



Ontario Archaeological Society

Arch Notes

New Series Volume 7, Issue 4

ISSN 0048-1742

July/August 2002



Robert G. Mayer
1949-2002

OAS news

President's notes	3
From the OAS office	4
Treasurer's Report	8
Membership Fees	12
Voting By Proxy	12
OAS chapters	26

Arch Notes feature

Reflections Upon St. Catherine's Monastery	
<i>J. Turner</i>	15

In Memoriam - R.G. Mayer

Robert G. Mayer - <i>T. Hawkins</i>	22
A Letter To Bob - <i>M. Henry</i>	23
The Last Word - <i>B. Mayer</i>	25

Ontario Archaeological Society

Board of Directors

President

Christine Caroppo
416-466-0460
oasprez@hotmail.com

Treasurer/Finance

Henry van Lieshout
416-446-7673
henry_vanlieshout@dortec.intier.com

Director of Chapter Services

Christine Caroppo (acting)
416-466-0460
oasprez@hotmail.com

Director of Heritage Advocacy

Tony Stapells
416-461-6834
oas@globalserve.net

Director of Membership Services

Dena Doroszenko
416-654-0091
DoroszenkoD@aol.com

Director of Outreach Services

Bud Parker
519-894-9300
parkthay@sentex.net

Director of Publications

Eva MacDonald
416-534-9384
emmdar@sympatico.ca

Executive Director

Jo Holden
1-888-733-0042
905-787-9851
oas@globalserve.net

Publications

Editors, Ontario Archaeology

Susan Jamieson, David Robertson, Andrew Stewart
oas@globalserve.net

Editor, Arch Notes

Frank Dieterman
905-333-9324
fdieterm@chass.utoronto.ca

Symposium

Peterborough 2002

Chair: Henry van Lieshout
Symposium Coordinator: Susan Jamieson

Committees

Education

Chair: Linda Torbidone

Library

Chair: Norma Knowlton

A.J. Clarke Interpretive Centre Advisory Team

Chair: Christine Caroppo

... editor's note

According to Jo - the AN cover features the only picture of Bob! I'm sure he'd want us to have a smile on our faces upon seeing this photo for the first time.

Not only will AN readers miss Bob's contributions, but the archaeological community has lost one of our stronger voices. I can think of no better way for AN to honour Bob than to give what he often wanted (I did work for him one summer, after all!) - the last word.

Also in this issue, many thanks to Janet Turner for a fascinating article on Mt. Sinai's St. Catherine's monastery. Also, be sure to read Henry van Lieshout's treasurer's report for some thought-provoking options facing the OAS.

President's notes

Well, the dog days of high summer are upon us. In addition to planning and executing a "Crocodile Hunter" themed seventh birthday party for the offspring and seven little friends (Crikey!!), the work of the OAS goes on ...

You will note that even though it is summer and November is the last thing on your mind, this issue of *Arch Notes* contains information and pre-registration forms for the annual Symposium in Peterborough this year, graciously organized by Susan Jamieson of Trent University and her team of dedicated volunteers. PLEASE, PLEASE, fill these in early and send them in promptly. Traditionally, the membership sends in their forms at the last possible instant. This leads to much tearing of hair, gnashing of teeth, general sleeplessness and sometimes the very real fear that we are going to lose our shirts financially if nobody shows up for the Symposium. So, PLEASE do your best to try and get those registration forms in early.

We are trying a new format this year with having the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) on the Sunday morning before the field trips depart. Coffee and other sustenance will be provided. I and the other members of the Board of Directors will be there for you to ask questions of in person. We hope that this new time slot will alleviate the problem of people having to rush off to get ready for the Saturday night banquet and awards ceremonies or other dinner plans. This has always been a conflict which I think prevented some members from attending the Saturday Annual Business Meeting. If turnout isn't higher I am considering for next year a dunk tank for the President with a \$10.00 donation to the OAS per ball thrown... (had you going there for a minute, didn't I?)

Another new wrinkle we are proposing is the institution of a proxy voting system for members who cannot attend the Annual Business Meeting in person. The Ontario Corporations Act, under whose rules we fall, allows for proxy voting at an annual general meeting. The OAS has never, to my knowledge, had a proxy system. This omission would have made sense when we were first incorporated and in our early years when membership was small and largely

concentrated in southern Ontario. However, the Board felt that it was more than time to institute a proxy system to our voting procedures. This change will require a Constitutional amendment and vote at this year's ABM. Please see elsewhere in this issue for further information.

Lastly, I would like to turn to the sad news of the death of OAS Past-President, Robert G. Mayer. As many of you already know, Bob died suddenly in London at the end of May this year. His passing has sent a chill through our community as many of us joined the OAS in the mid-to-late 1970s and are contemporaries of his. Many in our community worked with him in a professional capacity. All of us have a connection to him through his leadership here at the OAS as immediate Past-President. There, but for the grace of God, go you or I.

I posted a message to the OAS-List shortly after hearing the news and have included it here for those of you who didn't see it. I have since written and rejected several eulogies but I think the one I wrote in the heat of the moment best expresses what I want to say.

"Dear Colleagues: First, let me offer sincere condolences from myself, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the OAS, to Bob Mayer's family, colleagues and friends. His sudden passing was a shock to us all, especially those at the OAS who worked so closely with him over the last few years.

I never worked with him professionally, nor could I call him a close personal friend, but I always respected him as a person. Sadly, some in our community do not always say out loud what they truly think or believe in. With Bob, however, what you saw was what you got. He never minced words, he was never afraid to voice an opinion – especially when it was against the accepted norm. He was always transparent in his comments and positions but not bombastic. I respect that kind of integrity and try to adhere to that philosophy in my own life."

After the news of Bob's death reached our community several people called to office to ask how donations in his name could be made and how we might commemorate his life and work.

All donations to date have been earmarked for the *Ontario Archaeology* Endowment Fund. If you wish

remember Bob with a donation to this fund, or the OAS Future Fund (a kind of nest egg fund for start up project money and for the day when we can be self-financing) please mark your donation "in memory of" so that we may keep track of the funds separately. All donations in Bob's name will be tracked separately in terms of accounting and we will be informing Bob's family periodically as to how these funds are doing.

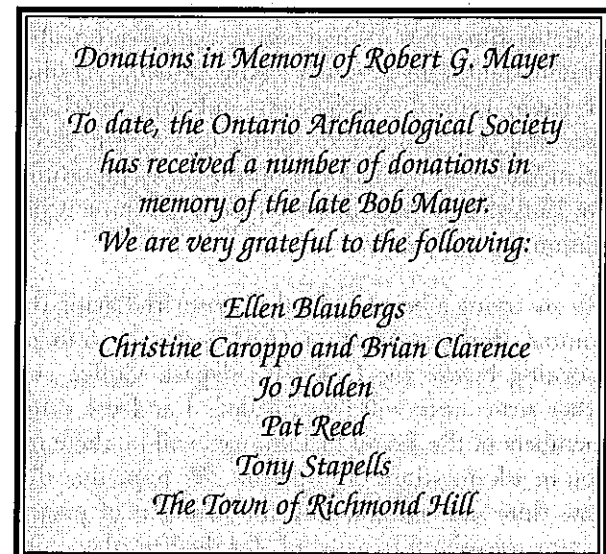
There have been some rumblings about a special publication in honour of Bob; possibly a special issue of *OA* such as the one we published on zooarchaeology in memory of the late Dr. Howard Savage. The OAS Board would welcome any and all suggestions and will review all proposals submitted and will forward them to the *Ontario Archaeology* Editorial Board for consideration.

Finally, I would like to inform the membership that the Ontario Archaeological Society's *Ontario Archaeology* Endowment Fund is the proud and grateful recipient of a bequest from the estate of Robert G. Mayer of \$10,000.00.

This is the single largest donation ever received from one person, and our first bequest. (Large donations were gratefully received several years ago from a private foundation, consulting businesses, and from the Government of Ontario when we first launched the fund-raising drive around the establishment of the OA Endowment Fund).

This large bequest is a testament to Bob's sincere belief in the work and importance of the OAS to our community. His incredibly generous gift will go a long way to making Ontario Archaeology self-sustaining. This has been the goal of every Board of Directors since we began the journal. *OA* is incredibly important to the archaeological community and since federal funding in support of it has dried up our only sources are the interest from the existing Endowment funds and our membership dollars. This bequest and any donations we raise around Bob's memory will make a huge contribution to alleviating *OA* funding concerns.

Cheers, *Christine*



From the OAS office...

It was a busy late spring at the office as always, responding to both member and public inquires. It is encouraging to report that the Society has raised its profile so much so, that the general public is increasingly becoming aware of us, especially asking questions.

The writing and assembling of the Society's annual application for the Provincial Heritage Operating grant took up a large amount of my time over May and June. This application assists the Society with a considerable amount of its operating funds. As much

as putting this application together is an intensive task, I always find it an interesting exercise as it helps me see precisely how much, this office, the Board Members and our Chapters accomplish each year.

I had the privilege of representing the Society at the Canadian Archaeological Association's annual conference this past May in Ottawa. I really enjoyed meeting with many of our members that often I only know by the sound of their voice over the telephone or their regular emails. I was invited to host a workshop on the Saturday morning that was entitled "Exploring Solutions to Artifact Overload" It was very well received and again quite encouraging to lis-

ten to many of the unsolicited "testimonials" that came from the participants.

The office has two summer students this year, both on seven-week contracts. This is possible due the Summer Experience Program grants the Ministry of Culture offers. Norangie Carballo-Garcia is entering her OAC year this fall and is working with us producing an outline for a future curriculum based program, acting as an assistant to the wonderful people who are leading our children's programming this summer and definitely being available to help on the site and with the ongoing job of cataloguing all that stuff that comes out of the site!! Our other student is completing a requirement of her Concordia University Media Arts program. Marna Pihl is producing, filming, and editing a 15 minute documentary on the OAS. It certainly is an educational process for the Board and myself; we have really needed to think hard about who we are, where we've come from and just how we wish to present ourselves to the world, in all of 15 minutes.



