

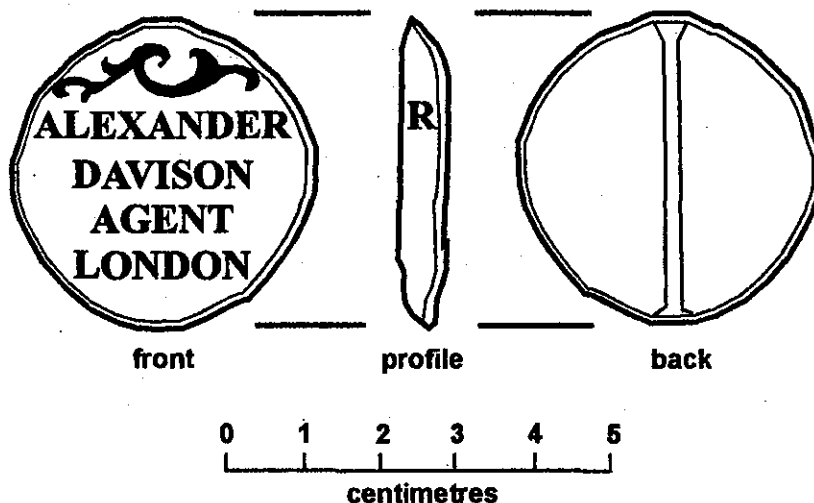


# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

New Series Volume 2, Issue 5

September / October 1997



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## Editor's note

With this issue of *Arch Notes* I have reached the end of my three year term as editor. While I have been offered a second term by the Board of Directors, I have decided not to take it, because the editing is diverting too much time and energy from my PhD research. So... we need someone to fill this three year appointed volunteer position. We are looking for an enthusiastic, dedicated person with solid language and computer skills who can devote a concentrated amount of time every two months to produce this newsletter. If you would like to find out more about this position, please call Ellen at the OAS office.

Starting with the next issue, we will feature a regular book review column, coordinated and partly authored by Sheri Bowman. Because we publish a peer-reviewed journal, we occasionally get sent books by major publishers in the anticipation that we will review them for *Ontario Archaeology*. Contact Sheri Bowman via the OAS office if you'd like to contribute some reviews. This is your chance to catch up with the latest archaeology books and whet the reading appetites of your fellow members!

Please note that I have switched to a different email provider; my new address is [s.needs@sympatico.ca](mailto:s.needs@sympatico.ca)

A reminder about advertising: call the office now for a discounted three- or six-issue run of adverts for 1998.

To avoid confusion, I will remain in charge of copy for the next issue. Please make sure material reaches the OAS office or my email by November 15.

*Suzanne*

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# OAS news

I am looking forward to seeing many OAS members at the annual **symposium, October 24-27**. There will be presenters not only from Ontario, but from at least eight different American states. For those of you who are there bright and early (9 am) on Friday morning, I will be doing the Call to Order and Opening Remarks. There will be a good number of archaeology books available at the **OAS book table**, ably 'womaned' by **Ella Kruse**. Thanks go to **Mima Kapches** of the **ROM** for donating eight boxes full of archaeological literature to the book table.

Congratulations and thanks go to **Charles Garrad**, former President and Executive Director of the OAS, for running yet another successful **field school** in the Collingwood area, and for again **raising the profile of archaeology and of the OAS in the local media**. The same goes for the **Ottawa Chapter** for their **Archaeology Day at Charleston Park** on July 12, teaching several hundred campers, among other things, that it takes a lot of hot rocks dumped into a clay pot to make two cups of water boil. There was a well-run **Archaeology Day at the Peel Heritage Complex** on July 20, with workshops led by **Jeff Bursey, Peter Hamalainen and Greg Purmal**.

As noted in her Editor's Note, **Suzanne Needs-Howarth** will be stepping down as **editor of Arch Notes** when her **three year term expires** at the end of December. She has some absurd notion of getting her thesis completed before the beginning of the next millennium. On behalf of the OAS I would like to thank her for her efforts.

The province lost another important archaeologist in August, 1997, with the death of OAS member **Barry Mitchell** of Deep River. We send our **condolences** to family and friends.

On the political front: I noticed that the **Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation's new business plan** does not make reference either to the detailed business plan we had to file for them (for

which thanks go to **Ellen Blaubergs**, our part-time paid, full-time occupied staff) or to any plans they have concerning the future of archaeology in this province. I am writing a letter to the Minister in this regard, as well as to my local MPP. I encourage other OAS members do so as well. Contact **Ellen** at the OAS office for details. **John Steckley** ■

**Notice of Appointment of Nominating Committee**  
As was noted in the previous issue, **Heather Henderson** has been appointed chair of the 1998 Nominating Committee. The task of the Committee is to prepare a slate of seven or more candidates for office as Directors of The Ontario Society during the business year 1998. She now solicits nominations of consenting candidates for office in 1998. She also seeks two other members to serve on his Committee. Written nominations may be forwarded to the Nominating Committee in confidence, care of the OAS Office, the envelope being marked "Attention – Nominating Committee". **Heather** can be reached at home at 416 944 9687. The Nominating Committee will present its slate and report to the Board of Directors and general membership at the Annual Business Meeting in October, at which time nominations may be made from the floor before closure. If an election is necessary, it will be held by mailed ballot accompanying the November-December 1997 issue of *Arch Notes*. This notice is intended to comply with Article VI of the Society's Constitution.

**Notice of Annual Business Meeting The 1997** As announced in the previous issue, the Annual Business Meeting of The Ontario Archaeological Society will be

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## Welcome new OAS members (July - September 1997)

David Doucette, Mississauga ■ Al Kirouac Jr.,  
Mississauga ■ Marion & Larry Manders, Kendal  
■ Monika Marko, Toronto ■ Tracy Ruddell,  
Orono ■ Gerry Scheer, Eganville ■ Mike Teal,  
Waterloo ■

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held in the Johnson Room, 2nd Floor of the Novotel Hotel, North York, Ontario, on Saturday October 25, 1997, at a time which will be announced in the Symposium program. All Society members in good standing may attend. Copies of financial statements for the preceding fiscal year, and various reports, will be available, and an Agenda will be circulated. To ensure there is time for adequate consideration, motions submitted in writing in advance will be added to the Agenda and given precedence over those submitted verbally from the floor. Written motions intended for the Agenda should reach the Society's office at least one week prior. This notice is intended to comply with Article V(3) of the Society's Constitution.

The Ontario Archaeological Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of long-time member **Barry Mitchell** of Deep River, Ontario. Barry passed away in August. He will be remembered for his work in central eastern Ontario and his contributions to *Arch Notes*, *Ontario Archaeology* and OAS Symposia.

