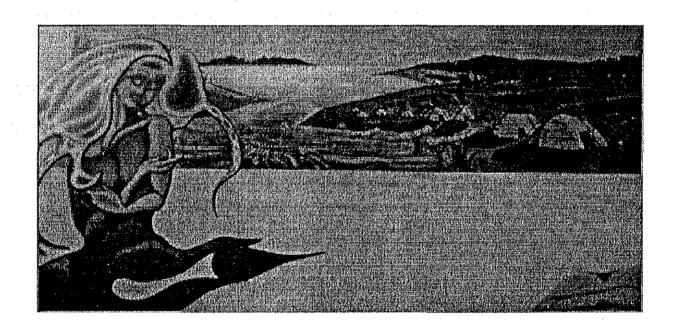


## **Ontario Archaeological Society**

## **Arch Notes**

New Series Volume 3, Issue 6

November / December 1998



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#### **Editor's note**

I trust that all who attended the 25th Annual OAS Symposium in Brantford had a terrific time.

Scarlett Januses and Bob Mayer have beaten me to the punch - by submitting their 1997 OAS Symposium paper to *Arch Notes*! However, there are five more issues until next year's annual event, so I encourage individuals to provide *Arch Notes* with their Symposium papers - take note all students (and I know who you are) who may be looking for a forum to present their ideas. That's what we're here for - take advantage of the opportunity.

This is not to say that other articles and information are not welcome. In this issue, Charles Garrad kindly provides us with research into events on the French River circa. A.D. 1615 and Jim Molnar sums up the annual OAS bus trip.

Last but not least, Vito Viccarelli provides us with a summation of the October 18, 1998 organizational meeting of the Committee on Professionalism and invites one and all to contribute to the newly named Committee on the Practices in Ontario Archaeology

Jo has noted that the OAS email address (oas@globalserve.net) is somewhat unknown out there in cyberland - from now on the email address can be found both in the side bar column on this page under, suitably, Exec. Dir. Jo Holden, and on the back cover (lower left).

Here's to a happy holiday season for all, Frank Dieterman

Cover: Figure 9 of the Janusas & Mayer article; mural at Casino Rama showing Atherley Narrows.

Correction: the changes to the OAS constitution as published in *Arch Notes* 3(5) are **proposed changes**, not revisions.

#### **OAS News**

Final greetings from Bolton, where the wind storm was so bad that there was a timbits warning ('Do not open the box outside'). This is my last president's page, as I will be 'retiring' from the job at the end of the year. Starting next year, I will be working on my Ed.d at OISE. At the same time, I will be finishing up the last draft of my soon-to-be-published book (to be advertised in *Arch Notes* in the summer)

Beyond Their Years: the Biographies of Five Native Women. That should keep me busy.

Personal thanks go to the people who were incredibly helpful to me over the three years that I was president. First, and foremost, I have to credit the ability and patience of the two Executive Directors, Ellen Blaubergs and Jo Holden. They both made me look much better in my performance of the job than I would have looked otherwise. I was fortunate, as well, in having the Board of Directors that I did. They made board meetings not the 'bored meetings' they could have been.

The annual symposium, as all who attended will tell you, was a success. Special thanks must go to Paul Lennox, Jo Holden and Ella Kruse for putting in many hours, and a lot of work into making this success possible. Thanks also go to Emerson Award winner Dean Jacobs for footing the bill to pay for the Kanata dancers, who entertained us so energetically during the Awards Dinner.

I'll end this with something I recently read on the last page of the best-selling novel, *London: the Novel* by Edward Rutherfurd:

"Each year, each age, leaves something. It gets compressed, of course, it disappears under the surface, but just a little of all that human life remains. A Roman tile, a coin, a clay pipe from Shakespeare's time. All left in place. When we dig down, we find it and we may put it on show. But don't think of it just as an object. Because that coin, that pipe belonged to someone: a person

who lived, and loved, and looked out at the river and the sky each day just like you and me."

John Steckley

From the OAS office...

It seems that the Symposium has been front and centre in the *Arch Notes* columns and inserts for months. Now that the Symposium has come and gone, I must make one more comment about it. A very special thank you must go out to the Paper Chair, Paul Lennox. Due to Paul's contribution, the Symposium was a great success. The evaluations are coming in, slowly, and so far all describe a symposium that was interesting, succeeded in its objectives and most importantly, was fun!

A selection of photos from the Banquet on the following page include our award recipients and the Dance Troop, "Kanata" who provided a spectacular finale to our evening.

#### Welcome new OAS Members (October-November 1998)

- Stacey Baker, Scarborough
- · C. Button Family, Renfrew
- Marie France Coutu, Toronto
- Jeff Farrell, Bolton
- Barbara Gujic, Toronto
- Jacqueline Heit, Waterloo
- Rocky Larse, Capreol
- Holly Martelle, London
- Ken McRae, Etobicoke
- Derek J. Nelson, Ajax
- Lynda Gorman-Pike, Nepean
- Kate Powers, Toronto
- Daniel Rolland, Gatineau Quebec
- Katherine Scott, Ottawa
- Paul Smith, North Bay
- Anthony Tebbutt, Toronto

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You should notice the flyer advertising the OAS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST! Hopefully you will be so inspired by the prizes that you will entice your friends, family and co-workers to join our society just because we have so very much to offer. A prize will be awarded to the current member who individually brings in the most new members by the following dates, January 31, May 31, and September 30, 1999. At the close of 1999 tallying will occur and 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded to the members who brought in the most new members over the past year. Watch the February, June and October Arch Notes for the sectional winners. Then see who the big winners are in the December Arch Notes!



Kanata Dancers



L to R: Rob MacDonald, Ron Williamson (Peggy Armstrong Public Archaeology Award), Michael & Christine Kirby (25 years), Dean Jacobs (Emerson Medal), Hugh Daeschel (25 years).

The Ontario Archaeological Society would like to add more events to its yearly calender, provide more volunteer opportunities, and raise our profile among the general public. After a lot of thought, the only way we know how to the spread the word is by utilizing our current members' enthusiasm.

Please note that our annual event "Archaeology Unearthed" will take place the last weekend of February this year. If you have participated before you know what a great day it is. Sign up early and make this year our biggest Archaeology Unearthed event yet.

The OAS web site has a job mart site; currently it is under-utilized. In the spirit of networking I encourage our members to use it. Consider posting positions and listing your availability for positions. Our web site address is:

http://www. adamsheritage.on.ca/oas/ Scroll down until you find "Ontario Arch Magazine" then locate Heritage Market Place. Across the header you will see a title listed as "Jobs/Resumes". Make a note to check it regularly.

During the Presidents' Meeting one of the items discussed was the raising of the Life Membership fee. As of January 1, 1999, the fee will change from \$400.00 to \$750.00. I thought it fair to give notice of the change as soon as we could.



