



Ontario Archaeological Society

Arch Notes

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...editor's note

Thanks to Helen Devereux and George Duncan, this issue of AN is a veritable feast of information on the storied history of Ontario archaeology. These archaeological reminiscences are fascinating and I urge others to enlighten the rest of us with your anecdotes, recollections, and biographies.

President's notes

BECAUSE IT IS St. Patrick's Day as this message is being written, I wish everyone to have the luck of the Irish all year long. The Ontario Archaeological Society also extends its congratulations to Tim Hudak, MPP for Niagara South, who has been appointed recently by Premier Mike Harris as Minister of the newly formed Tourism, Culture and Recreation ministry. The OAS and its partner the Town of Richmond Hill look forward to meeting the new minister soon at our new corporate headquarters in the A.J. Clark Interpretive Centre.

AS part of its partnering agreement with the Town of Richmond Hill, the OAS has established the A.J. Clark Interpretive Centre's Advisory Team that is comprised of seven individuals: Lauren Steckley representing the Town of Richmond Hill; Martin Cooper from Archaeological Services Inc.; OAS members Rory MacKay and Christine Caroppo; plus local residents Marisa Granier, John Peters and Margaret Roberts. The team's mandate is to provide guidance to the OAS Board of Directors on the protection of the McGaw Site and the development of archaeological education programs of the A.J. Clark Interpretive Centre relative to the McGaw Site, in consideration of stakeholders' interests. Three areas of action have been identified for the team: site integrity, programming and stakeholders. Two to four measurable and achievable goals were determined within each of the three areas with the outcomes due for review by December 31, 2001. More details of the team's action plans are available from the chair of the advisory team, OAS Executive Director Jo Holden at 905-787-9851.

IN partnership with the Canadian Archaeological Association, the OAS is both pleased and proud to announce the co-publication of the proceedings of the CAA's 33rd Annual Conference held in Ottawa in May 2000. This publication represents an important part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the OAS. Compiled by Jean-Luc Pilon, Web Editor of the Canadian Archaeological Association, this publication continues the long legacy established by the OAS of

Nomination sheets that are sent from the Ministry to recognize volunteer participation were completed and sent away in very early March. The Society's Volunteer Coordinator's difficulty was choosing who to nominate from our talented group.

The OAS's volunteer pool is growing once again. Norma Knowlton and Andy Schoenhofer's noble re-organization effort of the library has found a guiding light in the presence of new retiree and ex teacher-librarian Cathy Ott. Cathy's first visit was like watching a veil lift. A call numbering system was established and a system for entering the collection on our computer was initiated! More great things for the library are under discussion.

Another area seeing some movement is the initiation of preliminary discussions with a local School Board. Exciting the mind of a Principal who lives nearby has resulted in meetings with the Head of History of the York Region School Board. Merging our programming initiatives with the Boards units will foster some great activity with the next generation.

The Education Team, comprised of Terri Brennan, Meg Grant and myself, continue to see progress in the development of the curriculum based programming and the supporting exhibit component.

Finally, a small volunteer pool is beginning to assemble who are pleased to learn how to record the collection we have inherited into collection registration books and then eventually onto disc.

bringing archaeological information to the public. As an electronic publication, it also lays down a new benchmark for the rapid dissemination of archaeological data. It is sincerely hoped that the speed with which electronic publishing can be carried will be seen as an example of a viable and cost-effective al-

ternative to traditional paper publication. It should also be seen as a potential means of reducing the growing mass of "grey literature" (i.e., publishable reports that will never be broadly available), a serious problem which threatens the integrity of the archaeological record just as much as the lack of mitigation of large-scale development.

The 25 individual articles in the proceedings will now be part of the permanent electronic collection of the National Library of Canada which has undertaken to archive, upgrade as required and maintain public access to the electronic documents collection. This removes impediments that may have allowed some to argue against electronic publication. With the Library's mandate to acquire Canadian electronic publications and guarantee public access to these over the internet in perpetuity, a whole new world of publication is opening up to the Canadian archaeological community where the horizons will be broadened and access to the fascinating record of Canada's past will become virtually unrestricted.

I mentioned in the previous issue of *Arch Notes* that one of my six objectives for the OAS this year would be to establish an "Ontario Archaeological Hall of Fame" to include previous and future winners of the J. Norman Emerson silver medal as well as recipients of the Peggy Armstrong Public Archaeology Award. Jean-Luc Pilon of the Ottawa Chapter was kind enough to inform me that winners of the Peggy Armstrong Award are already highlighted on that chapter's web page (<http://www.cyberus.ca/~jlpilon/otchh.htm>)

It has also been mentioned that winners of the Kenyon Citation of Award should be included in any hall of fame to be established, and that the focus might be expanded to be the Canadian Archaeological Hall of Fame in order to maximize world-wide interest. The OAS Board of Directors will meet in April to decide what, if anything, will be done. Members are encouraged to contact Jo Holden or the Board of Directors if they have a preference or other suggestions for consideration.

I have received some unfounded criticism that my objectives did not include getting the Society's flagship publication *Ontario Archaeology* (OA) up to

date. On a point of clarification, please let me restate that each member of the Board of Directors was asked by the Executive Director to submit measurable objectives (not priorities) for consideration. My objectives within my portfolio as President were not and are not intended in any way shape or form to be priorities for the OAS. Those priorities have already been largely determined in a general sense and are specifically stated in our corporate strategic plan. This three-year plan was created in 1999 by the Board of Directors and members at large for several reasons including providing the OAS with directions for growth and stability as well as to be followed as time and circumstances permit.

Yes, getting OA current should be a priority. In fact it has been a priority for quite some time, and is identified as such in the OAS strategic plan. However, if there is anything more that the Board of Directors can do that it hasn't already done over the past few years please let me know (call toll free 800-465-9990). The bottleneck delay in publication is not with the Board nor with its objectives but simply with the large amount of time it takes the editorial board, guest editors and contributing authors to do all of the work required in preparing a peer reviewed journal of OA's high quality as well as maintaining its well respected international reputation within academic circles. This is no easy task. It takes a huge amount of dedicated volunteer effort from all of the participants to publish each issue. A new editorial board, comprising of Susan Jamieson, David Robertson and Andrew Stewart, was appointed just last year and they, along with Eva MacDonald our Director of Publications, are making great progress in getting OA caught up. I ask that everyone please remain patient just a little while longer. The end result will be worth it.

MICHAEL Langford, Director of the Heritage and Libraries Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, has announced that the Archaeology Customer Services Project has completed informal discussions with a cross-section of 21 individuals representing four archaeological associations and licensed archaeologists plus seven representatives from the development community concerning licensing, report requirements and report review is-

sues. In a March 14, 2001 letter to the OAS, Mr. Langford states that the comments received "were invaluable and were taken into consideration as the Project began to put together its draft approaches and options for change."

The Project's next step is to hold an informal group meeting on March 23, 2001 with the OAS, the other major archaeological associations, and a representative sample of stakeholders to discuss approaches and options for change. As pre-reading material in preparation for the meeting, Ms Barry provided two executive summaries of the licencing and reporting discussions plus a draft of the possible approaches, directions and options. Subsequent steps are to include: revisions to the draft materials; briefing the Ministry's senior management on the results of the meeting and on the Project's final thoughts; preparation of an implementation plan and working with stakeholders to obtain information on measures and approaches as necessary; and working with stakeholders in implementing the measures.

NOTABLE recent retirements in the Ontario heritage community include Roberta O'Brien from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation and Dorothy Duncan from the Ontario Historical Society.

Roberta M. O'Brien started her 28 year-long professional career in 1972 as a professional archaeologist surveying Ontario provincial parks while on a summer contract with the Ministry of Natural Resources. In 1974 she became the Regional Archaeologist for South-Central Region in what is now the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (MTCR). From 1984 to 1991 she served as the Senior Archaeologist/Secretary for the Archaeology Committee of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. She then served as a Policy Advisor first to the Cultural Programs Branch (1991 to 1998) and later to the Heritage and Libraries Branch (1998 to 2000) of the MTCR. She currently volunteers her time as Treasurer of the Toronto Chapter of the OAS. A partial list of her significant publications and reports includes a 1976 monograph on the Archaeological Survey of Methodist Point Park Reserve (her M.A. thesis), Notes on the Maracle Site, a public education pamphlet (still in use today) on the Archaeology of south-central Ontario, and the Front Street Public Education Proj-

ect in Toronto. Her current plans include "finishing the bathroom" before taking a rest to continue researching her family history.

