



# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

New Series Volume 6, Issue 6

ISSN 0048-1742

November/December 2001



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# Ontario Archaeological Society

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Chair in place

## ...editor's note

Congratulations to the Hamilton Chapter for a great OAS symposium. Our feature article is a paper from that conference, on the Talbot Tot, by Trevor Hawkins and Bob Mayer. Jo Holden and Terri-Lynne Brennan also contribute their paper to this issue from the recent Ontario Museums Association meeting.

I encourage others to submit conference papers to *Arch Notes* – a large amount of effort is expended in putting together a paper – let others read about your research.

The AN cover features "Chimney & Gables" ... the back view of the Talbot Inn (block) in London" from an original water colour by Jenny Phillips © Thanks Jenny for permission to use this image – see <<http://villagecrier.freeyellow.com/originals/jp04.jpg>>.

## President's notes

IT IS SOMETIMES difficult to know how to start this column. This time it is especially so because it is my final one. After serving for the past four years on the Board of Directors (the last three as President), I have decided not to run again for the 2002 election. This decision was made with deep regret for I have found the experience gained by serving on the Board of Directors to be extremely rewarding and almost always fun. It is time for me to move on knowing that there is a core group of incumbents and eager candidates, including two former presidents of the Society, most able and anxious to offer their talents.

I thank all of the past and current members of the Board of Directors with whom I have worked and share many fond memories with including Charlton Carscallen, Lanna Crucefix, Hugh Daechsel, Frank Dieterman, Lise Ferguson, Mike Kirby, Henry van Lieshout, Eva MacDonald, Bud Parker, Tony Stapells, Caroline Thériault, John Steckley, and Vito Vaccarelli. I also thank all of the volunteers too numerous to mention here on the various OAS committees without whom many of the Society's achievements would not have been possible. I especially thank Executive Director Jo Holden who, along with her predecessors Ellen Blaubeurgs and Charles Garrad, has provided much of the vision and management skills that the OAS enjoys and greatly benefits from today.

I wish the 2002 Board of Directors every success and hope that I might be allowed to volunteer my services as Past President should an appropriate occasion arise.

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This past week (November 16 to 19) has been a very busy and exciting time for the Society. The Hamilton Chapter of the OAS successfully hosted our 28<sup>th</sup> annual symposium "The Archaeology of Space and Place in the Great Lakes Region." Congratulations are extended to James (Brad to his friends) Bandow for organizing the event with the able assistance of Jacquie Fisher, Helen Sluis, Bill Nesbitt from Dundurn Castle, the staff of the Ramada Plaza Towers Hotel, plus a whole raft of volunteers from the Hamilton Chapter. It is planned that some, if not all, of the 20 papers presented by the 29 authors and co-authors will be edited by David Smith and Brad Bandow and compiled into a

proceedings volume to be published in the future by the Hamilton Chapter.

In addition to the 25-year membership pins given to 19 individuals: Christine Caroppo, Peter Carruthers, Brian Clarence, Philip Cooke, Brian Deller, Dale Dautner, William Engelbrecht, Art Howey, Stewart Leslie, Bob Mayer, Deb Pihl, Rob Pihl, Rosemarie Prevec, Garth Rumble, Irma Rumble, Sheryl Smith, Deb Steiss, Andrew Stewart, and Ron Williamson), the highlight of the symposium banquet was the joint presentation of the 2001 OAS Heritage Conservation Award to the Blue Water Bridge Authority and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Liz Kenny, Dan Elash, and Jane Graham of the Blue Water Bridge Authority plus Chief Phil Maness and Councillor Darren Henry of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation accepted the framed certificates of the award. Trevor Hawkins, who nominated these organizations, has provided a summary of the reasons for nomination that is included elsewhere in this issue. Media coverage arranged by Lanna Crucefix, our Director of Marketing & Promotions, resulted in several newspaper articles and editorials plus CBC and other radio station coverage of the award in the Windsor and Sarnia areas.

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On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the OAS and its partner, the Town of Richmond Hill, held its first "Media Alert / Photo Opportunity" event in the OAS's new facilities in the A.J. Clark Interpretive Centre in the Elgin West Community Centre. Organized by Lauren Steckley, Manager of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Section of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, the event was attended by Mayor William Bell, Ward 4 Councillor Lynn Foster, Gary Gladstone from the Trillium Foundation as well as Michael Johnson and Chris Anderson from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, and Jo Holden, Eva MacDonald, Tony Stapells, Linda Toberone and Dean Axelson representing the OAS.

Darlene Joslin, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department introduced the guest speakers and emceed the afternoon's activities. Featured in the brief speeches given by Mayor Bell, Councillor Foster, Gary Gladstone, Rob Pihl, and myself were descriptions of the hugely popular and unique public education programming and services including curriculum-based programming for students in grades 6 and 11, as well as leisure-learning opportunities for youth and adults. Martin Cooper

and Rob Pihl of Archaeological Services Inc gave newspaper and television reporters a guided tour of the McGaw site. The site is an undisturbed Iroquoian village dating back more than 500 years. Some of the more notable artifacts recovered were on display and were used extensively in close-ups and as backdrops by the photographers during the event. Even the examples of pottery vessel and pipe reproductions made during the classes taught by Dean Axelson, one of the OAS program instructors, sparked considerable interest and discussion.

The OAS and the Town of Richmond Hill used the occasion to publicly thank individuals and those organizations that have facilitated the successful development of the programming and interpretation of the site, especially the Trillium Foundation, the Summer Employment Program of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, the Cultural Strategic Development Fund, and Archaeological Services Inc.

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A milestone in the 51-year history of the OAS occurred on November 21, 2001 when, for the first time, OAS representatives met officially with the government minister responsible for archaeology in the Province of Ontario. At the invitation of the Hon. Tim Hudak, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (and MPP for Niagara South), Jo Holden, our Society's Executive Director, and I attended a meeting with him and his policy advisor, Jonathan Leigh. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern between the Ministry and the OAS. Promotional material and statistics from the Society's partnering with the Town of Richmond Hill in offering revenue generating public programming on the McGaw site were discussed, and thanks were expressed from Jo and me for the Ministry providing the multiple year funding from the Trillium Foundation that has fast-tracked the success of this venture.

Minister Hudak acknowledged his Ministry's contribution and strongly encouraged the OAS to expand its horizons by exploring if not actually initiating options for archaeological self-regulation. He also advised the OAS to investigate the model of self-regulation successfully implemented by geoscientists last year when he was Minister of Northern Development and Mines. Minister Hudak was pleased to hear that the OAS Board of Directors has recently formed a committee chaired by Charlton Car-

scallen, our Director of Chapter Services, to establish the specific position of the OAS on the issue of self-regulation. He would be grateful if the OAS kept his office informed as progress is made in this matter.

In return, Minister Hudak was asked if the Provincial Heritage Organization annual grant approval process could be speeded up not only for the OAS but also for our sister heritage organizations. The ever increasing delay in finding out if a grant is approved or not and for what amount has created financial hardship for many of these organizations including the OAS in recent years. Minister Hudak promised that he would look into it.

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In continuing to demonstrate leadership to the greater archaeological community, the Jo Holden of the OAS has partnered with Gloria Taylor of the Simcoe County Museum in applying to the federal Museum Assistance Program for grant funding to host a cross-Canada symposium regarding the issues surrounding artifacts recovered from archaeological sites in Canada. These issues include stewardship, disposition, storage, and research concerns. It is hoped that the sharing of successes and failures with our colleagues across the country may uncover answers to the many concerns within the archaeological, heritage and museum communities. It would also help municipalities in the creation and implementation of heritage planning. If the funding is approved, the workshop is scheduled to be held sometime during 2003. Should the opportunity arise, I ask that everyone please lend your vocal support. For additional information, contact Jo Holden at 905-787-9851.

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The OAS extends its congratulations to Dr. David Smith on his appointment as Assistant Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Erindale College, University of Toronto. It is anticipated that he will soon receive tenure and be promoted to Associate Professor.

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The OAS also extends its congratulations to Roberta Jamieson who was recently elected chief of the Six Nations First Nation. She is the first woman to head Canada's most populous First Nation, as well as being the first aboriginal woman in Canada to receive a law degree, and the first native Ontario

ombudsman. She is the wife of Tom Hill, Museum Director of the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford.