On June the 20, 2002 the OAS played host to the Provincial Executive of the Trillium Foundation (see photo above). These are the individuals who look at the applications groups like ours submit and decide if they are projects worth

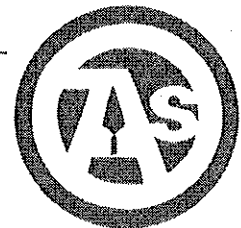
funding. Their reason for visiting was due to the fact that our project has been recognized as exceptionally successful. The Trillium Executive visited for about an hour, and even though it was a gorgeous late afternoon, they were not able to get out to the site as they were running a tad late on the schedule that had been set for them. They were "blown away" by what the OAS is accomplishing in the form of curriculum and leisure-based public archaeology. In many ways we are initiating new ways of presenting hands-on, experiential programming. It was a very good feeling to see and hear such positive feedback.

It's upon a sad note that I am closing this issues' column. As the majority of our membership is already aware, our community was informed of Bob Mayer's passing in May. It was a shock – many of us, myself

The OAS welcomes new members

C. Armstrong – Port Sydney
J. Bernier – London
T. Forrester – Mount Albert
C. Gergely – Toronto
S. Henderson – Toronto
A. Hill – London
C. Ingraldi – Toronto
V. Lech – Richmond Hill

M. Ord – Oakville
R. Pittaway – Minden
P. Price – Elmvale
K. Travers – Etobicoke
A. Waddell – Etobicoke
D. Young – Toronto
C. Zavislake – Toronto



included, found out at the CAA banquet. The news literally rippled through the crowd. Bob was President from January 1999 until December 2001. It is difficult to decide where our professional relationship broke off and friendship slipped in. In our working relationship I found that we could tackle the topic of the day, retrieve information from each other in a precise and organized manner and still

find time for that dumb joke, exchange the latest list of email stories/jokes, or the insanities of everyday living.

I'm not good at good-byes or wordy salutes: Bob became a good friend, a trusted colleague, and I will miss him.

Jo Holden, *Executive Director*

Working Toward Guidelines for Collections Care

At the 2002 CAA in Ottawa, Jo Holden, Executive Director of the Ontario Archaeological Society, organized a half-day workshop, "Raising the Profile: Exploring Solutions to Artifact Overload". The workshop addressed issues currently facing archaeologists and facilities which curate archaeological collections. Some of these issues are difficulty in finding a repository, lack of space in repositories, what constitutes appropriate environmental controls, issues of repatriation, appropriate storage and handling of aboriginal material, lack of funding for long-term care of collections, poor definition of the financial responsibility of developers in CRM projects which generate collections, and the need for continuing education of all groups who create and care for collections. Besides collections resulting from academic research, CRM and salvage projects, there are those presently in private hands which are being donated to local museums and provincial authorities as part of estates. The question is, how to care for all of this in such a way to ensure survival of extant and future collections.

The over-all atmosphere of the workshop was one of optimism; the will to deal with these issues is there, both from professional and avocational groups. Each province has its own mechanism in place which has allowed the system to continue. Two invited speakers, Robert J. Pearce, London Museum of Archaeology, and Michael Cywink, Curator of the Objibway Cultural Centre, talked about their experience in Ontario, while representatives from some of the provinces (Newfoundland, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and BC) described how collections are curated in their areas.

What is clearly needed are some guidelines on what constitutes adequate care – standards if you wish – which will be available for museums, universities, aboriginal cultural centres, provincial and municipal organizations that curate or may curate collections. The reality is that not all archaeological objects need the same level of environmental control, nor will they all benefit from archival-quality packing. And what does "archival quality" mean? Acid-free boxes housing corroding iron stretches the limit of common sense - what is adequate and practical? What is cost-effective? What are the risks to collections given that more and more of the information archive is stored in electronic media? How can collections be made useful, accessible, and at the same time, be protected? What is meant by the term "treatment", as defined by conservators and archaeologists? What is meant by the term "conservation" as seen by all the groups working to conserve the archaeological heritage?

There are no quick answers to these questions, but the fact that they are being asked is a major step forward. Following the discussion at the CAA, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and the OAS began examining ways by which pragmatic guidelines for curation of archaeological collections can be made available to museums and other organizations. One suggestion is to incorporate this as part of a new workshop the OAS is developing with the Ontario Museums Association. Along the same lines, the CCI is presently planning a professional development workshop called "From Site to Shelf", which addresses the process of artifact recovery, field processing and curation. Information about the scheduling of these sessions will be made available to members of the OAS and CAA through the newsletters of both organizations.

*Judy Logan, Senior Conservator, Archaeology
Canadian Conservation Institute, Department of Canadian Heritage*

What's on at the OAS this Fall?

Amy Barron, OAS Program Development

This fall the OAS is looking forward to another full complement of leisure learning programs for adults and children. We are expanding our programming for adults by running a lecture series consisting of four lectures on each of three topics. People may sign up for one whole series, or pick and choose individually amongst the twelve lectures.

The very popular Greg Olson, Staff Sergeant with the York Regional Police, will be back to open up our series on "Forensics and Archaeology", followed by forensic anthropologists, osteologists, and others involved in the science of detection. "Highlights of World Archaeology" will explore the ancient histories of Mesopotamia, Classical Greece, India, and Nubia, now the modern country of Sudan in Africa.

The third series will meet your requests for lectures with a local archaeological focus. Prominent area archaeologists will speak on their work at sites in the greater Toronto area. Speakers will include Ron Williamson, discussing the excavations of Ontario's first parliament buildings, and David Spittal, archaeologist for Fort York. Representing the history of Toronto's early black settlers and the underground railway will be Karolyn Smardz, excavator of the Thornton and Lucie Blackburn sites. Rob Pihl, the director of our own McGaw Hill site will speak on the ongoing work in Richmond Hill.

There will also be a one-day adult workshop, "The Dawn of Writing," which will examine both how present day scholars believe that writing first emerged and the development of these earliest forms. There will be a chance for participants to learn some basics, and experiment with both ancient cuneiform and hieroglyphics.

Programming will also be provided for children of all ages. The six-to-eight year olds will be able to explore the world on four "Fun Days" where they will sample the foods, crafts and games of China, Mexico, India, and our own First Nations peoples. The history of the British Isles will be laid out for the nine-to-ten year old set with four "Ages of England", delving into the mysteries of Britain's Prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, and Medieval past. New this year is a program to attract older children - "Art and Archaeology" will involve 13-to-15 year olds in hands-on explorations of ancient writing techniques, a pottery workshop, metalworking and jewellery, and mosaics.

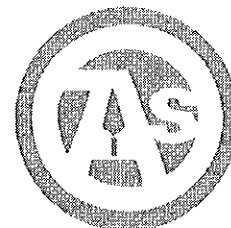
All programs will be held at the Society's Richmond Hill offices. Spaces are limited so sign up now.

The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

To be held on
Sunday, November 3, 2002
From 10.00 to 12.00 noon at the
Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront

1. President's opening address
2. Minutes of the
2001 Annual Business Meeting
3. Financial Report
Receiving 2001 audited
financial statements
Membership fee structure for 2003
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Director's Reports
6. Committee Reports
7. Chapter reports
8. Nomination of Directors
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. Changes to the Constitution
Voting by proxy
11. Other business
Ethics guidelines



OAS Treasurer's Report 2001

When the Board decided in late 2000 that it was in the best long term interest of the Society that we present a proposal to the Town of Richmond Hill to become closely associated with the McGaw site and develop in-house archaeology-based public outreach programs, the Board recognized that this proposal, if accepted, would result in a significant change in what the Society would become. The three major benefits that were anticipated were, one, an opportunity to achieve a greater degree of financial security, two, the ability to develop and deliver quality educational and leisure based programs and, three, an opportunity to stimulate membership growth through greater visibility in a major urban area. An additional benefit was the opportunity to make programs that are developed by us in this community, available to our Chapters, so that they too would have an improved opportunity for increasing their visibility in their local communities.

The purpose of this Financial Report therefore is to discuss how the Society has indeed changed in 2001, compared to the decade that precedes it. In summary for 2001, our audited financial statement indicate that we had a surplus of \$5,588, coming from a surplus of \$9,077 from McGaw-based programs, and a deficit of \$3,489, from traditional OAS operations.

Resultant from the agreement with the Town of Richmond Hill, we received a three-year grant from the Government of Ontario to develop programs there. The intent of this grant is to enable us to develop long-term revenue generating programs that will help us attain a larger measure of financial independence in the long term. In 2001 we received \$69,000 of the total three-year grant of \$162,500, and we were able to generate \$30,074 in gross program revenue in our first year. However, the direct cost of providing programs, and the funding of professional services in support of these programs, was in excess of \$65,000 last year. For now, the grant covers costs, but as we move into the future, the grant becomes zero, and the program revenue has to increase to cover the costs. So, we have a significant challenge to see how we can best make this happen. The next challenge, as in the past, remains membership levels. In 1991, total membership receipts were

a record high of \$24,001, while by 2000 this had decreased to \$17,661, and for 2001 it was \$19,226, an increase of \$1,565. In fiscal 2001, we were able to generate about 80 new members, but unfortunately, non-renewals outstripped this number. During the 10-year period from 1991 to 2000, there were only three times that membership dropped below \$20,000 and it never happened twice in a row. However for 2000 and 2001, membership dropped below this "benchmark" for both years, despite having had a new membership contest in the last few years. In terms of the number of members, in the early to mid 1990s the amount was in the 750 range, while the numbers for 2001 are 593, and this included families now being counted as two, whereas in the past a family counted as one. For some time therefore, it has been of some concern to the Board that support by our members has become less enthusiastic. Again, this is a challenge, as it has always been.