In announcing the resignation of Dr. Dorothy Duncan as Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society, Dr. Bryan E. Walls called her "one of the best friends that the heritage community could have." I whole-heartedly concur. Throughout her career, from an elementary school teacher to curator to museums advisor to executive director, Dr. Duncan has provided inspiration and has always led by example. Her invaluable contributions are noted not only in Ontario but also in the rest of Canada as well as the United States and Great Britain. A detailed summary of her many accomplishments and a list of the awards she has received are in the current OHS Bulletin, Issue 128, March 2001. The same issue contains Dr. Duncan's farewell message as Executive Director. In it she repeats a simple inspirational message that she first presented in 1996 during her Convocational Address when she received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Waterloo. Readers are encouraged to take the time to check out the message for themselves for she states "as the new millennium begins, let's all give it a try..

Bob Mayer, President

From the OAS office...

THE LONGER I WORK at the OAS's new headquarters, the more I realize we are not in the big city anymore. I can look out most days and see hawks flying, signs of woodpeckers at work, and the occasional fox trotting by the back door of the office! I can also get back to the McGaw Iroquoian site, of which the Society and the Town of Richmond Hill are stewards, with much less effort these days as the two and half feet of snow has succumbed to the affects of Spring!

My position as Executive Director has changed radically. I am, as always, the Society's liaison with the Ministry, the archaeological community, other heritage groups, the public at large and our partner, Richmond Hill. But I now wear several other caps as well. On a moderate day, they can be education program devel-

oper, coordinator, host or interpreter, artifact collection curator and manager, exhibit designer, partnering nurturer, and negotiator. Moving into our new location has been like bringing a new baby into your life. You really do not think its going to have a major impact on how you go about your daily business. However, anything new, especially a change like this, has major impact, operating wrinkles to iron out, and the need to practice patience in working through the period of adjustment.

I work very closely with my contact person who represents our partner, the Town of Richmond Hill, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. She and I are careful to keep our two entities separate but explore the benefits the partnership was formed to provide. Things such as the provision of advertising to 50,000 homes, an attractive office and programming space, and staff to handle registration for our partnered programs.

The formal relationship is just over six months old and I must comment that I have been impressed with the level of accommodation that each side has provided. The partnership with the Town of Richmond Hill is special, it is the only one of its kind between an Archaeological Society and a municipal government in Canada. The potential for archaeological education, leisure programming, and a highlighted profile for the OAS within the North American archaeological community is unparalleled.

Recently the OAS office began to hear reports that our membership was confused by the new manner they were being asked to register for programming. The programming partners are making every effort to make the registration for the Society's traditional and new programs as stress-free as possible. One of the reasons

the partnership was attractive was that it took away a high percentage of the clerical activity, thus allowing me to do more Executive Director work for the Society, such as looking for grant money, following up on initiatives by members, and outside interests.

Enclosed in this issue of *Arch Notes* is a sample of how the registration form should be filled out and an explanation of why completion of certain areas are necessary. The predominant reason is for compliance of liability while on each other's property while programming is underway. Coming in to register is not necessary. The forms can be filled out and sent with appropriate payment to 11099 Bathurst Street, or they can be faxed in along with your signature and credit card information.

The OAS continues to represent Archaeology in Ontario. I receive phone calls, letters, and emails on a daily basis from individuals and institutions who clearly recognize the Society for who we are and what we represent.

The Society has partnered with the Town of Richmond Hill in order to better foster public awareness of archaeological issues and provide archaeological education programs for our members and our partner's residents. If you would like clarification about this partnership and the fund raising opportunities it offers the Society, please contact me at 905-787-9851 or 1-888-733-0042.

To close - a celebratory note - long time member, William Renison received a certificate of recognition for 50 continuous years of membership on January 23, 2001. Congratulations Bill!

Jo Holden, Executive Director

The Ontario Archaeological Society would like to thank Don Ross of Manticores Books in Orillia for providing an interesting selection of archaeological/historical fiction and non-fiction titles to sell at the OAS book table during our annual symposium held in Midland last October.

Manticores Books also donated 15% of total book sales to the Society.

The OAS also thanks those members and guests who supported "the cause" by purchasing these books and others, as well as mugs, caps and posters.

OAS awards criteria

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD

Eligibility shall consist, as in the Award description, of a significant voluntary contribution to heritage preservation within the Province of Ontario, above the requirements of Canadian law, within the year prior to announcement of the award

The Award shall be in the form of an Honourary Certificate presented by the President of the OAS or his/her representative at the annual symposium

Closing date for written nomination is
July 1st, 2001

The OAS Board of Directors shall consider the nominations and rank them on the following scale. In the event of a tie, a Board vote shall be held to determine the winner

- i Significance of site(s) impacted
- ii Active participation of nominee
- iii Field contributions by nominee
- iv Financial contribution of nominee above that required by law
- v Setting an example of conservation awareness in the community.
- vi Long-term conservation planning

THE J. NORMAN EMERSON SILVER MEDAL

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

Closing date for nominations is July 1st, 2001.

- 1/ The nominee must have been a member in good standing of the Ontario Archaeological Society throughout the period under consideration.
- 2/ The nominee must have made a significant contribution to archaeology in Ontario as suggested in the following guidelines: i) The nominee will have published work, preferably, but not restricted to, *Ontario Archaeology*, *Arch Notes* and/or chapter newsletters; and/or ii) The nominee will have been active in chapter and/or Society executive or committee work; and/or iii) The nominee will have made substantial contributions to the advancement of the goals of the OAS through Public Education and/or community outreach programs; and/or iv) the nominee will have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of Ontario's archaeological record through active fieldwork, conservation and/or research of the highest caliber.
- 3/ While it is intended that this award recognize the contributions of private scholars, professionals will be considered if it can be demonstrated that their contributions are clearly independent of professional requirements and capacities.

THE KENYON CITATION OF MERIT AWARD

The Ian and Tim Kenyon Memorial Award is intended to be awarded to Ontario non professional archaeologists who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology, and who has earned acclaim for excellence and achievement. Next to the J. Norman Emerson Award for Lifetime achievement, it is the highest recognition that the Society can bestow. Closing date for nominations is July 1st, 2001.

- 1/ The nominee must have been a member in good standing of the Ontario Archaeological Society throughout the period under consideration
- 2/ The nominee must have made a significant contribution to archaeology in Ontario as suggested in the following guidelines: i) The nominee will have published work, preferably but not restricted to, *Ontario Archaeology*, *Arch Notes* and/or chapter newsletters; and/or ii) The nominee will have been active in chapter and/or Society executive or committee work; and/or iii) the nominee will have made substantial contributions to the advancement of the goals of the OAS through public education and/or community outreach programs; and/or iv) The nominee will have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of Ontario's archaeological record through active fieldwork, conservation and/or research of the highest caliber.
- 3/ While it is intended that this award recognize the contributions of private scholars, professionals will be considered if it can be demonstrated that their contributions are clearly independent of professional requirements.

Request for Nominations 2001 Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology

This award was created to recognize efforts and outstanding contributions of individuals, groups or institutions in the dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of archaeology for a public audience in or about Ontario.



Eligibility

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

Award Criteria

- The reach in audience the nominee has achieved.
- Innovation in the design, delivery, materials and volunteer involvement.
- Development of enduring Public Archaeology resource materials.
- Scope of events, partnerships and sponsorships brought together to promote Public Archaeology.
- Number of years of service in Public Archaeology.

Definition of Public Archaeology

- ① Encourages and assists both individual and collective efforts to foster, elevate and advance the ethical practice of archaeology.
- ② Stimulates interest of the general public in the study of archaeology through the use of displays, demonstrations, workshops, volunteer training in excavation techniques, site tours and the development of educational programmes and materials.
- ③ Encourages the exchange of information and ideas and fosters co-operative partnerships for promoting awareness of cultural resources and heritage presentation.

