



# Ontario Archaeological Society Arch Notes

New Series Volume 16, Issue 4

ISSN 0048-1742

July/August 2011



**Getting a lock on the Olde Gaol artifacts. See story page 7**

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# Ontario Archaeological Society

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Vito Vaccarelli

The Ontario Archaeological Society gratefully acknowledges funding from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture through the Provincial Heritage Organization Operating Grant Program.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**L**ike most people I talk to these days, I'm finding life is too busy for offering much opportunity for insightful commentary and reflective consideration of archaeology and life – so much to do and too little summer to do it all in! So please excuse the short message this time.

I want to encourage all of you to consider attending the OAS conference, which is scheduled for October 13-16 in Ottawa. The organizing committee and folks of the Ottawa Chapter are doing a great job pulling together a really exciting conference, including tours, public talks, and a host of additional

activities beyond what are also some very interesting looking sessions. This includes a public talk and reception at the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum on the Thursday evening, and walking tours of downtown Ottawa on Sunday, so plan to make a nice long weekend get-away and join everyone for a memorable time and conference.

Registration is now open and can be accessed at: <http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/OASsymposium/2011Symposium.php>

I also want to mention that in future president's reports I hope to report on some of the many activities the Board

and other members of the organization are currently up to, ranging from creating a great deal of additional digital content for the webpage, getting our new web-based membership system up and running, and developing new endowment funds, including a fund to support graduate student research focussed on Ontario archaeology.

But for now, and in order to get back to some of those tasks, I wish you a good 'rest of summer' and see you again this fall.

**Neal Ferris  
President**

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## **TREASURER'S COMMENTARY ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL 2010**

**T**he financial statement covers our fiscal year which ends on Dec. 31, 2010. The 2010 books have been reviewed by an external accounting firm, Thamesford Accounting and Financial Services, which confirms our Financial Statement.

This report now shows changes in the three fund values and how the new numbers were derived. At the recommendation of the external accounting firm, the change in the Mutual Fund value has been removed from the income and expense statement. We should not be reporting this unless we have withdrawn the money and realized the appreciation (much like stock values).

The following commentary draws attention to some of the numbers in the 2010 Financial Statement.

The year-end value of the mutual fund was \$212,338 which represents a gain of \$17,746 on the year or

9.12%. The value has nicely recovered from the financial downturn of 2008. Further during the downturn of 2008 it did not decline nearly as much as the overall stock market and the recovery has been good validating the OAS policy dictating conservative investment as well as the judgment of the previous treasurer, Henry Van Lieshout, in selecting the specific fund.

All revenue met or exceeded budget.

Expenses were mostly on target or under with the exception of Salary and Travel Mileage both of which were substantially over budget.

Operating Income and Expense shows a deficit of \$2,341. This line in the report is a subtotal which includes all income and expense excepting fund donations and expenses and *Ontario Archaeology* (subscriptions and cost). This

number is critical to sound financial management of the Society and we are working on eliminating this deficit since a deficit implies a draw on the Future Fund.

Membership revenue was down marginally from 2009 to 2010. OA revenue continues to decline, a situation of some concern to the Board of Directors.

The overall surplus was \$4,993. This occurred primarily as we didn't issue OA during the calendar year 2010. The catch up edition and the 2010 OA were issued in January and February of 2011 and these entries will appear in the 2011 books. The subscription revenue was rolled into the OA Publication Fund where it is available to pay publication expenses when they are incurred.