Congratulations to **Bill and Consuelo Fox** on the birth of their **daughter Michelle** Aurora Tulimaaq Fox on August 9, 1997, Inuvik NWT. We hear that Michelle will be accompanying her proud parents to the OAS Symposium in North York.

Thanks to **Charles Garrad, Jeff Bursey, Don Simons** and **John Pollock** for providing **Passport -to-the-Past opportunities** for volunteers on their respective sites. As many archaeological projects begin to move indoors into laboratory settings, remember that there are Passport members available to help wash, sort, label and assist with data entry. Please consider making the next phase of your archaeological project a Passport opportunity. Contact Ellen Blaubergs at the OAS office to provide information for the next Bulletin to PTPP members.

**Tea & History - What a Combination!** Many thanks to **Tony Stapells, Mima Kapches, Christine Caroppo, Brian Clarence** and **John Blaubergs** for their **book donations** to the Society's table at the Ontario Historical Society's Tea & History event held on Sunday, August 17th. **Lise Ferguson, Christine Caroppo** and **Ellen Blaubergs** "womaned" the

**Society's table** and did a brisk business. All proceeds from the sale will be placed in the Society's Endowment Funds. Special thanks to **John Blaubergs, Christine Caroppo** and **Brian Clarence** for **transportation and pricing assistance**.

We are also tremendously grateful to **Rudy Fecteau** for **completing the OAS Community Speaker Kits** over the summer. **All chapters will be given a kit at the October Symposium in North York.**

If you have **not registered** for the **OAS Symposium in North York on October 24-26**, do so immediately.

The OAS recently received the following "**Open Letter to Ontario's Arts, Culture & Heritage Community**", dated September 8, 1997:

"The Ontario Liberal Caucus believes that arts, culture & heritage matter to the people of Ontario.

We believe that the people of Ontario recognize the value of arts, culture & heritage in their communities and they support the concept of meaningful public participation in the arts.

Unfortunately, this is a message that continues to be lost on the Mike Harris government. Despite well documented proof on the contribution of arts, culture & heritage activities to local economies; despite the clear loss of arts & culture activity and opportunity in communities right across Ontario; despite the pleas of artists and arts organizations on behalf of emerging artists and developing organizations, this government continues to neglect those things and those activities that make our communities and our Province great.

This week, the Members of the Ontario Liberal Caucus have put forward a motion to Ontario's Culture Minister asking for her government's support for a "Culture Matters Month" here in Ontario. We have asked this Minister and this government to accept and promote the value of arts, culture & heritage, not only among their own ranks, but also to all the people of Ontario.

We enclose a copy of this Motion for your information

and we would be delighted with your written support and endorsement.

Arts, culture & heritage do matter to the Members of the Ontario Liberal Caucus. Please join us in sending a united message to this government.

All the Best,

[Signed]

Dalton McGuinty, MPP  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Leader, Ontario Liberal Party  
and  
Michael Gravelle, MPP  
Liberal Culture Critic”

Attached was the following motion:

“Culture Matters Month Motion

In recognition of the economic and social contributions of the arts in all its many forms, and in recognition of the work carried out by artists, not-for-profit arts, culture & heritage organizations and culture industries, the government of the Province of Ontario hereby declares \_\_\_\_\_ as Culture Matters Month.

In the spirit of Culture Matters Month we:

- recognize and acknowledge the richness and diversity and value of arts activity year round
- recognize the economic contributions of arts, culture & heritage activity on the Provincial economy
- celebrate and honour the role that arts, culture & heritage play in enhancing our communities and enriching the lives of all Ontarians
- acknowledge the necessity for strong public support for Ontario's artists and not-for-profit sector through the Ontario Arts Council by calling on the government to restore funding to 1996/97 levels
- call on the people of the Province to participate in arts activities in their communities
- call on the business community to continue in their support of the work of local artists and local arts activity.

In recognition of the importance and intent of this Motion, we the undersigned proudly sign our names.

Dalton J.P. McGuinty, M.P.P.  
Leader, Ontario Liberal Party

Michael Gravelle, M.P.P.  
Ontario Liberal Culture Critic  
and 27 other M.P.P.s”

**Attention Members! Do you support the statements made above? If so, we strongly urge you write to your MPPs and tell them.** The more letters, the better. Since our own Minister has turned a deaf ear on so many heritage matters (including archaeology) in this province, perhaps the adoption of this motion will serve to draw much needed public attention to the value and importance of arts, culture and heritage activities all across the Province. Don't hesitate. Write now and send us copies of your letters and any responses. Ellen Blaubergs ■

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# Summary of an On-Going Archaeological Assessment, Lt.-Colonel John Butler Homestead (AgGu-66), Niagara-on-the-Lake

*Robert Mayer, Jim Wilson and Sean Douglas*

## Introduction

The *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990*, Sections 2(b) and 50(4a), establishes that the protection of features of archaeological interest is a matter of provincial concern. For this reason, an archaeological resource assessment (Stages 1 to 3) was commissioned by the Blythwood Group as a standard condition of development approval for the proposed 11.9 acre St. Andrews Glen subdivision (26T-18-9701) on Lot 206, Part Lot 1, Plan M11, RP-30R927, Niagara-on-the-Lake, R.M. of Niagara, Ontario (Figure 1).

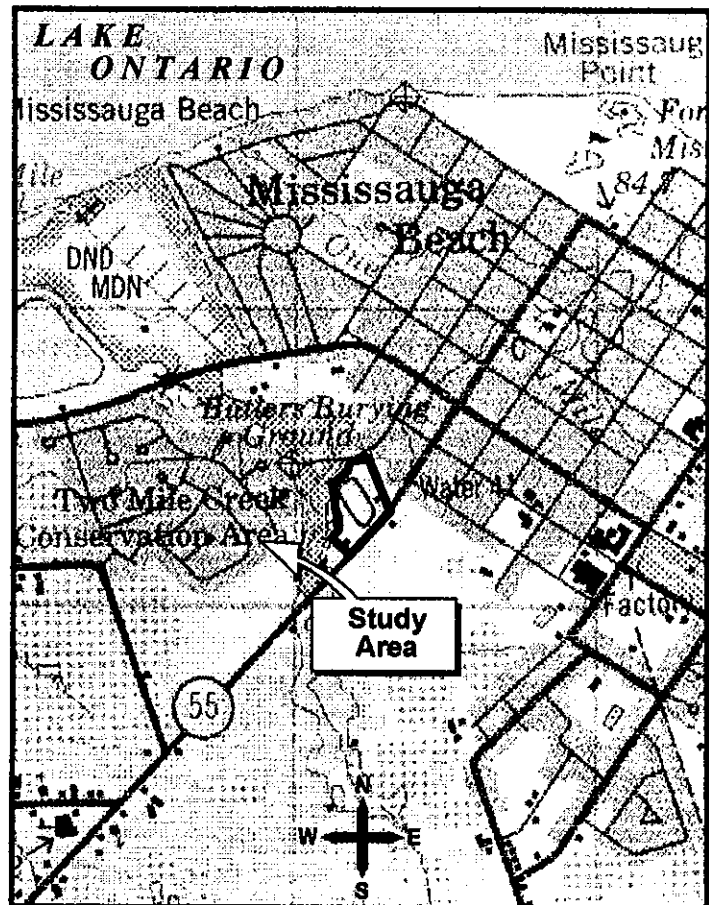
## Background Research (Stage 1)

