites, covering over 2,000 km, travelling on both land and sea, we clocked moose and caribou (not hitting them, counting them!) and various other animals and birds (eagles, weasels, rabbits and sheep). This tour, which was more like an archaeological marathon, endured floods, ice storms, power outages and pack ice! In this article I'm going to take you along the route we followed so that when you go to Newfoundland and

Labrador (which you MUST DO!) you'll have an idea of the distances involved and the sights/sites you'll see.

This tour was a celebration of Jim Tuck's 39 years as an archaeologist in the province. He started working in Newfoundland and Labrador when he was hired at Memorial University (MUN) in 1968. His dedication to the province's archaeological past, both Native and European, was recognized in 2004 when he was awarded the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. Jim commented that this might be his last trip north to the more remote places we visited. Hopefully, that will not be the case as it was obvious in every museum and community that we visited he is held in the highest regard and the impact of this work has fuelled the depressed local economies by bringing in substantial tourism revenue.

To be honest May is not the best time to make this trip or to visit these sites as the weather was not the best. The biggest drawback for a visit in May is that none of the sites were officially open, although because of Tuck all the sites were opened for us. Most



Fig. 1: View of the Narrows from The Rooms, St. John's.

Photo by M. Kapches



Fig. 2: Gros Morne Mountains in the distance, view from Cow Head cove. Photo by M. Kapches

sites open in June. Even in June there are no guarantees that the weather will be warm and sunny.

On Day 1 we left St. John's at 8 a.m. and headed northwest on the TransCanada Highway, (No.1). Around 1 p.m. we stopped for lunch at Boyd's Cove, which is a multicomponent site but is best known for its historic Beothuk occupations, ca. 1650-1720 AD. This is situated off Rte 340. There is a museum and gift shop. There are walking trails to the site which is located down by the ocean. A freshwater stream, Indian Brook, still has runs of smelt in the spring and this was one of the resources that the Beothuk harvested while at the site. A massive downpour greeted us on our walk to the site and coupled with the cold weather the path was lined with frozen ferns and pussy willows. This was our first excited view of what we thought were icebergs, but as the trip progressed we realized that these were small floes that had become grounded in the cove. We left here about 3 p.m. and continued north arriving at the Deer Lake Motel for dinner at 8 p.m. Sadly it was discovered that the baggage undercarriage of the bus leaked and several suitcases were drenched in inches of water...this was our flood. Our bus driver took all his wet passengers to a Laundromat where their clothes were dried. It was genially commented that taking a bus to do laundry garnered a lot of local respect! Phew, it was a long first day!

Day 2 was also an early departure and after bag-

ging all suitcases in large green garbage bags and under rainy and cold, grey skies—actually a combination of sleet and rain—we headed north through Gros Morne National Park. Immediately across the boundaries of the park, three moose were spotted. Moose are not native to Newfoundland; they were introduced in 1878 and again in 1904. They have become so successful that they pose a hazard for drivers and a large sign on the highway announced the number of moose and motor vehicle accidents for the year so far (the number was 05, so obviously in some years the accidents are in the double digits). In three days we saw 36 moose. We also saw 15 caribou, which is an indigenous species and was hunted by Natives during various time periods up until the Beothuk. Today

moose hunting has become a lucrative tourist industry for Newfoundland.

An hour or so out of Deer Lake (which is named for caribou, not deer of which there are none on the