**Jim Keron  
Treasurer**

**The Ontario Archaeological Society**  
Financial Statements for the period ended December 31,

2010

INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT	Actual		2010		
	2009	2009	YTD	Budget	% Budget
Membership fees (excl OA subscription)	11,655	16,469	16,211	16,000	101%
Grants					
PHO Grant	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	
SEP Grant	1,853	-	-		
Symposium Income					
Registration and other	95	13,754	7,434.00	7,200	
Donations Corporate			4,427.50	1,100	
Donations Individual			1,090.00		
Outreach Income					
Other income					
Sales	1,804	1,024	1,201	1,000	120%
Other Income	37	739	-		
Operating Expense Donation			864		
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>49,444</b>	<b>65,986</b>	<b>65,228</b>	<b>59,300</b>	<b>110%</b>
Administration expenses					
Salary	10,327	33,894	34,146	29,000	118%
Rent	5,494	5,606	5,769	6,700	101%
Insurance	3,765	3,832	3,563	3,900	91%
Audit fees	-	-	390		
Legal fees	409	-	-		
Travel mileage	812	616	1,791	200	895%
Telecom	1,930	1,817	1,857	1,880	99%
Office supplies	1,176	495	52	700	7%
Postage	2,841	1,616	615	2,200	28%
Office equipment	1,069	298	24	1,300	2%
Petty Cash		170	-		
Bank charges	945	845	936	900	104%
Depreciation	162	162	162	160	
ABM Expenses (inc ED)			532		
Non Administration Expenses					
Promotion expenses	314	458	178	315	57%
Grants awarded	-	152	-		
Web Site Upgrades		3,631	73		
Expense Symposium	800	12,937	10,641.12	7,800	
Expense Outreach	-	-	-		
Other expenses	-	699	291		
Arch Notes Expenses					
Production AN	6,288	3,949	2,815	4,000	70%
Postage AN	2,893	3,454	3,733	3,200	117%
Total Arch Notes costs	9,222	7,403	6,548	7,200	91%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>39,066</b>	<b>74,631</b>	<b>67,569</b>	<b>61,255</b>	<b>110%</b>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>10,378</b>	<b>(8,645)</b>	<b>(2,341)</b>	<b>(1,955)</b>	
Ontario Archaeology					
Subscription Income	5,922	4,692	4,368	5,000	87%
Production OA	3,768	3,684	121	7,000	2%
Mailing preparation OA	250	250	-	500	0%
Postage OA	1,237	1,397	-	2,300	0%
Total Ontario Archaeology costs	5,255	5,331	121	9,800	1%
<b>OA Income (Loss)</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>(639)</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>(4,600)</b>	
Money Deposited to Funds					
Life membership (Future Fund)			750		
Future fund Donations	682	3,086	1,939	2,300	84%
OA publication fund Donations	884	685	723	600	121%
Awards fund Donations	30	50	138		
Peggi	-	152	-		
Money Charged to Funds					
Awards Fund Purchases			(463)		
<b>Total Fund Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>2,900</b>	
<b>Overall Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>12,641</b>	<b>(5,309)</b>	<b>4,993</b>	<b>(3,655)</b>	

BALANCE SHEET		Actual		YTD	Budget
		2,008	2,009	2,010	2,010
<b>Bank balance</b>					
	Bank - RBC	352	28,115	31,192	5,000
<b>Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses</b>					
	GST/HST receivable	789	503	992	1,100
	Prepaid insurance	2,723	2,766	3,027	2,750
	Symposium profit share receivable	-	-	-	-
	SEP grant receivable	-	-	-	-
	Symposium registration receivable	-	890	4,621	-
	PHO Grant receivable	34,000	-	-	-
	Other (Postage)	-	-	274	-
	Total receivables and prepaid expenses	37,493	4,159	8,914	3,850
<b>Long term investments</b>					
	Mutual fund	166,764	194,592	212,338	212,338
	GIC	-	-	-	-
	Total long term investments	166,764	194,592	212,338	212,338
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
	Computer equipment - at cost	2,822	2,822	2,822	2,822
	Office equipment - at cost	1,311	1,311	1,311	1,311
	Field equipment - at cost	-	-	-	-
	Computer equipment - accum depr	(2,821)	(2,821)	(2,821)	(2,821)
	Office equipment - accum depr	(662)	(824)	(987)	(987)
	Field equipment - accum depr	-	-	-	-
	Total fixed assets	650	488	325	325
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
	Arch Notas	-	-	-	(1,500)
	Severance	-	-	-	-
	Deferred revenue	(3,756)	(3,438)	(6,115)	3,300
	Audit fees	-	-	-	-
	Telecom	(106)	-	-	-
	Legal fees	-	-	-	-
	Symposium registration payable	-	-	-	-
	Chapter member fees	-	-	-	-
	Total current liabilities	(3,862)	(3,438)	(6,115)	1,800
<b>Total net assets</b>		201,396	223,916	246,655	223,313
<b>Members equity</b>					
	OA publication fund	126,156	142,193	159,692	150,000
	Awards fund	3,158	3,609	3,602	4,000
	Future fund	72,081	78,114	83,361	75,000
<b>Total members equity</b>		201,396	223,916	246,655	229,000