Based upon the close proximity to Two Mile Creek, the presence of well-drained soils, and generally level topography suitable for human habitation, virtually all of the property exhibited high potential for the discovery of pre-contact Aboriginal archaeological resources. The Stage 1 background research determined that, in addition to the historically significant Butler's Burial Monument situated on the opposite side of Two Mile Creek immediately north of the property, there are four registered archaeological sites within 2,000 metres that have historic Euro-Canadian components. These sites are AhGs-10 and AhGs-11, both early 19<sup>th</sup> century sites also containing pre-contact Aboriginal components, as well as Fort Mississauga (AhGs-2) and the Presbyterian Schoolhouse site (AhGs-6).

Given that Euro-Canadian settlement activities at the mouth of the Niagara River began as early as the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most properties in the immediate vicinity of Niagara-on-the-Lake (formerly Newark) also have a high potential for historic archaeological resources. An 1810 "Plan of Niagara" prepared by A. Gray, an Assistant Quartermaster General in the British Army, shows the general location of the "Col. Butler" home-

stead on the St. Andrews Glen property (Figure 2). Although no structures are indicated on the H.R. Page & Co.'s 1878 map of Niagara Township in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas for the Counties of Lincoln and Welland*, the property was owned at that time by the estate of H. H. Killaly (Figure 3). Land registry records indicate that a Hamilton H. Killaly is listed as owner of a property within the "Miscellaneous" block in 1857. From these records it was

Figure 1: Location of the Study Area.



possible to trace ownership back to the original crown grant to Col. Thomas Butler – a significant historical and military figure during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. He was the son of Lt.-Col. John Butler of “Butlers Rangers” fame during the revolution and commanded one of his father’s regiments at that time.

Thomas Butler died from a disease in December 1812. His house and outbuildings were burned along with the nearby Town of Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) by invading American forces five months later, during the War of 1812, on or about May 27, 1813. The site represents one of the few relatively undisturbed domestic archaeological sites remaining from that period and earlier in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A local historian (Joy Ormsby, personal communication) is of the opinion that John Butler originally homesteaded the property, and that Thomas inherited it and all of the buildings on it upon his father’s death in May, 1794.

The Butler family’s significant military contribution suggests an important social contribution to the region. The family owned the property for entire first half of the nineteenth century, and played a prominent role in the development of the township, both economically, socially, and politically. In his book, *Patrons, Client and Brokers*, Sid Noel (1990) explains the role these prominent landowners and financiers played in moulding life in Upper Canada and Canada West. To Noel, the political, social, and economic make-up of Ontario was based overwhelmingly on land. The owner, or patron, incrementally acquired large tracts of property that were subsequently leased or sold to new migrants to the community. This process created a two level social system: the patron who had money, credit, and access to resources; and the client who had his (very rarely her) labour and loyalty to offer. They both sought political, economic, and social advantages in each other:

*“The core interaction is thus reciprocity, an exchange of mutually valued goods or services between individuals who are of unequal status and in control of unequal resource. Less abstractly, a patron is typically in a position to bestow upon a client some tangible benefit, such as access to land,*

*credit employment, or other material reward, or (less tangibly) security, information or the opportunity to profit. In return a client is typically able to offer loyalty, service, personal acclaim, and support - including support of the patron’s commercial enterprises, the carrying of arms under his leadership should the need arise, and political support in circumstances where numbers count. ...Such relationships are conditioned by the customs of the community and the character of the economy in which they are located, but they are invariably personal, face to face, and reinforced by other ties, such as those of a common religion or ethnicity or (as in Upper Canada) of common service in the local militia regiment” (Noel 1990:13-14).*

The Butler family’s significant military contribution suggests an important social contribution to the region. It is quite possible that the family played the role of patron to other settlers. This relationship should be further explored during more detailed historical research, if and when circumstances permit.

### **General Survey (Stage 2)**

Owned by Adrei, Ruth, John and Vera de Latt, the property is currently being operated by a tenant as a horse farm and riding academy. Consequently the pasture and paddock areas could not be ploughed without a substantial negative impact to the existing land use. One small dirt paddock with an exposed ground surface was pedestrian surveyed at a two-metre interval. The remainder of the property, exclusive of the chronically wet flood plain, was surveyed using the standard test pit method. Approximately 1.5 acres in the vicinity of the existing house and barn structure were found to have been previously impacted by landscape modifications and were therefore surveyed at a ten-metre interval. The balance was surveyed at a five-metre interval.

The general survey (Stage 2) found two locations with archaeological materials. Location 1 (AhGs-18), the Butler Homestead, extends over an approximate 40x40 metre area (1,600 m<sup>2</sup>) and is primarily a 19<sup>th</sup> century Euro-Canadian site with a modest pre-contact Aboriginal component. Location 2 is an isolated findspot containing a single piece of Onon-

daga chert chipping detritus of undetermined pre-contact Aboriginal cultural affiliation. Based upon the Stage 2 results, a Stage 3 evaluation was recommended for Location 1 in order to determine its archaeological significance and information potential. This was required before recommendations could be made for either clearance of the condition of development approval or for Stage 4 mitigative measures. Because Location 2 exhibited limited information potential or educational value, no additional assessment or mitigative measures were recommended for it.

### **Site Specific Investigation (Stage 3)**

The site specific investigation (Stage 3) of Location 1 (AhGs-18) consisted of the hand excavation of 12 test units (each one-metre square) at strategic locations covering the extent of the positive Stage 2 test pits. These units contained 1,953 artifacts including 1,039 ceramic sherds, 326 brick fragments, 227 pieces of pane and table glass, 175 pieces of mortar or plaster, 98 animal bone fragments, 47 wrought nails, 30 white ball clay pipe fragments, six miscellaneous metal artifacts, five buttons and five pieces of pre-contact Aboriginal chipping detritus. Two subsurface cultural features, a pit and a portion of a dry laid floor or foundation, were partially exposed but not excavated.