I am going to close this column by giving an indication of how the frequency of e-mail messages, virtual meetings and votes have increased during the past four years in conducting OAS Board of Director business. >From May 1998 to the end of that year, I have 45 messages filed, in 1999 there are 447, in 2000 there are 775, and for 2001 there are 815 as of November 24. Part of this increase is due to the Board of Directors reducing its face-to-face meetings to only four per year from the up to 11 or 12 per year that were once held. However, for the most part, the increase is because the OAS has become a vibrant and active organization once again with many activities and programs for members and non-members alike that can be easily "travelled" to our Chapters across Ontario. Electronic communication has greatly facilitated routine operations without "micro-managing", and has allowed the Board of Directors to focus on "time is of the essence" matters between meetings.

*Bob Mayer, President*

## From the OAS office...

*By Linda Torbidone*

### McGAW MUSINGS

As we prepared for the upcoming fall session with the school children, we didn't know what to expect. Being a new and unique way of interlacing OAS programming with the Grade 6 curriculum seemed to bring out the best from both worlds.

The Grade 6 students, who were the majority of the visitors, jumped at the chance to be part of the McGaw site history. Many enthusiastic and excited children posed questions such as: "Will my name go down in history?" and "Will you display what I've found?" – incidently "with my name beside it?!"

Displaying confidence and pride in the fact they were contributing to a major event, they worked very hard. As one of the very few organizations that has co-ordinate with Ontario elementary and secondary programming to provide a complimentary field trip activity to a curriculum unit, we came to realize how successful this venture is and plan to develop different areas of the program so that some component of

archaeology can be presented throughout the school year. Teachers and parent volunteers all stated that the programming exceeded their expectations and would recommend the activity to others.

Under the controlled supervision of Rob Pihl, Archaeological Field Director, Andrew Clish commanding supervisor, Kevin Gibbs, Jamie Ginter, Norma Knowlton, Dean Axelson, and myself, all the excavation that took place demonstrated to the students that exposing a 600 year-old site, is not only a methodological but an accurate activity. Digging in 50cm squares at 5cm levels, students were shown techniques in troweling and artifact identification. Students dug, rain or shine to uncover McGaw's past. Teachers are already booking for the fall of 2002!

It has not only been an experience for the students but also for the staff here at the OAS. Instructing provides a certain satisfaction, we feel we're making a difference. – not only with the children but for the future of archaeology. The OAS began 50 years ago with the philosophy to provide opportunities for amateur archaeologists and preserve Ontario's history, and with McGaw, it carries this philosophy forward. Some comments from both Grade 6 and 11 students are that they plan to become archaeologists or do something related. I am pleased to know that the kids had a chance to experience something such as this.

*... some closing notes from Jo*

It's always nice to receive fan mail, and the best piece of fan mail the OAS received this season was from two students, writing for their school's newsletter. The following is from Mr. Jamieson's class at H.G. Bernard Public School.

### *The Dig*

*The grade six students were fortunate enough to be able to go to the McGaw site to learn about Native Americans and ancient artifacts. In the morning, we attended a workshop with Cathy and she told us short stories about the Natives and what you might find at the Dig. She showed us how to classify artifacts according to their colour, shape, etc. We also learned how map the floor of a site. In the afternoon, we took a walk through the forest to the dig site. Then we learned how to dig properly and received back-packs filled with equipment to use for the dig. Some people found pieces of pottery and stone tools that could have been used by the Natives. At the end of the day we answered a questionnaire about how we enjoyed the*

*day. We found the day very educational and interesting and hope to return some day.*

Late in October Dean Axelson held a hand built pottery class, in the OAS suite. It was a super day, with the participants realizing pretty quickly the quality work the First Nations ancestors produced. The results ranged from fairly exquisite reproductions of late woodland pieces to some unique interpretations of woodland pottery styles! All participants thoroughly enjoyed their day.

#### **A New Window Display at the OAS Office**

Many of you may not be very familiar with European-made items that were traded to the aboriginal peoples starting about 1585, during the Historic or Contact Period in what is now Ontario. Many interesting items have been found on contact-era sites and very rarely do members get an opportunity to see them on display. They include a variety of items made of iron, brass, and glass, including trade kettles and colourful glass beads.

One of past presidents, and member, Dr. Dean Axelson, has set up an interesting display of many of these items that will remain on view until the close of January 2002. Make an effort to come in to the office to see this rarely exhibited material. You'll be glad you did!

#### **OAS Symposium Wrap-up and Board of Director's Elections**

It was a great symposium, the numbers were good, the food great, and the papers, as always, were thought provoking. The Annual Presidents and Business Meeting flowed well with good reports from the participants and lively interaction from the audience. The report from the Nominating Com-

mittee announced a slate of eight candidates and then we received two nominations from the floor, bringing the total number of individuals wishing to be elected to the OAS Provincial Board to ten. I then received an email from Lanna Crucefix, currently sitting on the board, saying she was withdrawing her name from the slate due to work commitments this coming year. The candidates wishing to be elected now total nine. It's been some time, but the OAS is now in the position to hold elections to the Board. Each of the candidates are expressing great hope and dedication to OAS concerns. From my perspective, they will be challenged and they will have a tremendous opportunity to shape the Society as the Board and interested stakeholders go into the next Strategic Planning session over this coming year.

**Please look for the Board of Director's election ballot in this issue, follow the instructions and cast your vote for up to seven of the nine candidates.**

**Ballots must be into the OAS office by  
Tuesday, January 8, 2002.**

#### **December Hours**

The OAS office will be closing Friday, December 21, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. and reopening Tuesday, January 8, 2002.

November is fast coming to a close and December is actually starting to look like I will have the time to actually find the surface of my desk! Wishing you all the peace and tranquility this season offers...jingle bells.

*Jo Holden, Executive Director*

## **To Our Volunteers**

There is no greater gift than the gift of yourself!  
For the time and expertise you have given the Society  
THANK YOU so much for all your help. You are appreciated more than you know.  
Respectfully, *Jo Holden, Executive Director and the 2001 Board of Directors.*

### **... and on that note - NOTICE - Volunteer Opportunity**

There is an immediate, non-voting, volunteer opening as "Recording Secretary" for the Board of Directors' meetings. Duties would include attending each Board meeting, monitoring any "virtual" board meetings, recording the meeting, sending the minutes out for review, correcting & keeping the official minutes & binders in good order.

Please call or email the OAS office by January 11, 2002, stating experience & availability.  
Email: oas@globalserve.net - Phone: (905) 787-9851

## **OAS BOARD - 2002 ELECTION PLATFORMS**

**The candidates willing to serve as Director for 2002 have provided brief "platform" statements about themselves and their goals for the OAS**

### **Dean Axelson, D.V.M.**

I believe that I would be a good candidate for a director of the OAS because I can offer a lot of experience. I was President for four years, 1966 through 1969 and have been an avocational archaeologist for over forty years. I have been an OAS Member for 29 continuous years and for thirteen years before that. I ran a successful Veterinary practice for 25 years.

### **Christine Caroppo**

As a 25-year member of the OAS and its longest serving President, I have a deep personal and professional interest in the well-being of the Society and of archaeology in Ontario. In the decade I volunteered for the OAS I served on scores of government advisory committees/liaison groups and attended hundreds of meetings. The ongoing presence of the OAS at these and other venues helped to establish the Society as a major stakeholder and a respected voice for the archaeological heritage of our province. In addition to my OAS service, my six years on the Toronto Historical Board (now Heritage Toronto), the last as Chairman, further honed my organizational and people-management skills in the non-profit sector. If elected I will do my best to ensure that the OAS continues to evolve and grow to meet the needs of the discipline, our members, and the people of Ontario.

### **Charlton Carscallen**

As a member of the Board of Directors for the past year I am pleased to have been involved in several initiatives relating to the Society's internal structure and relations with the broader community. I wish to remain with the Board in order to complete several projects begun in 2001. These include the creation of the new Georgian Bay Chapter, completion and implementation of the Society's code of ethics and the process of reviewing the Society's position of Self-Regulation in Archaeology. As a newer member of the Board I have spent the last year becoming more familiar with the Society's workings and now feel that I am ready to contribute on a more substantial basis.