Fig. 3: The Martha L. Black leads the way through the icepack. Photo by M. Kapches

island [except for the moose, of course]) we stopped at Cow Head, originally named because the outline of the cliffs along the coastline resembled a cow's head. Standing on the shoreline of the sheltered cove, the mountains of Gros Morne were snow covered in the distance (Figure 2). The Cow Head Complex dates to 2,000 to 1,600 years ago and is reminiscent of Maritime Archaic which dates to about 3,000 years ago. This is also the locale of the distinctive Cow Head chert and many samples were collected adding additional ballast to the bus. Continuing on for another hour or so we stopped for lunch at the Sea Echo Restaurant and Motel in the community of Port au Choix. It was here that our plans changed because of bad weather conditions on the Northern Peninsula. It seems there had been an ice-storm (evocatively called "glitter" by locals) and the power was out at L'Anse aux Meadows and St. Anthony, where we were expected that afternoon and evening. It was decided to stay at the Sea Echo Motel overnight, which luckily

was empty and therefore had enough rooms to accommodate us all. Brilliantly at lunch someone had the idea to ask if it was possible to have a lobster dinner that evening. So that evening for a mere \$4 (on top of our already paid dinner), 33 of the tour members had a succulent and fresh caught (that morning) tasty crustacean repast.

After lunch we headed off to visit the interpretive centre at Port au Choix, where the story of the Maritime Archaic (4,400–3,300 B.P.) was told in great detail. Port au Choix is a National Historic Site and is known for its Maritime Archaic burials, which were discovered accidentally in the town during construction activities. One of the diagnostic artifacts from this excavation is a whale effigy found in a grave. To see the original you must plan to visit The Rooms in St. John's. After the tour of the centre, many headed

off in a light blizzard of rain-sleet to visit Philip's Garden Groswater and Dorset Paleoeskimo sites, others chose to return to the lobby of the Sea Echo for a meeting of warm conviviality before dinner. It was nice not to be on the bus for hours on end. The travellers to the site returned cold, wet and hungry for dinner. It snowed during the night, but fortunately this was melted by the sunny blue skies of the next morning.

Day 3 dawned and we had a relaxed schedule of 10 a.m. departure. Several of us walked around the working harbour of the town while others made for



Fig. 4: View of Saddle Island and Red Bay from interpretive centre lookout.  
Photo by M. Kapches

the supermarket to buy fresh fruit at high prices. It's difficult to find salads and fruit on the menus and being a vegetarian is a real challenge in this province! We arrived at St Barbe after a drive of an hour and a bit to wait for the ferry ride across to Labrador. One

interesting point along the way, but sad indeed, was the town of Daniel's Harbour where several houses had fallen into the ocean. Hwy 1 goes right along the shoreline and so there had to be a detour through town to avoid the slip zone. The Post Office and Newfoundland Liquor Store are next to go if the slip-page can't be stopped. And stopping this will be a Herculean task considering the fact that many houses and businesses are close to the area where they could potentially suffer the same fate.

Our ferry was named the Apollo, causing my Greek husband Chris (who joined me for the trip) to wonder if it had served warmer Mediterranean climes before being relegated to the seasonal crossing between Newfoundland and Labrador. Perhaps due to its Greek name the day was sunny and bright, however the pack ice was substantial. Icebergs, real ones,

not small floes, loomed all around us as the Canadian Coast Guard ice-breaker the Martha L. Black picked its way slowly through the pack ice (Figure 3). The Apollo followed gingerly tapping floes as she moved through the water. A boat really does shudder when it hits a massive ice floe; we all had thoughts of the Titanic. The crossing, covering about 9 miles, took an hour and a half, depositing us in Blanc-Sablon, Quebec.



Fig 5.: The reconstructed L'Anse Amour burial mound is the rock covered mound in the foreground of this photo. The ice filled cove is in the distance.

Photo by M. Kapches

About 1 1/2 hours east of this small Quebec port, following Rte 510 (there's no other road, and in fact the paved road ends at Red Bay!), passing numerous small communities and the massive Pinware River, we arrived at Red Bay. This was late in the day, but considering that we were at about 52° N Lat there was still daylight. Red Bay is a National Historic Site and was a Basque whaling station beginning in the mid-16th century. The interpretive centre sits on a point of land in the small harbour which is sheltered by Saddle Island where the whaling stations were located. The centre is surrounded by homes of locals, many of whom are still fishermen. Others work in the centre and the adjacent restaurant and gift shop. In this small community one really got a feel for the fact that the people who live here today have a great deal of knowledge about the people who lived here in the past. They also actively preserve and protect the archaeological resources, both those on the land and under the water.