From time to time people have questioned the value received for the membership fee paid. I will quote two examples. It is interesting to note that about 130 members are in the Individual category, where the fees are \$31.00 per year. The production and mailing costs of *Arch Notes* is about \$22.00 per year, and it's easy to see that the net amount available to the OAS is the balance of only \$9.00 per year. In the case of the Individual members who receive *OA*, of whom there are about 425, the total cost of two issues per year is about \$14.00, and this assumes that the "*OA* Publication Fund" pays for one issue. The value of publications received by these members is therefore \$36.00 (\$22.00 for *AN* and \$14.00 for *OA*), while the membership fee for these members is \$40.00. Here again, it's easy to see that the balance is only \$4.00 to the OAS for a whole year. We are pleased to report that, with respect to *OA*, publication techniques now used result in a cost, which is about 18% lower that it used to be a few years ago. There's a mix of Life, Institutional, Individual, Family and Student members, some with *OA* and the rest without, and each category has a fee structure. The total cost of publications, including a subsidy of one issue of *OA*, is about \$19,500, which is about the same amount as Membership Fees. As illustrated above, there are some inequities in the fee structure at this time, and your Board is reviewing some options.

To operate the office we rely in part on Federal and Provincial funding, and here we have seen a dramatic drop from a high of \$82,983 in 1994, to \$34,000 in 2001, as governments have dealt with their deficits. The timing of grant receipts has also shifted greatly, illustrated by the fact that we used to receive the Provincial grant in August at one time, but for 2001, the funding only arrived in January 2002, i.e. it arrived in the wrong year.

The bottom line over the last 10 years, from 1991 to 2000, is that we have had average income of \$85,117 to cover average costs of \$86,184, for a net deficit of \$1,067 per year. However, before we conclude that we are operating balanced budgets, we realize that we are still a few issues in arrears on OA, and had there been sufficient qualifying material available to publish, then the cash shortfall over the period would have been greater.

From this you will note that your Board, over this 10-year period, has been able to nearly balance its budget, and given the sharp decrease in available revenue, this has not always been easy, and throughout this period, there has been a slow erosion of membership interest. Over this 10 year period also, the Society has been able to offer a very predictable, though limited, amount of services to its members, including OA, AN, the annual Symposium, outreach programs, educational kits to schools, trips, and a few more.

THE OAS FINANCIAL PICTURE (based on a 10-year average)	
Grants	48,717
Membership fees	21,253
Interest	5,169
Other (Donations, Book sales, Symposium, Trips, etc.)	9,978
TOTAL INCOME	85,117
Administration	50,342
Publications	24,755
Outreach programs	6,528
Other (promotion materials, education kits, awards, etc.)	4,559
TOTAL EXPENSES	86,184
NET SHORTEFALL	1,067

By way of comparison, and to illustrate the point that we are now a different type of organization, income in 2001 was \$167,815, and expenses \$162,227, or about double the historic run-rate.

This then is where we have been, and the year 2001 ushered in a whole new set of dimensions for us. Financially the bottom line is that we were able to generate a surplus of \$5,588 in the year, and this could not have been achieved without the following factors.

1. The \$69,000 Trillium Grant from the Government of Ontario which paid for professional services, program development costs, site supplies and other costs
2. An increase in the Operating Grant from the Government of Ontario of over \$5,500 from the amount received in 2000.
3. The fact that we were able to restore the Executive Director's position to full time, and the fact that Jo Holden, as the Executive Director, went over and beyond was expected of her by bringing together all the people to develop, and deliver a large range of public programs at our site, thereby generating about \$30,000 in gross revenue in our first year.
4. The fact that there were a large number of our people who responded to a call for volunteers to help develop and deliver these programs.

Whereas in one year, i.e., 2001, we were able to partly reduce the cumulative 10-year deficit we had built up from 1991 to 2000, we are far from complacent about the future. For one, the Trillium Grant is reduced by \$19,000 for 2002, and 2003 will be its last year. From 2004 onwards we need to be financially self-supporting, and there are various options that need to be explored.

On the investment side, the events of 9/11 no doubt depressed the return on our mutual fund, which still managed to achieve a return of just over 2% for the year. The return for the first quarter of 2002 was a modest 1%. At December 31, 2001, the value of total assets was \$230,399, which was \$20,431 higher than the balance of the previous year.

I believe that your 2001 Board has prudently managed its financial affairs during a turbulent year of

transition. The role of the Executive Director is now infinitely more challenging than it has been at any time in the past, now having to manage a crew of professionals, instructors, the Town of Richmond Hill, school boards, other community groups interested in receiving programs, program participants, volunteers, and more. The members of the Board also have to devote more time to the enlarged scope of the affairs of the Society.

Given all of the above, your Board is therefore embarking on developing a Strategic Plan once more, in order to try to create the future for the organization. During my tenure as your Treasurer

over the last 9 years this will be the third time that we are embarking on this exercise, but this time it's much more important to get it right. This is so because while we have gained valuable experience in our first year in our new location, we need to change our cost and price structure once again, and we are obligated to continue to provide quality and value effective services in the future.

In this issue of *Arch Notes* you will find a copy of the audited financial statements and, as is customary, I will provide more information at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting in November.

Henry van Lieshout, OAS Treasurer & Secretary

**THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001
AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

I have audited the Balance Sheet of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. as at December 31, 2001 and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management and my responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I have conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and any significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Society derives part of its revenue from membership fees, events and donations, the completeness of which is not subject to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of these revenues was limited to those amounts recorded in the accounting records of the Society, and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to assets, liabilities and members equity.

In my opinion, except for adjustments, if any, that I might have determined to be necessary, as referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 2001 and the result of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

E Hennessey
Toronto, Ontario
June 3, 2002

**Notes to the audited financial statements
as at December 31, 2001**

1 Basis of presentation

The Society was incorporated as a non-profit organization on December 21, 1956 under the Ontario Corporations Act, 1953 and the Society exists to encourage individual and collective efforts to advance the understanding and practice of archaeology, and to pre-

serve, protect and appreciate the archaeological heritage of the Province of Ontario.

2 Material change in the nature of operations

In late 2000, the Society entered into a Program Partnership Agreement with the Town of Richmond Hill, Ontario, in which the Society agreed to provide archaeology focussed educational and recreational programs for the Parks, Recreation and Culture department of the

Town, based on the excavation activity at the McGaw Site. This agreement provides for program revenue sharing, whereby the Society receives 76% of gross program participation fees received by the Town. Also, resultant from this Agreement, the Society obtained a three-year grant for \$162,500 (2001 - \$69,000, 2002 - \$50,000, 2003 - \$43,500) from The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario. With this grant, the Society has developed programs, and delivered these to the community. Total revenue from these partnership programs and from the outreach programs of the Society, was \$30,074 during the year.

3 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) It is the policy of the Society to depreciate assets on a straight line basis, using rates that reflect useful life of such assets.

b) Membership fees are recognized as revenue in the year in which they are received.

c) Receipts of interest on Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) are recognized in the year of receipt, or accrued to reflect the value of the GIC at year end.

d) Investment gains in the Mutual Fund are retained in the fund. The market value of the mutual fund, at December 31, 2001 after the \$20,000 withdrawn during the year, was \$139,369, (2000 - \$156,645).

d) The Society is a non-profit corporation and is exempt from income taxes.

4 Restricted and non-restricted funds

a) Ontario Archaeology Publication Fund

This is the only restricted Fund and it is dedicated to provide long term funding for the publication of at least one issue per year of "Ontario Archaeology", the refereed journal of the Society, in the event that external funding sources are no longer available to support its publication. Included in this fund is an amount of \$20,000 donated by members, and an amount of \$60,000 provided by the Government of Ontario in 1992. During the year there was no external funding available to support its cost, and the Society therefore withdrew an amount of \$3,500 to support one of the two issues published during the year. At December 31, 2001 the fund balance was \$127,470 (2000 - \$128,348) consisting of donations and accumulated investment earnings.

b) The OAS Future Fund

The purpose of this Fund is to support the administrative expenses of the Society in the future, if funding from other sources are reduced. Included in the Fund are accumulated life membership fees, donations and accumulated investment earnings. At December 31, 2001 the fund balance was \$69,998 (2000 - \$63,120).

c) The Awards Fund

The purpose of this Fund is to provide income for the awards program administered by the Society, and consists of an amount set aside by the Society for this pur-

pose, donations and accumulated investment earnings. At December 31, 2001 the fund balance was \$4,163 (2000 - \$4,080).

d) The Educational Kit Fund

The purpose of this fund is to provide new archaeological education kits for the use by educational institutions in the Province. The fund does not earn income, and at December 31, 2001 the fund balance was unchanged at \$14,420.

4 Current assets and long-term investments

All funds that are not immediately required to meet the financial obligations of the Society are invested in Guaranteed Income Certificates (GICs) and a Mutual Fund. All investments are with major Canadian banks and financial institutions.

Total assets of the Society increased by \$20,431 during the year to \$230,399, and included in Receivables is an amount of \$34,000, representing the Provincial Heritage Operating grant from the Government of Ontario for 2001, which was received on January 24, 2002.

During the year no GICs were redeemed, but withdrawals from the Mutual Fund amounted to \$20,000. Of this amount, \$3,500 was used to fund the publication of OA, as mentioned above, and the balance was required to bridge the delay in the receipt of the annual operating grant from the Government of Ontario. During the year, the market value of the mutual fund increased by \$2,724 to \$139,369. The total value of all investments at December 31, 2001 is \$165,745 (2000 - \$181,750).

5 Chapter financial statements

The Society does not have jurisdiction over the financial management of its Chapters and Chapter financial statements are therefore not included in those of the Society.

6 Fixed assets

Acquisition of fixed assets during the year amounted to \$1,325.

7 Related party transactions

Reimbursements of travel and other out-of-pocket expenses are made to certain members of the Society and the Board of Directors, at the discretion of the Board.

Professional services for site excavation, analysis, management and report preparation costs were provided by an Institutional member of the Society.

8 Publication arrears

The Society was not able to meet the publication schedule for its journal, Ontario Archaeology. However, commitments have been made by the Board of Directors to publish arrears issues. Proposed membership fee structure.

Proposed membership fee structure

During the year, your Board has decided to review the level of membership fees and also the methodology we use to develop the fee structure.