STATISTICAL INFORMATION	Actual		YTD
	2,008	2,009	2,010
Renewals through PayPal	10,436	8,960	9,130
Chapter renewals through the OAS	1,282	2,971	3,893
Peggi Armstrong Fund Donations through OAS	109	152	284

ENDOWMENT FUND PERFORMANCE	Actual		YTD
	2,008	2,009	2,010
<b>Ontario Archeology Fund</b>			
Value at Start of Year	144,550	126,156	142,193
Investment Fund Gain/(Loss)	(19,944)	15,989	12,529
Donations	884	686	723
OA Surplus (Deficit)	667	(639)	4,247
<b>Final Value</b>	<b>126,156</b>	<b>142,193</b>	<b>169,692</b>
<b>Awards Fund</b>			
Value at Start of Year	3,629	3,158	3,609
Investment Fund Gain/(Loss)	(501)	400	318
Donations	30	50	138
Withdrawals	-	-	(463)
<b>Final Value</b>	<b>3,158</b>	<b>3,609</b>	<b>3,602</b>
<b>Future Fund</b>			
Value at Start of Year	75,170	72,081	78,113.91
Life membership Purchased	-	-	750.00
Investment Fund Gain/(Loss)	-	11,439	4,898.56
Donations	-	3,086	1,939.00
Operating Surplus (Deficit) on the year	-	(8,493)	(2,340.83)
<b>Final Value</b>	<b>72,081</b>	<b>78,114</b>	<b>83,361</b>



The Annual Symposium of  
The Ontario Archaeological Society

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**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 15, 2011,**  
**in the council chambers at Ottawa City Hall from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

President's opening remarks

Minutes of the previous meeting

Matters arising from these Minutes

President's report

Treasurer's report

Election of Directors

Constitution changes

Chapter Reports

Next Symposium

Other business

Adjournment

# ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE GAOL

By Tom Mohr

On Victoria Day of this year, the Victoria County Historical Society (VCHS) of the City of Kawartha Lakes, opened the 1863-era Lindsay Jail as a regional museum. In early April, though, the Olde Gaol was visited by members of the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, who undertook to sort and analyze some of the facility's First Nations' cultural material. On hand were Sheryl Smith and Bill Fox from Parks Canada; Gordon and Patricia Dobb from York North Archaeological Services; Morgan Tamplin, late of Trent University and an OAS Board member; Harry Brown and VCHS Board member Tom Mohr, both trained enthusiasts and Board members of the POAS; and last, but certainly not least, Doug Williams, who is an Aboriginal Elder from Curve lake and Director of Studies for the Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies at Trent.

After a quick tour of the Olde Gaol, Doug performed a traditional smudging of the artifacts to speak to the spiritual nature of our investigations. Then we descended upon the collection. Even given the wealth of experience around the tables, the exercise felt like Christmas as boxes were unpacked and artifacts emerged from their protective wrappings – some for the first time in many

years. The nature of the artifacts ranged from common Archaic points of the sort often ploughed up by local farmers, to a number of more exotic items, including a mammoth tooth, numerous ground-stone tools and examples of the great range of contact and pre-contact trade conducted by our indigenous peoples.

A good deal of the Victoria County Historical Society's collection can be associated with sites attributed to the St. Lawrence Iroquoian people who traveled through this area up to about 1580 AD. However, some material has tentatively been dated to the Paleo-Indian era and reflects a continued occupation in our region by First Nations for



Peterborough Chapter members Harry Johnson, Patricia Dobb, Gord Dobb, and Sheryl Smith ponder the diagnostic ceramics in the collection. Photo credit: Morgan Tamplin.

many thousands of years. There are also numerous 19th century items from the Mississauga peoples, in particular a wooden war club whose authenticity was later confirmed by Kenneth Lister from the Royal Ontario Museum.