The interpretive centre is a beautiful three-storey museum, with reproductions of sections of the ships, one small conserved boat called a chalupa, and other conserved artifacts, all topped with a lookout over the harbour (Figure 4). For the hardier souls of our group, a boat ride across the bay dropped them off for

a guided tour of the island by Jim Tuck. Then we had a feast of ptarmigan soup, caribou, arctic hare, and blueberry pudding before heading back to our hotel. The Northern Light Motel in L'Anse au Clair was the nicest motel on our trip, too bad we arrived at nearly 11 p.m. Then we were up and at breakfast at 6:45 a.m. and then on the bus for another tour half an hour later!

As if each day wasn't busy enough, you'll soon see that day 4 was the marathon day of our tour. Our deluxe bus, driven by Glen, had to wait in line at the ferry so that we could take the only trip back to St. Barbe. So a local school bus driver was hired to take us to Point Amour Lighthouse. But he was only available before and after his usual school run, hence our early departure. The Point Amour Lighthouse is still active and, at 109 feet, is the second tallest in Canada (yes, you can climb up to the top). It has a beautiful view of the Strait of Belle Isle and the extant buildings have been turned into a museum and interpretive centre. After our tour we visited the L'Anse Amour burial mound which is a National Historic Site and at 7,500 years old is the oldest burial mound excavated in the New World (Figure 5).

We were dropped off in good time to catch the 10:30 a.m. ferry back to Newfoundland (tip: the café on the ferry boat offers hearty food). On arrival, around noon, we immediately headed north for a two-hour drive on Rte 430 to L'Anse au Meadows. All along the way the downed power lines of the glitter storm from two days before were obvious. But the warm sunny day had done its magic and much of the ground snow had melted. (By warm I mean about 8 or 9 degrees C).

We arrived at the interpretive centre at 2 p.m. and had just one hour to see the site. As a result we did not



see much of the centre. This was a shame but we had a long drive ahead of us to make Deer Lake in time for dinner at 9 p.m. (before the restaurant closed). So we spent our one hour on the site.

L'Anse au Meadows is a National Historic Site and in 1978 was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's the first known Viking site in Canada and was occupied for a few years ca. 1000 AD. The settlement

area is covered by low mounds of earth, which are the remnants of the locations of the sod buildings. Off to the side of the archaeological site there is an accurate reconstruction of the structures (Figure 6). On this bright and sunny day with ice filling the harbour one really felt the challenges of living here in Norse times. This was a magical moment for all of us; this site was the highlight of our tour, as it will be for you if you visit.

Our return trip to Deer Lake was nothing short of miraculous, more moose and caribou were spotted and we arrived at 9 p.m. on the dot. The next day some of us flew home to Toronto and points west from Deer Lake instead of driving back to St. John's. But most did the drive, staying another night and leaving the following day. I would highly recommend that when you visit Newfoundland for your archaeological tour you plan to arrive at St. John's and depart from Deer Lake (or vice versa).

This was a whirlwind tour as most of us didn't have a lot of time to travel because we had already been in Newfoundland at the CAA conference the previous week. So when you go, plan to spend at least a week or longer travelling around. The historic and archaeological sites are well signed and the interpretive cen-



Fig. 6: The reconstructed house at L'Anse Au Meadows with the ice-filled cove in the distance.

Photo by M. Kapches

tres are awesome. The money that Newfoundland and Labrador has put into these facilities is apparent. These centres and sites are also places of employment, both full-time and seasonal, for locals. And the civic pride in the past that is interpreted in these sites is apparent.

I have only one more observation to make concerning your visit to this province. There is no Rogers cell phone/blackberry service outside of St. John's. But there is Telus service. So if having connectivity is important to you, be forewarned.