**Ceramic Artifacts** The 1,066 fragments of ceramic tableware and crockery provide the best indication of the time period during which the site was occupied. The dominant ceramic type in the collection is creamware (48.5%). Creamware is a type of ceramic that was produced from approximately AD1760 until 1830. It differs from white earthenware in that it tends to have a slight yellowish to greenish glaze. On sites in Ontario creamware is usually quite plain. The only decorated sherd in the collection to date has a green band and a yellow band.

In addition to the creamware, 202 (18.9%) fragments of pearlware were recovered. Pearlware is another early ceramic type often found in association with creamware. Pearlware has a slightly bluish glaze due to the addition of cobalt, and was first manufactured in 1779. It was largely replaced by refined

whiteware during the 1830s. Unlike creamware, pearlware was often decorated. Almost a quarter (23.2%) of the pearlware sherds exhibit evidence of blue transfer printing, 21.7% are hand painted, 6.9% are deeply moulded green or blue edgeware, 5.4 % are "flow" blue, 1% are banded, and there is one sponge decorated pearlware sherd.

The collection also contains 277 (25.9%) whiteware sherds. Whiteware has a nearly colourless glaze. It became popular during the 1830s, and completely replaced pearlware by 1850. Undecorated sherds comprise 87.4 % of the whiteware assemblage, with the remainder made up of hand painting (3.6%), blue transfer printing (3.6%), "flow" blue transfer printing (3.2%), banded wares (1.1%), sponged wares (0.7%) and a single example of deeply moulded blue edgeware (0.3%).

Lesser amounts of red earthenware (3.6%), porcelain (2.5%), stoneware (0.3%) and yellowware (0.1%) were also recovered. While whiteware continues to be manufactured even today, the diagnostic sherds are consistent with a pre-1850 occupation. The fact that 67.4% of the ceramic assemblage consists of either creamware or pearlware, suggests that the occupation may have begun as early as the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Glass Artifacts** Glass artifacts include 148 sherds of window pane glass, 65 bottle fragments, 13 pieces of glass rendered unidentifiable due to burning, as well as a fragment of a lid from a glass dish. None of the 65 bottle fragments originate from the base or neck. There are 38 colourless fragments, 14 with an extremely heavy patina on their surface, four dark olive green, three light aqua, and a piece of a thin light green bottle.

**Structural Artifacts** Structural artifacts, including brick, plaster, mortar and wrought nails, were frequently recovered from the test units. Of the 326 brick fragments, orange was slightly more common than red. The six buff brick fragments were recovered from one test unit.

All 47 nails recovered are hand-wrought. By 1830, these types of nails were largely replaced by



machine-cut nails. The fact that all of the nails were hand-wrought is consistent with the ceramic assemblage. This suggests that the site was first occupied very early during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Other Euro-Canadian Artifacts** Thirty white ball clay pipe fragments were recovered, including 15 bowl and 15 stem fragments. None of the stem fragments are decorated. The two bowl fragments have an impressed "TD" mark with an encircling impressed decoration of a design that appears to be previously unreported in published reports on archaeological sites in Ontario (Figure 4).

Exclusive of the wrought nails, six metal artifacts were recovered, including two lead bale seals, two door hinge fragments and two unidentified pieces of miscellaneous metal. The first lead seal is lenticular in shape and 18 mm wide (Figure 5). Its length is indeterminate as it appears to have had a deep "V" notch cut into it about 2/3 of the way along its length. Although there is no evidence of gilding on this artifact, it does have a crest motif in the form of two rows of very small raised floral decorations (three in each row) placed above and below a four mm wide raised band. The second seal is circular, measuring 39 mm in diameter (Figure 6). On its obverse side this artifact has inscribed in raised upper case lettering "ALEXANDER DAVISON AGENT LONDON". There is a small scroll decoration above the inscription and the entire obverse side was covered with gilt. These seals could also be commercial business tokens similar to specimens found at Fort York in Toronto (Karlis Karklins, pers. com.). There are five individuals named Alexander Davison at different addresses in various London business directories for the period immediately preceding the War of 1812 (Holden 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811 and 1812; Kent 1806, 1807 and 1808). Their professions are listed as navy agent, army clothier, merchant, prize agent and staymaker. No Alexander Davison was listed in the directories examined for 1814, and only one Alexander Davison, a merchant, for 1815 (Kent 1814, 1815).

Five clothing buttons were also recovered, including three plain metal and two plain bone.

**Pre-contact Aboriginal Artifacts** Five pieces of chipping detritus of undetermined pre-contact Aboriginal cultural affiliation were recovered. Four of these flakes are Onondaga chert while one is an example of a small flake of Kettle Point chert. Kettle Point chert is a high quality raw material that outcrops along the southeast shore of Lake Huron just south of Grand Bend, Ontario. It is unusual to find this material so far from its source.

### **Recommendations**

Based upon the satisfactory survey conditions, the standard assessment sampling techniques employed during both the Stage 2 general survey and the Stage 3 investigation of the Butler Homestead (AhGs-18), additional Stage 4 mitigative measures are deemed to be warranted as a condition of development approval. Given the historical importance and military contributions of John and Thomas Butler, as well as the presence of substantial deposits of *in situ* cultural material originating from an significant historical event (*i.e.*, the burning of Newark and surrounding homesteads during the War of 1812) and the possible presence of structural foundations, Stage 4 mitigative measures could include, in whole or in part, an avoidance strategy or a systematic excavation because the site exhibits a high information potential by provincial standards for archaeological resources.

If an avoidance strategy cannot be implemented, a mitigative excavation should involve the clearing of brush and hand excavation of the core site area. Any *in situ* cultural layers beneath the shallow ploughzone and any subsurface cultural features or structural remains should be hand excavated and recorded using standard methods. If approved by the OMCzCR, any mechanical removal of topsoil should be limited to deeply disturbed ploughzone areas.

Substantial information can be anticipated to be obtained from analyses of the cultural and structural materials left behind after the residence was burned during the War of 1812. In addition, the excavation is timely in that the longer some of the artifact types remain in the ground, the more broken and less displayable they will become as a result of frost fractures and ground movement. Now that the site

location is public knowledge, time is also of the essence with regard to the very real potential for the site to be illegally looted by unscrupulous artifact collectors using metal detectors to find the core site area. In this situation it would appear far better to systematically record the site sooner rather than later, before looting occurs.