L to R: Paul Lennox, Ron Williamson, Marian Clark & Rob MacDonald.Ron and Rob - recip ients of the Peggy Armstrong Public Archaeology Award, nominated by Paul, presented by Marian.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Holiday Season with all the best of wishes for the coming new year.

Jo Holden 🗸

We're 50?!

The OAS is approaching its 50th anniversary. Entering our 49th year we see the whole year of 1999 is available to create and prepare a volunteer core of committees to come up with activities that can occur not only through out 1999 but also during our anniversary year.

Already, I have received several suggestions and ideas that should not only be part of our 50th year but also part of the Symposium.

Enclosed in this issue of Arch Notes you will find a Volunteer Registry Form. The registry form lists a range of volunteer options, from stuffing Arch Notes, to working as Arch Notes Liaison with our Editor. Another area of volunteerism is that of co-ordinating and running current annual events, initiating and implementing at least two new annual events, or participating in the Symposium committee. We are also in need of individuals with graphic arts, library technician, marketing and other skills that will raise our profile with the general public and make our office run more efficiently. If there are any gaps in this registry, please list your suggestions.

The call is to see more events occurring at all levels of the OAS, to bring us to the media's attention and most certainly raise the profile of the OAS across the province.

The Provincial Level Volunteer Event Coordinator will hold meetings three times a year where individuals who have indicated they would like to organize and run events will be asked to attend. During these meetings volunteers will be told of the events coming up. A review will occur, objectives discussed, set and then event committees formed.

We are close to 50 and we have the potential to raise our membership, share our knowledge and interests with our communities, and continue realizing the original reason we came to participate in archaeology in Ontario. To make all of this happen we need a Volunteer Core. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Jo Holden, Executive Director

#### Returned Mail

Only two items this month. The *Arch Notes* mailed to Elizabeth Alder of Kitchener and Mike Teal of Waterloo have been returned marked "moved". If anyone can advise the OAS office of where these members are currently residing, it would be appreciated.

#### Passport to the Past

I would like to congratulate the individuals who provided Passport to the Past opportunities during 1998. Only one Passport opportunity has come into the office in the past month. This opportunity details an overseas program for the summer of 1999. If anyone requires volunteers to assist with research, lab, or field work, please consider making this work a Passport Opportunity. The bulletins will be prepared to your specifications and mailed out. There are a number of eager Passport mem bers available, at various levels of experience, to assist with your project. Call or email the OAS office at oas@globalserve.net.

### Ministry news

The following list consists of the type of licence, name of licensee, licence number and site location for licences issued during the months of October and November 1998. All licences are for the Province of Ontario unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the Archaeological Licence Office, Cultural Programs Branch, 2nd floor, Toronto. Tel: (416) 314-7123, Fax: (416) 314-7175.

#### Consulting:

• Patrick J. Julig, Department of Anthropology, Laurentian University 98-130

#### **Underwater:**

• Scott A. McWilliam 98-110A, AeGx-19, AeGx-20, AeGx-21, AcHa-1 and AdHa-21, Lake Erie near Long Point ✓

## Champlain and the Odawa in 1615

#### Charles Garrad

#### Introduction

In 1615 Champlain set off up the Ottawa River to fulfil his Commission "to bring into subjection, submission and full obedience all the people..." he discovered, and with them "to trade and traffic amiably and peacefully; to have carried out to this end .. discoveries and reconnaissance .. notably from the said place called Quebec to and as far as he shall be able, to extend upwards from this place, in the interior of the lands and rivers which discharge into the said Saint Lawrence river, to try to find the easy route to pass through the said country to the country of China and the East Indies ..." (Jaenen 1996:54-55). This was his second and now successful attempt to ascend the Ottawa River, the commencement of his last major exploration and furthest adventure. His intentions were several, arising from differing provisions of his Commission. He hoped to contact the Nipissing Indians whom he thought would lead him to the northern sea and possibly to China, and also to aid the Hurons in their war with the Iroquois.

It was incidental that during his travels he met other peoples, among them those he called *Cheveux*relevés (Standing or High Hairs), the latter comprising, it will be argued, two bands of the Odawa nation. One of these bands, probably the Kiskakon, he met twice, once on the French River in 1615 before he reached the Hurons, and again in 1616 in their winter village at the most distant westerly point of his explorations, in the *Gens de Petun*, the territory of the Petun and allies. He met the *Cheveux-relevés* men in 1615 on the French River when they intercepted his two-canoe fleet. While the men were trading with passing canoes, the women were drying blue-berries away from the river. In this paper the first meeting, of 1615, will be examined.

## Champlain's first meeting with the Cheveux-relevés Odawa, July 1615

Near the end of the month of July 1615, Champlain and his party of two other Frenchmen (probably Etienne Brûlé and Thomas Godefroy) (Harris unaccountably states that Champlain was accompanied by Brûlé and three other Frenchmen 1920:41) and ten Huron Indians in two canoes, passed through Lake Nipissing on their way to the Huron country. Descending the French River towards Georgian Bay they found some corn and squashes, apparently unattended. It was also somewhere along the river that:

6

"We met with three hundred men of a tribe name by us the Cheveux-relevés, [a Champlain Society editorial insertion translates "les cheveux releuez" as "High Hairs"], because they had them elevated and arranged very high and better combed than our courtiers, and there is no comparison, in spite of the irons and methods these have at their disposal. This seems to give them a fine appearance. They wear no breech cloths, and are much carved about the body in divisions of various patterns. They paint their faces with different colours and have their nostrils pierced and their ears fringed with beads. When they leave their homes they carry a club. I visited them and gained some slight acquaintance and made friends with them. I gave a hatchet to their chief who was as happy and pleased with it as if I made him some rich gift and, entering into conversation with him, I asked him about his country, which he drew for me with charcoal on a piece of tree-bark. He gave me to understand that they had come to this place to dry the fruit called blueberries, to serve them as manna in the winter when they can no longer find anything ... For arms they have only the bow and arrow ... these they carry as a rule, and a round buckler of tanned leather which comes from an animal like the buffalo. The next day we parted, and continued our journey along the shore of this Lake of the Attigouantans" (Georgian Bay) (Champlain III:43-45). Although in the opinion of W.F. Ganong Champlain was not well served by his engravers (Champlain VI:221-2), the illustration of a *Cheveux-relevés* man accompanying his text (Champlain III:Plate IIIC facing p.44), sufficiently confirms his statement that the men were ceremonially adorned, and carried a

His explicit statement that he met only *Cheveux-relevés* men on the French River in July 1615, to the number of three hundred, ceremonially adorned and painted, is so obviously inappropriate to a berry picking and drying party that at least one researcher has rejected it as "strange...a large complement of warriors, doing nothing but process berries, and during the raiding season at that...I believe it possible that Champlain here met an attempt at humour

bow, arrows and a shield.

or evasion", an argument accepted by at least one other scholar (Waisberg 1977:33; Fox 1990:457).