Hopefully this brief article will stimulate your interest in going to Newfoundland and Labrador and once you make the decision to go it will help you plan your trip. As they say in Newfoundland, "Have a good one!"

# OAS award nominations deadline is July 1

Here is a round-up to remind you of all the awards the OAS hopes to award each year. Send your nominations to the OAS office c/o of the Nominations Committee, except for the Peggy Armstrong award, which has a different address. See its description on the next page.

## The Heritage Conservation Award

Eligibility shall consist, as in the award description, of a significant voluntary contribution to heritage preservation within the Province of Ontario, above the requirements of Canadian law, with a year prior to the announcement of the award. The OAS Board of Directors shall consider the nominations and rank them on the following scale. In the event of a tie, a Board vote shall be held to determine the winner.

- Significance of the site impacted
- Active participation of nominee
- Field contributions by nominee
- Financial contributions of nominee above that required by law
- Setting an example of conservation awareness in the community.
- Long term conservation planning

The award shall be in the form of a Honorary Certificate presented by the President of the OAS, or his/her representative, at the annual symposium. Closing date for written nominations is July 1.

## The J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal

The J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal is intended to be awarded on occasion to an outstanding Ontario non-professional archaeologist whose work has been consistently of the highest standard, who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology and who has earned acclaim for excellence and achievement. It is the highest honour the Society can bestow.

1. The nominee must have been a member in good standing of the Ontario Archaeological Society throughout the period under consideration.
2. The nominee must have made a significant contribution to archaeology as suggested in the following guidelines:

- The nominee will have published work, preferably in, but not restricted to, Ontario Archaeology, Arch Notes and/or Chapter newsletters, and/or
  - The nominee will have been active in chapter and/or Society executive or committee work, and/or
  - The nominee will have made substantial contributions to the advancement of the goals of the OAS through Public Education and/or community outreach programs, and/or
  - The nominee will have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of Ontario's archaeological record through active fieldwork, conservation and/or research of the highest calibre.
3. While it is intended that this award recognize the contributions of private scholar, professionals will be considered if it can be demonstrated that their contributions are clearly independent of professional requirements and capacities.

Closing date for written nominations is July 1.

## The Kenyon Citation of Merit Award

The Ian and Tim Kenyon Memorial Award is intended to be awarded to Ontario non professional archaeologists who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology, and who has earned acclaim for excellence and achievement. Next to the J. Norman Emerson award for Lifetime achievement, it is the highest recognition that the Society can bestow.

1. The nominee must have been a member in good standing of the Ontario Archaeological Society throughout the period under consideration.
2. The nominee must have made a significant contribution to archaeology as suggested in the following guidelines:
  - The nominee will have published work, preferably, but not restricted to, Ontario Archaeology, Arch Notes and/or Chapter newsletters, and/or
  - The nominee will have been active in chapter and/or Society executive or committee work,

and/or

- The nominee will have made substantial contributions to the advancement of the goals of the OAS through Public Education and/or community outreach programs, and/or
  - The nominee will have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of Ontario's archaeological record through active fieldwork, conservation and/or research of the highest caliber.
3. While it is intended that this award recognize the contributions of private scholar, professionals will be considered if it can be demonstrated that their contributions are clearly independent of professional requirements and capacities.

Closing date for written nominations is July 1.

## **The Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award**

### **Definition of "Public Archaeology"**

- Stimulates public interest in the study of archaeology through the use of displays, demonstrations, workshops, training in excavation techniques, site tours, or the development of educational programmes and materials;
- Promotes awareness of cultural resources and heritage preservation;
- Fosters individual or collective efforts to advance the ethical practice of archaeology.

### **Eligibility**

- Nominations must be presented by an OAS member;
- Individuals, groups or institutions can be nominated;
- Nominees shall have contributed significantly to promoting archaeology of and in Ontario, by means of public archaeology as defined above.