As far as the level of membership fees are concerned, we found that the last increase in fees occurred in January 1996, and that in January 1997, we added the *OA* subscription fee of \$9.00, and we added the student fee. Therefore, it has been six years ago that students and those who receive *OA* have had a fee increase, and for all other members it has been seven years. As far as the methodology is concerned, we found that the 1996 fees were simply based on what was in effect at that time, and increased them by specific dollar amounts. We now wish to propose a defined methodology for future use, based on the following components and factors.

The first component would be a "Base" fee of \$12.00, representing \$1.00 per month in support of all the activities we undertake to promote our cause and mandate, and in support of our administrative costs. The second component is to add the cost of *Arch Notes*, which amounts to about \$22.00 per year per member including mailing costs, the latter of which have risen quite dramatically in the last number of years. The third component is to add the cost of one issue of *Ontario Archaeology*, and the mailing cost of two issues. The reason for only adding the cost of one issue is that the *OA* Publication Fund will absorb the cost of the other issue. This reason is justified because the fund was created specifically to fund the cost of publications in the event that our traditional funding sources were no longer available, which is now the case.

These then are the three components in the methodology, but we need to accommodate different membership groups within this structure, for which we propose the following factors.

First there are the students, to whom we propose to give a discount of 50% on the "Base" annual fee of \$12.00, and to whom we will also extend a discount of 25% on *Arch Notes* and *Ontario Archaeology*. Then there are the family members, to whom we wish to apply a 35% surcharge on the "Base" fee, and the cost of only one copy of each of the two publications. Examples of this methodology are then as follows.

Individual without OA

Base fee 12.00
Arch Notes 22.00
Total 34.00 vs 31.00 currently

Family with OA

Base fee 12.00
(Surcharge of 35% or 4.00)
Arch Notes 22.00
OA 12.00
Total 50.00 vs 45.00 currently

Student with OA

Base fee 12.00
(Less Discount 50% or 6.00)
Arch Notes 22.00
OA 12.00
(Less Discount 25% or 8.00)
Total 32.00 vs 29.00 currently

We propose to leave the Institutional and Life membership fees at current levels. The new fees for the other membership categories are as follows.

Individual with OA 46.00 vs 40.00

Family without OA 38.00 vs 36.00

Student without OA 23.00 vs 20.00

The net effect of these changes will be to increase funding by nearly \$3,000 per year, thereby virtually eliminating the equivalent deficit of non-McGaw operations, as reported in my Treasurer's Report, and presented elsewhere in this issue of *Arch Notes*

The Board is of the opinion that, given the time elapsed since the last increase, that this fee structure is rational, and reasonable.

These rates, and the methodology, is what your Board will therefore propose at the Annual Business Meeting to be held in Peterborough on 3 November 2002.

VOTING BY PROXY Proposed Addition to the Constitution

At the annual Toronto Chapter Winter Weekend in February this year, Christine Caroppo and I came across a magazine from another charitable society in which there was an announcement about their Annual Business Meeting, together with an opportunity for their members who could not attend the meeting to vote by proxy. Christine and I talked about the fact that most of our members are disenfranchised because they do not, or cannot, attend our Annual Business Meeting and thought it may be a good idea to offer a proxy voting mechanism to our members. This is why this topic is on the Agenda of this year's Annual Business Meeting. By approving the concept of voting by proxy, it would open up the participation rate for our province wide and international members and remove the perception that changes to our Society are made by the relatively small number of members (compared to total membership) who are able to attend the Annual Business Meeting.

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.		
Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2001		
ASSETS	2001	2000
<i>Current assets</i>		
Bank account balance	\$15,170	\$27,718
Grant receivable	34,000	
Program income receivable	5,239	
Other receivables	7,223	
Prepaid expenses	734	
Total current assets	62,366	27,718
<i>Long term investments</i>		
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	26,376	25,105
Mutual fund	139,369	156,645
Total investments	165,745	181,750
<i>Fixed assets</i>		
Cost at acquisition	12,712	10,177
Accumulated depreciation	10,424	9,677
Net book value	2,288	500
Total assets	\$230,399	\$209,968
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
<i>Accounts payable</i>		
Professional services	\$10,000	
OA publication	3,933	
Other	415	
Total current liabilities	14,348	
<i>Restricted fund</i>		
OA Publication Fund	127,470	\$128,348
<i>Non-restricted funds</i>		
Educational kits	14,420	14,420
Awards Fund	4,163	4,080
Total funds	146,053	146,848
Future Fund	69,998	63,120
Total liabilities and funds	\$230,399	\$209,968

The wording of the proposed change is based somewhat on what we saw in the magazine and we have insured that our proposed version is compliant with the requirements of the Ontario Business Corporations Act, this being the legislation under which we were incorporated. The effect of this change is that members will be provided with a proxy form at that time that the Annual Business Meeting is announced, on which the items of business that require members motions, are listed. Members have an opportunity to vote for or against motions, or appoint someone to vote for them at the meeting. All proxies must be mailed to the office by close of business on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. In the event that someone wishes to withdraw a proxy, this can be done, in writing, right up to the start of the meeting. The text on the following page is what your Board is proposing at the Annual Business Meeting to be held in Peterborough on 3 November 2002.

Henry van Lieshout, Treasurer and Secretary

VOTING BY PROXY

All paid up and qualifying members of the Society have the right to attend and cast a vote at the Annual Business Meeting. In the case of family members, two people are eligible to vote. The right to vote may be exercised, either in person by attending the meeting or by written proxy, whereby the member may vote on specific motions that the Board may wish to present to the mem-

bers, or by the appointment of another member to vote on their behalf at the meeting. All motions that the Board may wish to present to members have to be published at the same time that notice of the Annual Business Meeting is given, and the form of proxy must also be made available at that time. The signed members proxy form must be received at the Society office by no later than two business days preceding the day of the meeting. A member giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before it is exercised by an instrument in writing received at the Society office at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the meeting at which the proxy is to be used, or with the Chair of the meeting, prior to commencement of the meeting.

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.		
Income Statement for the year ended December 31, 2001		
INCOME	2001	2000
Trillium Foundation grant	\$69,000	
Provincial Heritage Operating grant	34,000	\$28,450
Partnership Income - Town of Richmond Hill	19,334	
Membership fees	19,175	17,661
Outreach program income - McGaw	10,740	
OA Publication Fund withdrawal	3,500	
Federal Government grant	3,384	1,692
Proceeds from members trip to Egypt	3,192	
Donations	2,923	4,793
Sales	2,034	2,225
Johnson Insurance	288	360
Educational kit sales and rental	170	
Passport to the Past	75	115
TOTAL INCOME	\$167,815	\$55,296
EXPENSES		
Salary and benefits	\$43,468	\$34,926
Professional fees	32,898	
Outreach program development	22,565	
McGaw site supplies	9,809	
Postage	7,635	8,242
Publication cost - Ontario Archaeology	7,177	5,077
Rent	6,599	6,135
Publication cost - Arch Notes	6,466	7,545
Administration	5,397	6,111
Symposium	4,071	(1,084)
Program admin fee	3,548	
Printing and supplies	3,403	4,234
Telecommunications and internet	3,348	2,555
Insurance	1,494	1,259
Grants awarded	1,447	670
Publication cost - Field Manual	836	1,269
Depreciation	747	
Promotion materials	642	4,311
Bank charges	214	266
Moving costs	4,752	
Anniversary dinner	350	
Other	463	284
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$162,227	\$86,902

Reflections Upon St. Catherine's Monastery at Mt. Sinai at Eastertime

by Janet Turner

Janet has been a life member of the OAS for 15+ years and has taken several groups on educational/cultural tours to various places (her specialities are Egypt, Greece, and Italy).

In July 1998, several OAS members joined her on a trip to Bolivia and Peru.

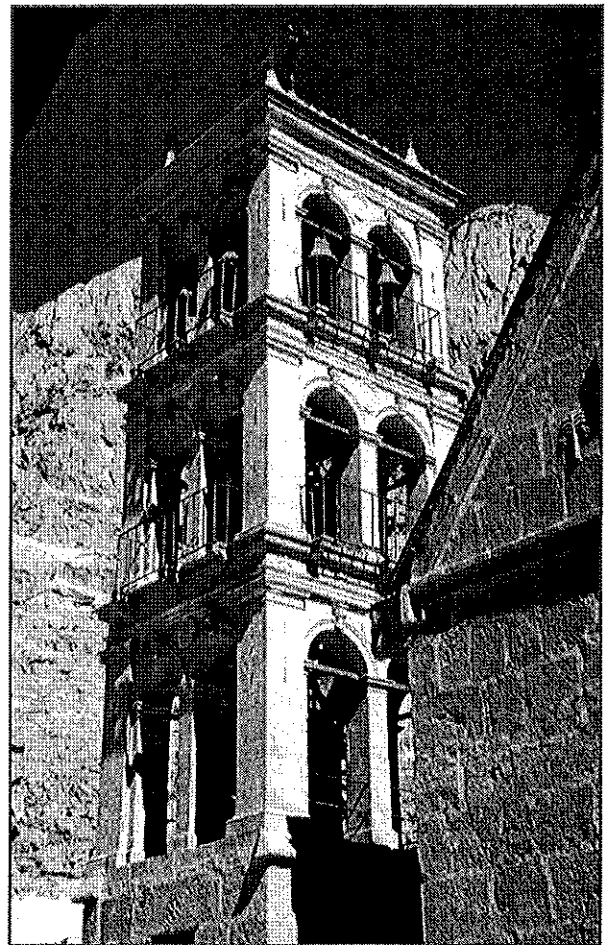
Janet hopes to set up a tour of Turkey in March 2003 and to Ecuador/Galapagos in November 2003 or early in 2004. Before her recent retirement,

Janet was a high school teacher (Latin, Greek, and History) for 34 years.

The years 2001 and 2002 have become the years of my obsession with travelling to Egypt. One of the primary reasons for this siren call is my new-found fascination with the Sinai, which I visited for the first time on October 31st.