### **Dena Doroszenko**

As a former Chapter President I have first hand knowledge of the needs and concerns of the OAS at the local level. In addition, I will bring to the Board my work experience with a series of public and private agencies involving a wide variety of sites across Ontario. My prior Board experience with professional and avocational archaeological societies (CNEA, OAS), teaching public archaeology programs and directing excavations have provided opportunities to be directly involved in policy development, public education, promotion and advocacy. As the Archaeologist for the Ontario Heritage Foundation since 1987, my responsibilities have included the design and implementation of historical and archaeological research programs including publications and collections management, focusing on a wide range of provincially significant sites under purview of the Foundation. As an OAS Board member, I will bring a wealth of experience that I hope will bring direction to the Society as it meets new challenges.

### **Michael Henry**

Currently the archaeological community of Ontario is facing a number of challenges that will inevitably lead to profound changes in how we conduct archaeology. We are in the midst of a review process that will impact on how the discipline is regulated. The latest OAS conference consisted almost entirely of presentations arguing for fundamental changes in how we interpret Ontario's past. These are exciting times for our discipline. These movements for change in all aspects of archaeology also bring with them a certain level of anxiety associated with perceived possible outcomes of these processes. The next executive body of the OAS faces numerous challenges as they struggle to maneuver the OAS through this period of change while maintaining the relevance and

dynamism of the organization. Perhaps the greatest challenge to be confronted is to ensure that the position of the OAS as a body continues to reflect the interests of its members. We will need to find effective methods of including the membership as a whole in any decision making process. Two key components will be needed to bring a healthy and vibrant OAS through a period of great change. One will include opportunities for the membership to be informed to the issues facing the organization and the second will present opportunities for members to put forward their views on possible positions the organization might adopt in response. If these two key components are effectively employed, there is no reason why the OAS should not continue to grow and prosper in the midst of change. My concern that this strategy be followed is central to my decision to run in this election. In addition, it is important that the various regions of the province be represented in the executive body of the OAS. My decision to run is also based on the realization that there are no other candidates from southwestern Ontario to speak for the chapters in London and Windsor. I would expect and hope that our members from these chapters would feel free to use me as a voice for their concerns within the central organization.

#### **Eva MacDonald**

The OAS celebrated its first year at the A.J. Clark Interpretive Centre this October. Now, more than ever, the society needs dedicated volunteers with a variety of skills to meet the demands of expanded programming, and to provide stewardship for the McGaw archaeological site. As well, we need to maintain the high standards of membership benefits, such as our publications, and support the work of local chapters. I am one of those dedicated people who joined the OAS as an undergraduate in the 1980's and who would feel comfortable in any number of portfolios if re-elected to the board, given my experience as a professional archaeologist, longstanding chapter volunteer, and now currently as a graduate student. Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Bud Parker**

It is my intention to run for a position on the Board of Directors of the OAS for 2002. Last year I was on the Board as Director of Public Services. If I am elected to a second term as a Director I hope to continue my service to the OAS, with my key goal being to increase membership in the OAS especially from the younger generation (i.e. university under grads). I have been a member of the OAS since 1985. I've also been active in the archaeological consulting industry since 1990. With its mixture of students, consultants, academics and avocationalists, the OAS still represents the best of Ontario archaeology in these interesting times.

#### **Tony Stapells**

For the Director of Heritage Advocacy, 2001 has been a busy year. The Ontario government has started a programme of creating conservation parks all over the province. I will endeavor to make sure archaeology is on their agenda. A new batch of mail has terms of references for Ruby Lake Park, Thunder Bay, Komoka Park, near the city of London, and a Park Plan for Kakabeka Falls also near Thunder Bay. These and all other mailings will be studied and dealt with. Chapters near these areas will have detailed information and local viewpoints. They should represent the OAS at any regional meetings. My intention is to be put on the mailing list for any proceedings. I will attend all Greater Toronto Area Meetings. Naturally any opinions I give will go through the OAS board and will be of a general provincial nature. I will report any of my endeavors in *Arch Notes*. I plan to be vigilant for the concerns of the OAS province wide.

#### **Henry van Lieshout**

I have been an OAS member since 1985, and first became involved in the management of the Society in 1993, when I participated in the development of first Strategic Plan, which I presented at that year's Annual Business Meeting. It was also at this meeting that I first became a member of the Board as Treasurer. My business background is in financial management, having worked in three of Canada's largest public Corporations over the last 21 years. A critical success factor for the OAS is good financial management and stability, and we have traditionally lacked these skills amongst our members. Because we have experienced a sharp decline in public funding, it is now even more crucial to optimize the financial opportunities presented by our presence in Richmond Hill, which enables us to develop a variety of programs for the public, and for our members, not only in that community, but across the Province. These programs must become the marketing tools for continued membership growth through public exposure that should lead to a greater degree of financial



security, and a return of some measure of public funding. I'm pleased to have been a Board member these last few years in particular, helping to guide our transition to an organization that now has a much greater public profile than ever before. Over the last eight years that I have been on the Board of Directors, I have considered myself to be a fairly active participant in the affairs of the OAS. I have conducted fund raising through a trip to the Middle East and to Northern Ontario, promoted changes to our Constitution, and I have supported *Arch Notes* through some articles from my keyboard. I am available to serve the Society during 2002 and beyond if selected.

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## OAS 2001 Heritage Conservation Award

At the banquet held during the recent Hamilton symposium, the 2001 Heritage Conservation Award of The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. was presented jointly to the Blue Water Bridge Authority and to the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in recognition of their combined efforts and accomplishments concerning the multiple year archaeological investigations conducted on the Blue Water Bridge Authority property. These archaeological assessments and mitigative excavations have added significantly to the knowledge gained from a long series of studies, beginning in 1993, conducted in the Village of Point Edward, Ontario on behalf of the Blue Water Bridge Authority and in consultation with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. They have demonstrated that Aboriginal peoples established a series of overlapping warm-weather campsites and special activity areas that date from at least the Middle Archaic period (circa 3500 B.C.) to the Late Woodland period (circa A.D. 1500). Aamjiwnaang oral traditions indicate that the occupation of the lands extended even later into the 1500s, and ringed the shoreline of the St. Clair River and the former Sarnia Bay.



*Representatives of the Blue Water Bridge Authority and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
at the 2001 Heritage Conservation Award Presentation*

The large amount of fire-cracked and heat-affected rock recovered suggests that the main activity of the campsites involved the procurement and processing of food. Fishing-related tools (i.e. harpoons and large net-sinkers) along with an abundance of fish bone indicate that a wide variety of large-sized fish

were harvested on a seasonal basis. Aamjiwnaang oral traditions relate that the Point Edward/Port Huron area was well known for thousands of years to Aboriginal peoples as a popular meeting place for trade and as a social centre for both intra- and inter-tribal activities. Of such importance to the Aamjiwnaang First Nation is this site (one of the richest in Canada) that their First Nation Band Council with the involvement of its community and through the efforts of its Burial Sites and Repatriation Committee, has applied to the Historical Sites Monuments Board of Canada to have the site declared to be of national historical significance.

What may not be immediately evident to the public is the extent to which the Bridge Authority employs an avoidance strategy in order to minimize archaeological resource impact. The Aamjiwnaang First Nation is equally a participant in this archaeological process. Their oral traditions clearly record that The Meeting Place is very important to them. Quite apart from the fact that young members of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation are employed to work on the archaeology field crews, and that they receive on-the-job training and mentoring, is the over-riding fact that these young people have a first-hand opportunity to help discover and interpret their own history. This has fostered an awareness of history and community and has led, in part, to a program of learning and teaching of the original Ojibwa language and of cultural values. Based upon the archaeological findings, old Ojibwa words are being reintroduced into the community while new ones are routinely created.