Please send your nomination, by August 15, 2001, to:

Selection Committee
Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award
The Ottawa Chapter - OAS
P.O. Box 4939, Station E
Ottawa ON K1S 5J1

Phieldwork in the Phifties

by Helen Devereux

...over the decade of the 1950s, thirty-nine sites were excavated by the U of T, ROM, NMC, and OAS ... this renaissance was not just a mere revival, but a truly phenomenal blossoming of Ontario archaeology...

The following article was given as a talk by Helen Devereux to the Toronto Chapter of the OAS on February 21, 2001. Helen also showed a number of slides from sites such as the ones illustrated in the photographs here. This article is a follow-up to Helen's article, "The '50s Phenomenon", in the November/December 2000 issue of Arch Notes. As we continue to celebrate 50 years of existence for the OAS, it is timely to write about the history of the Society and the discipline of archaeology in general in Ontario. Often we are all-absorbed in the study of the more distant past, so Helen has taken this opportunity to inform us about a part of our Society's past and the history of excavation in Ontario. We hope that other members of the OAS will take this occasion to cast a backward glance at their own experiences with the Society, and perhaps take pen to paper, or fingers to the keyboard as the case may be, and record some of those experiences. We would be interested in receiving those records at the OAS office, or the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. Let's leave our successors with some guidance on 'excavating' our past!

Pat Reed
President, Toronto Chapter, OAS

IT IS A WELL established fact that Ontario Archaeology, during the general decade of the 1950s, burst upon the scene with unusual vigour. That decade set the tone of Ontario archaeology for years to come, established basic time-space chronologies and sequences, and left us with a plethora of collections that witness those excavations and still offer research potential. However, that decade had its origins a half century and more ago. In retrospect, some of us of more recent vintage wonder why we did what we did back then, and why we didn't do it differently. In an attempt to reconstitute some of those times, I would like to explain how things were. Things were very different in those days of inventing an archaeological approach to Ontario's prehistory.

The framework I have chosen to impose sets a context for Ontario archaeology and has three chronological stages: First is the earliest stage, or what I have called the "Museum Era", covering roughly the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The second stage is the Transitional Period of the late 1930s. The third stage is what Emerson has referred to as the "Renaissance" (or what I have called previously the 'Explosion of Archaeology' in the 1950s).

Since the Renaissance stage is my focus here, I will offer some evidence for the concept and a brief description of selected aspects of our personnel, methods and technology, and what was accomplished. Finally, I'll offer some ideas about why this Renaissance may have occurred.

At this point I should make a disclaimer that I am neither an historian nor an Iroquoianist. However, although I do not have the skills of an historian, I am more than aware that much of what I have to say is a highly biased personal impression clouded by the passage of half a century. With those caveats, I shall plunge on.

Who were the players in this whole Ontario scenario? In broad terms, the earliest players were museums: the National Museum of Man (later the Canadian Museum of Civilization), the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and the Museum of Indian Archaeology in London, Ontario. The universities which became directly involved included primarily the University of Toronto and, subsequently, Trent University in Peterborough. Finally, and very relevant here, of course, is the role

of the Ontario Archaeological Society. In addition, there have always been a very few independent excavators who have done professional level work.

In order to give the Renaissance Stage some roots, I have chosen to give a few remarks about its pre-Renaissance

context. The first stage I have called the Museum Stage, when most of the significant archaeology was done by Museum personnel. This Museum Stage occurred in two periods: the David Boyle period and the later Wintenberg Period.

The David Boyle Period has been described by J.N. Emerson as the "object oriented" approach to Ontario Archaeology. David Boyle (1842-1911) was Curator of the Ontario Provincial Museum. The Ontario Provincial Museum in 1931 became the Royal Ontario Museums. Boyle amassed collections during his tenure, and from the Museum came the *Annual Archaeological Reports* of the Department of Education from 1888-1928. These publications contained articles on artifacts in the collections and reports from the surveys of Andrew F. Hunter in Simcoe County, Col. George Laidlaw in Victoria County, and probably others. The usefulness of

Boyle's tenure revolves around collections and site locations.

The second and later Period of the Museums Stage revolves around William Wintenberg (1876-1941). J.N. Emerson assesses his work at the National Museum of Canada as the first scientific and historic ar-

early years of WWII and archaeology in Ontario also seemed to be generally laid to rest until the war was over.

The next stage in Ontario Archaeology I have called the "Transitional Stage" with a fairly clear time slot of 1937-1939. I have designated it as



Warminster site - North Village excavation 1961

Left to Right: Allan Duffield, Helen Devereux

chaecology to be done in Ontario. Wintenberg seems to have laboured pretty well alone for the two decades of his tenure. However, he contributed much by his site records gathered from a wide area. Best of all, he is known for his series of site reports bearing site names: Uren, Roebuck, Middleport, Lawson and Sidey-Mackay. In 1954, Emerson describes these as "the only usable, adequate and full length reports produced in Ontario Iroquoian archaeology to date." Wintenberg died in the

transitional because, at this point, Archaeology moved from the museums and a few independents to include the universities as well. In Toronto, the transition was gradual as Professor McIlwraith, Head of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, was at this time also Associate Director of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, one of the four original independent museums that constituted the later Royal Ontario Museum. Hence, in this Transitional Stage, a cooperative effort ensued

between Professor McIlwraith of both institutions, and Dr. Philleo Nash whom Professor McIlwraith hired in 1937 to start an archaeology programme in the Department of Anthropology. This resulted in the 1938 and 1939 excavations of the Pound Site, near Aylmer, Ontario. At the Pound site, Nash was looking for Dr. W.A. Ritchie's New York Owasco culture in Ontario in an attempt to clarify Iroquoian origins. However, the Pound site turned out to be not Owascoid but something between the Middleport and Lawson sites. In 1939 of course, World War II broke out and archaeology lay dormant until 1946.

I will now move on to Emerson's concept of a Renaissance in Ontario archaeology. The dictionary defines "renaissance" as "revival" or "a time when something starts again". Perhaps the term applies to Ontario archaeology in terms of a revival of the very stimulating pre-war times of the excavation of the Pound site, the publication of the Wintemberg reports and possibly activity across the border in New York State. The idea of a "revival" may have been based on the vacuum in archaeology created by five or six years of war.

The onset of the renaissance in Ontario Archaeology at the University of Toronto occurred in 1946 with the excavation of the Warminster site, then called "Cahiagué". And it is clear that the other Ontario institutions also became busy at this time. The end of the Renaissance is less clear as excavation flourished subsequently. However, at some so far undefined moment, the post war boom brought an end to the pioneering days of inventing a style of archaeology for Ontario. Rather than letting the closure of

the renaissance dangle, I have chosen to work with a perhaps arbitrary concept of 'decade' for convenience of time permitted here. Therefore, the renaissance here refers to the period 1946-1957 or so.

I promised earlier to present some evidence that a renaissance did indeed occur roughly over the decade of the 1950s. In the main, this evidence concerns comparisons with the Transitional Stage, in terms of number of sites dug. Note that this renaissance was not just a mere revival, but a truly phenomenal blossoming of archaeology. To reiterate, the main movers at this time in my own sphere were the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto (hereafter called U of T), the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology (ROMA, later the ROM), the National Museum of Canada (NMC, later the Canadian Museum of Civilization [CMC]) and the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS), hereafter referred to as the OAS.

From 1946 to 1957, thirty-nine sites were excavated and surveys made by these institutions. A total of 59 field parties were in the field, as some sites were dug in more than one season. Of the sites dug, 20 were dug by U of T, eight by ROMA, three plus much survey by the NMC and, from 1951 (its inception) until 1957, the OAS excavated six sites. In terms of field parties, 28 were by U of T, 11 by ROMA, six and much survey by NMC, and 14 by the OAS.