Reputed to be the "oldest Christian monastery in continuous existence in the world" (Kamil 1996:1), St. Catherine's is located at the end of the Wadi el-Deir in southern Sinai, close to the triangular tip of the peninsula which juts out into the Red Sea and is flanked to the west by the Gulf of Suez and to the east by the Gulf of Aqaba. Isolated in a desolate, mountainous and ecologically-sensitive desert and protected as a "sacred, historical, and scenic" (Kamil 1996:16) area as of July 31st, 1983 by legislation signed by the current president Mubarak, this site has had a fascinating origin and history.

Many of these background details our 26-year-old guide, Tamer Ismailia, revealed during the early morning 265 km bus trip from Sharm el-Sheikh to the monastery nestled at the feet of Mount Catherine and Mount Sinai. The strict daily regimen of the monks forces them to close the monastery daily at 12:30 pm. The incredible beauty of the ragged mountain peaks emerging from the desert floor, the boulders tossed indiscriminately here and there by violent upheavals and glacial action over time, and the appearance of low, spiny bushes or a solitary living acacia tree with a few leaves – the fodder of goats, captured our rapt attention. Along the two-lane highway constructed



in modern times, the appearance of wild camels, small Bedouin encampments, a new government school, the remnant of a tank tread left over from

the Arab-Israeli wars (1956, 1967, and 1973) reminded us of the difficulty of sustaining human habitation here and the reality of the conflicts of diverse people enacted here on this critical thoroughfare from Western Asia to Africa. The armies of Egyptian Pharaohs (eg. Thutmose I, Rameses II), Assyrians, Persians, Alexander the Great, Roman legionnaires, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks, French, British, modern Egyptians, and Israelis have all marched here.

For religious reasons, the Sinai has attracted the attention of many notable personages through the years. A 9th century patriarch of Alexandria, Eutychios, claimed that Helena, a convert to Christianity and mother of Roman Emperor Constantine, upon travelling to Sinai with her son in 327 AD, ordered a chapel built where Moses had heard the 'voice' emanating from the Burning Bush (Exodus 3). Also she provided a fortified tower as a refuge for the many hermits, mainly Greek-speaking, who had settled there during times of severe persecution of Christians by the Romans.

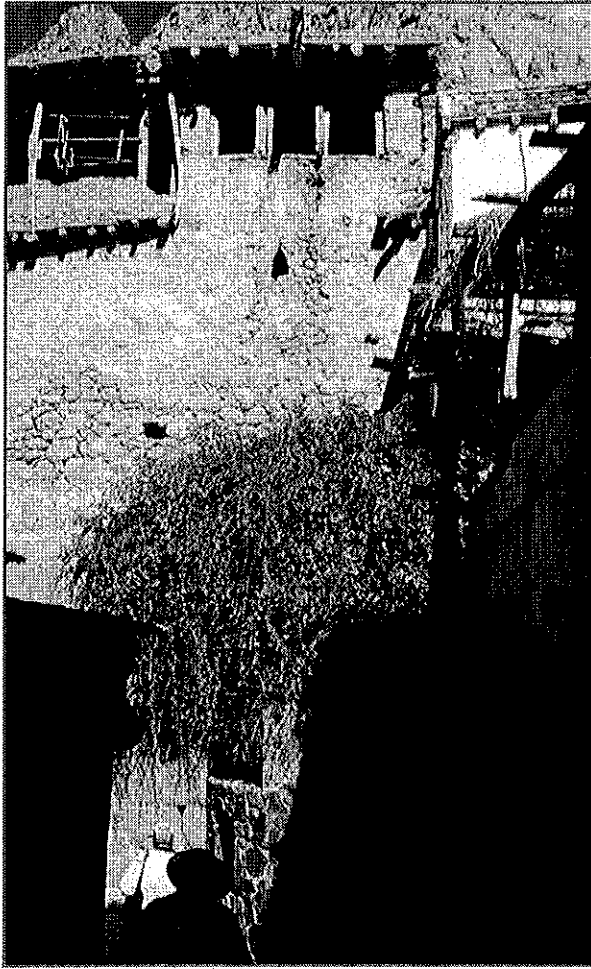
As aristocratic pilgrims and travellers from the Byzantine Empire brought donations and gifts, raids, looting and murder occurred until the Emperor of Byzantium, Justinian, sent Egyptian architects and builders in 527 AD to construct fortifications and a new Basilica, the Church of the Transfiguration within these lofty stone walls which rose to a height between 9 and 18 metres. To serve the monks as servants and guards, he sent 200 Egyptians and 200 Wallachians and Bosnians, some with their families, whose descendants still serve the monastery today. It is believed that descendants of the Wallachian slaves are the tribe called the Gebeliya who intermarried with Bedouins and embraced Islam. Many of these still live nearby.

It was not until probably the 10th century that the site acquired its present name from the legend of Catherine, allegedly a daughter of a noble or royal family in Alexandria. When she tried to convert the Roman Emperor Maximianus to Christianity, she suffered a virgin martyr's death in a place in Alexandria, which subsequently became known as the Church of St. Catherine. Although Maximianus personally ordered her to be strapped to four wheels, two of which were set to rotate to the right and two to the left, with knife blades attached to all four, she was not cut. Consequently, he had her beheaded on November 25th, 305 AD.

Five centuries later, one tradition arose that a monk in Sinai had a vision in which her body became radiant after the death and was lifted to a peak near Mount Sinai later known as Mount Catherine. There, the monks found the body intact and exuding a sweet-smelling myrrh. In the 11th century, three finger bones supposedly detached from her hand. When they were taken to the Abbey of the Trinity in Rouen, they oozed a kind of oil that relieved pain. The Crusaders returned these to the monastery. At that time the monks brought her body from the peak of the mount and buried it in the monastery. During the annual Celebration of St. Catherine's Day (November 25th), the archbishop of Sinai and the monks honour her memory by carrying all around the Church of the Transfiguration, two golden reliquaries; the one containing the hand; the other, her skull. One of the most famous monks who served here was St. Gregory of Tours, patriarch of Antioch from 570-594 AD.

Despite many conquests of Egypt, the monks and the monastery enjoyed the protection of the Muslims following the Arab conquest of 640 AD under a charter known as the Covenant of the Prophet; the Turks initially under Sultan Selim I for two and a half centuries after 1517 AD; the French under Napoleon in 1798 (who arranged for restoration and for building other fortifications also); and the father of modern Egypt, Muhammad Ali (1805-1848). During a restoration in 869 AD, it is believed that the Mosque capped by a dome and a minaret was built within the fortified walls — "or in 1106, by transforming a chapel dedicated to St. Basil into an Islamic religious structure" (Siliotti 2002:129), whose service on Fridays therein serves the religious needs of the monastery's Muslim servants and visitors. The Turks allowed the monks to supplement their income which traditionally came from the Greek churches of Crete, Cyprus, Rhodes and Corfu, and quite sizeable donations by notables like Catherine the Great of Russia and King Constantine of Greece, by selling their soaps, wine, olive oil, vegetables and coarsely woven fabrics. Muhammad Ali gave them a percentage of custom duties levied in Cairo to maintain their religious buildings.

At this time, feeling secure, the monks opened up a new door in the fortress wall. No longer did monks, pilgrims, and supplies have to be pulled up the wall by means of a rope and pulley system.



On October 31st, 2001 as our bus approached the vicinity of Mount Sinai, there appeared the white-domed tombs of Aaron, brother of Moses and a local Bedouin saint known as Nabi (prophet) Saleh, who in the legends, is associated with the deeds of the prophet Mohammed. Their annual celebration involves the sacrifice of a sheep at the Mosque on the top of St. Catherine.

With the stone fortifications in sight, our guide offered us an unexpected addition to our tour. Even though the guidebooks indicated the library, second only to the Vatican in its collection of ancient and priceless manuscripts, was closed to tourists, Tamer suggested that for a donation of twenty Egyptian pounds per person (about \$7 Canadian), he might be able to persuade Father Justine to meet us there after our regular tour. While every other tourist was forced to walk from the parking lot up the steep incline to the monastery, our bus, with the permission of the

Tourist Police, discharged us at the wall built by Emperor Justinian.

We awaited the arrival of Father Justine from the roof-top, a place usually not accessible to tourists. From this vantage point, we could see the path traditionally attributed to Moses' ascent to Mount Sinai where he received the Tablets of Law inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

Informed by Tamer that Father Justine had lived in this holy place for the past six years but hailed from Texas, USA, I did not know what to expect. My first impression was that he was a displaced hippie from the 60's. Pencil-thin and clad in the black regal hat of a Greek Orthodox monk with a long, greying rather wispy beard, he had a quiet but commanding presence. He led us into the library – a rectangular room with stacks and stacks of shelves housing priceless manuscripts that soared up to a very high ceiling. Father Justine listed some of their most priceless possessions. Also, he related interesting stories, two of which I shall detail.

Holding the original handwritten promissory note of 1859 in his hand, he read these words: "I the undersigned, Konstantin Von Tischendorf ... testify by the present letter... that the Holy Confraternity of Mount Sinai...has handed over to me, as a loan, an ancient manuscript of both Testaments, ... consisting of 346 folia and a small fragment...I promise to return it undamaged and in a good state of preservation..."

Father Justine explained how their treasure was lost. The manuscript referred to was the Codex Sinaiticus, which, along with the Codex Vaticanus, are "the two earliest copies of the whole Greek Bible; that is, the New Testament in its original Greek and the Old Testament in the Greek translation of the 3rd century BC" (Kamil 1996:63). In fact, neither the Codices Vaticanus nor Alexandrinus in the British Museum was so complete. Further study revealed that it was "the oldest uncorrupted text of the Bible — and the only known Bible of the Greek New Testament in its original uncial script" (Kamil 1996:67). Scholars believe that the Codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus were produced in 331 AD in Caesarea on the order of Emperor Constantine to Eusebius (of Caesarea) who was to get professional scribes to make 50 copies of the Bible on parchment. This belief cannot conclusively be proven. Certainly the Codex

Sinaiticus has four different handwritings indicating four different scribes.

The monks never again saw their Codex, which von Tischendorf presented as a gift to Czar Alexander II at St. Petersburg. The Czar subsequently paid for a copy of the work, which was presented to the monastery. Dying in 1917, the year of the Russian revolution, von Tischendorf never knew that the Russian government, in need of funds, sold the Codex to the British Museum for 100,000 British pounds in 1933.