The Blue Water Bridge Authority and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation entered into a partnership that has led to the documentation of an exceedingly significant series of archaeological sites, parts of which might well have otherwise been destroyed without any documentation. The discovery of the nearly one million artifacts recovered to date is allowing an understanding, not just of the tools utilized, but also of traditional lifestyles, values and community. The high degree of volunteer involvement and participation of both the Aamjiwnaang and the Blue Water Bridge Authority has permitted mutually beneficial protocols to be developed as this process continues. The Authority and the Aamjiwnaang continue to explore shared opportunities for public awareness and understanding of the site. This acting in concert might well serve as a case study and a model of First Nation and public/private organization co-operative progress.

## New OAS Members

J. Ginter	Toronto	L. McCallum	Thornhill
K. Enston	North York	M. Simpson	Beeton
D. Barrow	Richmond Hill	T. Hacking	Mississauga
J.A. Currie	Chamblay, Quebec	C. Benn	Toronto
M.DeGruchy	Toronto	S.E. Cherubin	Oakville
D. Campbell	Burlington	S. Teaves	Toronto
S. Gataiance	Hamilton	K. Cappella	Toronto
J. Creese	Toronto	C. Murphy	Bowmanville
P. Davis	Mississauga	Mr. & Mrs Hawirko	Kenabeek
K. Fertile	Richmond Hill	T. Kessler	Pefferlaw
L. Torbidone	Woodbridge	A. Stevens	Newmarket
R.J. Richardson	Balm Beach	S. Mitchell	Pickering
C. Murray	Thunder Bay		

# **The Talbot Tot**

## **Being an Account of Professional and Social Responsibilities**

*Dr. J. Trevor Hawkins and Robert C. Mayer  
Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc.*

THE discovery of human remains during archaeological excavations is not an uncommon event. However, in the spring of 2001, the skeletal remains of a young child interred 170 years ago in an unmarked grave where downtown London now stands created a great stirring of emotion, not just within the local community of London, but across the country. The standard procedures to be followed by archaeologists when human remains are discovered are clear and detailed. They are formulated, along with various sections of criminal law, to ensure that human remains are treated with dignity and respect for mankind. What made this event so unusual was the intense involvement of the community in the process. The Talbot Tot, so named by the media, was discovered during the archaeological monitoring conducted by Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. on the site of the London Entertainment and Sports complex now being constructed on a downtown block of land.

The settlement of London began, as did that of so many other communities, at the water's edge. In this case, it was at the Forks of the Thames where the north and south branches of this river join as the river flows west. Squatters and settlers arrived here in the early 1800s, establishing their small stores and bars (really just a couple of planks balanced on tree stumps) and other commercial and farming ventures. Gradually the settlement moved east from the north branch of the river (which flows south at this point) and north of the south branch, covering those properties, which in quite recent years became known as the Talbot Block.

By 1830, there was significant residential, commercial and mercantile activity on this block. Structures were erected and the life of the London settlement progressed. Over the years, these properties supported many well-established manufacturing, mercantile, commercial and retail businesses. The Victorian streetscape demolished in 1992 to make way for a downtown revitalization project was in itself a revitalization, replacing the many earlier buildings built here in the decades before them. When the first buildings were

erected here, perhaps 175 years ago, the ground level was some 1 to 2.5 metres lower than it is today. The story of how this block "grew up" to its present level contains in large measures the history of London. The building of the London Entertainment and Sports Complex on the Talbot Block has given the City of London a truly unique opportunity to discover, in a very tangible way, a hidden part of its own history.

Perhaps it was an omen of bad things to come in those early days, for on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1837, fire swept through downtown London and destroyed the buildings on the Talbot Block. But in the fashion of the Phoenix that rose from the ashes to begin life anew, the Talbot block recreated itself. The charred remains of the buildings and their contents were covered with wagonloads of fill and new structures were erected. Sadly, a second fire, in 1844, swept downtown London, consuming all in its way. As before, wagonloads of fill were dumped on the fire-consumed remains, and the Talbot Block rose again. As bad things are sometimes thought to come in threes, yet a third fire, in 1845 destroyed everything in its path. And yet again, the burned remains were covered by wagonloads of fill, raising the ground level yet again. The area that had before been a low-lying area, characterized by bog and standing pools of water, contaminated by both animal and human waste, was now at an elevation that alleviated many of those early health problems.

When Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. (MHCI) excavated test trenches in 2000, the charred remains were identified between the layers of fill and gave visible evidence of the preservation of the block's history. As the construction excavations proceeded in the spring of 2001, a team of MHCI archaeologists monitored the process. What they expected to find were the water wells such as those from which the gentleman known even then only as "Old Yorkie" drew water to deliver in his wheelbarrow to the establishments in the area. This was part of London's earliest waterworks system. They also expected to find in some degree the outlines of early buildings (their foot-

prints as we might call them today), and to determine the size and extent of the structures and perhaps their contents, and to determine the primary purpose of each. They also expected to examine the privies (the outdoor bathrooms of the day), for this is where such garbage as broken dinnerware, china, utensils and tools were often discarded. In this manner, usual to the practice of archaeology, they expected their findings would permit archaeologists, genealogists and historians to add to our knowledge and understanding of the block with its well documented late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century hotels, wholesalers, manufacturers, service trades and residential dwellings. And this they were able to do, for the fieldwork documented the foundations of 23 buildings and 34 sub-surface cultural features. They recovered five Aboriginal artifacts, 12,519 Euro-Canadian artifacts, and the skeletal remains of a young child. And herein lies the beginning of our story, for it was this discovery that led to a very vocal and determined community and social involvement.

But first, a small diversion to explain the part of the senior author in this process. Although I (Dr. Hawkins) serve with MHCI as a built-heritage researcher (this being a life-long interest), I am sometimes called upon by Bob Mayer to serve as media-relations officer. And so I was asked to serve this same function on the Talbot Block project. In this capacity, I related to the media, and gave an on-camera interview in which I demonstrated some of the artifacts discovered during the excavation of the test trenches. With the discovery of the "little one", the concept of a passive media relationship changed dramatically. The media seized upon this as an "event" and emblazoned the discovery in their headlines. Dan Brock, a well-respected local historian took the opportunity to hypothesize about the little one's family connections and tentatively identified an area family as being related. A photograph of one of this family's members posing by an early tombstone was featured in the *London Free Press*. The media and the public had found what the psychologist might refer to as a conceptual peg. And as we might hang our coats on a coat peg, so the community could hang their concepts, their beliefs, and their hopes about the Talbot Tot on this psychological conceptual peg.

How handy it would have been to have a psychologist readily available to help with the interpretation of the community involvement and to assist with an orderly release of factually correct information to counter the conjecture and wild hypothesizing of the media. As it happened, MHCI did have an old, retired psychologist somewhere in the back office. And so it was that my

role in this matter changed, because I was that old retired psychologist. My professional history includes a time as an academician, as a research director, clinical director, and, more latterly, as a Regional Psychologist with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In this latter position, unlike the police psychologists portrayed on television or in movies, I did not prepare profiles of criminals or sweet-talk bad guys into releasing hostages. My work was less dramatic. I dealt very largely with debriefings involving post-traumatic stress (PTS). That is, I talked with (not spoke to) constables, and commissioned and non-commissioned officers about those many aspects of police work that so greatly and understandably distress them. We have become more acutely aware of this seldom-seen function in the lives of emergency responders as a result of the September 11, 2001 horror. The inescapable conclusion that psychologists reach in PTS debriefings is that the events that most distress their clients, and which their clients can never forget, involve tragedy visited upon innocent children.

And so it was that the media in London, and eventually across the country and the citizens of London and other communities identified with the unknown tragedy visited upon the Talbot Tot. Just as police, fire-fighters, paramedics, nurses, medical personnel and all those involved with infant tragedy experience, so did the London community experience a silent rage at the unfairness of this child's death. And this quietly felt personal rage and the outpouring of grief and emotion that it generated had to be responded to and answered. The discovery of the Talbot Tot was no longer just a scientific finding. It was no longer just a judicial-administrative matter for the Cemeteries Regulation Branch to handle. It had become a very personal part of so many people's lives. And in so doing, it involved a broad range of community morals, ethics and cultural practices that had to be respected.