Given the significance of the site and its association with an important founding family of Upper Canada, it is also recommended that additional historical research be conducted. This research should include the following:

- a land title search to confirm the ownership of the property from the present land ownership back to the original land grant. This will ensure the accuracy of the chain of title and connection to historical individuals (*i.e.*, John and Thomas Butler).
- contacting knowledgeable local and regional individuals and LACAC in order to obtain historic information not readily available at public facilities.
- examining various primary historical documents that may shed light on settlement activities that occurred on the property. This includes but is not limited to tax assessment and tax collector rolls, the 1861 and 1871 *Census of Canada*, the probate records for Niagara Townships, early newspapers or journals, minutes from township and municipal councils, and damage claims for the War of 1812.
- examining the *Abstract Index to Land Registry Records* in order to determine the financial role the Butler family played in the early economic development of Niagara.
- interviewing Butler family descendants in order to obtain any oral traditions to facilitate interpretation of the site.

The OMCzCR has reviewed the methods and results of the assessment, and concurred with the recommendation for Stage 4 mitigative measures.

#### **Proposed Stage 4 Mitigative Excavation**

The proposed Stage 4 mitigative excavation follows provincial guidelines and standards in conducting a detailed hand-excavation and documentation of the site and analysing the data recovered. The excava-

tion will be conducted by licenced archaeologists using traditional methods involving labour-intensive hand tools rather than today's more commonly used mechanical means. The developer will pay for the associated additional costs. Subject to weather and ground conditions, fieldwork can be completed within a two to three month schedule. Opportunities for volunteers to participate in the fieldwork will be investigated with local schools and other organizations such as the Lincoln and Welland Militia Regiment and the Ontario Archaeological Society's "Passport to the Past" program.

Subject to the approval of the OMCzCR, significant items will be set up in a display with appropriate maps and drawings at the Niagara Historical Museum or other selected venue as may be determined by the Town. The entire artifact collection recovered will be catalogued as per provincial requirements, and stored at a suitable location as may be determined by the Town. Artifact collections recovered by licenced consulting archaeologists normally end up in long term storage without public access or display opportunities. The developer has offered to pay for the display of significant items.

Any areas with significant subsurface structural features will be documented as per provincial requirements, and will not be removed for one full year following the Stage 4 mitigative excavation. The results will be presented to the Town and the Town will have one year to decide whether any portion of the site merits creation of an interpretative centre, and consideration of such alternatives as public or private acquisition to preserve the site.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The on-going assessment of this site has been greatly facilitated by a number of individuals and agencies including: Robert Mills and Neil Middleton of the Blythwood Group Inc.; Dena Doroszenko of the Ontario Heritage Foundation; Paul Antone, Dennis Carter-Edwards and Karlis Karklins of Parks Canada; plus Neal Ferris and Penny Young of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. Arthur Figura, Lorelyn Giese, Janet Kreda and Brent Wimmer were extremely diligent during all stages of the fieldwork. Mike Little generated the computer graphics. J. Trevor Hawkins provided editorial comments on various drafts of this article. The contributions made by all are gratefully acknowledged and greatly appreciated.



Figure 3: Part of H.R. Page & Co.'s 1876 Map of the Township of Niagara.



Figure 4: Drawings of "TD" Marks on Ball Clay Smoking Pipe Bowls and Stem.

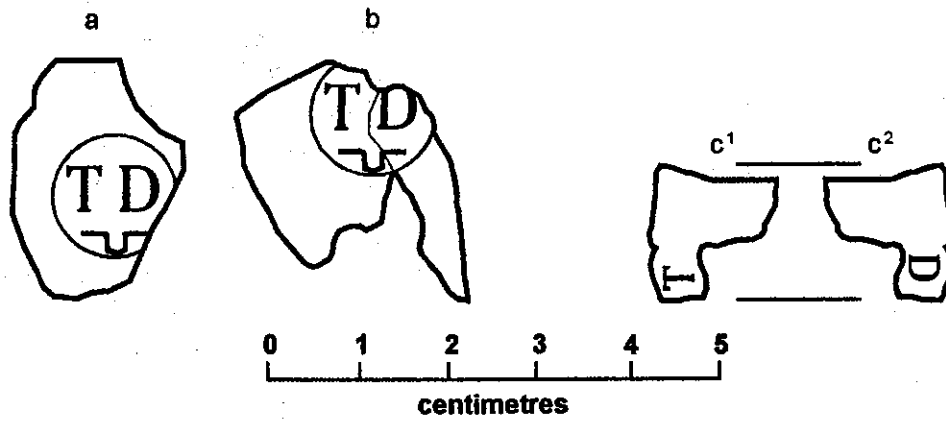


Figure 5: Drawings of a Lead Seal with an Unidentified Crest.

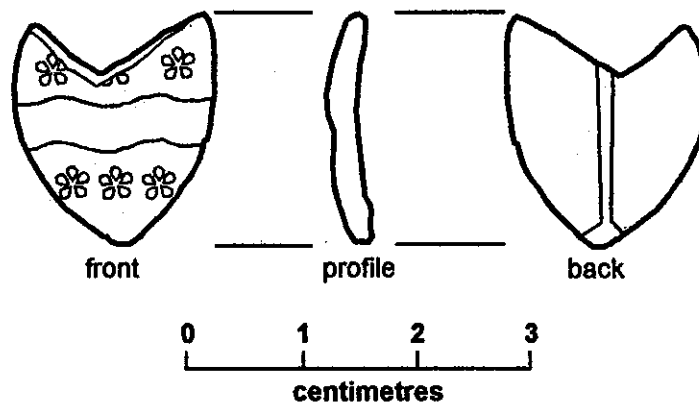
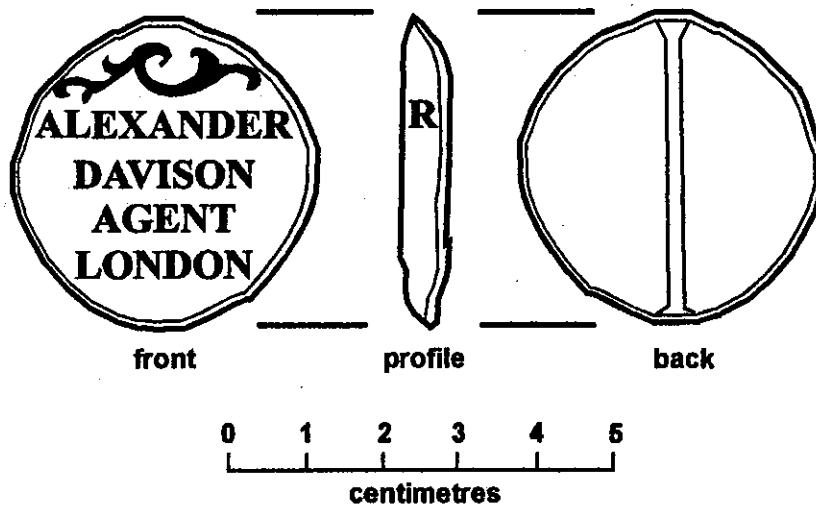


Figure 6: Drawings of an "Alexander Davidson" Lead Seal.