As a result of this duplicity, the monks have been reluctant to let anyone enter their library, being especially suspicious of scholars eager to inspect their archives. An interesting related event occurred "on May 26, 1975 when the monks discovered in a room being cleared after a fire in the Chapel of St. George, a dozen leaves" (Kamil 1996:69) (folia) which were authenticated to belong to the Codex Sinaiticus. This discovery they did not announce to the world until 1981.

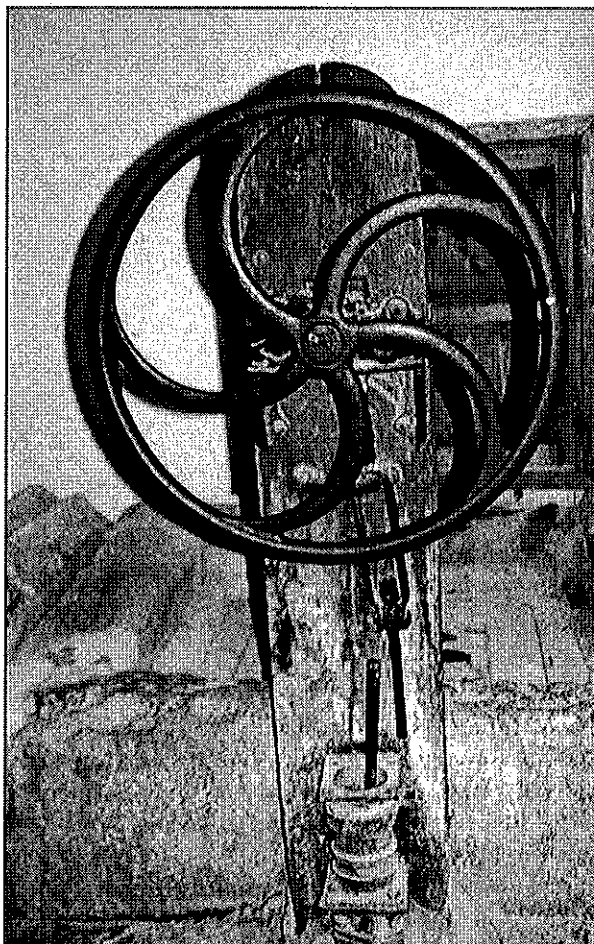
The second story is on a lighter vein. Identical twin sisters, born in Irvine, Scotland in 1843, received a legacy over 250,000 British pounds upon the death of their father. Using this income, these highly educated women travelled in Greece and Egypt in 1856 but returned to their rural Scotland. When both of their husbands were deceased, in 1890 they undertook the ten-day journey by camel from Cairo to St. Catherine's monastery at Mount Sinai.

Because of their ability to read Hebrew, Greek, Syriac and Arabic, and with a letter of recommendation from a leading scholar, they were admitted to the library. While there, they discovered a 5th century AD version of the Old Syriac Gospels being used as butter dishes in the refectory! (vellum is thick animal hide.) Subsequent trips to the Middle East led them to other discoveries and purchases, such as, the only known version in Hebrew of the Apocryphal Book of Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) which previously was only known in Greek and Syriac translation.

Several universities that granted them honorary doctorates recognized their pioneering work. Doctor Agnes Smith Lewis and Doctor Margaret Dunlop Gibson died in 1926 and 1920 respectively, and endowed Westminster College, which opened in 1899 as a training place for Presbyterian

ministers. Today, their portraits still hang on the wall.

It was not until my subsequent visit to St. Catherine's monastery in February 2002 that I learned that the monks had permanently closed the library and we were one of the last, if not the last, unofficial visitors ever to be afforded that privilege. When our tour of the library ended, we real-

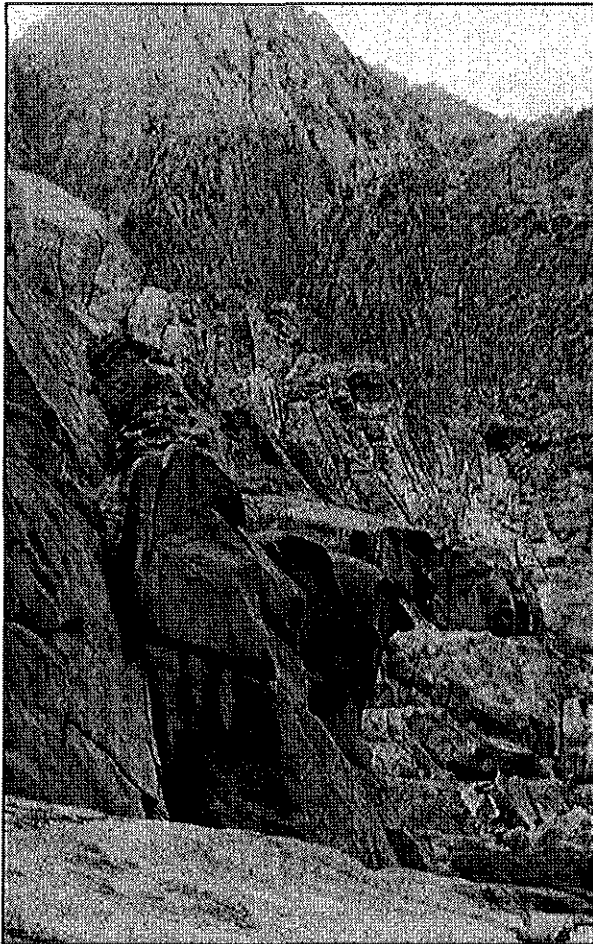


ized that the site had been closed about an hour ago and we had the place to ourselves along with the 25 monks who currently live there. This number of inhabitants has decreased over time. A German traveller recorded 400 inhabitants in 1350; in 1435 another traveller noted 60 inhabitants.

Upon my return in February, quite unexpectedly Father Justine entered through a side door near the small chapel (3 metres x 5 metres) of the Burning Bush, situated below and beneath the altar of the Church of the Transfiguration. It is considered the

most sacred part of the monastery because it is believed that the stone slab, over which is an altar supported by four marble columns, marks the original root and site of the Burning Bush. In October, I had so drooled over the prospect of being within arm's length of a 9th century copy of Homer's Iliad in that library, that he remembered me. He explained that, upon the closure of the library, they had opened up a museum just that week, in which many manuscripts were on display, protected within temperature-controlled glass cases.

Even some of their 2000 outstanding icon (150 of which are unique pieces that date from the 5th to the 7th centuries) are tastefully displayed in this museum. To date, only the icons on the walls of the Church could be viewed by tourists. In the antechamber, the icons showing Saint John Klimakos climbing the 30 rungs of a ladder representing the 30 virtues and reaching heaven first, followed by another Abbot of Sinai while other sinners fall off and are led away by devils, is quite spectacular.



It is the monks' plan to change periodically the items on display to try to deal with the pressure applied by the Egyptian government to offer tourists additional incentives to visit the Sinai. I forewarned Father Justine that I was returning in March and December (2002) and was hopeful to see the Iliad on display. He could give me no promises.

The museum is located near Moses' Well, once called Jethro's Well, so named because this priest of Midian had seven daughters whom Moses saved from some shepherds' insults at this well. In gratitude he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. The stone slab covering the well is gone but the metal mechanism has been recently restored and the well still produces clear, mountain spring water.

Before leaving for Egypt on March 8th I learned that St. Catherine's would be closed on March 17th the day of our scheduled visit, because of a special Greek Orthodox feast day; however, the travel agency in Egypt (Blue Sky Travel) was looking into the situation. Upon our arrival in Sharm el-Sheikh, Tamer Ismailia stated that the Tourist Police would unlock the gate for us and for a film crew from Belgium — about 10 people in total since my group now numbered only four (three from Barrie and one from Nelson, B.C.) A handful of Greek Orthodox visitors also entered the walled sanctuary.

Upon my special request, the monk who met us relayed to Father Justine the information that we had arrived. Within ten minutes our reunion occurred. Father Justine proceeded to give the four of us and our Muslim guide Tamer a personal tour, not only of the historical places, but also, of areas accessible only to the monks and experts around the world involved in research and specialized restorative work. I recognized by the fresh masonry work that experts were engaged in restoring a wall of the Roman period in this restricted area. Father Justine confirmed my observation. All the while our guide, Tamer, kept whispering to me "I've never been here before, or here..."

From the top of the northwest wall (about 18 metres in height), overlooking the gardens where in February we had witnessed the pink blossoms of the flowering almond trees, we saw the fruit of the monks' labour; the fertile soil that had been transported from distant places; the well for irrigation;

and the fruit (apricot, pear, plum), citrus (orange, lemon), and olive trees. The shade of the cypress trees that surrounded this garden outside the wall, hid from view the vegetables, and the fowl, cattle, and donkeys.

Amid the sound and strutting antics of the crows and magpies, Father Justine pointed out the smaller birds – the sparrows, and interestingly-coloured grackles. To our delight, he rather critically recalled the day when a flock of Canada Geese flew so high overhead that no one would have ever known they were there, if not for the loud, incessant honking that reverberated throughout the quiet stillness of the mountain setting and disturbed the monks' silent contemplation. His annoyance was somewhat mollified when I explained that the purpose of the honking was the flock's attempt to offer both encouragement and gratitude to their leader at the head of the Vee-formation.