Berry picking and drying was the "activity of children, adolescents or young women" (Waisberg 1977:33), and their absence from the camp during the July berry-picking season surely was because they were away performing this work.

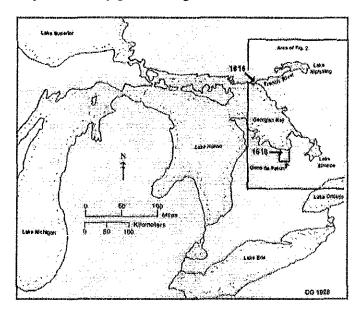


Figure 1: Champlain and Odawa meeting places 1615 & 1616

A later traveller, Gabriel Sagard, whose account of meeting the same people is extensively plagiarised from Champlain, nevertheless contributes two significant added statements. The first is that the: "Andatahouats, or...High Hairs...had come to station themselves near the Freshwater sea with the purpose of bartering with the Hurons and others on their return from the trading at Quebec, and we were there for two days trading and doing business with them".

The second is that the women were then in camp making mats for trade (Sagard 1939:66). Significantly this was in August, the July berry-picking season being over. The men did not process berries at any time but throughout July and August waited at the river to intercept passing canoes filled with French trade goods intended for the Hurons and other upper lakes tribes. They were appropriately adorned and

painted for the "trading mart" (Smith 1996:94) that would ensue with each arriving brigade.

Champlain's reception was probably eased by the presence of Etienne Brûlé in his party. Brûlé not only served as interpreter, but was probably already known to the *Cheveux-relevés*, having first ascended the river in 1611 (Harris 1920:41). Frenchmen on the river was no longer a novelty. Father Joseph le Caron's party had recently preceded Champlain (II I:35).

Precisely where Champlain met the Cheveux-relevés on the French River is not known. Champlain's text seems to imply he reached the Georgian Bay the same day he left them (III:45), placing them within a day's paddle of the river mouth. The legend on the map "Carte de la Nouvelle France" (1632) meaning "place where the savages dry raspberries and blueberries every year" is too large to indicate an exact place, other than being to the north of the river, and is placed closer to the Wanapitei River (?) than the French. Sagard's "near the Freshwater sea" can be variously interpreted. Bishop gives the meeting place as near the river's mouth (1963:193), Heidenreich at the mouth (1976:23) while Parkman thought that Georgian Bay was "close at hand" (1886:394). Du Creux placed the legend "Nationes algonquiniae" on the south shore of the river on his map (1660). A difficulty in locating the site is that the French River has six channels into Georgian Bay, extending along some twelve miles of coast, the largest being a mile wide (Greenman 1951:7-9). For the Cheveux-relevé s to effectively control canoe traffic descending the French River they must have been sufficiently inland and upstream that they could not have been avoided by taking a different channel.

#### **Odawa Trading Practices**

Odawa trading practices required the participants to "develop either fictive kinship ties or regard each other as metaphorical kin", in turn requiring "Relations of peace", and "mutual consensus in etiquette and ritual protocol ... interaction which facilitated the

social and political relations", ritual feasting, gift exchange and formal alliance (Smith 1996:281-283; White 1991:15,107). Odawa prosperity, even survival, depended on such formal alliances. The *Cheveux-relevés* Odawa encountered by Champlain made no attempt at evasion or humour, nor to raid the passing canoes. The men were not dressed for war but for trading, although their numbers and preparedness for war surely benefitted their trading position.



Figure 2: The French River indicated by Champlain in 1616

By intercepting the canoes before they reached the Hurons the Odawa probably not only obtained the newest goods but skimmed off the most desirable items while retaining their political and trading autonomy. That the Chief explained the dual purposes for his people being where they were (men trading, women berry-processing) solely in terms of the women's function might have several underlying culturally-dictated reasons, or simply reflect that coming annually to the French River for the berries, corn and squashes was an ancient and long-established practise, and the coincidental passing of

trade canoes with European goods, providing the opportunity for trade, but a recent development. Not impossibly, "drying blueberries" had taken on a metaphoric double meaning.

Although Champlain's party was outnumbered twenty-three to one, there is no hint of threat or coercion in the relationship between the two groups. The Odawa behaved impeccably according to their trading ritual protocol. Nevertheless, three hundred armed warriors would have outnumbered the manpower of the largest canoe brigade likely to pass. It was certainly within the power of the Odawa to dictate the terms of the trade with the passing canoes, and to



Figure 3: The French River indicated by Champlain in 1632

prevent their passing. In fact, they controlled both the route and the trade that occurred on it. They could have, and probably were in fact, charging tolls for passage through their French River territory, albeit the procedure was couched in the usual terms of formal trade based on reciprocal gift-exchange between political allies and fictive kin. Other instances are recorded of Algonquin tribes requiring mandatory gifts to allow passage or imposing conditions on trade favourable to themselves, which were in fact tolls (Champlain II:195, V:103; Sagard 193 9:255, 263; JR6:19, JR9:271, 275-7). Even a party as large as sixty Frenchmen (including soldiers) and three hundred Hurons were compelled to pay tolls to the Kichesipirini to pass Morrison's Island when the Jesuits abandoned Huronia in 1650 to return to Quebec (Perrot, cited by Trigger 1987:785).

Champlain's surprise at the chief's strong reaction to his gift of an iron (?) hatchet suggests he little understood that to the chief the gift had associated implications of an alliance and further aid in their hunting, cures and subsistence (White 1991:26). The chief on his part, happily drawing the charcoal map of his country to reciprocally confirm the alliance, could not have dreamed that rather than thinking of future benefits to his hosts, Champlain was more probably interested in the route to China to benefit his sponsors in France.

#### Two Odawa bands

The 1:4 male:total population ratio proposed by Feest and Feest (1978:774) applied to three hundred men suggests that a total possible population of 1,200 persons were present on and near the French River. If the total Odawa population at the time was 2,000 to 2,500 divided into four "tribes", each of from 500 to 625 people, as proposed by Beverley Ann Smith (1996:87) it follows that two bands were present, each of about 600 people. Alternatively, if the total Odawa population was 1,500 to 2,000 divided into four or five tribes, as proposed by Leo Waisberg (1977:124,132,166-167,170), a significant majority of the Odawa were present, certainly a minimum of two bands. Feest and Feest somewhat improbably propose that the entire Odawa nation was present (1978:774). Accepting Smith's figures as reflecting the most recent research, it is concluded that Champlain met the men of two bands of Odawa, whose families, comprising perhaps nine hundred women and children, were absent processing berries.