As is always the case when it is thought that human remains may have been found, the local police were notified so that they might conduct their forensic investigation. Also notified were the Coroner, the Medical Officer of Health and the Cemeteries Regulation Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The police took control of the site of the burial and refused entry to anyone not directly connected to the archaeology project. Even though the construction site was enclosed by a high chain link fence and all workers and visitors to the site had to be properly equipped with safety gear, and had to show evidence by means of a special sticker affixed to their hard hats that they had been safety certified, reporters

and members of the public did try to access the site. Statements that a person was a tax-paying citizen and had a right to be present on a municipally-owned property, or that a reporter was equipped with a hard hat did nothing to sway the intent of the contractor, the archaeology consultant, or the police to exclude public involvement at the site. Such interviews as were conducted by police spokespersons were conducted outside the fence on the public sidewalk, and no public photography or video recording was permitted. The sole reporter allowed on the site during the initial stage of the investigation was a community college communications student (equipped with hard hat and under close supervision) who conducted a radio interview with senior personnel.

The skeletal remains were found in a six-sided wooden coffin buried below the level of the earliest fire-charred remains. There was no evidence of a grave shaft in the over-burden at any of the levels above this first fire debris. The grave was located at a back corner of a surveyed lot, near the lot line. At a short distance from the grave, a water well had been dug. These facts, the style of coffin, level of burial, lack of grave shaft in the fill over-burden, close proximity of a water well, and early land records, indicated that the burial predated the occurrence of the first fire. The date was in this manner determined to be prior to 1830. The forensic anthropologist brought in by the police confirmed that the remains were those of a child of 18 to 36 months of age, of undetermined gender, buried about 170 years ago.

Newspapers seized upon the news of this discovery and reported in detail, every speculation concerning the identity of the child. Radio stations, including the CBC, conducted radio interviews with historian Dan Brock and Dr. Michael Spence, the police forensic anthropologist, in an effort, not just to keep the public informed, but also to solve the mystery. The *Globe and Mail* published a fictional account of the little one's life and death. And as we have been taught in our English literature classes to employ a "willing suspension of disbelief", so we had to do this with this story, for the lead character, still alive today, remembered knowing the little one as a child. From time to time, although no gender had been established, the child was portrayed as being female. There were opinion columns and commentaries, and letters to the editors of various newspapers. Each commentator and correspondent had an opinion concerning the "proper" disposition of the child's coffin and remains. Much thought was given by these people who indi-

vidually thought that the child should be left where it was (eventually the women's washroom would have been built above, complete with a window in the floor so that users of the washroom might peer down upon the child's remains), should be interred in London's Peace Garden, or should be laid to rest in a pioneer cemetery. One felt that the remains, together with the coffin, should be put on public display for all to see.

The other main consideration voiced in the various media was the identification of the child's present day relatives. In one letter, the writer was somewhat adamant that considerable effort be made to identify the child's descendants, inadvertently demonstrating how personal emotional involvement can displace the rigorous scientific training which we had acquired. Another decried the description of Aboriginal First Nation burials as "unapproved cemeteries" pointing out the lack of First Nation participation in the formulation of the Cemeteries Act.

The public cries for family/relative identification were strong and it was the deeply held conviction of many that no effort should be spared to give this child what it deserved: its own identity. At this time, news reports indicated that victims of the sinking of the *Titanic* would be identified by DNA analysis. We are all now familiar with the power of "the DNA test" in personal identification. In both news reports and in fiction, DNA identifies with or exonerates a suspect in connection with criminal activities, or is used to confirm the identity of a victim. The media and the community at large called for and then virtually demanded that the child's remains be identified by DNA testing. Dozens of telephone calls had been received at City Hall concerning the discovery of the child's remains. One such call was from an individual who claimed to have spoken with the child's father.

A meeting was called by Vic Cote and Clive Matthews, the municipal officers in charge of the London Entertainment and Sports Complex construction. Meeting with them and other municipal officials by invitation to this closed meeting were representatives of the construction contractor, a forensic anthropologist, a local historian and MHCI. The meeting was to determine a response to these unceasing public cries for DNA testing and for involvement with the families now claiming kinship with the little one. It was agreed that the dignity and respect for privacy due to the child should be of paramount importance. The use of DNA testing was questioned as to its applicability and adequacy in this specific instance. It was also determined

that no public statements should be made at this time, pending receipt of accurate information concerning a number of factors. Acceptance of this suggestion was not unanimous, for the historian stated that he would not be bound by this. Subsequently, a report of a private and confidential meeting was published by the local paper. It indicated that a "former psychologist" had counselled voluntary restraint with respect to making public statements. The historian also felt that the City tried to put a virtual gag order on him.

With all of the public involvement in this matter, the Cemeteries Regulation Branch had no real option but to require that the remains stay undisturbed in place for a statutory period of time while advertisements were published, inviting families who might have a familial relationship with the child, to come forward. Three families so identified themselves. In the meantime, work was continuing behind the scenes to determine the efficacy of DNA testing as a means of identifying familial relationship.

As is the case with all of us, there is a network of professionals in many disciplines from whom we seek advice. In this instance, a daughter-in-law of the "former psychologist" serves as Director of molecular and cellular laboratories at a prominent hospital. Private discussions with her revealed to the "former psychologist" who has no pretensions about specific knowledge of DNA properties and testing, two important facts about DNA testing. The first is that, contrary to popular opinion or "knowledge", that which we might refer to as "The DNA Test" does not really exist. The testing of DNA involves not a single test, but many different tests. At the time the question was raised, it had just recently been announced at DNA leading-edge symposium, that a DNA sample affixed to a single chip could now be subjected to 20,000 different tests simultaneously.

Which test to choose? Well, the second finding in our quest for information revealed the answer. None! To establish a familial relationship between this child and families living today, there would have had to have been an unbroken line of maternal succession between the two distant generations. That is to say, the mother or a sister of the little one would have had to have given birth to a female child who, in turn would have had to have borne a female child, and so on down the line to the current generation. An unbroken line of female succession is not likely over the seven or so generations separating the two ages.

To identify a familial relationship through DNA requires a mitochondrial investigation. The mitochondria are transmitted only through the female line. Quite simply, while the mitochondria are present in both the ovum and sperm, at conception, the sperm only partly penetrates the ovum. The tail of the sperm does not penetrate the ovum, but drops off, and these mitochondria do not become part of the fertilized ovum. Other professional opinions sought by city officials concerning DNA testing fully supported the archaeology consultant's determination. And so it was, that DNA was found not to be, in this instance, a useful tool, and the demands for DNA testing voiced by the media and the families became very much muted. Perhaps fittingly, at about that time, newspapers reported that insufficient DNA material was recovered from the Titanic victims. These remains were only 90 years old. The possibility of securing sufficient material for DNA testing from the 170 year-old remains of the Talbot Tot was even less likely and any attempt to do so would have required the destruction of much of the child's remains.

In the meantime, the advertisements had been published by the Cemeteries Regulation Branch, and three families had come forward, two suggesting a putative or assumed relationship, and one merely expressing an interest. The question had arisen as to why the child had been buried on private property (or even as yet unsettled property) rather than in one of the cemeteries located nearby. Whatever answer one proposes, whether it be based upon religious convictions of the family, family poverty or family custom, it is conjecture and has little or no weight in subsequent legal proceedings. Inasmuch as the child was found to have been buried in a wooden coffin and in a Christian east-west orientation, the child was deemed to be of Christian faith, and the City of London appointed the Reverend Robert Ripley of London's Metropolitan United Church as legal guardian of the remains. Public interest and concern, however, remained high although the focus of their concern was changed. Thoughts were expressed concerning a suitable location for re-interment and the need for a public memorial service. Municipal officials were attentive to these concerns and worked quietly to accommodate them. School classes used the discovery of the child and the archaeology investigations to study London's early history. The emotional concerns of the young students received catharsis when they wrote stories and poems expressing their thoughts.

Although it was reported by people working in an office building overlooking the construction site that more remains must have been found, MHCI found no more. Apparently, these people, knowing that MHCI had land surveyors determine the precise legal position of the grave, saw the many transits and laser levels being used by MHCI and the various construction trades and through uninformed speculation arrived at their erroneous conclusion.