The VCHS extends its thanks to all those involved in the day. While the analysis is not yet complete, we had many pieces from our collection available for viewing on opening day of the Olde Gaol Museum, providing evidence that our region has been home to diverse peoples for a long, long time.

**This 'exotic' rim sherd from the Foster Site near Lindsay, Ontario is but one of the marvels of this little collection at the Old Gaol. Photo credit: Morgan Tamplin.**



Canadian Archaeological Association  
Association Canadienne d'Archéologie

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE CAA YouTube CHANNEL

The Canadian Archaeological Association is starting its very own YouTube channel. It will be dedicated to presenting Canadian archaeology and archaeology undertaken by archaeologists at Canadian institutions. The channel will be aimed at promoting public interest and awareness in archaeology as well as providing a venue for dissemination and discussion of archaeological research. The channel will go live this fall. We will announce the launch on the CAA website and circulate an email, so you will know how and when you can check it out.

### Types of content

We are looking for a variety of video submissions. Content must be related to archaeology, but may come from the field, the lab or wherever archaeology happens. Videos may be in English or French. We are interested in Canadian projects as well as projects involving Canadian institutions, which could be from anywhere in the world.

Listed below are just some of the possible types of videos we would like to see.

**Field Schools:** Submissions are invited which depict the research and field conditions of archaeological field schools. Videos should be fun and informative and might

include topics such as site tours, descriptions of research questions and results, and depictions of camp life. With the growing availability of field schools, students are turning to social media as a means of assessing field opportunities. With your help, we can establish the CAA channel as the go to location on the web for deciding on field schools. This is a great way to promote your field school.

**Analysis:** We welcome content that presents new and exciting archaeological analysis. This can be a discussion of recovered material, a presentation of artifacts from museum collections, or synthetic analysis. The channel will be a terrific venue for quickly disseminating research results. We can even link to your article, if there is one out.

**Demonstrations:** Demonstration videos can present how-to guides for experimental archaeology like flint knapping and other replicative studies, 3D scanning and modeling, specialized analysis techniques like XRF, or many other archaeological topics.

**Facility Tours:** The CAA channel can also be a venue to promote research at your university, museum or institution. This is a great way to show the public the research potential of archaeology in Canada. A tour

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# A TRIBUTE TO COLIN STANTON 'PADDY' REID (1942 – 2006)

by William Ross

It hardly seems possible that five years have gone by since Paddy passed away in late August 2006 at his home on Longbow Lake, near Kenora. He was born in Ireland in 1942 and raised in a suburb south of Dublin called Dun Loaghair, located along the coast. He immigrated to Canada at the age of 15. In September 1961 he joined the Canadian Armed Forces and served with distinction in the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Guards, and as a Peacekeeper in Cyprus, as well as numerous other assignments. He was held in high regard by his colleagues, both officers and enlisted men, who in correspondence used words such as 'decent', 'loyal and dependable', 'strong in his convictions', and 'single-minded and intolerant of stupidity' in describing their recollections of Paddy. Paddy retired from the Forces, having reached the rank of Captain, to pursue a career in archaeology. His archaeological colleagues would use many of the same words to describe their memories of him.

Graduating with a BA from the University of Toronto, Paddy continued his education at McMaster University, graduating with the first MA awarded in archaeology in that program. His thesis, entitled *The Boys Site and the Early Ontario Iroquois Tradition* was subsequently published by the National Museum in their Mercury Series (Reid: 1975).

After a summer excavating at the Ermatinger House (Reid: 1975b, 1976, 1977) in Sault Ste. Marie, Paddy came north to the Lake of the Woods area to work as an archaeologist for the Province of Ontario. He spent the rest of his career as the Regional Archaeologist based in Kenora.