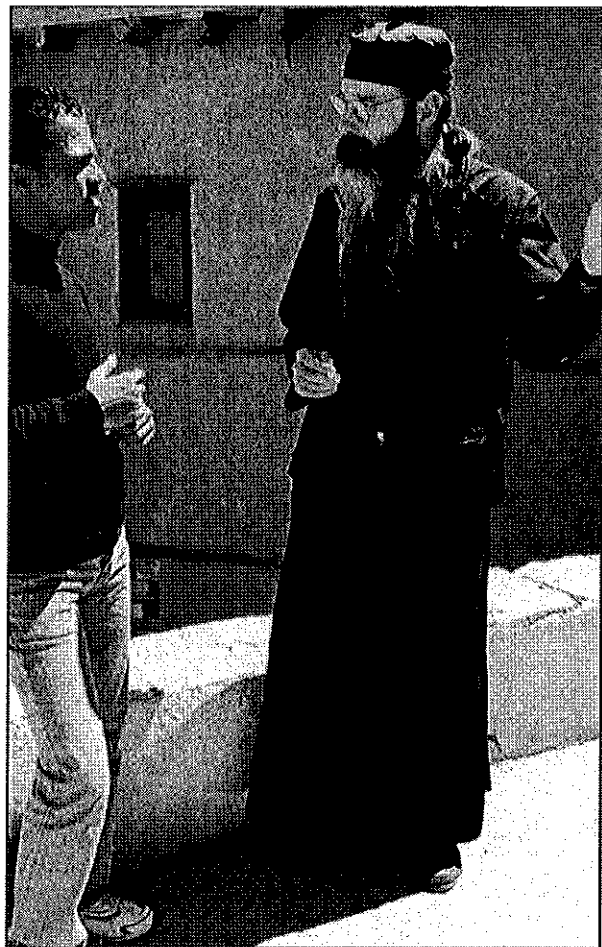
As we stood under the pendulous branches of a shoot of the original Burning Bush from which Moses heard the 'Voice' and witnessed the fire that would not consume it, Father Justine explained in a very objective way both the historical and scientific evidence that would confirm this as the locale of important events in the life of Moses, and conversely, disputes that supported other locales and theories. He did explain that in the hope of better preserving it, the monks had moved it slightly from its original place. Fairly recently, upon a request, the monks sent a shoot to Jerusalem where it flourishes beside one of the holy sites there. These are the only two known examples of this plant (of the raspberry family) world-wide.

It was enchanting to hear him explain how the branches hanging over a protective stone wall used to touch the ground, but countless souvenir-taking tourists have dramatically shortened them. Also each day the monks water it from water drawn from Moses' Well nearby. It seems appropriate.

Standing beside the Church of the Transfiguration is a minaret of the Mosque probably built in 869 AD. All of these structures are dominated by the 19th century belltower, which stands about 10 metres high. The ancient wooden bell suspended therein is rung daily, while the nine metal bells, a gift of the Russian Church in 1871, is used primarily on feast days.

The tour was now over with the exception of the Church whose door of cypress-wood, probably the original from Justinian's Basilica, remained locked. Hesitantly, I presented Father Justine with two large bags of peanuts acquired at Luxor. Because the monks had already begun their fasting for Easter-time, I was unsure whether the peanuts would be acceptable. Accepting the gift, Father Justine assured me that they would not break their fast. Before leaving, he led us to a side door in the Church and told us to wait there. With this comment, he disappeared around the high wall to attend a special meeting with the Bishop.

Soon a monk appeared to unlock the door and led us within, where surprisingly, Father Justine was preparing to officiate at a service. He beckoned to us to sit on very ancient, the hinged, carved wooden seats set along one wall of the central nave of this early Byzantine Church. The original wooden trusses supporting the roof and the 50 vigil lamps and many chandeliers, 30 of which incorporated



ostrich eggs, and now all lit, were a dazzling sight.

During the reading from the Bible, another monk chanted several times the words, Kyrie Eleiison. My knowledge of ancient Greek and the rhythmic chanting of the monks kept me enthralled. I wished that my female companions and I had brought scarves to cover our hair. After completing the service, Father Justine rejoined us to say his good-byes. Our guide Tamer voiced our thoughts: "We must be the only non-Greek Orthodox people ever to have attended such a service in that Church."

I am returning to Egypt and the Sinai this coming December (6th to 20th). Once again, I feel compelled to make a pilgrimage to this desolate and hauntingly beautiful but not God-forsaken land.

Bibliography

Kamil, J. *The Monastery of Saint Catherine in Sinai: History and Guide*. The American University in Cairo Press. Cairo, Egypt, 1996.

Silotti, A. *Guide to the Exploration of the Sinai*. White Star Publishers. Vercelli, Italy, 2001.

Who are they now??



As part of a research project focused on the early history of Ontario Archaeology, can anyone identify this young man?

In Memoriam

Robert G. Mayer

1949 - 2002

Bob Mayer was a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society for more than a quarter of a century, and received his 25 year citation at the OAS dinner in November, 2001. Bob was for a very long time, an active supporter of the Society.

Bob worked as an archaeologist for many years in the cultural resource management field and brought to his vocation, the experience gained in his early days of non-archaeology employment. One of his early experiences was working in a pool hall and his first published article concerned his work there. Later he worked as a labourer, manufacturing concrete products. Here he handled concrete blocks and other products as they came out of the kilns. Bob was no stranger to hard work.

But archaeology became Bob's passion, and remained so for all of his life. He graduated from the University of Manitoba and began his archaeology career as a field crew member on a number of projects. When he arrived in Ontario, he served with Parks Canada and with the London Museum of Archaeology. Some years later, funding limitations at the museum resulted in Bob and a number of his colleagues being set "at liberty"

Together with Rob Phil and Dana Poulton, Bob formed Mayer, Phil, Poulton and Associates Inc. They were among the first in Ontario to offer cultural resource management services on a fee-for-service basis, and the firm was quite successful. When Rob Phil left to follow his primary interests in archaeology, the firm reorganized as Mayer, Poulton and Associates, Inc. This firm, too, became very successful and eventually allowed Bob and Dana to reorganize as two separate CRM providers, with Bob and Dana each following his own special interests.

Bob formed Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. which survives his death and continues to provide the broad range of archaeological and heritage services as envisaged by Bob. Over his career, Bob conducted investigations for many hundreds of housing and industrial developments, aboriginal campsites and villages, transportation corridors, and 19th century pioneer homesteads and commercial establishments. As his business enterprise matured, Bob found the time to devote to many archaeology/heritage organizations. He served on the Van Egmond Foundation Board of Directors, the Eldon House Advisory Committee for the London Region Art Gallery, and he chaired the Archaeology Sub Committee of the City of London Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.

Bob gave freely of his expertise and took some very strong stands with respect to the well being of archaeology in Ontario. A review of the many articles he contributed to *Arch Notes* over the years shows his interest in subjects ranging from the marshalling of community resources to safety requirements to be instituted for projects involving deep-site investigations. He was particularly requiring of clients whose projects required excavation and mitigation involving contaminated or "dirty" soils.

In recent years, Bob made time to work more closely with the Ontario Archaeological Society. He served as an Executive Committee Director, and for two consecutive years, served as the Society's president. The Society's 50th anniversary was celebrated during his tenure as president, as was the move of the Society's offices to its new and modern premises. Bob was particularly concerned that the society adopt a greater self-funding mode, anticipating a significant reduction in governmental support over the coming years.

Bob Mayer's many friends included his colleagues, his employees and the many students, who through summer employment, he encouraged in their archaeology careers. He stands very tall in the

archaeology and cultural resource management fields in Ontario, and is remembered for his contributions which are many and of lasting significance.

Trevor Hawkins

A Letter to Bob

by Michael B. Henry

I was stunned when I received the last issue of *Arch Notes* wherein I read of the Passing of Bob Mayer. Until I received that newsletter no one had spoken a word of his passing to either Marilyn Cornies or myself. There are many stories I could tell...many that Bob never knew about the things employees do! In speaking to many others, it is my understanding that for many, word of Bob's passing came too late to attend his memorial service. Maybe the OAS would be gracious enough to host a get together to reminisce over Bob's career and we can share some stories over a few cold ones. I can hear that trade mark Bob chuckle just thinking about it!

Nearly 20 years ago this archaeologist received his first paycheque for fieldwork from Bob Mayer. This project was to set the pattern for my employment relationship with Bob Mayer that was to span the next decade. Bob needed crew to assist him in a survey of several large agricultural properties in north Waterloo. Bob hired Colin Varley, Paul Racher and myself. The job consisted of an entirely pedestrian survey of large fields in the early spring. There was a biting north wind and the fields were still quite wet with some areas of standing water. Bob actually led the fieldwork sporting a newly minted MPP baseball hat and black rubber boots.

Day 1

Bob arrived in what was to become the trademark vehicle of MPP and MPA...the white Thrifty rental van. Bob looked over his new crew and his disapproving eye fell upon Colin Varley. In those days Bob had very rigid ideas regarding professional appearance and comportment. These attitudes were later relaxed somewhat...or should I say, greatly relaxed? (witness the hiring of Dave Perry) At any rate, Colin Varley was dismissed at the end of the first day as he had shoulder length hair.

Day 2

This day began much as the entire previous day was spent...trudging through muck with boots burdened by what felt like many pounds of mud (you know the feeling). By and by we came upon a large mud filled depression. Paul went around it to the right, I went around it to the left, and Bob charged through the middle...no doubt his knee high black rubber boots leant him a feeling of invincibility. Bob didn't reach the other side. Bob bogged down in the center of the morass and beckoned Paul to assist him. Rather than try to extract Bob by attempting to lift him out of the mud, Paul stood close to the edge of the bog and grasped Bob's outstretched hand. Paul gave Bob a mighty pull which succeeded in releasing Bob from the mud's firm grip only because he had yanked Bob clean out of his boots (and socks). Bob did a face first landing in the mud. I could barely contain my laughter as Bob floundered in the mud on all fours looking for his socks and heaving away at his still stuck boots. Having crawled to the edge Bob sat down, shook his head with a heavy sigh, and put his soggy socks and mud-filled boots back on. I have to say Bob was a real trooper. He surveyed for the rest of the day without a single word of complaint and without a change of clothes.

Day 3

Paul Racher was not invited to participate on the third day. I expect that the cause is apparent and clear to all. Bob and I spent this day much as we had spent the past two. While we walked, Bob explained to me that there was a tradition in Ontario archaeology that the crew chief would buy a beer for anyone that found a diagnostic artifact. A short while later I happened upon a patent medicine bottle of the late 19th century. I offered it to Bob as my diagnostic artifact in application for the promised reward.