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Mayer Heritage Consultants / 429 Colborne Street, London, Ontario, N6B 2T2 / 519 645 8100 / 519 645 8109 (f) ■

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## Ministry news

For more information, contact the Archaeological Licence Office at 416 314 7123 / 314 7175 (f).

### August and September 1997

#### Excavation

William Fitzgerald, 97-113, Hunter's Point (BfHg-3), Part lots 6 & 7, Conc. 14 EBR, Eastnor Twp, Bruce County

#### Consulting

Colleen Halverson, 97-114, Northern Ontario / Leslie Ann Currie, 97-053(A), South Central Ontario

#### Conservation

George Kenny, 97-098, Lac Seul Indian Reserve (First Nation) (surface collecting only) / Glenn Kearsley, 97-112, Lot 18, Concession 1, Snowden Township, Haliburton County / Lawrence Jackson, 97-121, Southern Ontario

#### Survey and Test Excavation

Francois Vigneault, 97-115, Province of Ontario / Jean-Luc Pilon, Canadian Museum of Civilization, 97-116, Black Bay Peninsula, Lake Superior, East of Thunder Bay, including Allen site (EcJs-1)

#### Field School

David Smith, 97-119, Cootes Paradise, Hamilton, and other known Princess Point sites ■

# Idea exchange

**Bob Mayer** received the following letter, c.c.-ed to Michael Johnson, from Marilyn Mushinski, the Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, dated July 29, 1997, in reaction to his letter to the editor of *Toronto Life* (reprinted in the previous issue), which he had c.c.-ed to both the Minister and to Michael Johnson, Manager of Archaeology and Heritage planning at MCzCR.

"Thank you for your letter regarding the recent article in *Toronto Life* magazine about the status of archaeological conservation in Ontario. Ministry staff put a lot of time and effort into providing information to help Ms Dewar write the article and were disappointed by its bleak and disheartening representation of archaeological conservation efforts in Ontario. I certainly support the view that archaeology in Ontario is not a national or international disgrace. Rather, I would argue that the level and quality of conservation work done in Ontario is superior to that done in most if not all other provinces, and most US jurisdictions.

Conservation archaeology in Ontario is a young and still growing discipline, and many of Ms Dewar's comments reflect any of the old growing pains faced by the archaeological consultant industry and our ministry. There is no question that we still have a way to go, but more than anything else it will be essential that we all work together to tackle these challenges as we move forward.

We appreciate your comments and your attempt to redress some of the negative images left by the article. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months and years to come to ensure that all of our efforts to conserve Ontario's archaeological heritage will prove to be a positive legacy for future generations who wish to know of their past." ■

I'm looking for a copy of the *Annual Archaeological Report 1901* (dated 1902), specifically an article

by W. J. Wintemberg, on pages 35-38, titled "Report on a supposed aboriginal fish-weir in Burgess Lake, near Drumbo, Ontario". Can anyone help? Suzanne Needs-Howarth / 416 652 9099 / [s.needs@sympatico.ca](mailto:s.needs@sympatico.ca) ■

In anticipation of the 1997 symposium, **Jeff Bursey** gives us his **engendered perspective on the Late Woodland period in southern Ontario**: Like many archaeologists who work in the Great Lakes region, I have spent a considerable amount of time thinking about the Late Woodland period. When asked about my "specialty", more often than not I will mutter something about pottery and the late prehistoric period and, if given a choice, I prefer excavating Iroquoian village sites to just about anything else. No less than excavating, I enjoy reading other people's reconstructions of the past, again primarily those of the Late Woodland period, and trying to increase my understanding of what went on in various regions throughout the northeast and beyond. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that I, like many, look forward to this fall's OAS symposium and its ambitious goal of "Taming the Taxonomy".

For much of southern Ontario, at least, most researchers recognize the "Ontario Iroquois Tradition" as an "etic" construct created by J. V. Wright and revised to varying degrees by other researchers as new data has become available. Further, judging by the contributors to Ellis and Ferris' *The Archaeology of Southern Ontario to AD 1650*, most archaeologists have had little difficulty using Wright's stages to organize their material and, for example, could take a handful of rimsherds from the surface of a site and assign it quickly to one of these stages. Somewhat less agreement occurs, however, regarding whether these stages also reflect "emic" categories, ie. temporal and/or spatial (political? ethnic? linguistic?) boundaries that would have been recognized by the inhabitants of the sites themselves.

Most of the hypotheses that have been offered to account for the presence or absence of temporal and

spatial boundaries have focussed on various types of interaction between groups. J. V. Wright's "Conquest Hypothesis", for example, required the presence of two opposing groups, one of which was engaged in a war of conquest. Opponents argued that there was little evidence of conquest, and, perhaps more importantly, that there was little evidence of the kind of political cohesion that could produce invading armies. As an alternative, the "Peer Polity" model championed by Ron Williamson and Susan Jamieson, among others, suggested that, at least in the earliest periods, Iroquoian groups were relatively autonomous and interacted to varying degrees based largely on their proximity to each other. There has been little room in some of these reconstructions for the interpretation of spatial or temporal patterns discerned from the relative frequencies of artifacts or stylistic attributes and there have been suggestions that these patterns may be misleading or irrelevant for socio-political reconstructions. Many have thus been particularly critical of Wright's and other traditional reconstructions because they appear to be based primarily on rimsherds.

The topic of how to classify prehistoric cultural groups and studies of the dynamics and interactions between them has been around as long as archaeology itself has. Current researchers recognize that the use of specific aspects of material culture may be misleading for reconstructing ethnic boundaries and that more details of the specific context of these artifacts must be taken into account before they can be used in "emic" reconstructions. In particular, many researchers have become wary of the use of single attributes or classes of artifacts because of the onus placed on the researcher to demonstrate that the presence or frequency of the attribute or artifact actually has relevance to the question under consideration. This is not to say, however, that the use of a single attribute or artifact cannot be useful but rather that it should not be relied upon without very careful consideration of its context.

Most reconstructions of ethnic or temporal boundaries in southern Ontario have incorporated hypotheses of some form of interaction between groups to account for the presence or absence of spatial or

temporal boundaries. Most frequently these boundaries have been based on either hostile (ie. warfare) or friendly (ie. long distance trade) interaction between groups. This should not be considered surprising since the documented ethnohistories of the indigenous groups were recorded by European males who interacted primarily with native males who included these activities within their activity sets. Rethinking these models on the grounds that the activities of males may not be fully representative of the cultures under consideration is leading me to begin questioning their validity.