With Grace Rajnovich, also working for the Ministry of Culture, he quickly set up a long-term archaeological survey and testing research program on the Lake of the Woods (Reid 1977). This led to the documentation, testing and full-

scale excavation of a number of sites in the region, many of which have become important 'type sites' in Subarctic archaeology (Reid 1975, 1980; Rajnovich and Reid 1978a, 1978b; Reid and Rajnovich 1980). Paddy also co-directed the West Patricia Land Use Project with Bill Ross between 1978 and 1981 (Reid 1980b; Reid and Ross 1981). This large-scale multi-year project involved archaeological survey throughout portions of northern Ontario to address cultural heritage components of the environmental assessment

requirements of the Ministry of Natural Resources for the West Patricia Land Use Plan.

Paddy was particularly successful in securing funding from various other government departments with which to hire project archaeologists who conducted archaeological surveys and public archaeology excavations throughout northwestern Ontario. Many of these projects were published in manuscript report series produced by the Kenora and Thunder Bay archaeology offices of the Ministry of Culture, Citizenship and Recreation. These manuscript reports significantly furthered the development of the Subarctic archaeology literature base, and remain the foundation of published literature in the region. More

formal edited volumes included one on the northern Ontario fur trade (Reid 1980c), and Subarctic pre-contact archaeology (Reid 1988b).

Paddy Reid also played a critically important role in facilitating the development of Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung: Manitou Mounds National Historic Site that is operated by the Rainy River First Nations. This was at a time long before the notion of research and collaboration between archaeologists and First Nations had become a mainstream part of Canadian archaeology.

He was particularly interested in refining archaeological concepts and methodologies to suit the Subarctic depositional environment, and authored several important papers regarding archaeological techniques within the



boreal forest (Reid 1988a). He was convinced that large-scale and high-resolution excavations were critically important for understanding intra-site patterning in boreal forest sites. Putting his theories into practice resulted in the first Laurel houses ever to be excavated at the Ballynacree Site (Reid and Rajnovich 1985). With Grace Rajnovich, Paddy also began to systematically address the cultural and temporal meaning of Laurel ceramic variability (Reid and Rajnovich 1991).

On retirement in 1996, Paddy took great pleasure in reading, travelling, gardening and the companionship of his beloved Siberian huskies. In an interview shortly before his death, Paddy was asked what he considered to be his most significant find. He replied, "The most significant thing is not what I found but what I learned. I got to know the Ojibway people and their culture."

In keeping with Paddy's wishes, a private gathering of remembrance was held. A scholarship is being set up in his memory through the Anthropology Department at Lakehead University. Those wishing to donate can contact the Department directly.

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## CAA to host You Tube Channel

Cont'd. from Page 8

showing your resources and facilities will be an excellent way to attract visiting researchers and graduate students to your institution.

### CRM and Avocational Archaeology

Academic projects are not the only content we are targeting. We want submissions from CRM companies and avocational archaeologists as well. Much of this research is currently not well-known to the general public, but the CAA channel can help you let the world know what good work you are doing.

The proliferation of smart phones with video cameras means that virtually every new and exciting discovery can be captured on video in the field as it happens. We encourage you to film your finds and let the world know about them on the CAA channel.

### Content guidelines

We want people to have fun in their videos. After all archaeology is a fun endeavour and we want the public to get excited about archaeology in Canada. The CAA Channel will be the public face of the CAA however, so we

must ensure that content is appropriate and relevant in some to way to archaeology.

This channel will be available to the public so we must ensure a certain level of decorum in the content we present. Commonsense rules apply; no profanity or illegal behaviour. Videos that are deemed inappropriate will not be posted.

Content must abide by the YouTube submission guidelines which can be found at: [http://www.youtube.com/t/community\\_guidelines](http://www.youtube.com/t/community_guidelines).

### How to submit content to the CAA YouTube Channel

Video submissions can be emailed to [canadianarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:canadianarchaeology@gmail.com). Videos must be less than 2 GBs in size and less than 15 minutes in length. Longer videos, such as public talks, should be split into parts. Submissions must be free from copyright. The channel editor will review the content and post material to the CAA channel. We will let you know when the channel goes live.

If you have any questions or problems with submissions please email [canadianarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:canadianarchaeology@gmail.com). Thank you and we looking forward to seeing your contributions!