"Ummm...uh...well...what I meant was a Native diagnostic artifact...like a projectile point," was Bob's response. "Oh I see," I replied, "you aren't interested in something that could be dated to within, say 10 years...what you want is something a little more vague...something you could date to say...plus or minus 500 years?" I was not invited to complete the survey.

This, as I said at the outset, was to set the pattern of our professional relationship for the next ten years. Bob would hire me, I would eventually make some wise crack, and Bob would then neglect to call me for future work. Nevertheless, Bob always did eventually hire me back and he always greeted me with warmth and friendship outside of work. I would often stop by and visit Bob even when working elsewhere and Bob, always the professional, never asked that I betray the confidence of other employers.

During my last project under Bob's employment I wrote a letter to Bob with the assistance of Jim Boyd and Ernie Salva on the bare buttocks of an unconscious crew member who had passed out from excessive drink. The letter was photographed and if you want to know the whole story, including Bob's reaction, you will have to bribe me with a beer. The letter read as follows:

Dear Bob:

Thanks for Pelee Island! You're the King!

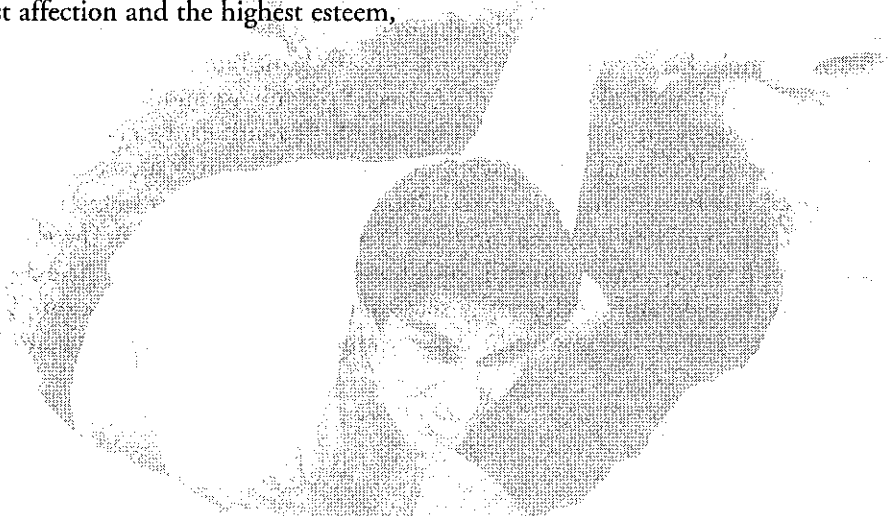
Today, if I could send a letter to Bob, it might read something like this:

Dear Bob:

My heart is heavy with the burden of your loss. There is an emptiness in Ontario Archaeology that can never be filled. You have enriched my personal and professional life through your presence. I will miss our lengthy conversations. The business end of archaeology has lost a good measure of its excitement and interest that only an honorable competitor, such as you were, can offer. I shall miss your jolly laughter, your wry smile, your wit and intelligence. A person such as I am learns to rely upon your tremendous ability to forgive all wrongs for the sake of friendship. I am thankful for the opportunities you extended to me and for all of the wonderful people I met through my association with you. I shall keep your memory alive in my thoughts and deeds and hold your memory close to my heart.

With warmest regards, the greatest affection and the highest esteem,

Your friend,
Mike Henry



... the last word

Bob wrote this open letter to the OAS-List on April 16, 2002 – the day after the new Ministry of Culture was announced. His commentary reflects the state of the situation at that time (as we knew it). As usual, Bob quickly saw through the red tape and soft-sell and asked the tough questions on the key topics. Agree or disagree (and what better way is there to hold a dialogue?) all of us do miss Bob's frequent submissions on archaeology, governing bodies, and the politics of heritage.

So, fittingly, in this issue of AN, Robert G. Mayer gets the last word.

Hi All:

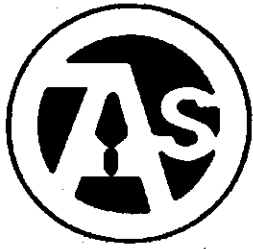
Ernie Eves, the new Ontario Premier, last night announced his new cabinet, and I would like to share some preliminary thoughts about Culture being shifted to the Management Board of Cabinet. Although we should all be used to Culture being a poor cousin that has been shifted and combined with at least six different ministries over the past 25 years, this new move is certainly a completely different direction for the provincial government to take, and to combine it with the Management Board of Cabinet (under Chairman David Tsubouchi) seems to be somewhat incongruous. Culture's last pairing with Tourism and Recreation seemed to be a natural coupling because of the tremendous partnering opportunities that it provided for the people of Ontario.

What is the strategy or philosophy governing this move? Does Culture need to be controlled by a management board instead of being administered like other Ministries? What priorities will Chairman Tsubouchi establish for Culture in general and for archaeology/heritage specifically? Will the on-going Archaeology Customer Service Project be continued? Will the proposed changes to the licencing and reporting framework be implemented? Will the long awaited new Heritage Act that exists in draft form be finally introduced in the legislature after many years of public meetings and consultations with provincial heritage organizations?

I do not believe that the heritage community should be "laissez faire" and just wait to see how Culture fairs under the Management Board of Cabinet. By making this change, the government obviously has some new strategy planned that it has not yet shared with the public. Now is the time to inform Chairman Tsubouchi at the beginning of his tenure what his priorities and responsibilities for Culture should be.

I invite all of the various Ontario heritage organizations, museums and concerned individuals to write letters to the Minister welcoming him to the position, letting him know what are the issues/problems Culture faces to survive in a global economy, suggesting appropriate solutions, and asking for a prompt response.

Sincerely,
Bob Mayer



The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.
11099 Bathurst Street
Richmond Hill ON L4C 0N2
Phone: (905) 787-9851
Toll free: 1-888-733-0042
Fax: (905) 787-9852
Email: oas@globalserve.net
Internet: www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

Membership

(second figure includes subscription to Ontario Archaeology)

Individual	\$31 / \$40
Family	\$36 / \$45
Student	\$20 / \$29
Institution/Corporate	\$60
Life	\$750

Partners



Arch Notes Submissions

Contributer deadlines:

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

Arch Notes editor
369 Bryant Crescent
Burlington ON, L5L 3Z4
fdieterm@chass.utoronto.ca

Grand River- Waterloo chapter

President - Dean Knight
Secretary - (vacant)
Mailing address - c/o Dr. Dean Knight
Wilfred Laurier University, Archaeology
75 University Avenue West,
Waterloo ON N2J 3C5

Hamilton chapter

President - Jacqueline Fisher
Vice-President - Brad Bandow
Secretary/Treasurer - Helen Sluis
Newsletter - The Heights; Editor - Bill Fitzgerald
Mailing address - 452 Jackson Street W.,
Hamilton ON L8P 1N4 Membership - \$10
Meetings - usually at 7:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month,
except June-August, at Dundurn Castle
Email - hamilton.oas@hwcen.org / Internet - www.hwcen.org/link/hcoas

London chapter

President - Jim Keron
Vice-president - Paul O'Neal
Secretary - Larelyn Geise
Treasurer - Chris Ellis
Directors - Kristen Snarey, James Sherratt
Newsletter - KEWA; Editors - Christine Dodd & Chris Ellis
Mailing address - 55 Centre Street London ON N6J 1T4
Tel. (519) 675-7742, Fax (519) 675-7777
Internet - <http://yoda.ssc.l.uwo.ca:80/assoc/oas/lonoas.html>
Membership - individual and family \$18, institutional \$21
Meetings - usually at 8:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month
except May-August, at the London Museum of Archaeology

Niagara-on- the-Lake chapter

President - Laura Dodson
Vice-President - Paul Catling
Secretary/Treasurer - Clara Tarnoy
Mailing address - Box 1016
Niagara-on-the-Lake ON L0S 1J0
Tel. (905) 468-5202
Meetings - usually held at 7:30pm
on the 1st Wednesday of the month, except July-August
in the Navy Hall, Ricardo Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Ottawa chapter

President - Lois King
Vice-President - Irene-Ann LaCroix
Secretary - Heather Stronach
Treasurer - Bill MacLennan
Directors-at-large - Ian Dyck, Amanda Demmers
Newsletter - Ottawa Archaeologist; Editor - Jean-François Beaulieu
Mailing address - Box 4939 Station E, Ottawa ON K1S 5J1
Internet - www.canadianarchaeology.com/associations/ontario/ottawaaoas/otchh.htm
Membership - individual \$17, family \$20, student \$10
Meetings - usually at 7:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month, except
June-August, at the Routhier Community Centre, 172 Guigues Street, 3rd floor

Thunder Bay chapter

President - Frances Duke
Secretary/Treasurer - Andrew Hinshelwood
Mailing address - 331 Hallam Street,
Thunder Bay ON P7A 1L9
Meetings - usually at 8:00pm on the last Friday of the month, except
June-August, in the anthropology teaching lab, room 2004 Braun
Building, Lakehead University

Toronto chapter

President - David Lipovitch
Vice-President - Penny Young
Secretary - Annie Gould
Treasurer - Roberta O'Brien / Program Convenor - Pat Reed
Newsletter - Profile; Editor - Andy Schoenhofer
Mailing address - Toronto's First Post Office,
260 Adelaide Street East, Box 48, Toronto ON M5A 1N1
Internet: www.chass.utoronto.ca/anthropology/OAS/torchapt.html
Membership - individual \$10, family \$12
Meetings - usually held at 7:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, except June-August, in the
Sidney Smith Hall basement, room 560a, University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street

Windsor chapter

President - Rosemary Denunzio
Vice-President - James Washington
Secretary - Lori Patin
Treasurer - Michael Primeau
Newsletter - Squirrel County Gazette; Editor - Peter Reid
Mailing address - 2338 Chilver Road, Windsor ON N8W 2V5
Tel. (519) 253-1977 Membership - individual \$17, family \$30
Meetings - usually held at 7:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month except June-August,
at the Windsor Family Credit Union, 2800 Tecumseh Road East (back door)