If two *Cheveux-relevés* Odawa bands came together on the French River at berry processing (July), mat making (August) and trading time (July-August), each as part of its seasonal round, they separated to winter apart from each other. One of the bands wintered "near our Hurons" (JR20:41), the other near or with the Petuns (Champlain III:96). This was probably the Kiskakon band (Smith 1996:2, Fig.1).

The presence of more than one Odawa band on the French River is indicated by Du Creux' use of the plural "Nationes algonquiniae" on his map (1660). However, Father du Creux cannot be regarded as an authority.

It was said of the Petun in 1640 that "this Nation is not of the number of those that go down for the Huron trade - those who claim the trade for themselves not permitting it" (JR21:177). The author of this statement was Father Jérôme Lalement, who since his arrival in Huronia as Superior in 1638 had been pre-occupied with building and moving to the central mission headquarters of Ste. Marie rather than getting to know the Petun or the intricacies of relationships within the fur trade. For what reason he did not identify "those who claim the trade" is open to conjecture. To assume that he intended the Hurons when he could easily have said so, but did not, is to dismiss the political and military reality of the presence of an overwhelming large Odawa force of three hundred armed men astride and controlling the principal route from Quebec, nominally to trade but in fact capable of wholly enforcing their will on the crews of passing canoes. The lack of specific identification may have been the simplest way to record a complicated situation. The Hurons provided and organised the canoe brigades, but had to pay the Odawa a de facto toll in the form of preferential trade. Each group played its role in the trade. As the Kiskakon (?), flush with the latest trade goods, then wintered with the Petun, it was from the Odawa, not the Hurons, that the Petun received their abundance of European wares. They had no need to "go down" to Quebec to receive them, and were not subject to Huron control.

There seems little probability that those of the Hurons involved in the trade who were capable of preventing other Hurons from going to Quebec to trade could extend any similar prohibition to the Odawa. The Odawa were simply too necessary and too powerful. In addition, they and their allies were probably recognized as the "owners" of the routes, even the very land which the Hurons had in recent centuries come to occupy. The band which wintered with the Huron might well have done so in part to assert their prior and ancient sovereignty in the area.

#### Naming the French River

The name "French River" seems have originated with people who were never in Canada. Champlain himself at first named the river "R. de reuillon", the significance of which is not known. On his 1686 (?) map the Abbé Bernou marked the river "Riviere des francois qui uient du lac Nipissing". This was rendered "riu. des Francois" on Coronelli's 1688 map, and subsequent cartographers followed this precedent.

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

There is no reason to dispute Champlain's understanding that the bands of *Cheveux-relevés* he encountered on the French River in 1615 were there to dry blueberries. This they were doing, both literally, the task being that of the absent women and children, and possibly metaphorically, the men waiting at the river to levy tolls on passing Huron canoes in the form of beneficial trade backed by the possibility of irresistible military force.

It would take a second meeting, the following year, in the *Gens de Petun*, for Champlain to understand that the *Cheveux-relevés* band he met was part of a larger autonomous nation of considerable power and consequence.

Note on Original French Text

The text of Champlain's writings exclusively referenced in this paper is "Voyages et Descovertvres

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faites en la nouvelle France ..", Paris, 1619, this being the only one of several versions most certainly authored by Champlain, translated into English and published by the Champlain Society, Toronto, in 1929 (Champlain III:xi-xii, 1-230).

#### Notes on Maps

Figure 2. On the unfinished untitled draft map of 1616 the French River between Lake Nipissing (7 - lac des bicerenis) and Georgian Bay (Mer douce) is marked '33', meaning "R. de reuillon". The significance of this name (Revillon?) is not known.

Figure 3. On the "Carte de la Nouvelle France" 1632 the French River between Lake Nipissing (Lac des Biserenis) and Georgian Bay (Mer douce), is marked '88', for which is given the simple description "Riuiere qui se va descharger à la mer douce" (River which discharges into the Freshwater Sea) (Champlain VI:244). A number of huts, possibly representing villages, are shown on both sides of the river. On the west (north) side of the river is the legend "Lieu ou les savvages font secherie de framboise, et blue tous les ans" (place where the savages dry raspberries and blueberries every year).

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# Underwater archaeological assessment and First Nation concerns: Atherley Narrows fish weirs site (BdGv-6)

Scarlett E. Janusas & Robert G. Mayer

#### Introduction

During 1997 and 1998, Parker Consultants Ltd. (now Stanley Consulting Group) and D.S. Lea Associates Ltd., acting as project managers on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, contracted Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. to undertake terrestrial and underwater archaeological assessments plus monitoring during construction of the new second span of the Highway 12 bridge at Atherley Narrows in Simcoe County, Ontario (Figure 1) (Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. 1997a, 1997b and 1997c).

It is a sad fact that many archaeological projects have little or no opportunity to address concerns that Aboriginal people might have about the work before, during, and after it is conducted. This project is different in that D.S. Lea Associates was charged with the responsibility of keeping the Chippewas of Mnjikaning (Rama) First Nation and government agencies fully informed all planned activities and any subsequent changes that took place during construction related activities on the site. Among other matters, this project specific consultation allowed for a timely and balanced consideration between the archaeological work and Aboriginal spiritual sensibilities.

Although it is thought that they were last used to harvest fish during the 1950s, the Atherley Narrows fish weir site is still very important to members of the First Nation. They have sincerely stated that, "each fish weir stake is as important to them as the top stone of the Great Pyramid is to archaeologists". As part of the construction approval process, a series of meetings and discussions took place with representatives of the First Nation and personnel from D.S. Lea Associates, Parks Canada, Ontario Minis-

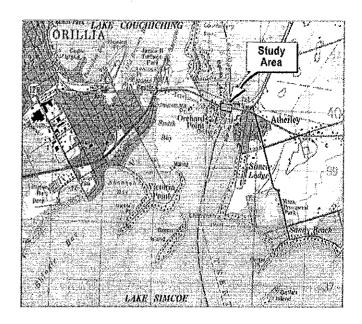


Figure 1: Location of the study area

try of Transportation, and BOT Construction Ltd. Negotiations were necessary for a variety of matters including continued access to the site by the First Nation for spiritual rituals and ceremonies during construction, plus long-term preservation of the remaining fish weir stakes.

#### Background

Samuel de Champlain's expedition in 1615 travelled along most of what is now the Trent Canal system, and made a stop at Atherley Narrows at the junction between Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching near Orillia. At that time Champlain recorded the following:

"When the most part of our people were assembled, we set out from the village on the first day of September [1615] and passed along the shore of a small

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lake [Couchiching], distant from the said village three leagues, where they make great catches of fish which they preserve for the winter. There is another lake immediately adjoining [Simcoe], which is twenty-six leagues in circumference, draining into the small one by a strait [the Narrows], where the great catch of fish takes place by a means of a number of weirs which almost close the strait, leaving only a small opening where they set their nets in which the fish are caught."