# REMEMBERING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF A LONG-TIME ARCH NOTES EDITOR ON MICHAEL W. KIRBY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

by Charles Garrad

Volunteer organizations such as the OAS depend on a succession of members willing to unstintingly donate their time, skills and resources to benefit the Society. Unfortunately, when these people move on, they tend to become forgotten and unappreciated by their successors.

Michael and Christine Kirby are eminent examples of members who donated their time, skills and resources to the benefit of the OAS for many years, and then moved on. A number of us took the opportunity of Mike's 80th birthday on May 23, 2011 to affirm that the contributions that he and Christine made to the OAS are far from forgotten, and to record for the present generation of members some of Mike's contributions.

Mike will always be remembered particularly in connection with *Arch Notes*. In the Society's earliest days the Corresponding Secretary mailed out notices of meetings and digs, often as postcards. The beginning of the evolution of this process into something like a newsletter with its own editor took place 1962-1963 when Lynn Soucy produced the first four issues of *Arch Notes*. In the 13 years from 1962 and 1974 *Arch Notes* had nine editors, who each produced on average 10 issues (then monthly), the highest score going to Bill Donaldson who produced 28 issues between 1966 and 1968. In 1974 the then current editor, Jim Burns, accepted an offer to go out to Alberta, and consequently resigned, leaving the then president, myself, with the task of finding a replacement. In those days the Society held its meeting in the ROM Planetarium which had tiered seating. I remember looking up from the podium at the gathering and noticing two new members, Christine and Michael Kirby. When I appealed for a member to volunteer to assume the Editorship of *Arch Notes*, Michael responded. The day was saved, my dilemma resolved, and a new era for the OAS began.

Under Michael's guidance, *Arch Notes* achieved a hitherto unknown and never surpassed reliability and regularity, and mini-magazine status because of the diversity of contents. A typical issue might contain summaries of the presentations made to the Society and Chapters since the previous issue; news of future presentations, events and awards; reports on past and planned trips, excavations and other events held by the Society, by Chapters, by universities, and by individual Members; comments on items published in newspapers, in Chapter newsletters, by other Societies, and elsewhere; news of the OAS Library with details of recent acquisitions and book reviews; news of new members; obituaries; reports from

the Society President, Board and Committee Members; news of possible interest to members from related Societies, governments and government agencies, including lists of Licences granted; philosophical considerations of such relevance as the role of amateur archaeologists; and perhaps half a dozen original or copied research reports either in full or summarised. Michael achieved this by personally working with and encouraging potential contributors. For example, during Mike's editorship, John Steckley published some 38 articles in *Arch Notes*.

In 1990, Michael caused two crises by announcing that after his approaching one hundredth issue of *Arch Notes* would be an appropriate time for him to retire. The first crisis was, how could the OAS possibly recognise such an unprecedented achievement and contribution as producing one hundred issues of *Arch Notes*? He had already been made an OAS Member for Life in 1988. The second was, how to persuade Michael not to resign, if possible? Both were achieved by holding a special dinner to feature Mike and Christine, with presentations and appreciations in honour of Michael's stellar contributions to the Society! One of the evening's features was the composing of limericks by members about Mike. Mike himself replied by limerick to the request that he not resign:

After editing *Arch Notes* for some time  
I thought that perhaps I'd resign  
But the great party, and furor  
Inspire me to do more  
I'll still be around, barring decline!

Mike continued for another unbelievable 29 more issues. But his contributions were by no means limited to *Arch Notes*. He has been a member from 1974 to present (37 years); edited *Arch Notes* 1974 to 1994, 129 issues (21 years); served as director 1987 to 1999 (13 years) and treasurer 1987 to 1993 (7 years); and produced *Ontario Archaeology* 57 to 66 (1994-1999) (introduced Perfect binding).

Mike and Christine helped with everything, especially to do with the OAS office location, organisation, equipment, and computer programming, the Symposia, trips and social events.

At a gathering of some of the Kirbys' many friends at their home 'Cedarcroft' in the Beaver Valley, to celebrate Mike's 80th birthday, tributes to Michael were read on behalf of OAS members, and the Grey County Historical Society, of which Mike, true to form, is currently treasurer and newsletter editor. Both Michael and Christine were wished best wishes for the future, and assured of our continuing gratitude and admiration.