### **Award Criteria**

- Scope of the audience which the nominee has reached;
- Innovation in the design and delivery of activities and nature of volunteer involvement;
- Development of enduring public archaeology resource materials;

- Scope of events, partnerships or sponsorships brought together to promote public archaeology.

## **Award Process**

### **Selection Committee**

The Ottawa Chapter Executive will appoint a Selection Committee Chair (who shall be an Ottawa Chapter member) at the first executive meeting of each New Year;

The Selection Committee Chair will organize a Selection Committee consisting of a minimum of three (3) people and a maximum of five (5) people, including at least two (2) Ottawa Chapter members and one (1) member from the OAS Board of Directors, plus such other members as the chair sees fit to add.

### **Call for Nominations**

The Selection Committee will issue a call for Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award nominations in the MAY/JUNE issue of ArchNotes in each year.

Nominations are to be forwarded in writing to the Selection Committee Chair, care of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS, by August 15th of the same year.

### **Selection of Award Winner(s)**

The Selection Committee will assess submitted nominations against Award Criteria and advise the Selection Committee Chair, the Ottawa Chapter Executive and the OAS Board of Directors about its selection(s), if any, for the Award by September 15th of that same year. The OAS Board of Directors will have the right of final approval.

Awards will be conferred on an occasional basis at the discretion of the Selection Committee and the OAS Board of Directors.

More than one award may be presented in one year.

Nominations should be forwarded to:

Selection Committee - Peggi Armstrong Public  
Archaeology Award  
c/o Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 4939, Station E  
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5J1

The deadline for submissions is August 15.



The  
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Individual	34 / 46
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Life	750

### Arch Notes submissions

Contributor deadlines:

January 15  
March 15  
May 15  
July 15  
September 15  
November 15

Send articles to: [archnotes@gmail.com](mailto:archnotes@gmail.com)

or

Arch Notes editor  
32 Marchmount Road,  
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## Hamilton chapter

President: James B. Bandow  
Treasurer: Chris Nisan  
The Heights Editor: Art Howey  
E-mail: [hamiltonOAS@hwc.org](mailto:hamiltonOAS@hwc.org)  
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Mail: 27 Tamwood Court, Stoney Creek, ON L8J 2L1  
Phone: (866) 243-7028  
Meetings: Fieldcote Museum, 64 Sulphur Springs Road, Ancaster, dates TBA  
Membership: Individual \$11, Family \$28

## Hurononia chapter

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## London chapter

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KEWA Editors: Christine Dodd & Chris Ellis  
Web: [www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/oas](http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/oas)  
Mail: Museum of Ontario Archaeology, 1600 Attawandaron Rd.,  
London, ON N6G 3M6  
Phone: (519) 473-1360 Fax (519) 473-1363  
Meetings: 8 pm on 2nd Thursday of the month except May–August; at MOA  
Membership: Individual/Family \$18, Student, \$15, Institutional \$21

## Ottawa chapter

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Treasurer: Bill MacLennan  
Director at large: Cara Pelletier  
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Web: [www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca)  
Mail: PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa ON K1S 5J1  
Meetings: Every 2nd Thursday of the month from Sept. to May; at Routhier Community  
Centre, 172 Guigues Street, Ottawa (in the Byward Market)  
Membership: Individual \$19, Family \$23, Student \$12

## Thunder Bay chapter

President: Debra Babcock  
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E-mail: [dlbabcoc@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:dlbabcoc@lakeheadu.ca)  
Meetings: 7 pm on the last Thursday of the month except May–August  
in Room BB0017, Braun Building, Lakehead University  
Membership: \$5

## Toronto chapter

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Vice President: Roberta O'Brien  
Treasurer: Norma Knowlton  
Secretary: Annie Gould  
PROFILE Editor: Allen Ternowski  
Web: <http://tinyurl.com/ebpfj>  
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Contact: [windsoroas@yahoo.ca](mailto:windsoroas@yahoo.ca)  
Membership: Individual \$15, Family \$20, Students \$5