Examples of how many sites were being dug in any year are as follows: in 1947, five sites in all were excavated by all three existing institutions. I might say, however,

that some independent archaeologists, such as Frank Ridley, were also probably in action. In 1951, five sites were again excavated. In 1954, a peak number of eight sites were under excavation. In 1955, also, eight sites were being dug. Notable here is the fact that these sites were all large, significant sites, because large Iroquoian villages were plentiful.

When one considers the numbers of students and OAS members who had access to the learning situation on most of these sites, the opportunities were immense. The collections that were amassed were huge, and the data available a virtual bonanza.

Just to put names on the figures I have given, below are the sites dug by each institution in the period under discussion: Sites excavated by U of T: Aurora, or the Murphy or Old Fort Site; Warminster, then referred to as Cahiagué; Benson; Barker, now Seed-Barker; Graham-Rogers; Parsons; McMurchy; Millroy; Thompson; Reesor; Shebishekong; Peterborough Petroglyphs (recorded, not excavated); Ault Park; Red Sucker Point in Puckasaw Park; and Glen Meyer. Noticeable here is a heavy bias in favour of Iroquoia. Sites excavated by ROMA: Ossossane, Krieger, Washburn Island, Quackenbush, Serpent Mounds, Tabor Hill, Inverhuron and Swan Lake. Detectable here is a preponderance of sites other than Iroquoian. Sites dug by the NMC are: Kant, Sheguianda and Corunalong with much survey, representing a variety of different kinds of sites. Sites excavated by the OAS include: McKenzie, Schomberg, Parsons, Doncaster, Draper, Millroy, Jordan, Robb, Fairty and Reesor. Again, a preponderance of Iro-

quoian speaking sites probably due to heavy U of T influence and location near Toronto.

The above compendium of sites excavated is offered as evidence for not just a renaissance of archaeology here, but to signal that the renaissance was phenomenal in its vigour.

I have not taken the time to compute the numbers of sites dug in Ontario prior to 1939 in order to point out the acceleration of the Fifties. However, suffice it to say that the few excavations that did occur were very limited in both personnel and acreage. Never were there seasons when five to eight sizable expeditions were in the field at once. I am therefore content to continue to discuss the Fifties as a period of phenomenal growth.

Having, I hope, convinced you that the Fifties is worth a backward glance, perhaps it is possible here to give some insights into how archaeology was done in those pioneering days. Some selected aspects of archaeology include: personnel, digging techniques, analytical and interpretive techniques, literature available, theory, finances and accommodation.

Finally, I'll offer a few suggestions on why the ren-

naissance occurred.

To begin with, at the onset of the Renaissance, we were very short of trained personnel. There were a number of reasons for this. Before WWII lay the Dirty Thirties and the deep Depression of the twenties, just after WWI. This did not encourage the twenty year old of the late 40s and early fifties to seek a living doing something so improvisational as archaeology. Furthermore, the very word "trench" may have had bad connotations, since there were many veterans taking advantage of a free post-war university education. In addition, there was certainly no lively tradition for doing archaeology and museums had not caught on to how to advertise their contents. It is true that archaeology had always captured attention, but this type of archaeology produced very exotic and

sensational artifacts and the sites were far away in places such as Egypt, Mexico or New Mexico. Few ordinary people ever dreamed that they could participate in these fabulous expeditions, much less become a specialist in a highly specialized field.

Which archaeologists were around just as the Renaissance began, and how many were involved? At the NMC, R.S. "Scotty" MacNeish was chief senior archaeologist with Thomas E. Lee as junior archaeologist, both trained just across the border. At the ROM, K.E. Kidd, also American trained, was Curator of Ethnology (which included archaeology). He was later joined and succeeded by Walter Kenyon (trained at U of T). During the '50s, contract work was done at Serpent Mounds by Dick Adams and Dick



*Excavating in the snow at the Seed Barker site 1951
Photo by the Ontario Archaeological Society
Photographer: John Sinclair*

Johnson, both trained at the University of Indiana at the Angel Mounds site. At U of T, T.F. McIlwraith was founder of the department in 1924 and Head for 40 years. McIlwraith was trained at Cambridge, England, and while an ethnologist renowned for his work among the Bella Coola of B.C., he liked nothing better than to live in camp and excavate sites when his administrative duties permitted. In 1946, T.F. McIlwraith hired J. Norman Emerson (trained at the University of Chicago) to initiate a programme of archaeology. At the University of Western Ontario, very active archaeologically at the time, Wilfred Jury was not formally trained.

In addition to the above, a number of independent archaeologists were active, notably Frank Ridley, who located and identified Ossossane and set up the archaeological sequence for northeastern Ontario with his famous Frank Bay Site on Lake Nipissing. Later in the 1950s, independent and OAS member Bill Donaldson did exceptional work in Southwestern Ontario and in the Rouge Valley.

The above handful of professionally trained archaeologists each developed a personal idea of how archaeology should be done. Of particular interest here, it was the University of Toronto, parent of the OAS, that took on the role of training students and others that would be needed on the great bounty of sites in southern Ontario, many of which had the whiff of suburbia already about them. Members of the OAS had an excellent reputation, and were hired or were present on sites excavated by the NMC and less so on sites of the ROM. And the serious student

had the chance to move up through the ranks very quickly.

As far as digging techniques are concerned, since many of the trained personnel here had graduated from the University of Chicago, the "Chicago Method" of digging and recording was quickly transferred to Ontario. This method I believe consisted of trowelling five foot squares. Also, arbitrary levels of six inches may have been part of the pattern. Square notes, profiles and floor plans and the quadrangular grid were entrenched. This pattern of excavation was particularly suited to nearly flat Iroquoian sites. In general here, the Chicago method seems to have withstood the test of time.

Here in Ontario, we went through a bit of a problem with grid systems. In 1946-47 and in the early fifties, grids were imposed only over the particular area of the site upon which one happened to be working at a particular time. This raised a problem the following season, or maybe some years later, when the pegs had been yanked up and the sod replaced to please the farmer, to hook up the next gridded area with the last. In addition, grids usually being very limited in size, one could always begin with a zero peg somewhere and then name squares as 5R, 10R, 15R, and so on, with right angle lines being called A, B, C, and so on. Now Right and Left works fine to identify the units, but some years later, it is difficult to figure out which is right and which is left. This was soon replaced by East and West, North and South. And finally, on large sites, we learned to anchor our expanding grids to permanent monuments.

Backfilling was usually done by hand. On large sites, with many excavators, this was a problem, especially if it rained on the last day or two. The proper archaeologist was careful to write into her schedule a day or three for backfilling. The ethic was to leave at the end of the dig a site that was filled and resodded to its pristine condition.

Analytical techniques were unsophisticated. For example, the hardness of pottery was established by scratching the sherd with a mineral calibrated on the Moh's Scale of Hardness (most Iroquoian pottery has a hardness of 2-3). Porosity was tested by weighing a sherd before and after putting it in a glass of water (after the bubbles ceased). Colour was established by comparison with a Munsell chip (the type of light hitting the object was not considered as a factor). Long columns of figures were written by hand and added up in one's head. Reports were handwritten and sat until a typist could be found.

Ecofacts, such as soil samples for pedological and palynological studies were not usually considered. Faunal analysis was done by oneself. Reports contained only general statements such as "mostly deer or small mammal with some fish or bird". Faunal analysis of any consequence only appeared with Howard Savage in the 1960s. Native copper was distinguished from historic copper by its foliated cross section.

The one exception where specialists were used, and they usually did it gratis, was in the case of historic goods of European derivation on a site. Specialists in china, glass and iron could often be inveigled into contributing their knowledge.

Chronologies were established often not by C¹⁴ (which was available by 1950, but expensive), but often by typology and seriation, and sometimes by historical records. Stratigraphy and beach levels are rare in Ontario. Sheguiandah on Manitoulin, the Frank Bay site on Lake Nipissing and the Pic River site are stratified exceptions.