# Recommendations for Palaeoethnobotanical Research Design and Sampling

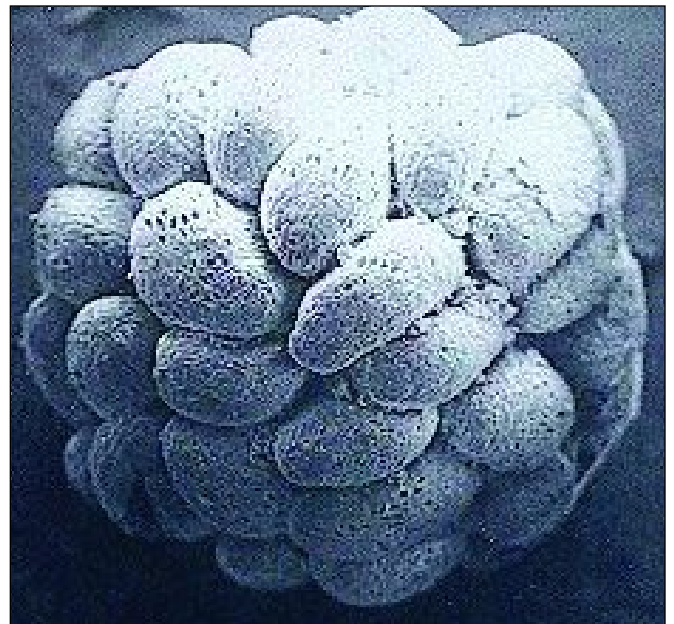
by **Natasha Lyons**

**P**alaeoethnobotany is the study of past interactions between human and plant communities through the identification, analysis, and interpretation of plant remains. Plant remains recovered from archaeological sites can provide insight into a range of questions related to subsistence, economy, and environment; food harvesting, storage, production, and consumption; local and landscape level settlement practices; and the social, political, economic, and spiritual use of foods, medicines, implements and technologies.

This document has been prepared to advise archaeologists how they might incorporate palaeoethnobotany into their prospective research designs. A series of recommendations are made regarding consultation, archaeobotanical sampling, in-field collection, and processes related to analysis. More detailed information regarding sampling strategies, in-field collection, and other aspects of the processes involved in palaeoethnobotanical analysis can be found in Pearsall (2000). I am also happy to field questions and provide consultation for palaeoethnobotanical research.

- If possible, consult a palaeoethnobotanist during the proposal stage of a project to ask how palaeoethnobotany could be most usefully embedded within the project. They may suggest specific questions or complimentary lines of evidence. If possible, budget for the analyst make a site visit during excavations. At very least, consult the palaeoethnobotanist before excavations for specific recommendations related to the site or site type to be excavated and recommended sampling procedures.

- For sampling, first and foremost, samples should be taken from all contexts and components on site. That said, burn/cooking features are the most likely locus for charred plant remains and the most likely to provide promising interpretive potential for archaeobotanical remains. However, there is also great potential for the analysis of floors, outdoor activity areas, and other types of surfaces. Column samples will only yield general information about site sediments and have the least likelihood for in situ charred remains. Thus, if time is short during an excavation, focus on charcoal-rich features. Because the centre of cooking pits and hearth features (etc.) can burn hot, it is recommended to take separate samples from the centre,



**Salal berry ( *Gaultheria shallon*) under a scanning electron microscope (R) and in the wild (L)**

fringes, and outside of these features, and label them accordingly.

- It is also important to take an off-site control sample(s) that can be compared with the archaeological sediments. This will help the palaeoethnobotanist determine what the natural seed and soil profile look like in the site area and will provide a comparison with on-site samples. Make sure the control is from a representative and relatively nearby off-site location that comes from the same ecological niche as the archaeological site or sites in question.

- All samples should be taken in litre increments—1 to 2 litres for shallow features or floor and activity area contexts (if feature volume is very small, take 0.5 a litre), multiple litres (4,5,10) for large-volume features (ie., those with a homogeneous matrix). If in doubt, take more.