On a late Sunday afternoon, the remains were disinterred. Scientific analysis of the remains was not permitted by the United Church. In this instance, public propriety as expressed by the Cemeteries Regulation Branch, took precedence over scientific interest. Present at the disinterment were municipal officials, representatives of Ellis-Don Construction Ltd., representatives of the Medical Officer of Health, Rev. Ripley of Metropolitan United Church, members of the staff of the James A. Harris Funeral Home, physical anthropologist Megan Cook who briefly examined the remains to confirm the early conclusions of the police investigation, and MHCI personnel who conducted the disinterment. The remains, still in the much deteriorated wooden coffin, were placed in a new wood coffin and given into the care and custody of Steve Harris, the funeral director, to be safeguarded until the time of re-interment.

City and church officials determined that the child's remains should be re-interred at Oakland Cemetery in London. This cemetery holds the remains of many of the area's pioneer members. On a quiet sunny morning, the child was laid to rest again in a children's section beside the earliest members of our community. It was a private ceremony attended by only a few. The mayor was there with some of the city managers associated with the Talbot Block project. Rev. Ripley said a few short and very appropriate words. Members of the families deemed to have a possible relationship to the child were there. Flowers were placed upon the coffin and a young girl, a member of one of the families, placed a teddy bear upon the casket as a gesture of her love. The teddy bear is still with the little one.

A few days later, a public memorial service was held at Metropolitan United Church located directly across the street from London's City Hall. Mayor Anne Marie Decicco spoke of London's pioneers, including the children. Reverend Ripley gave his address, and a young student representing her classmates and all the other students in London, read the poem she had written to express her thoughts. Her hope was that the

child should be laid to rest on a grassy knoll under the trees and near the water. How prescient was this young woman! Baby Talbot, a name we find so much more satisfying emotionally than "an irregular burial", was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery on a grassy knoll amongst the trees, with an ancient creek running below the ridge just to the west.

The grave is marked by a granite stone and bronze plaque bearing the story. Flowers continue to be placed on the grave by unknown persons. The child, a part of London's early life, is a part of London's life today. The question was asked by a number of people in their letters to the editor why so much time was being spent on this little one when there are so many little ones suffering today. Did we do the right thing? Was this exercise in restraint successful? Was this program of gentle provision of scientifically accurate information of value? We think so. Those letters to the editor just referred to have brought to the attention of all of us the unfairness still being visited upon children. And on a note more related to archaeology, Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian human remains, including those of a young child, have been discovered at several locations in London since the discovery of Baby Talbot. There was no great public outcry, perhaps because it has made known to the people of our community that whenever an archaeologist discovers human remains, they are treated with respect and accorded the dignity due all of us.

For as it is written upon the bronze plaque at Baby Talbot's grave, the public has been made aware of the true mission of archaeology - to discover our heritage. The words inscribed on Baby Talbot's bronze plaque memorialize this when it says:

*Here lies a young child who reached across time to touch the hearts of Londoners. Born sometime in the 1830s, this young Londoner likely lived just east of the forks of the Thames River, in a cabin at King and Talbot Streets. Succumbing to one of life's perils, this infant was laid to rest, close to home, in a small wooden coffin. Time moved on and multiple layers of city life rose above the tiny grave. In the Spring of 2001, the child was discovered while workers were adding another layer of history to the Talbot Block. Now resting for eternity in this cemetery, this infant embodies the young pioneer spirit that helped to create our fine city.*

## Acknowledgements

Preparation of the original report upon which this article is based was facilitated by the assistance of the following individuals from the City of London: Mayor Anne Marie Decicco; Vic Cole, Commissioner of Planning and Development; Clive Matthews, Director of Major Capital Projects, Facilities Planning & Engineering Department; John Fleming, Planning Administrator, Department of Planning and Development; plus Mark Gladysz and Christine Nelson, Heritage Planners, Department of Planning and Development.

In addition, much help was provided by Jack Stelpstra, Stan Latuszak and Ron Monroe from Ellis-Don Ltd., Rick Declercq and Allen Murray from Blue-Con Inc., Joe Barbon from N. Piccoli Construction Ltd.; Detectives Ron Hettinga and Andy Gradkowski and Detective Constable Rob Brookfield from the Major Crime Section of

the Criminal Investigation Division of the City of London Police Department, Professor Mike Spence from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario; Cora dela Cruz, AI/Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations; Reverend Robert Ripley of the Metropolitan United Church, London; and Norma Martin, land title searcher.

Tom Arnold and Jim Esler were the Field Directors for the Stage 3 investigation and Stage 4 mitigative excavation respectively. Leslie Currie was the Assistant Field Director for the Stage 4 work. Field and office assistants include Sarah Campbell, Denis Caza, Brian Endo, Kevin Gibbs, Lorelyn Giese, Megan Grant, Adria Hill, Rolf Larsen, Julia Mannard, Kathilyn Onn, Sherri Pearce, Helen Shuis, and Adam Wisniewski. The physical anthropologist for the disinterment was Megan Cook. Sean Gouglas conducted the genealogical research.

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## The McGaw Education Archaeology Project

by Jo Holden and Terri-Lynn Brennan

*The following paper was presented at the Ontario Museum Association conference held in Waterloo on November 1, 2001. Jo Holden is the Executive Director of the Ontario Archaeological Society and Terri-Lynn Brennan is a teacher at Robert F. Hall in Caledon.*

THE Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) and the Town of Richmond Hill, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department have formed a one-of-a-kind partnership whereby a municipality and a heritage organization joined to preserve a community's history and educate the public on its past.

The OAS is recognized through out the Province as the authoritative voice of archaeology. The Society is just over fifty years old and has a rich history of protecting, recording, excavating, reporting and educating the public about ar-

chaeology. It was only fitting that this partnership with the Town came about during the Society's golden anniversary in the year 2000.

Part of our partnership entails the professionally monitored excavation of the McGaw archaeological site and the provision for Richmond Hill residents and York District School Board students to participate in the archaeological programming resulting from this association. Nestled in a green belt, including 600 acres of residential living, walking paths, and a pond, the McGaw site is located in the Town of Rich-



mond Hill, adjacent to the Elgin West Community Centre and now the new home of the OAS

The site is a pristine Iroquoian village dating between AD 1400 and 1450, and was recovered in 1988 during a routine archaeological survey for the Richmond Hill planning department. After the initial analysis of the property and artifacts, the consulting archaeological firm, (Archaeological Services, Inc.), recommended highly that the Town find a way to preserve this site. Credit must be given to the Town of Richmond Hill for incorporating this site into its Heritage philosophy and allowing the indefinite use of this site for educational and avocational programming.

However, I must return you to January 1999. Martin Cooper, a partner with Archaeological Services, Inc., and of course a member of the Society indicated to me "that there is a community centre being built in Richmond Hill that has a site attached to it – you should call their Parks and Recreation head and let them know the OAS would be interested," which I did. I must have totally confounded Lynton Friedberg, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture, with that phone call! We're well acquainted now-a-days!

I now realize the Society's good friend, Martin Cooper, knew a lot more than he was letting on at that time. Literally a year passed and then Martin's communication became much more frequent and much more fervent. "You know you should be heads up and ready to prepare a bid on this opportunity, I'll let you know when and where to go to collect the bid proposal forms!"

In March 2000, the OAS responded to a request for proposals from the Town, including with it, the Society's track record for instituting education and site development, and outlined its potential for partnership with the Town. Six weeks later, the Society received word that they had won the bid!

The Society proposed a partnership with the Town that was accepted with no hesitation. The basis of the partnership was outlined as follows:

1. Development of a site research plan;
2. Curation and cataloguing of artifacts, creation of interpretive exhibits;
3. Development and implementation of leisure learning programming;
4. Development of curriculum based programming, and;
5. Relocation of the Society's Executive Director, its office and resource library to the Centre.

The learning curve for the Town and the Society was the realization that neither one was working entirely alone anymore. When it came to the site and the programming around it, the "other" needed to be consulted on a fairly regular basis. I can say that from my perspective it's been a healthy, informative, and energizing experience.

The act of partnering opened up two immediate opportunities, not just for the OAS but for the Town as well. It is interesting to reflect at this point on how heritage organizations have been encouraged to partner for several years. The frustrating element, however, was the networking involved to discover which organization lent itself to the perfect association, or whom would simply "do" for the time being. I will be very honest, for the Society must have dumb luck, or have very good friends in appropriate places, as our partnership with the Town has proved to be a magnificent and successfully positive joint venture.