At the outset of the fifties, it was not difficult to keep up with the literature. There was very little of it. One of our jobs was to write that literature, but I don't think we saw it that way then. Publication was not the issue that it is today. One didn't have to produce much to obtain an academic job in archae-

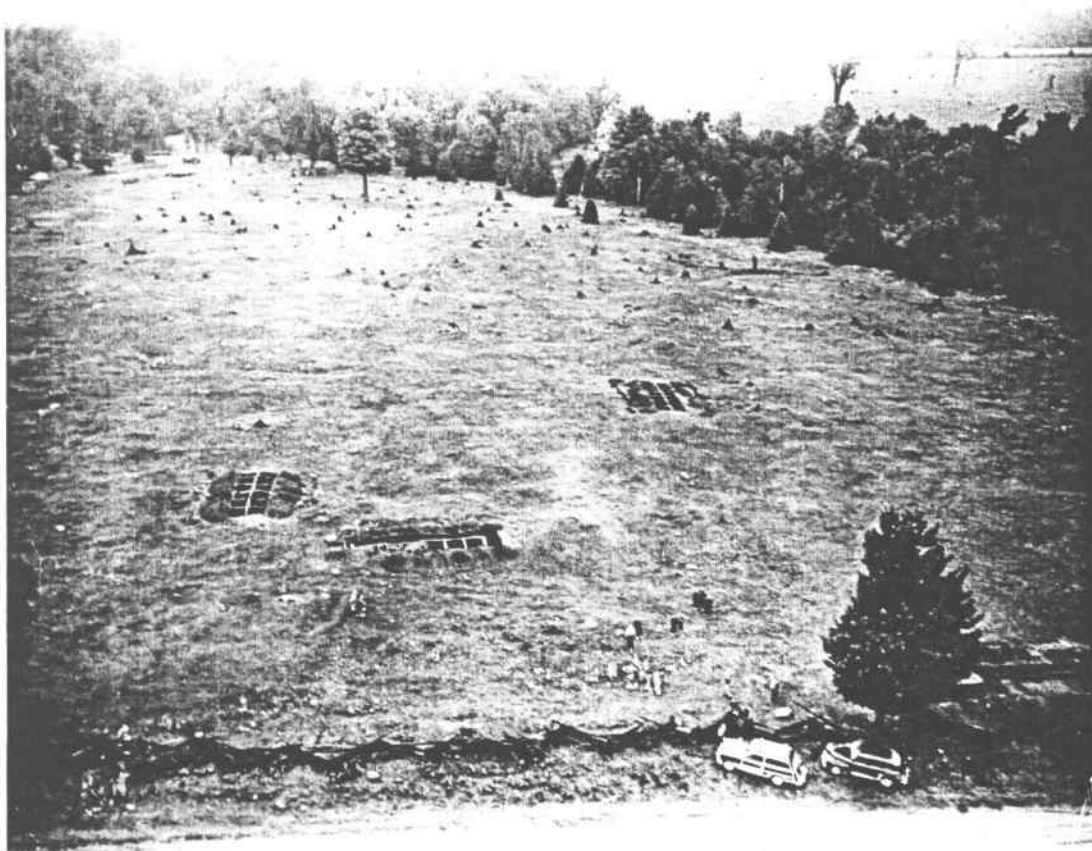
ology, to obtain tenure or to be promoted. Archaeologists were all too scarce and the great expansion of the universities in the 1960s was yet to come.

There were few opportunities to publish. The NMC published mostly its own research in the Bulletin. In the fifties, the OAS put out a purple mimeo of the forerunner of *Arch Notes*. Of course, few aspired to *American Antiquity*. But for some years Ontario's archaeology was published in *Ontario History*, in the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, and I believe rarely in the Royal Canadian Institute.

Our major archaeological text was a book by Martin, Quimby and Collier called "Indians before Columbus". Unfortunately very little about Ontario was contained therein, but it did provide a broad picture of American prehistory. At this time also William A. Ritchie was writing about the archaeology of New York State, which had relevance to Ontario.

The earliest of our own literature consisted of the aforementioned Annual Archaeological Reports by David Boyle from 1888 to 1928. Probably the most useful literature we had were the reports of Wintemberg in the Bulletin of the NMC. His Lawson, Middleport,

Uren, Roebuck and Sidey Mackay site reports were our basic Iroquoian references. By 1952 we had Scotty MacNeish's Iroquois Pottery Types published by NMC. His *in situ* hypothesis of Iroquoian origins referred directly to some of the sites that were being dug in southern Ontario. Middle Woodland and earlier sites in Ontario were barely known and Lee had to go to the American Southwest to find back-



Aerial photo of the Benson site from the south 1951
Photo credit: Hydro Electric Power Commission

ground for his Sheguiandah site during the mid-fifties.

The literature being sparse, our information base on which to proceed was thin in the extreme. In terms of Iroquoian studies, Emerson complains of the negative effect of ethnography on the problems of Iroquoian archaeology. Eschewing ethnography, he chose to work from the other end, deciding to adopt as a problem the origins of the Iroquois, their spatial and chronological distributions, and to make inferences about their culture as it appeared from archaeology.

Theoretically, Emerson leaned upon Walter Taylor's book "A Study of Archaeology" in which Taylor promoted his conjunctive approach. This included seeing artifacts and other data in terms of their contexts and relationships with each other. In this period too, the concept of problem-oriented archaeology was prevalent, but sometimes retroactively superimposed. We knew very little and every site told us many basic things. It was often difficult not to dig with *many* problems as a goal.

Although there are many aspects of the fifties that could be discussed, perhaps the matter of finances might be of interest. The truth is that there was not a lot of funding available in the fifties. I do not recall any great amounts of time spent applying for grants. Usually a letter to the appropriate branch of the Province brought the modest sums we requested. Nobody ever said no. Also, the associated universities allotted a few dollars to the effort. Museums seemed to fund their own research.

What does stand out in my mind is that the main resources of the U of T lay in such places as Toronto Hydro who would lend tents, shovels, wheelbarrows and other such necessities. Eaton's could be depended upon to produce and truck to a site huge numbers of box lunches on weekend student excavations. And volunteers would donate food to the kitchen on arrival on summer excavations. Transportation was highly organized and shared cars took care of most situations except the student blitzes where somehow enough money for buses was sometimes found. If you didn't have equipment, you made it. Benches, tables, stadia rods, and sieves were all manufactured of scrap lumber by some handy soul, often Norm Emerson himself. Those were the days, at least at U of T and the OAS, of homemade excavations.

Accommodation was always in tents - borrowed, not new. Early in the season, nightly campfires, hot stones in your sleeping bag, and sleeping in everything wearable you owned was not unknown. Cooking and lighting were by Coleman stoves and lamps. Bathing was often opportunistic when some kind resident offered use of their shower. Sometimes, it was as much as one could do to keep warm and fed.

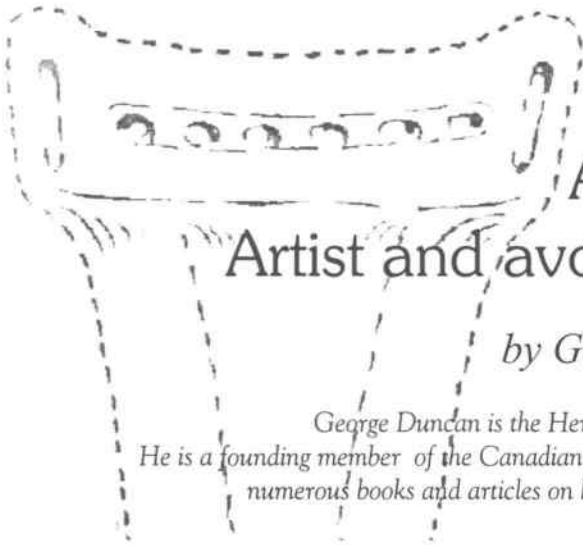
Despite the resources with which people worked, the accomplishments were significant. Ontario Iroquoian origins was clarified; Middle Woodland sites were distinguished from Algonkian speaking sites of later times; PalaeoIndian, Archaic, Middle and Late Woodland periods became much more defined in every way. In North-eastern Ontario, Frank Ridley

sketched out similar broad chronologies. The basics of settlement pattern studies was established (we had learned that those long dark soil streaks were not longhouse flooring, but plough marks). Thanks to James E. Anderson, we were informed about human osteology. Finally, it must be kept in mind that the Fifties saved for posterity, collections and data that would certainly have been lost due to urban sprawl and other construction.