- This may be obvious, but all samples should be carefully labelled, preferably both on the bag and on a smaller labels enclosed in a small ziploc that is in turn placed in the sample bag. Labels should have all contextual information—site, layer, level, date, feature no. if there is one, depth below surface, type of sample (eg. column, soil, radiocarbon, etc.), sample collector. Remember that the next person to see or use these samples may not have excavated the site or have knowledge of it; they may also not be familiar with your printing, so try to be neat! Double bag samples, as they could easily split or spill during transport or storage. If moist when bagged, dry samples by opening the bag top in a warm location where they won't be jostled before storing them, in order to avoid mould.

- To produce the most effective results, selection of samples for analysis should be conducted in consultation with a trained palaeoethnobotanist. Similarly, the processing, analysis, and interpretation of samples are best carried out by – or under the direct supervision of – a palaeoethnobotanist. This will ensure that proper procedures and handling are followed, appropriate quantitative analysis is conducted, and interpretive procedures follow established standards and provide for comparison with other archaeobotanical assemblages.

### Common Terms

Palaeoethnobotany: is the study of past human-plant interactions, while archaeobotanical remains are the archaeological remnants of plant use activities (Hastorf and Popper 1988:2). These terms are often used interchangeably in the literature.

Plant macroremains are those visible to the naked eye, while microremains require high level magnification (Pearsall 2000:6-9). This analysis deals with macroremains such as seeds, charcoal, buds, leaves, stems, and the like; plant microremains take the form of starches, pollen, and phytoliths.

## USEFUL REFERENCES

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### Palaeoethnobotanical Study & Analysis

Ursus Heritage Consulting is a BC-based company specializing in archaeological and palaeoethnobotanical services. Palaeoethnobotany is the study of past human-plant interactions and relationships, involving the analysis of plant macroremains from the archaeological record such as seeds, charcoal, buds, leaves, stems, and other plant parts, to determine the kinds of plant use activities that ancient people were practicing. In Canada, these practices range from foraging and plant harvesting to full-scale cultivation and landscape management.

We have extensive experience in small and large-scale palaeoethnobotanical analyses and work closely with proponents to develop an appropriate sampling design for field collection and laboratory analysis. We can also provide identifications for charred and uncharred wood, which in turn provides insight into the technologies, architecture, and environmental use of past cultural groups. We would be pleased to partner with Ontario-based consulting firms, and to provide mentoring services to junior palaeoethnobotanists.

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2012 OAS EXECUTIVE BOARD

This is an open call to all OAS members willing to serve the society by being a member of the OAS Executive Board.

As per constitutional changes ratified last year, in 2012 the OAS's new governance structure will take effect. This includes two year terms for office, staggered elections, and a re-structuring of the Board so members now vote

for both Executive officers (President, Vice-President and Treasurer), and a compliment of 6 Directors.

This year's slate requires nominations for members willing to serve as Treasurer (beginning with a first year serving as Treasurer-elect to become familiar with procedures, while working with the existing Treasurer. The current Treasurer

will step down at the end of 2012), and three other Directors.

For further information or to convey your interest, please contact a member of this year's Nominating Committee:

Jean-Luc Pilon (Chair): [jean-luc.pilon@civilization.ca](mailto:jean-luc.pilon@civilization.ca);

Ron Williamson: [RWilliamson@iasi.to](mailto:RWilliamson@iasi.to);

or Alicia Hawkins: [ahawkins@laurentian.ca](mailto:ahawkins@laurentian.ca)



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**Arch Notes submissions**

Contributor deadlines:

January 15

March 15

May 15

July 15

September 15

November 15

Send articles to:

aneditor@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

or

Arch Notes editor

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**Membership**

(Canadian \$. Second figure includes a  
subscription to *Ontario Archaeology*)

Individual	36 / 48
Family	40 / 52
Student	25 / 34
Institution / Corporate	60
Life	750

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Treasurer: Ruth MacDougal  
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Brantford, ON N3T 2Y3  
Phone: (866) 243-7028  
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, Sept. to  
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Membership: Individual \$11, Family \$18

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Ottawa ON K1S 5J1  
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