Once a heritage organization does partner, twin, or merge, they are rewarded. Within six weeks of officially becoming partners, the OAS and the Town were encouraged to apply for funding from the Trillium and the Cultural Strategic Development Fund (CSDF). Neither of these two funding institutions could have been approached independently. There was now the hope of seed monies available to jump start not

just leisure learning programs but the major project the Town had asked the Society to assist in defining – the McGaw Educational Archaeological program.

Work began in mid-November 2000 to prepare applications for review by the CSDF and Trilium committees. The work on these applications assisted the partners in defining exactly what they wished to accomplish and forced both to think about what steps were needed to be completed in order to reach not just a goal, but several scenarios of the larger picture.

Winter and spring 2001 leisure programs were designed and implemented as a major leap of faith for the partners. No one was more pleasantly surprised than I was to see how the community embraced the opportunity to get their hands dirty!

Meanwhile as word was awaited on the awarding of the project funds, the office had to coordinate the expertise to make the project a reality. Part of the partnering proposal indicated that energy would be directed towards reaching out to the local school boards by providing curriculum driven programming that not only would reflect the presence of the McGaw Site, but also bring into perspective the length of human occupation on the north shore of Lake Ontario.

Three things empowered the journey toward the Society's partnership with the York Region District School Board. First, I was fortunate to employ a summer experience student, Megan Grant, over June and July of 2000. Megan set to the task of developing a skeleton, curriculum based, elementary panel First Nations program. With the availability of a limited, exhibit quality archaeological collection, she set out to lay the ground work for an inside program based on that collection, as well as an experiential excavation activity on the site. Megan produced a program outline and resource binder of ideas, activities and lesson plans that will keep the interpretive centre going for quite a few years.

Second, I began receiving phone calls in the fall of 2000 from an archaeologist (now a good friend, the designer/implementer of the curriculum based programming, and co-writer of this paper) who was returning to school. She was already trying to nail down her teaching internship position for May, 2001. My first thoughts were "Wow! Is this person keen!" And my second was "I haven't a clue how I'm going to use her at the moment, but I don't want to lose her!" So I regained what composure I was steadily losing as a result of the pending move to the new OAS office, and the pending project, and said, "hang on, I should know something (about funding and project direction) by November".

By late fall, I knew where Terri Brennan would fit in. I brought her and Megan Grant on board as the OAS education committee in January 2001, in order to design a program that would "marketable" to the local School Board.

Third, at the recommendation of the OAS Board, coupled with the Town's support, I was encouraged to organize an advisory committee formed from the Richmond Hill community that would give local, grass roots input to what they would like to see occurring in the archaeological interpretive centre. I invited a few people whom I had previously associated professionally with onto this committee, but I also ran an ad in the local paper requesting interested parties to apply with a letter of indication and resume. Three members of the community came to sit at this table, all valuable in their own areas of expertise.

One, Margaret Roberts, is a principal of a Richmond Hill elementary school. Marg's enthusiasm for the proposed programming and her connections within the York Region Board led the project directly into the scope of Curriculum Consultant, Garfield Geni-Newman. With Garfield's guidance and assistance we learned of several elementary and secondary schools in the York Region District School Board who were very interested in participating in a preliminary trial session of the in-house and outdoor

archaeological program. It was surprising, yet encouraging, to hear how many schools, teachers and students were willing to be "guinea pigs" for such a non-traditional educational experience.

Both the in-house and outdoor aspects of the McGaw Educational Archaeology Program complies with the new government curriculum expectations addressing the cultural nature of historic peoples and societies: Grade six – Native Studies; Grade 11 – history, World Civilizations, Social Science, Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology. The program addresses the new curriculum expectations through activities such as the significance of conducting archaeology, what we can learn about local properties, as well as the understanding of past life-ways and history through the cultural remains left behind by Canadian Aboriginal peoples.

Curriculum strands covering such issues as historical context, ethics, resource compilation, and written and vocal affirmation of information learned, were all addressed with each grade and course visiting. The students are introduced to the world of archaeology and Canadian Aboriginal history through in-house mapping, profiling activities, as well a museum-like artifact display and workbook project which provides a hard copy reference of the day for the students. The program also gives the students the true experience of being on a real archaeological dig, and helps to promote real-life experiential learning, (another strong component of the current Ontario Curriculum reforms).

At the McGaw site, in one-day adventures, classes of about 30 students are broken into two groups, with half exploring in-house activities and artifacts in the morning, while the other half investigate the true nature of an archaeological experience on site. In the afternoon, the two groups switch roles. The assistance of the classroom teacher is crucial in helping to prepare his/her students for any type of weather on site, and for maintaining a sense of comfort and safety in any outdoor based field trip. A mini-

mum of three archaeologists guide the students on site, while a maximum of two interpreters organize and assist the students with the in-house component.

While on site, the students are grouped in pairs – each pair has to co-operate in working on a 50cm x 50cm quadrant of a 1m x 1m unit. The experience gets the students physically active, thinking about why it is important to do archaeology, and they also get extremely excited when they personally have success in adding to our current knowledge of the past. The in-house programming allows the students to work more independently, covering necessary background data for the archaeological and cultural history experience.

The team was fortunate to obtain freshly retired teachers to perform the role of in-house interpreters. Their enthusiasm and ability to roll with and implement changes, while addressing the diversity of learning techniques and styles in today's students brought a dynamism to the program.

The outcome of the grade 6 and 11 programming initiatives was a seven week testing period during May and June of 2001. For both the students and accompanying teachers/principals, we also provided an assessment questionnaire and evaluation to be filled out and returned to us for constant monitoring of the programs success and needed adjustments. Our own team also evaluated and critiqued the programming daily. Thereby modifying and tweaking the program as we went.

The result of all our alliances with the Town and the York District School Board is that the suite is always busy. Until late October, the suite was booked four days a week with curriculum based programming for elementary and secondary students. Although we have closed down programming that provides an excavation experience for the season, programming still continues inside and outside. The outside programming continues throughout November, with a program named Foodways and Medicineways.

The suite is also utilized three nights a week with leisure learning programming and once a month on Saturdays, at least for this term, with workshops. Next term is looking just as jam-packed.

The partnership with the Town and the York Region District School board has been more than the OAS could ever of imagined a year ago. Our alliance with the Town, especially, has opened up the door for a healthy and long lasting relationship based on a true desire to satisfy, while educating, the local population on the beauty of modern progress and the adventure into the local past.

Where will it go? At this point the school board would like to develop more site-related programs with us. The potential with the Town has barely been scratched and the Society is now at-

tracting the attention of other potential partners.

Foremost, the Society must remember and respect their partnership with the Town of Richmond Hill and continue to work as collaborators on projects such as McGaw, while satisfying the original intent of the partnering: to utilize the cultural heritage of Richmond Hill as an educating tool on the past.

The Society must also continue to investigate and communicate with each other regarding opportunities that compliment this unique and one of a kind arrangement. We feel very fortunate to have the alliance between the Ontario Archaeological Society and the Town of Richmond Hill as such a successful example of how private and public organizations can work together for the betterment of local populations.

## OAS Hamilton Symposium Testimonial

This year's annual OAS Symposium was one of the best conferences we have attended in recent memory. The papers were of a very high quality and offered many novel approaches and views to archaeological problems in Ontario archaeology. This was truly an inspirational conference with many new and refreshing ideas. We thank the organizers and presenters for a weekend of intellectual stimulation that has revitalized our interest in Ontario archaeology. We can't wait to see the papers in print. Those who missed the conference truly missed an exciting forum. We suspect that if the efforts of many of the presenters are pursued with the energy and imagination demonstrated during the symposium, there will be a rewriting Ontario prehistory. In addition, the food for both the reception and the banquet was of a rare quality experienced at conferences and future symposia are sure to face some difficulty in achieving the standard set this year by the Hamilton Chapter. We had a wonderful time and wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the organizers and volunteers, in particular, Brad Bandow and Jackie Fisher.