As to the question of why this robust renaissance occurred when it did, I believe all the elements were present at one time. Firstly, the trained archaeologists who were present were passionate to obsessed with their work. Among these, I include MacNeish, Lee and Emerson. Secondly, there was a vacuum in our prehistory and a plethora of nearby sites to be dug. Thirdly, Lester Pearson's opening of post-secondary education to everyone, not just the elite, provided a huge pool of students at the post secondary level who were tired of five years of war and prior depression and were open to the new and different. Fourthly, south of the border, the archaeology was ahead of us and the impetus was there to become involved and catch up.

As I said in the beginning, what I have had to say is selective and bears the strong bias of my own remembered experiences. Nonetheless, I believe that in very general terms, my impressions will convey something not too far from 'the truth'.

Acknowledgement: May I say, this piece would likely never have emerged from the shadows had it not been for the encouragement and help of Pat Reed.



A. J. Clark

Artist and avocational Archaeologist

by George W. J. Duncan

George Duncan is the Heritage Coordinator for the Town of Richmond Hill. He is a founding member of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants and the author of numerous books and articles on local history and vernacular architecture in York County.

IN OCTOBER, 2000, the offices of the Ontario Archaeological Society moved into the new Elgin West Community Centre in the Town of Richmond Hill. The part of the facility devoted to archaeology is named the A. J. Clark Interpretive Centre, in recognition of a noted avocational archaeologist who lived in the community in the 1920s and early 1930s. Clark's research and detailed records have proven to be an invaluable resource to modern-day archaeologists exploring sites in south York Region.

For many years, A. J. Clark's archaeological field notes and maps have been well-known in Ontario archaeological circles, but many of the other aspects of his life had not been researched in detail. The opening of the A. J. Clark Interpretive Center provided the inspiration to delve into the story of this remarkable individual. The following is a brief biographical sketch of Arthur James Clark:

A. J. Clark's interest in archaeology began when he was just a boy. The first entry in his catalogue of prehistoric artifacts describes his initial encounter with an archaeological find: *Indian stone locket - (Neutral)*

This is perhaps the first object of an archaeological nature to come under my notice it having been found in the garden of my birthplace (I think by my brother Walter) before I was nine (9) years of age. This was on Lots 12 & 13 on the West side of Christina Street in the Fourth (4) or South Ward of Sarnia, Lambton County, Ontario. Other artifacts

were found there, including a stone hoe, but this was the only piece preserved.

Arthur James Clark was born in Sarnia on November 16, 1876. He seemed to prefer to be known as 'A.J.' rather than use his full name. Clark moved to Toronto, where he worked as a commercial artist producing memorial plaques and sculptures in bronze. Some of his most noteworthy commissions included E. Pauline Johnson, Sir Edmund Walker and Sir William Van Horne. Clark exhibited some of his work from the 1914 to 1924 period at the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and the Art Association of Montreal.

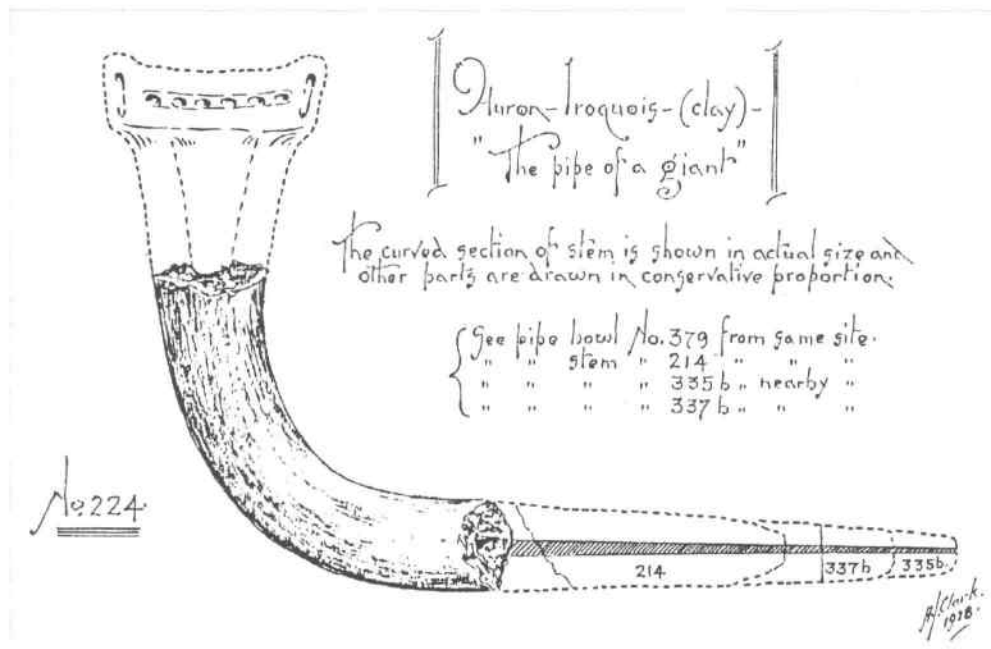
Clark began keeping notebooks of his archaeological explorations about 1912. One well-known site he visited in his early years of collecting was Baby Point, in Toronto. Item No. 44 in the A. J. Clark catalogue is an adapted metal gouge or scraper found there in 1916. The catalogue entry is accompanied by a detailed map of the site.

Many of the items in the first half of A. J. Clark's artifact catalogue were found by Walter Clark, his brother, in Nottawasaga Township, Simcoe County. The brothers shared an interest in archaeology that lasted well past the time of their childhood discoveries. Artifacts found by Walter were given to A. J. Clark for his collection.

In 1921, A. J. Clark moved north of Toronto to the Vaughan Township village of Maple. There, he was close to many archaeological sites known to local farmers from years of cultivating the land and turn-

ing up pottery shards, stone tools, and sometimes even human bones. Many farmers had assembled collections of their own. Judging from Clark's notes, most of the land owners were happy to assist in locating sites and often gave artifacts to him. His notes record detailed site locations, soil conditions, artifacts collected, and comments about the weather and scenery.

notes and location maps, and collecting artifacts. Since he didn't have a car, he conducted his exploration of the countryside on foot or by bicycle. Living nearby, Clark often visited the Boyle-Atkinson site on the south side of the Maple Sideroad (today's Major Mackenzie Drive) west of Yonge Street. This 500 year old Huron village site, noted by the distinguished Ontario archaeologist David Boyle, was eventually excavated by a team of archaeologists in



1984 prior to the construction of a housing development.

October 8th, 1921. Lunch and nice walk home.
Pretty autumn tints. Wind cool.

A. J. Clark moved to Richmond Hill in 1927. In his notebook he states:

Removed from Maple to Richmond Hill, July 20, 1927. Trips henceforth from latter place.

Clark shared an old Victorian house at 98 Richmond Street with his older sister, Annie, who acted as his housekeeper. Both were unmarried. Interestingly, this house was later occupied by Professors Frank and Helen Hogg, both internationally-acclaimed astronomers.

A. J. Clark travelled around the Richmond Hill area in search of archaeological sites, making detailed

Dec. 13th, 1927. Learned from Mr. Joseph Atkinson owner of farm just south of old Boyle homestead (cor. Yonge St. & Maple Side Road) that the site referred to by the late David Boyle was evidently on the ravine extending south from the old Boyle Mill site and pond and into the Atkinson farm. Had found many skinning stones etc.

At Richmond Hill, A. J. Clark befriended Father Edward Kelly of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, who shared his interest in archaeology and was his companion on many trips into the field. Kelly had access to a car, which enabled Clark to extend his explorations 'by motor' to more distant parts of York County. They collected in Markham, Vaughan, King and Whitchurch Townships during the 1928-1931 period.

Many of the sites investigated and recorded by A. J. Clark have since been fully excavated by professional archaeologists. Most have since been obliterated by urban development as York Region continues to grow at a rapid pace.