Ethnohistorically, the Iroquoians were known to be matrilineal and matrilocal and most known aspects of domestic and political life appear to have revolved around relationships between women. Houses were occupied by related women and their families, domesticated food-stuffs were produced by related groups of females, and women appear to have taken an active, if not decisive, role in electing "chiefs" and forming their policies. Ethnohistorians have summarized these roles by noting that women seem to have dominated village life while men controlled events beyond the clearings. However, given that even warfare and broad regional trade were subject to at least some input from women, particularly since these activities would have had some impact on village life, it is safe to suggest that women had a voice in these aspects of Iroquoian life as well. Undoubtedly, the formation and maintenance of broader contacts between villages or village clusters would have relied on real or fictive kinship relationships, again traced on matrilineal lines.

In general, Iroquoian archaeology has been a study of women and the residues of their activities. Understandably, Late Woodland archaeology has focussed on the largest and most productive sites, namely villages. Reconstructions of internal political organization, for example, have focussed on the arrangements and contents of houses within the village. In an article in *Arch Notes* 93(5) I suggested that the presence of extremely long longhouses may best be explained through events and processes that directly effect women rather than the activities of war chiefs or traders (ie. men). Even the smaller sites, such as cabins, are more often than not attributed to women's



activities, ie. agricultural stations. The distribution and movement of villages across the landscape is similarly most often tied to the concerns of the women. The most often cited reasons for moving villages have included soil exhaustion, pest infestation of houses or fields and the exhaustion of sources of firewood.

Our understanding of regional chronologies has similarly focussed on presumed female-oriented artifact classes: during the late prehistoric period, rimsherds have provided much more reliable seriations than pipes or projectile points and during the early seventeenth century, beads and European metal cooking pots have proven of value. Although males undoubtedly had considerable impact on the acquisition and, perhaps in the case of beads, use of some of these artifacts, their use and ultimate disposal more likely was the result of women's activities. My point here is not so much that the prehistoric record was produced exclusively by women but that what archaeologists tend to study was more the product of women than men.

Conversely, defining the role and status of men in the Late Woodland period has been either more difficult or less interesting. With a few notable exceptions (i.e. Fox in *Arch Notes* 80(2) and Kuhn in a 1996 article in *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology*) studies of projectile points have rarely been undertaken beyond detailing relatively minor changes in size and shape through time. Smoking pipes have been the subject of more frequent analyses, but the results of these studies have not produced unambiguous statements. Dave Smith (1987, 1992), for example, has suggested in both his 1987 Ph.D. thesis and a paper in the Rochester Museum of Science 1992 *Proceedings of the 1989 Smoking Pipe Conference* proceedings that polarities in pipe styles in the Crawford Lake area, and possibly beyond, may have been the result of attempts to mediate tensions between groups competing over a scarce resource, namely deer. Rewritten, his conclusion could be interpreted as men attempting to ameliorate the consequences of women's decisions regarding settlement location. Few other studies concerning the "meaning" of stylistic attributes or even the function of pipes have produced more than "just so"

stories.

Arguments concerning the identification and role of sweat lodges have been more difficult to evaluate. The identification of large semi-subterranean pits as sweat lodges has been far from unanimous. Their size, shape and morphology does allow for other interpretations, and their subsequent refilling with refuse makes the identification of primary deposits difficult, if not impossible. Kapches, for example, has noted that these pits often contain smoking pipes. These pits also usually contain numerous other artifact categories such as bone, lithics and pottery, however, and not enough excavation data has been produced to demonstrate that pipes, more than any of the other refuse found in these pits, serve as an indicator of their original function.

Similarly, faunal remains may offer some hope for elucidating the contributions of males in Iroquoian society since it is presumed that males undertook most of the hunting, at least of the larger game. Furthermore, research on the quantification of recovered animal bones and chemical analyses of human bone offers some hope that we will eventually gain greater understanding of the relative contributions of animal protein to the diet. Needed, however, are studies on how game animals might have been divided up and distributed within the community. Cross mends of broken deer bone across a site, for example, may reveal patterns which could be compared to patterns of pottery stylistic variation across the site, presuming we recover sufficient sample sizes.

Trade, for the moment, appears to provide the best archaeological evidence of male activities: exotic items are usually relatively easy to identify and long distance trade is presumed to have been primarily a male activity. Unfortunately, however, exotic items tend to be relatively rare and their significance to the prehistoric people is unclear and subject to some debate. Obtaining a few bifaces of Kettlepoint chert, for example, may have given the trader some prestige but with whom? Was this prestige confined to other traders or was it considered enough to allow the individual more say in domestic and regional

politics? Certainly trade in chert tools and raw material, especially Onondaga chert, was an important activity, but again we are only beginning to ask questions about how this material was manufactured, distributed and used within the settlement.

Warfare, the other presumed activity of males, has been less easy to distinguish. The seventeenth century and later ethnohistoric sources can be criticized for their preoccupation with European male concerns (ie. trade and warfare) and give the impression that large scale warfare was endemic to the region. While I certainly believe that a low intensity, feuding style of warfare had considerable time depth in the northeast, I do not think this was near the scale or intensity seen during the fur trade period. There are, I believe, two lines of evidence for prehistoric warfare in Ontario. The most obvious is the recovered bodies of war victims. While in some cases, such as at the Van Oordt site, this evidence has been gruesome and spectacular, no studies have been published to indicate that more than a few people suffered this fate at any given time. The other line of evidence available is that of palisades. However, while I do not find other functional arguments for these structures to be very convincing (ie. snow fences), I do not think that the presence of palisades necessarily translates to large scale warfare, either. Palisades were likely constructed to prevent or impair the activities of single or small groups of raiders from "sneaking" into villages in order to "count coup". Unfortunately, however, the identification of raiders in the archaeological record has proven difficult if not impossible even when bodies of tortured captives have been found.

For the time being, therefore, we are left with a reconstruction of prehistoric Iroquoian life based on an archaeological record that appears to be dominated by the residues of the decisions and activities of women. The position of men in these reconstructions is more ambiguous: we know they were there and we have some idea of some of the activities they probably undertook but direct elucidation has not been forthcoming. It makes sense to me, therefore,

that any broader reconstructions of prehistoric socio-political processes must start by acknowledging that it was the women who provided us with most of the data we have to study. Further, based on our ethnohistoric records, women probably were the dominant voice in domestic politics and may well have been the dominant voice in decisions having broader regional consequences. It therefore seems reasonable that any reconsideration of late prehistoric taxonomy must start from this perspective.