General John S. Clark in the 1899 AARO (1900: 195) stated that there was another name occasionally applied to Lake Simcoe by the French, which was "Lac aux Claies", which in English would be "The Lake of the Fish Weirs". Clark also provided a bit more detail regarding the fish weirs:

"The Indians, known as Ojibways of the present day, speak of the locality as Mitchekun, which means a fence, or the place, which was fenced, or staked across. The structure was composed of small sharpened stakes, from six to ten feet in length, driven into the clay and sand which constitutes the bottom of the channel, and were from an inch to two inches in diameter. Probably smaller twigs were woven in back and forth in the form of what is called wattling" (Clark 1900:195-196).

Other historical documentation describe fish weirs. In the Jesuit Relations of 1669-1671 (Thwaites 1896-1901), fish weirs near the Fox River in Wisconsin are described as:

"...a kind of bridge over the stream for the fishermen, who with the help of a small weir, easily catch the sturgeon and every other kind of fish."

In the Jesuit Relations of 1671-1672 (Thwaites 1896-1901) another fish weir on the Fox River is described:

"Along this barrier they arrange scaffolds, on which they place themselves in ambush and await their prey with impatience. When the fish, following the current reach this barrier, the fisher[man] plunges in a pocket-shaped net into which he easily coaxes them."

After the initial systematic investigation of the Atherley Narrows fish weirs by Johnson and Cassavoy in 1973, Cassavoy has conducted four additional investigations in 1974, 1992, 1994 and 1995. Because the waters are considered federal jurisdiction, archaeological investigations were conducted from 1995 to the present by the marine archaeological unit of the Canadian Parks Service. These investigations documented the as found condition of hundreds of wooden stakes used in the construction of the fish weirs. Some of these stakes radiocarbon date as old as 4,500 years B.P. (*i.e.*, from 2610 to 2425 B.C.).

"The Atherley Narrows Fishweirs site was extensively investigated...during the summers of 1973 and 1974. In 1992, as a result of a threat to the section of the site located near the Highway 12 bridge, a decision was made to renew the investigation, documentation and analysis of all fish weir remains located throughout all areas of the narrows. ...[I]n 1974, [Cassovoy's] survey located a major weir pattern on the west side of the main channel beneath the Highway 12 bridge" (Cassavoy 1993:4, 39).

"The most severe bottom disturbance in the overall Narrows area was found in the areas directly under the Highway 12 bridge and in large areas to the north and south of the bridge. The bottom in this section is very uneven, rising and falling in a series of 'hills' and 'valleys', dropping to a depth of 14 to 15 feet and then rising rapidly to only seven or eight feet. Only the central section of the main channel maintains a relatively uniform depth of 14 to 15 feet north of the bridge and rising gradually to approximately 11 feet south of the bridge. The bottom through this entire section is littered with large masses of historic debris, including sizeable pieces of concrete and other construction materials, especially structural steel."

"A careful examination of all of the areas directly below and both north and south of the bridge indi

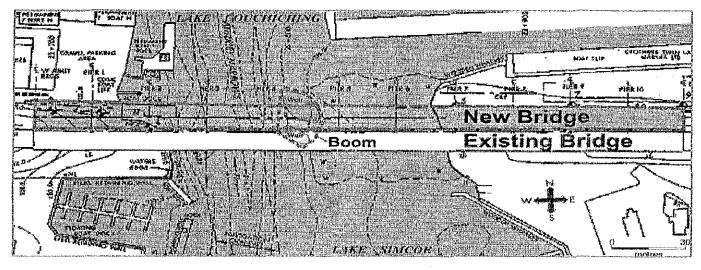


Figure 2.. Parks Canada placed a protective boom around the remaining stakes near the construction area

cated the presence of a large number of weir stakes. Many of these remains had obviously been moved from their original positions but a very substantial number could be located, singly or with two or three in association, throughout this disturbed and debriscovered areas. Close examination of this section turned up remains in virtually all areas, in both the 'valleys' and the tops of the 'hills'. Obviously, the placement of the pilings for the highway bridge and other related construction activities had brought about the severe disturbance. Nonetheless, stakes were located over virtually all areas in proximity to the bridge with the exception of the relatively narrow central area of the main channel" (Cassavoy and Johnson 1977:10-11).

#### 1997 to 1998 Assessment And Monitoring

While fish weir stakes are widespread throughout the Atherley Narrows area, the 1997 to 1998 assessment and monitoring were restricted to the area that would be either directly or indirectly affected by proposed construction. Divers from the Parks Canada Marine Unit had already partially surveyed this area, and installed a floating log boom to demarcate the outer limits of 17 in situ fish weir stakes (Figure 2). They also had previously cleared areas where caissons had been proposed on the north side of the existing bridge by excavating seven test units (Figure 3).

However, the originally proposed method of con struction could not be conducted because the spuds (footings) that would have had to be used to stabilize

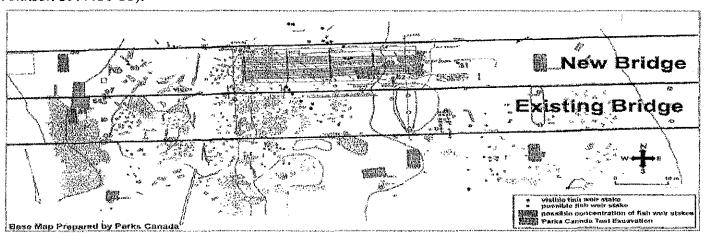


Figure 3. Parks Canada test excavation areas

the construction barge might have caused unacceptable impacts. The original tasks to conduct background research plus visual and in-water monitoring of the boom protected area were expanded to include a Stage 2 general survey of the area where a trestle on a rip rap base was to be built as the preferred alternate method of construction.

The biggest concern in conducting any underwater project is safety. The Canadian Safety Standards for Scientific Diving require a minimum of four individuals for underwater work. Divers were required to be physically in the water during active construction in order to insure that there would be no impact to the fish weir stakes. In addition, the navigation channel is very busy with boat traffic from April to the end of September each year. The current is very strong, running at two knots on some days. While the silt barrier erected to protect the fish habitats and the fish weirs reduced the effects of the strong current, it also impeded the natural sweeping of vegetation and created a potential hazard by greatly reducing underwater visibility. In some areas, where weeds were very thick, underwater visibility was so bad that the divers had to search for fish weir stakes by a gentle touch and feel method. Standard grid sweeps were employed to survey the entire study area.