Sincerely,

Michael Henry  
Marilyn Cornies  
AMICK Consultants

# Book Review

## Understanding Stone Tools And Archaeological Sites

by *Brian P. Kooyman*  
University of Calgary Press and  
University of New Mexico Press

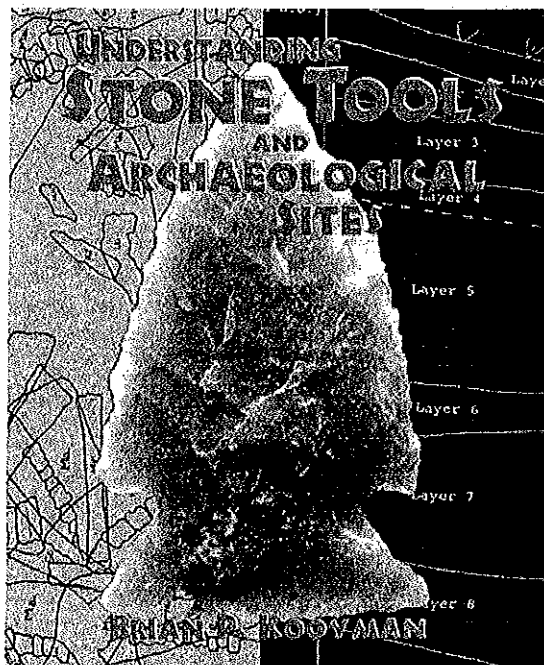
2000 205 pp, 94 figures  
ISBN 1-55238-035-1 (hard cover) \$39.95  
ISBN 1-55238-021-1 (soft cover) \$29.95

### Reviewed by Tom Arnold

Perhaps a better title for this book would have been 'Understanding Lithic Artifacts and Archaeological Sites, since Kooyman goes beyond just the meaning of formal and informal tools after their recovery on archaeological sites. That said, this book provides a good introduction to lithic analysis in archaeological research.

The first chapter explains why Kooyman wrote the book but also provides a brief history of lithic studies in archaeology that dates back to the nineteenth century. Next the reader is introduced to replicative experiments, the basics of flake morphology and fracture mechanics (Chapter 2). He proceeds through basic lithic material identification (Chapters 3 and 4) and the pros and cons of various approaches of lithic debitage analyses (Chapter 5).

Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 provide a conclusion and summary to the first half of the book. Chapter 6 introduces the reader to the development of stone tools on a global scale starting with the lower palaeolithic. This chapter emphasizes how each innovation in lithic technology led to the next development. Chapter 7



stresses how the different approaches (lithic experimentation, replication and fracture mechanics theory) have combined to increase our understanding of lithic artifacts. Kooyman believes that the integration of these approaches allows us to develop a comprehensive interpretation of stone tools.

Chapter 8 discusses artifact form in terms of theory, debates and controversies, style, and provides definitions of tool types. Kooyman introduces the reader to the connection between type of tools found and what activities occurred on the site. He also introduces the first step in lithic analysis, the tabulation of tool types. As an example of detailed patterns of change, Chapter 9 provides a seriation of projectile points of the Northern Plains. Although such a seriation may hold little interest to researchers in Ontario, some of the descriptions of the technology behind the manufacture of the Palaeoindian points may be of interest.

Chapter 10 looks at lithic analysis in a broader perspective, at the site and inter-site level. Kooyman goes beyond simply discussing artifact patterning, although this is certainly touched upon under intra-site patterning. He also discusses refitting analysis and how it can aid in the intra-site patterning studies, provide insight into reduction sequences, and how the degree of contact or trade can be inferred from properly identifying lithic material types. He ends by talking about style and form.

The next chapter (Chapter 11) looks at usewear and residue analyses. Kooyman provides a brief historical overview followed by a discussion of the debates surrounding these forms of analyses. Under usewear, Kooyman discusses microchipping, micropolish and striations.

The final chapter provides a brief summation and closing for the book. Following the final chapter is an excellent glossary of terms found throughout the book.

Although the book is written for all who are interested in lithics, it is aimed at the non-professional or beginner. Intermediate or advanced researchers may want to skip over some of the basic chapters. The important aspect I feel is that Kooyman has tried, and I think succeeded, in integrating the many different aspects of lithic study into one book. The references noted should provide any researcher, irrespective of level, a starting point for further reading or research.

## Book plug

### Government on Fire

### The History and Archaeology of Upper Canada's First Parliament Buildings

Frank A. Dieterman and Ronald F. Williamson  
Archaeological Services, Inc.

The old British North American province of Upper Canada's original Parliament buildings, located just west of Parliament Street in what is now the City of Toronto, were burned by invading US forces during the War of 1812.

In the fall of the year 2000, a dedicated team of archaeologists, aided by meticulous historical research in the documentary record, uncovered some decisive evidence of surviving physical deposits from the buildings that were burned almost two centuries ago. Historical and archaeological data indicate that the 2000 excavation revealed a small portion of the south wing of the original Upper Canada Parliament buildings. Soil layers in the excavation walls suggest that more of the burned buildings remain intact under the current paved surface.

Government on Fire presents a lively account of the discovery of an important historical and archaeological site, for Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and beyond. It also suggests lessons for urban planners and heritage conservationists, who may imagine that little is left of the more distant past within the complex and intertwined development history in the cores of our cities.

136 pages, soft cover, 70 b&w, 16 colour illustrations  
Published by eastendbooks 2001  
ISBN 1-896973-26-4, \$17.95



# Letter to Arch Notes

...aaa response to Mayer  
(let's hear from companies that start with a B next time)

November 3, 2001

I have just finished reading Mr. Mayer's incisive and thought-provoking letter to the Minister of the MTCR regarding the format of the list of licenced archaeological consultants. Thank goodness we have members of the consulting community like Mr. Mayer who are willing to speak out on the critically important issues effecting the daily practice of archaeology in the province. As a community we should be grateful to Mr. Mayer for the valuable time he sacrifices from his family and friends to serve as both our OAS president and our unofficial champion in the ongoing battle against the vagaries of our governing Ministry.

Consider some of the key points Mr. Mayer raises. How dare the Ministry consider issuing a list of consultants that includes individuals not operating under a valid 2001 licence? Individuals who are not up to date in meeting their previous year's licence commitments have no place on our list of outstanding professionals. It may come as a surprise to many that the MTCR allows consultants without a licence valid for the current year to continue to operate under their previous year's licence. While I can only speak for myself, this seems to be a recipe for compounding the sins that have brought their failure to receive a current licence into question. I agree whole heartily with Mr. Mayer; let's scratch these scoundrels from our list.

Mr. Mayer also tactfully points out the inequity of not allowing branch offices to be listed – as has been the practice in the past. Mr. Mayer was carefully diplomatic regarding this issue, as his firm, more than any other, has invested heavily in maintaining a vibrant string of branch offices in communities as diverse as Guelph, Hamilton, Huntsville, Montreal, Sudbury and Toronto. It is clearly ludicrous that, as a bare minimum, the telephone numbers of these offices should not be provided on the list. A far better approach, for example, would be to include the addresses and contact names at each of Mr. Mayer's regional offices so that development proponents operating in close proximity could stop by and experience for themselves the wide range of professional services provided by Mayer Heritage Consultants. If the Ministry is to have its way, there would be no way for anyone reading the list to differentiate between a major firm like Mr. Mayer's and some unprofessional one man show operated by a minimally qualified individual, perhaps without even a graduate education.

Mr. Mayer also suggests that our list should be organized alphabetically by a licence holder's name rather than by the name of their firm. This is a very interesting point clearly worthy of a great deal of consideration at the ministerial level. It is beyond question there has been a proliferation of companies named with a word starting with "A". I had not considered it before, but perhaps company names like, Archaeological Services Inc., Archaeological Assessments Ltd., and Archeoworks Inc., are less about describing the nature of the services provided to prospective clients than they are crass attempts to get on the all important first page of the consultant list. This is a practice that should clearly be rectified. It will be satisfying to see all those clever wags who started their company name with an "A" finally put in their proper place.

Jim Wilson, M.A.  
President, Archaeologix Inc.



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(second figure includes subscription to Ontario Archaeology)

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Life	\$750

## Partners



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Contributer deadlines:

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

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