If all this seems to be heading to a suggestion that our taxonomy should be based on rimsherds, it is! While we may not yet be in a position where we can say we have a full understanding of the context and meaning of pottery decoration within Iroquoian society, we certainly still rely on these artifacts more than any other for placing sites within a time frame and tracing interaction between groups. Whether the decoration was applied by women as an active method of transmitting information to others who were "reading the pots", or whether decoration simply reflected changing styles within historical traditions, their patterns have been the most useful for tracing prehistoric relationships and interactions. Further, given that the effects and significance of trade and warfare has been so difficult to delineate, why not base our reconstructions on the most obvious and plentiful residue of the primary occupants of the sites we excavate. The success of a trader or warrior may have brought prestige to males in their long distance travels, but the question remains as to whether it really had an impact on deciding who occupied the next hearth in the long house or who had access to a recently cleared field. And did this prestige really have much impact on whether the next feast would include the cousins from the next village over? From the perspective of the village occupants, trade and warfare may have served no more significant a function than getting the men out of the house for the summer months. When we have more clear evidence of the function of men in Iroquoian society we can certainly add this evidence to the our reconstructions but until then, we should focus our efforts on the evidence we do have. ■

# Miscellanea

■ The London Museum of Archaeology is pleased to announce publication of its newest **Bulletin, Number 15: "Archaeological Systematics and the Analysis of Iroquoian Ceramics - A Case Study from the Crawford Lake Area, Ontario"** (373 pp), by **David G. Smith**. The publication is a re-formatted version of David's **doctoral dissertation** from McGill University. For copies, send \$40 plus \$5 shipping and handling to London Museum of Archaeology / 1600 Attawandaron Road / London ON N6G 3M6 / attn: Robert Pearce, Senior Archaeologist / [rpearce@julian.uwo.ca](mailto:rpearce@julian.uwo.ca)

■ **KEWA, 97-3&4** is dedicated to the memory of **Ian Kenyon**. It contains his extensive bibliography as well as reminisces by friends and colleagues. In addition, it contains a still-relevant report Ian completed on a 1976 survey of the Ojibway Prairie Reserve.

■ **KEWA 97-5** contains an article by **Lawrence Jackson and Donna Morrison** about the early **Archaic Meadowbrook Knoll** site, and the start of a series of articles by **Chris Ellis** called "Some sites and artifacts I've known", on the Paget sites on the Niagara Pensinsula.

■ **The Ottawa Archaeologist 24:3** is dedicated to the memory of **Peggi Armstrong**. Friends and colleagues supplied photos and reminiscences. This issue also features an article reprinted from "The Archivist", entitled **Licensing Science and Exploration** by **Doug Whyte**, Archivist, Government Archives Division. It is topical in addressing past and current issues/developments in the Canadian North.

■ **Canadian Journal of Archaeology 21:1**. Recent Developments in the **Archaeology of The Princess Point Complex** in Southern Ontario by **David Smith and Gary Crawford** summarizes past research on Princess Point, details the work conducted over the past three years, and presents a revised overview of Princess Point and its implications for understanding the origins and development of food production in the Northeast Woodlands.

■ This year's **Chacmool Conference, November 13-16**, is about "The entangled past: Integrating history and archaeology". Nancy Saxberg / Chair 1997 Conference Committee / Department of Archaeology / University of Calgary / 2500 University Drive NW / Calgary AB T2N 1N4 / 13042 @ucdasvml. admin.ucalgary.ca.

■ **November 15-16** the **Rochester Museum & Science Center** presents **Longhouse Conference: Inquiries into the Architecture, History, and Symbolism of Longhouses**. Registration fee \$25 US required by October 31, payable to RMSC, Longhouse Conference. Send to Longhouse Conference / c/o Ronnie Reitter / Rochester Museum & Science Center-Interpretation Dept. / 657 East Avenue / Rochester, NY 14607-2177 / USA.

■ **January 7-11** **Society for Historical Archaeology** meetings in Atlanta.

■ **March 25-29** in Seattle: **Society for American Archaeology** meeting. [www.saa.org](http://www.saa.org)

■ **May 1-3** the 82nd Annual Meeting of the **New York State Archaeological Association** will be held at **Bonnie Castle Resort Hotel, Alexandria Bay, New York**. The conference theme is **St. Lawrence River archaeology**. Although the modern US-Canadian Border did not exist in prehistory, its presence has nonetheless had a significant impact on the way we interpret the culture history of the valley. It raises the question whether the cultural complexes we use are really objective constructs, or whether they are more influenced by the border, and the limits that it places on research. Contact **Tim Abel**, Program Chair / PO Box 81 / Philadelphia, NY 13673 / 315 6420202 / [abeltj@northnet.org](mailto:abeltj@northnet.org)

**T**he OAS has several active local chapters. Please contact the respective secretaries or the OAS office for more information.

**GRAND RIVER-WATERLOO** President: Dean Knight / Secretary: Julie Karlison 519 725 9030. Mailing address: c/o Dr Dean Knight, Wilfrid Laurier University, Archaeology, 75 University Ave W, Waterloo ON N2L 3C5.

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Membership individual \$15, family \$18, institutional \$21 Meetings are usually at 8.00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month, except June-August, at the London Museum of Archaeology.

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5J1. <http://www.cyberus.ca/~jlpilon/otchh.htm>. Membership individual \$17, family \$20, student \$10 Meetings are usually at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except June-August, at the Victoria Memorial Building, Metcalfe & McLeod Streets.

**THUNDER BAY** President: Frances Duke / Secretary/Treasurer: Andrew Hinshelwood, 331 Hallam St, Thunder Bay ON P7A 1L9. Membership \$5 Meetings are usually at 8.00pm on the last Friday of the month, except June-August, in the anthropology teaching lab, room 2004, Braun Building, Lakehead University.

**TORONTO** President: Wayne McDonald / Vice-President: James Shropshire / Treasurer: Melanie Priestman. Newsletter: Profile / Editor: Eva MacDonald / Secretary: Annie Gould / Mailing address: Toronto's First Post Office, 260 Adelaide St E, Box 48, Toronto ON M5A 1N1. Membership individual \$10, family \$12 Meetings are usually at 8.00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, except June-August, in room 561a, basement of Sidney Smith Hall, University of Toronto, 100 St George Street.

**WINDSOR** President: Ilinka Temerinski / Vice-President: Jim Featherstone / Secretary: Alexandra Budisavljeic / Treasurer: Michael Primeau / Newsletter: Squirrel County Gazette / Editor: Peter Reid / Mailing address: 3139 Douball, Windsor ON N9E 1S5. Meetings are usually at 7.00pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, except June-August, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 405 Victoria Street.

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