In order to locate fish weir stakes buried in the deep silt, Shark Marine of St. Catharines was sub-contracted to employ a technology that allows a sub-bottom profile to be taken of the zone below the bottom of the riverbed (Shark Marine 1997). The profiling equipment operates with a short length electric pulse from a towed instrument called a "fish" that can detect material that is above or buried in the bottom sediments. Organic material, like wood, that is totally saturated with water is usually difficult to locate using this method but it can be detected using equipment available to Shark Marine that allows readings to be taken in water as shallow as one foot.

This technology is relatively new to the market, where the "older" models required at least 15 feet of water between the towed fish and the bottom. The

width of the swath read by the profiler is approximately half the depth of the water. In the shallow are as close to the shore, where there is very heavy weed growth, the 1.5 foot depth available allowed the profiler to read an approximate 0.75 foot wide swath. At this minimum depth, the boat was literally walked very slowly at very tight intervals through the weeds in order to ensure adequate coverage and to obtain as accurate readings as possible.

Before starting the sub-bottom profile survey, the profiler was 'ground truthed'. The area where known fish weir stakes occurred were read into the profiling system in order to obtain an approximation of how the visible and buried parts of fish weir stakes would appear on their monitoring screen and printed on paper. The stakes within the Parks Canada log boom were visible as "shadows" above and below the riverbed on the profiling readings.

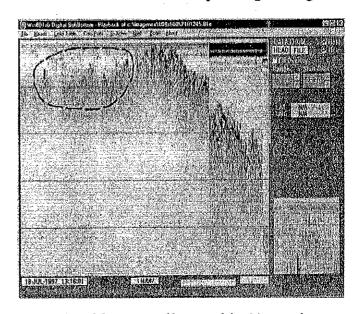
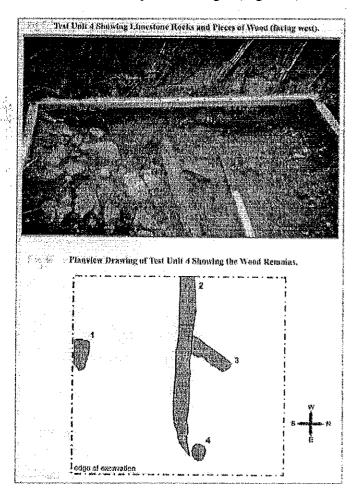


Figure 4. Sub-bottom profile scan of the S6 anomaly area

Because the stakes are completely waterlogged and with a sand riverbed, the readings are difficult, but not impossible to interpret. While the sub-bottom profile cannot indicate with absolute certainty that the 17 anomalies in nine locations it registered are actually fish weir stakes, it does allow any subsequent investigation that may be required to focus directly on small specific areas in order to identify what the

anomalies are and to determine their significance. Because the anomaly identified as S6 near the west bank of the channel was in an area to be impacted by construction (Figure 4), a Stage 3 investigation was conducted. Aluminum grids were positioned in order to facilitate excavation of four test units (each one-metre square). The dense layer of vegetation was removed using hand knives in order to prepare the units for excavation by trowel and disposing of excavated materials by hand fanning that was accelerated by the current. The loose nature of the bottom matrix (sand) made it difficult to maintain straight-sided walls or to keep bottom sediments from slipping back into the excavated squares (Figure 5). Although wood was found in one of the units, it has straight edges and saw marks indicating that it is of relatively recent origin (Figure 6).



Figures 5 & 6. Test unit 4: photo & planview drawing

A 1951 photograph that was found subsequent to the investigation shows the original bridge before it was demolished in 1962 (Figure 7). The replacement bridge and the second span were built just to the right of it. The now demolished boathouse in the photograph is in approximately the same location as S6. It is probable that the wooden pieces found with a concentration of limestone rock are the remnants of this boathouse and associated cribbing.

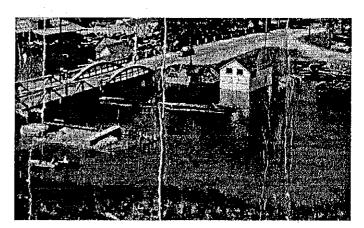


Figure 7. 1951 photograph of study area

Divers were in the water during the installation of the pilings and caissons. Before any construction intrusion into the bottom, they descended with a bucket on a line, or the piling itself, and determined that the placement of the material would be at least two metres from any existing fish weir stake. Working together with the construction crew allowed the divers to make the necessary adaptations well in advance of any in-water work. However, bottom conditions and changes to construction specifications did occasionally alter the original plan. In one instance it was it necessary for a piling to be moved a short distance from its originally proposed location.

The installation of the caissons was somewhat more involved than pile driving. The caissons are hollow tubes that were driven 40 feet into the riverbed. A vibro-hammer was then employed to vibrate the tubing into the riverbed before pouring concrete. In order to see how the vibro-hammer would affect the fish weir stakes, a test was conducted. A one by two-inch wooden stake was driven by hand into the

bottom at a distance of two metres from the tubing, and angled at about 60 degrees. The stake was only driven in to a depth of six inches and not secured by any means. The objective was to determine if the stake would remain standing or would the vibrations work the stake loose.

A diver observed the vibration operation before, during, and after it was complete. The simulated stake was not dislodged in any way. This test was a good indicator that the arbitrary distance of two metres would provide sufficient protection when a vibrohammer was being used. The simulated stake was placed in the bottom in July 1998. A monitoring

dive conducted two months later in September 1998 found the stake still in place.

It was recently determined that the original locations for two of the caissons were on karst topography (Figure 8). Karst consists of fissures and hollow areas, which do not provide the required solid foundation for bridge construction. This required a change in the work plan. An additional survey of the area where the construction barge would have to be placed in order to rectify the bridge construction relocated two stakes found by both the sub-bottom profile and the visual survey. Parks Canada personnel confirmed this location as well. However, one of these stakes was subsequently damaged from an undetermined cause -- possibly barge movement.

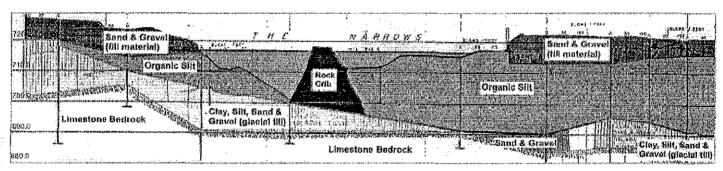


Figure 8. Profile of the study area

#### Conclusion

Fishing has been an important sustenance and economic practice to Aboriginal people in the area for thousands of years. Atherley Narrows continues to be an important site to First Nation members who routinely use the site as an integral part of their regular Sunrise Ceremonies. A Fish Fence Circle committee oversees any activity involving the fish weirs. Casino Rama pays tribute to the fish weirs by including them in a large mural in the entranceway to the casino (Figure 9 - see cover). The Atherley Narrows fish weir stakes have been incredibly resistant to the ravages of time but not to on-going activities around them.