In addition to his archaeological pursuits, Clark was also an active member of the Ontario Historical Society. In 1926, he was elected to the O.H.S. Council, and from 1931 to 1934 served as the Society's first Vice-President. During his membership, Clark wrote a series of articles on Ontario history which were published in several volumes of the Ontario Historical Society's Papers and Records.

After A. J. Clark's death in 1934, his notebooks and collection of 962 artifacts were donated to the National Museum of Canada, which later became the Canadian Museum of Civilization. His maps and dia-

grams are works of art, with decorative flourishes and beautiful hand lettering. They capture some of the romance that Clark must have felt toward his study of the past. Two of A. J. Clark's drawings can be seen in the book *Early Days in Richmond Hill* by Robert M. Stamp (1991).

At the time of his passing, *The Liberal* newspaper said of A. J. Clark:

He was...deeply interested in archaeological research and possessed a rare and valuable collection of Indian relics which he highly prized and were admired by collectors from all parts of the world.

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Martin Cooper of Archaeological Services Inc., Benoit Theriault, Archivist, of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and Diane Fournier of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

Exhibit

The First People of Ontario – Tool Making

Long-time member and past president, Dr. Dean Axelson has provided material and set up a display in The Society's exhibit case at the Richmond Hill head quarters. The exhibit is entitled "*The First People of Ontario - Tool Making*".

It displays a variety of flint tools, ground stone tools, how they were hafted, a number of restored native ceramics, and several dozen smoking pipes. This is a very impressive exhibit.

Members need to take this opportunity to see this exhibit while it is available and learn a little more about Ontario's early Native People's tool making abilities.

This exhibit will be shown from March 1 to May 31, 2001.

Call ahead at 905-787-9851 to confirm hours that the OAS office is open.

Members are invited to join Dr. Axelson, OAS Board of Directors and Staff for an informal "opening", Wednesday, April 25, 2001, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please call the OAS office to confirm your attendance.

Now up!! - the web site based on the archaeological exhibit entitled "Partners in the Past: U of T and OAS Digs", currently occupying the archaeology lab in Sid Smith. The site highlights the earliest years of the collaboration of the university and the Ontario Archaeological Society complete with vintage photographs of your favorite archaeological 'stars' as well examples of artifacts and informative tidbits.

Check it out!!!

www.chass.utoronto.ca/anthropology/Exhibit/partners_in_the_past.htm

Don't Bet the House and Farm (Part 2): Some more thoughts on archaeological consulting

by J. Trevor Hawkins and Bob Mayer

RECENT ARTICLES BY Bill Finlayson (1999) Paul Lennox (2000), Mark Borland and Tom Arnold (2000), and Bud Parker (2000) well illustrate the fact that archaeological consultants are becoming increasingly aware of the need for information that is not available from traditional academic sources to assist them in successfully operating their cultural resource management (CRM) businesses, and so that they don't have to bet the house and farm when bidding in a competitive situation.

While Finlayson identifies some low bidding issues and provides possible solutions that would be great if they indeed could be practiced by one and all, Lennox describes an estimating system for establishing labour costs to conduct CRM projects. Although Lennox wrote from his experience as a Ministry of Transportation archaeologist for whom many indirect processes and overhead costs are assumed directly by the government and not by the project, his points are both valid and extremely important. It remains for the CRM consultant in a private business to factor in all of the other unmentioned costs of operating a business in an efficient and effective manner.

One of those other costs has to do with the use of field vehicles. In this regard Parker presents an excellent overview of the costs associated with field vehicles and their maintenance requirements. Additional information concerning the risk of theft and anticipated collision costs can be obtained from www.vicc.com, the web site of the Insurance Industries Vehicle Information Centre of Canada.

Borland and Arnold provide summary information and strategies on how to accurately estimate the time and personnel required to conduct survey fieldwork using the shovel test pit or pedestrian methods. While their time estimates cannot be applied with 100% precision on every project because of various mitigating factors such as weather, ground conditions and accessibility as well as the personal capabilities of individual field personnel, they appear to be sufficiently accurate so as to provide a starting point that one can refine to a greater or lesser degree based upon acquired experience with different soil types and other project specific circumstances.

While each of these articles is a welcome introduction to the realities faced by CRM consultants in bidding for projects, further and more detailed information is required for a complete understanding of the costing process, and hence of profitability. For instance, information in greater depth is needed concerning professional and third party insurance coverages and costs for both employees and vehicles (including insurance for non-owned vehicles) and for accounting procedures that would provide for the inclusion of the staff benefits/costs (vacation pay/health premiums, et cetera) and for a depreciation fund to replace worn-out vehicles as suggested by Finlayson. While these requirements are implied in these articles, further information is required for a better business practice understanding.

This is the main rationale in recent thoughts expressed for the expanding role of the Ontario Archaeological Society. As well as accreditation/self-regulation, there is an obvious interest in the provision of continuing education for the CRM business. This is something the OAS can do very well and should do on a self-sustaining fee for service basis by organizing workshops and continuing education courses in order to upgrade individuals' abilities.

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Letters to Arch Notes

To the OAS membership

A rejoinder to 'Without Prejudice'

HAVE BEEN READING the President's notes and the letters submitted to *Arch Notes* concerning the OAS taking over archaeological licensing from MTCR. As the debate heats up concerning the pros and cons of this issue, a number of thorny issues keep nagging at me.

1. Why would the OAS want to oversee archaeological licensing? Just because it was included in the strategic plan does not necessarily make it a good idea. Rather than arguing by assertion, I would like to see a logical discussion of this issue.
2. Why would this be good for the OAS? Professional Archaeologists seem to be most concerned with this issue, obviously because it directly affects their livelihood. Without the actual numbers, I would estimate that the majority of OAS members are not professional archaeologists and have no intention of becoming professional archaeologists. For the most part, most members will never or only sporadically hold an archaeological license. How will the OAS overseeing licensing help them? Why would or should the membership care?
3. Is MTCR actively seeking an organization to take over licensing? Is MTCR interested in handing the job to the OAS? If so, why is MTCR not advocating on behalf of the OAS to take control of licensing?
4. Other than the president, I have not seen any OAS Directors advocating that the OAS take over licensing. Why is that? Does the OAS President have the backing of the Board of Directors on this issue?
5. Finally, since they are two sides of the same coin, shouldn't report review go hand in hand with archaeological licensing? And if report review goes with licensing, would the OAS be capable of undertaking this task effectively?

I do not have answers for these questions; I am simply voicing my concerns as an OAS member. I think that we, the membership of the OAS, should ask ourselves if this issue is important to us? From my perspective, I do not think that it is. Forget the implications that there are behind-the-scenes issues that are not public knowledge. As far as I am concerned, this is a non-issue until MTCR publicly states that they are getting out of archaeological licensing and are actively seeking an organization to assume control. At that point the license-holders of Ontario will have to publicly debate and decide who that should be. Until that time, it is simply time wasted on a debate over something that may never happen.

Phil Woodley, New Directions Archaeology Ltd.
March 15, 2001

Book Review

Geoarchaeology: exploration, environments, resources

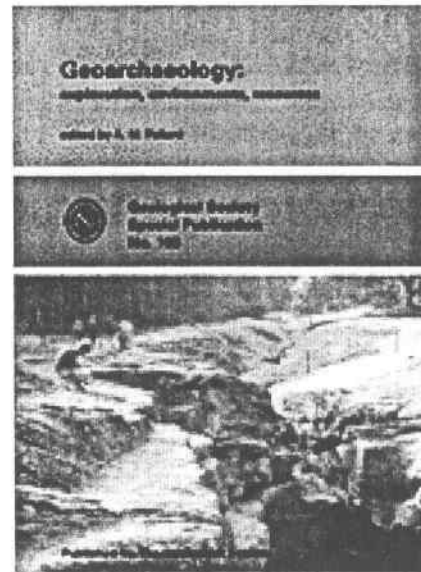
Edited by A.M. Pollard
Geological Society Special Publication No. 165
The Geological Society
 180 pp + bib, index
 ISBN 1-86239-053-3 (hardcover)

Reviewed by Tom Arnold

Those of you, such as myself, who expected a book dealing with geomorphology, sedimentology, pedology, or stratigraphy will be very disappointed in this book, because none of that is discussed. As Pollard states on the first page of his introduction, he has taken a broad view of geoarchaeology and has concentrated on geoscience techniques as applied to archaeological problems. The volume is described as a subset of papers presented at the Geoarchaeology session of the Geosciences '98 Conference, at Keele University on 14 to 16 April 1998, and concentrates exclusively on chemical analysis and remote sensing techniques.