Most of the stakes in the bridge area have disappeared over the past 25 years and the few remaining ones are endangered. Boating is a major activity

because recreational boaters must traverse either to or from Lake Simcoe into or out of Lake Couchiching through the Narrows. Prop wash, fishing line snags, dredging and natural erosion are some of the on-going impacts currently dislodging and removing the stakes.

Although a provincial plaque on land marks the site, the fish weir stakes cannot be seen unless one dons SCUBA gear and looks for them under hazardous diving conditions. Any subsequent activity that might affect the fish weirs should be decided and approved well in advance through strategic consultation with the First Nation.

In addition, the site is sufficiently significant from archaeological, historical and tourism perspectives that a feasibility study should be conducted to determine if an interpretation centre for the fish weirs should be built, and how it could be best managed by the First Nation. These are stated goals of the Fish Fence Circle Committee, and they are attainable.

Whenever the opportunity arises, these initiatives and other First Nation interpretive facilities such as the Kanata reconstructed Iroquoian village in Brantford and the Manitoulin Island Cultural Centre among many others should be encouraged and supported. Ontario's archaeological community and First Nations share much the same concerns about conserving our collective heritage resources whether they are archaeological, oral tradition, historical, architectural or living culture. It is to our mutual advantage to maximize opportunities that increase our understanding of each other as well as to fulfill the theme of this year's Ontario Archaeological Society symposium — "Archaeologists and First Nations: Bridges from the Past to a Better Tomorrow".

#### Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the efforts of everyone who worked or contributed to this project. The field and dive crew consisted at various times of Leslie Currie, Rob Daciw, Chris Gilchrist, Dave Gilchrist, Patrick Folkes, Laura Hill, Brian Lindsay, James Lockard, Stan McClellan, Burke Penny, and Doug Sweiger. Underwater video documentation of the as found conditions was photographed by Peter Lok. Jim Garrington and Jim Honey of Shark Marine conducted the sub-bottom profile survey.

Orr Richie and Peter Ojala from D.S. Lea Associates Ltd. and Bill Ewing from Parker Consultants Ltd. were the contract administrators who co-ordinated the construction and monitoring schedules.

Bob Allison, Sue Anderson, Merle Assance Beedie, Mark Douglas, Mary Rose, and Dave Stinson were members of the Fish Fence Circle Committee from the Mnjikaning First Nation who attended meetings with the construction team. They provided much insight into the spiritual nature and importance of the fish weirs.

Jim Norris from Parks Canada, Joe Rago and Mike Beatty from Bot Construction Ltd. and Paul Lennox from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation facilitated meetings and distribution of information among all of the interest groups.

Penny Young of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation provided registered site information.

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#### Shark Marine

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Thwaites, R.G. (editor)

1896-1901 The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents. 73 volumes. Burrows, Cleveland, Ohio. ✓

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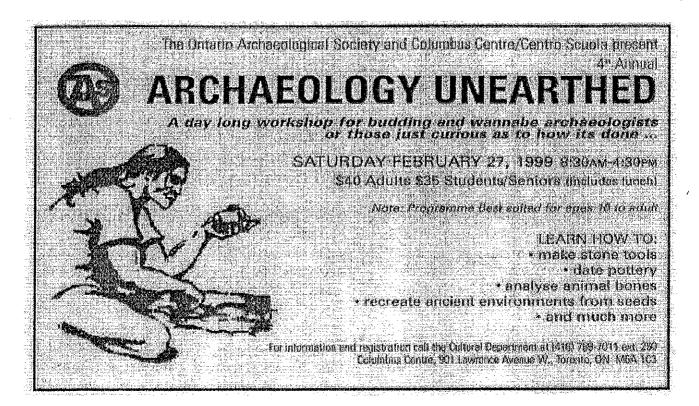


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#### **Arch shorts**

#### Zooarchaeology in Canada - call for papers

Max Friesen, University of Toronto

Article submissions are invited for a special issue of *Ontario Archaeology* devoted to zooarchaeology in Canada, to honour the contribution of Dr. Howard Savage to the development of this discipline. Despite the journal's title, this collection is intended to cover the full range and diversity of zooarchaeological research across Canada. While former students and colleagues of Dr. Savage are encouraged to submit papers, this volume is not restricted to them. Within the category "zooarchaeology", subject matter is open, however submissions with original theoretical or methodological content are particularly encouraged - ideally, this volume will stand as a comprehensive survey of the "state of the art" in Canadian zooarchaeological research, and might serve as a resource for university courses in zooarchaeology and/or Canadian archaeology. Submissions will be subject to peer review, and should be prepared according to the "Guide for Standardized Manuscript Production" (Ontario Archaeology 57:88-100).

Please send an original and three copies of manuscripts by March 1, 1999 to the guest editor at the following address: Max Friesen, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, 100 St. George St., Toronto, ON, M5S 3G3, or by email: mfriesen@chass.utoronto.ca

## Organizational meeting of the Committee on Professionalism update: things are not always what they seem

Vito Vaccarelli, Director of Public Services

On Sunday October 18th, 1998, after the morning session of the OAS Symposium, the organizational meeting of the Committee on Professionalism was held in the Main Boardroom of the Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford. The objective of the first meeting was to identify and record the key issues and concerns regarding Ontario archaeology brought forward by those present. Prior to this meeting the objective of this committee was "to examine how professionalizing archaeology into a self-policing body with standards and regulations, could help improve some of the existing problems in Ontario archaeology" (Arch Notes 1998[3]:4). However, by the end of Sunday's meeting the discussion by the fourteen participants clearly demonstrated the need to steer this committee into a new direction. The meet-

ing introduced various issues that are of interest to all members of the archaeological community in Ontario. Below is a brief discussion of some of the issues discussed that day.

The desire to professionalize Ontario Archaeology was reflected in the short discussion on the development of assessment and field methods, reporting standards, and the enforcement of these methods and standards. Some participants suggested that the Association of Professional Archaeologists (APA) should take the lead in this issue as they already have a code of professional ethics and other relevant structural features that could be introduced to the entire archaeology community. Also discussed was the question of corporate licenses for consultants and

how those that are the license holders in larger consulting firms are not always the people supervising the fieldwork. In some cases this was believed to be detrimental to the quality of consulting work conducted around the province.

4

Other issues that surfaced included determining site significance or rather whose criteria should we use, and who should implement these decisions. While some suggested that this responsibility should solely belong with the APA and the consulting archaeologists others suggested that it should lie with the entire archaeological community thereby satisfying the academics and the advocationals.

This discussion eventually introduced the topic of self-regulation of the consulting industry and the role gov ernment, consultants and other archaeological practitioners would have in this regulation. The many complex issues of self-regulation were not discussed as they have already been explored in the past. One of these more substantial efforts was reported in the 1992 Arch Notes vol 2, on pages 27 to 32. The Ad Hoc Steering Committee on the Regulation of Archaeology that did the background research, and members of the subsequently formed Task Force, did a considerable amount of research on the topic. However, after talking to some of the members of this original committee it was noted that the final barrier was the inability for archaeologists to legally self-regulate in the absence of provincial legislation that would allow us to do so.

Other topics addressed included the perception that advocationals and academics are not being served by the archaeological consulting industry. That is, there is a lack of communication regarding the activities of consultants in the province in that the data they collect is not always available or accessible for use. Attached to this problem is the suggestion that some of the data being collected by consultants is not often usable by other researchers. The lack of communication was also noted as a problem between the First Nations and the Ontario archaeological community. Participants suggested that we need to speak to them

as one unified nation to another so that we can explore how we can help each other achieve our common goals.

If there was one common thread that linked the all participants in the discussion it would have to be the need to examine the above issues in a much broader context. That is, rather than looking for particular solutions to specific problems we need to start looking at how to approach these issues in Ontario archaeology with existing resources. We need to examine the strengths and weaknesses of institutions and interest groups that compose the Ontario archaeological community and find ways of using their resources to address these archaeological concerns.

It was recognized that the underlying problem is one of communication, or the lack thereof, between the various members of the archaeological community. Participants of the meeting suggested that the OAS should be playing a central role in the communication process, as it is the only umbrella organization capable of representing all archaeological interests in the province.

Since most participants in the meeting felt that professionalism is not the only issue in Ontario archaeology it was suggested that the committee should start at a more general level. Consequently the committee was renamed the "Committee on the Practices of Ontario Archaeology". The mission of the committee would be: To examine and define the existing roles of the various institutions and interest groups involved in archaeology and determine their strengths and weaknesses in addressing the concerns and problems of the Ontario archaeological community. The goal being to identify what resources each can draw on in order to best approach these issues of concern. This will in turn allow us to define future roles for these archaeological institutions and groups.

Along with publishing this mission statement the OAS would also like to solicit participants to come forward and join this committee. Once a list of individuals representing the various interest groups is

created, an executive committee will be formed and the first meeting date, to be held in early February, will be announced. If you are interested in joining the Committee on the Practices of Ontario Archaeology then please contact me at the OAS office or send me an email (vito.vaccarelli@utoronto.ca) before January 31, 1999.

#### Of sites and duct tape: the OAS Eastern Ontario bus trip

Jim Molnar

Seven OAS members, aged 16 to 68, departed from Toronto, Saturday July 25 on the More-or-Less-Annual OAS Bus Trip. Our first stop was Barnum House in Grafton. The Ontario Heritage Foundation owns this pre-1820 house and it is now a museum filled with period furniture. We explored the house, barely resisting the temptation of lifting up the ceramic tableware to see the maker's marks.

After lunch, we visited the Upper Gap site, south of Napanee. This Early Iroquoian site was excavated last year, with three longhouses found and a whole variety of ceramics. A drive into Kingston took us to Belle Isle, and a tour with Hugh Daeschel. Belle Isle is Hugh's favourite site and he described the Middle Woodland hearth and burials found there. Only a tiny part of the site has been excavated and Hugh would love to do more work there. While we were walking out to Belle Isle, our rental van was parked at a golf course. Someone had come along and smashed in the passenger window, but didn't take anything. We called the police and the rental company, who said "We can exchange the van if you drive it to our Ottawa office". We passed on that idea and bought plastic and duct tape instead. Dave Holden and Sam Cocuzzi covered the broken window with enough duct tape to make Red Green proud. Dinner at Chez Piggy ended our long day, and we stayed the night at the Queen's University residence.

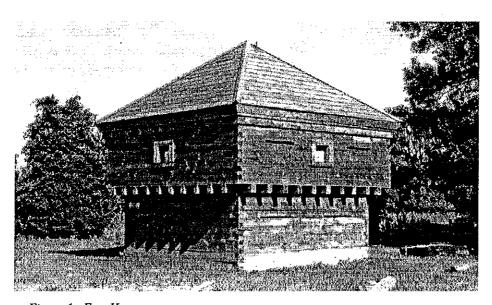


Figure 1. Fort Kente

Sunday, the group met up with Phil Wright at Charleston Lake. Phil could just fit everyone into his eight person zodiac boat and he took us on a water level tour of the lake and some of its archaeological sites. We visited a rock shelter and then a pictograph site. Phil talked about the underwater sites on the lake that he has excavated, and then told us about his work in Cuba, researching shipping records to find sunken Spanish galleons loaded with gold. On the journey back to Toronto we made our last stop near Trenton. We met with Paul Germaine of Friends of Fort Kente. The Friends have rebuilt a War of 1812 blockhouse that the British built to guard the entrance to a strategic portage. Thanks to all who joined the trip, the guides for their tours, and Jo Holden, who helped with the organization.

#### MCzCR newsletter: Out-of-the-field notes

A welcome addition to the archaeological community is the Archaeology and Heritage Planning Unit's newsletter *Out-of-the-field Notes*. The AHPU will publish a series of newsletters on a range of information, the September 1998 premiere issue highlighting the results of section A of the Stage 4 questionnaire with more results to come in the following months. Contact the editor, Neal Ferris, to get on the mailing list - tel: (519) 675-7742, fax: (519) 675-7777, email: neal.ferris@mczcr.gov.on.ca

## Calendar

- ✓ December 6, 13, & 20 Home for the Holidays invites you to explore the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas past at both the Benares Historic House and Bradley Museum, 1-4 pm. For more information call (905) 822-2347 or (905) 822-1569.
- ✓ December 28, 29 & 30 Mackenzie House hosting Hogmanay (Happy New Year) from 7-9 pm, 82 Bond Street, admission \$12.00 per person. For more information call (416) 392-6827, ext. 265.
- ✓ December 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 & 20 Spadina House hosting Christmas by Gaslight, from 7-9 pm, 285 Spadina Road, admission \$15.00 per person. Call (416) 392-6827, ext. 265 for more details.
- ✓ December 19 Second Annual Christmas Trimmings Celebration for Children, aged 5-12 years, at Colborne Lodge. For more information call (416) 392-6916.
- ✓ January 13 The Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies Public Lecture Series presents "Restoring the glory and play of Mesopamia's greatest game", by J. Miller, 8 pm, Koffler Institute for Pharmacy Management, Room 108, 569 Spadina Ave. Call (416) 978-4531 for more information.
- ✓ January 13 The Toronto Society of the Archaeological Institute of America presents "The Bones of St. Peter" by Timothy D. Barnes. Lecture Room 140 of University College, University of Toronto, 15 King's College Circle. Admission is free. For more information call (416) 978-3290

The OAS has several active local chapters. Please contact the respective secretaries of the OAS chapters for more information.

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