The book is only 180 pages long (including the index) and is divided into three sections: exploration techniques (remote sensing), environments (attempts at reconstruction), and resources (identification of raw material sources). The papers presented in this volume are all Old World and nine of the twelve focus on some aspect of British archaeology. The papers are well written and the volume is well edited, however, some of the technical description of the techniques used may be daunting to those unfamiliar with archaeometry or remote sensing techniques.

North American archaeologists who specialize in industrial or historic archaeology may find the book more interesting than prehistoric archaeologists, such as myself. However, some articles do suggest obvious prehistoric



archaeological applications. The most obvious examples involved Young et al's techniques for sourcing lithics, on sourcing iron ore, and Lazereth and Mercier on sourcing granite ship ballast.

In the introduction, Pollard provides a brief history of geoarchaeology and a quick summary of the papers in each of the three sections. The three papers in the Exploration section detail the use of positive magnetism to locate medieval iron and smelting features, the use of Euler deconvolution theory with ground penetrating radar data to determine feature depth, and the use of microgravity to delineate 150 year old tunnels in Liverpool.

In the section on Environments, the three included papers look at environmental reconstruction at three widely different scales. Latham et al. look at the environment of the Australopithecine site of Makapansgat to determine how the deposits were formed in the cave environment and conclude that the evidence supports the hypothesis that they were caused mainly by hyena denning. Tipping et al., using palynology, studies the soil development of a podsol in the upper Tweed Valley in southern Scotland and concludes that because pollen was initially rapidly mixed in the upper soil horizon pollen stratigraphies are too coarse in temporal resolution to be of value in palaeoecological studies. Finally, Thronycraft et al. attempt, using mineralogical and geochemical techniques on datable floodplain sedi-

ments, to determine if Dartmoor was a tin producing region prehistorically.

The final section on Resources is the largest containing six papers. Most of these papers involve questions of sourcing of raw material (Young and Thomas, Lazareth and Mercier, and Zaykov et al.), such as granite ballast in ships or a variety of ores. There is a single paper detailing an experimental study into zinc isotope fractionation in brass in order to develop a technique for determining which of two manufacturing techniques was used (Budd et al.) and one paper at attempting to determine how alum was extracted from shales

(Millard) between the 16th and 19th centuries in Britain.

To summarize, this volume should be viewed at least as an intermediate level book on geoarchaeology, with a specific focus of archaeometry and geochemical techniques. The specific details of each paper may be of interest to researchers with similar goals but the application of the techniques and the possibilities they present should be of interest to all archaeologists. The book would compliment other books on geoarchaeology that have a more geomorphological emphasis, but would not replace them.

A borrowed item: "Bones: Discovering the First Americans"

Article by Patchen Barss, *National Post* (16 March 01)

THE first North Americans walked across the Bering land bridge about 12,000 to 14,000 years ago, and then spread south and east through an ice-free corridor. Or they boated down the West Coast. Or they came from Europe, bobbing along the edge of the ice sheets that covered the North Atlantic. Or from Africa by way of Australia 40,000 or 50,000 years ago, landing in South America. Or, ancestors of modern humans, such as *Homo erectus*, migrated; *Homo sapiens* then evolved here separately.

All these theories are explored in *Bones: Discovering the First Americans*, a new book by Elaine Dewar, a Canadian journalist. She spends most of the book at war with the first of these theories, which is the standard account, and only reluctantly lets go of the last, to which she had become "quite attached." The book chronicles her three-year journey through the Americas, examining old bones and cross-examining experts. She draws on archeology, geology, linguistics and

genetics, all of which suggest to her the standard model doesn't work.

"I want people to ask questions about the Bering Strait migration and I want them to ask questions about what other ways both modern people and pre-modern people may have found their way around this planet," she said in an interview. "Let's not use this word 'accepted' any more."

Dewar does more than ask questions: She says the ice-free corridor migration is "a theory that has no basis in fact" and research that suggests there was no such corridor has "pulled another rotten strut out of the old construct." She said she didn't expect *Bones* to be particularly controversial, though she tackles a question that causes angry arguments among archeologists and anthropologists, and that has implications for Native American land claims.

Dewar said she brings an open mind to these matters. She thinks there could have been multiple migrations along many routes, both to and from

North America. Mima Kapches, an anthropologist at the Royal Ontario Museum says the ideas in the book

are "fascinating." But, she adds, "I found it gossipy and I found it snippy, and I found that detracted from the focus of her discussion. What was relevant was the larger issue and the political complexity of what was happening."

James Chatters is a Washington anthropologist who figures prominently in Dewar's book. "This woman is trying to do something sensationalist to sell a whole bunch of books, regardless of what the facts might be," he said. A 9,500-year-old skeleton known as Kennewick Man made Chatters famous. He examined these remains when they were first found near Kennewick, Wash. Before he knew how old the bones were, he mentioned to the coroner they appeared to have Caucasian features, a remark that was relayed to journalists.

"When we got the radiocarbon dates, the first question out of the mouths of reporters was, 'What's a

European doing here 9,000 years ago?" " he recalled. "I said, 'We're not talking about a European.' " But the idea stuck, despite Chatters' subsequent protests that "Caucasoid" was a loaded term, that he hadn't had all the facts when he had used it, and that it was distracting people from the real significance of the skeleton.

Chatters agrees scientists need new theories to account for Kennewick Man but he thinks the idea of a European migration is a frustrating false lead. "The standard idea was that fully evolved northeast Asians moved into North America 12,000 years ago or so, and gave rise to everyone who ever lived here.

Kennewick man and others morphologically similar to him don't fit that. Something else is going on." He suggests that the peopling of the Americas is more complex than was once thought.

"If you're coming around the Pacific rim during the last period of glaciation, you're going to need boats," he said. (Dewar reports on research from the Geological Survey of Canada showing two ice sheets covering the land route previously thought to have been ice-free. Many scientists still think populations migrated on foot.) Migrants could have hugged the shore of the Bering land bridge, where they could get fuel for fires. "It's tougher to get around the North Atlantic because you've got to burn something to keep people warm. It's pretty tough to stay alive for three weeks without some kind of external warmth in the high Arctic," Chatters said.

Kapches welcomes a fresh voice, saying, "I think that it will open a huge debate. The general public is not well-informed about archeological issues, and this is the most critical issue that archeology in the New

World has to face. [Dewar] doesn't come up with answers. It was her life for two or three years, but people have spent their whole careers on this subject and not come up with an answer."

Dewar says she started the project because she was shocked at her own ignorance, and thinks academics and lay people still have a great deal to learn. "These ideas didn't mean anything to me until I was an adult. I'm appalled by that," she said. "The idea that you would not know who was here before you is something quite disgusting. There was this blank spot in my brain about how this world came to be before my ancestors got here. That, I think, is a testimony to how poorly we've managed to educate ourselves about what was here before Europeans arrived."

Toronto Chapter MONTHLY MEETINGS

April 18, 2001 Robert H. Pihl

*The St. Lawrence Seaway, Salvage Excavation and Public Archaeology:
The Legacy of the Ault Park Site, 1956-1958*

The Ault Park site was excavated by J. Norman Emerson just prior to the flooding of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1958. The excavations provided a unique opportunity to recover an extensive and diverse artifact sample from an important habitation and ceremonial site overlooking the Long Sault Rapids, and to engage the public in uncovering and understanding the prehistoric past. This talk will discuss Emerson's work at Ault Park and Pihl's analysis of the extensive artifactual and settlement remains from the site.

May 16, 2001 David Robertson and Ron Williamson

Archaeological Services Inc.'s co-editors of the special volume *Ontario Archaeology 65/66* on the Parsons site. They will be presenting a 50 year retrospective on this intriguing site in the Humber watershed.





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