



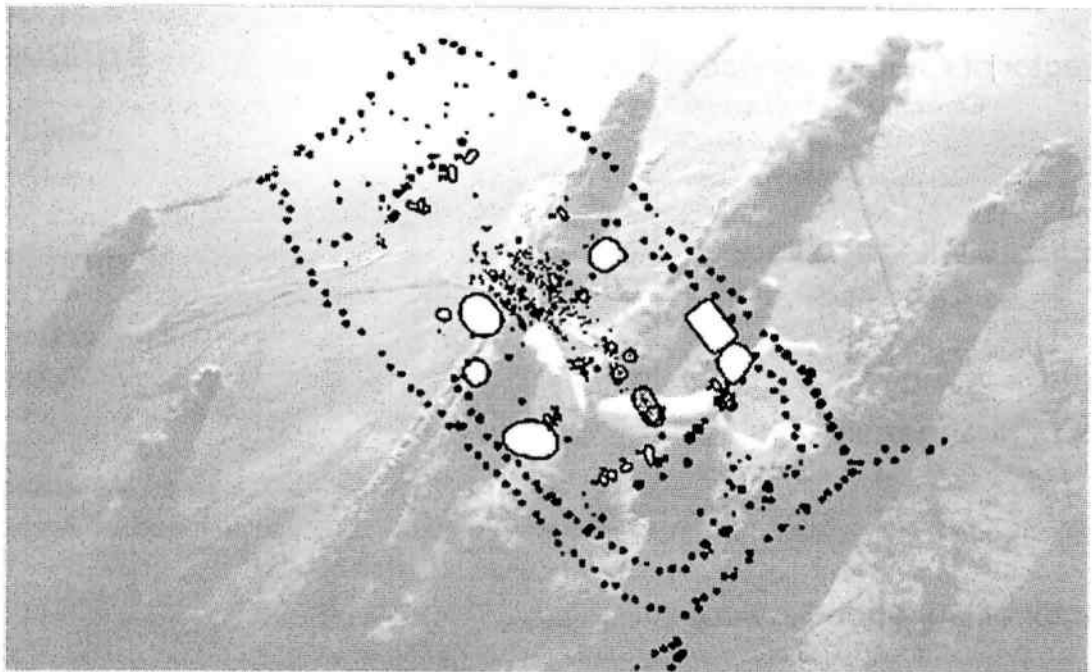
Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

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## OAS news

President's notes . . . . .	3
From the OAS office . . . . .	5
OAS Ethical Principles . . . . .	6
OAS Unearthed . . . . .	8
Public Lectures . . . . .	29
OAS chapters . . . . .	30

## Arch Notes

Native Journeys in Simcoe County: Past & Present <i>P. Lennox &amp; S. Anderson</i> . . . . .	10
News From The McGaw Site <i>R. Pihl</i> . . . . .	26

# Ontario Archaeological Society

## Board of Directors

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*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

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

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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*  
905-628-1599  
fdieterm@chass.utoronto.ca

## Symposium

### **Orilia 2003**

*TBA*

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## **... editor's note**

*Contributors – please make note of the new mailing address and telephone number for Arch Notes submissions (we've up and moved to give the dogs more room to stretch their legs). The Arch Notes mailing address is 56 Highway 52, PO Box 68, Copetown ON L0R 1J0. You can telephone me at 905-628-1599. The email address stays the same (for now).*

*Thanks to Paul Lennox for his Simcoe County memoirs – please keep the articles coming! Also in this issue you'll find the McGaw site 2002 wrap-up, some snaps of the Peterborough symposium, and the OAS ethical principles.*

*Enjoy and have a great Christmas and Happy New Year!*

## President's notes

**W**ELCOME TO THE last installment of President's Notes for 2003. I would like to start off by offering my personal congratulations to long-time member, Emerson Medal awardee, past President and former Executive Director of the OAS, Charles Garrad. Charles is the very worthy recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his over-40 years of dedication to archaeological and ethnographic research in Ontario. His work with the Petun is seminal. His work for the OAS was tireless. I am so happy to be able to report this news to our community and to note this wonderful recognition of his voluntarism and scholarship. I am sure I speak for all the members of the OAS when I say, congratulations, Charles, on this great achievement. It is but one in a long line of noteworthy achievements, but a grand one.

I'd like to thank Susan Jamieson and her team for an excellent Symposium in Peterborough this year. It was well-attended, well-organized and, thankfully, in the black. The location of next year's Symposium was announced: it will be held in Orillia in the conference facilities of the Ontario Provincial Police headquarters. The theme will centre around Forensic Archaeology. Lots of interesting events are being planned for next October 24-26, 2003. Make plans to be there now.

It is election time again. By the time you get this your ballot should have arrived. Please fill it in and mail it back to us by December 27, 2002. Any ballot envelopes received post-marked after that date will not be opened. Only 17% of eligible voters cast a ballot last year. Please show your support for the volunteers who give of their time and themselves to run the Society on your behalf by voting this year. We want to hear from you. It is your Society, after all.

In addition to wishing all of my fellow candidates good luck in the election, I would like to

thank Eva MacDonald, Director of Publications, who is retiring from the Board after 3 years of service. On behalf of all members, I thank you for your service, especially for the contribution of your editorial team who have worked so hard to get Ontario Archaeology out of the hole into which it fallen and back on track. We are still catching up but huge strides have been made in closing the publication gap. Year-end thanks also to my colleagues on the Board who are standing for re-election. It has been a pleasure to work with you. Thanks also, to all of our Chapter Executive officers toiling away to fulfill the mission of the OAS at the local level. Many of them are holding elections at this time, too, and all of them could use your support if you would like to volunteer at the Chapter level.

Turning to Ministry of Culture news: The Hon. David Tsubouchi, Minister of Culture, has been meeting with the various stakeholder groups in his Ministry such as libraries, museums, etc. He is having a round table discussion with provincial heritage groups, including us, on Nov 28. I am told that he is going to make a major announcement which will impact all of us and Ontario archaeology in general. Hmmmmmm? Stay tuned.

The Omnibus Bill, currently before the House, which has clauses in it that affect the workings of and definitions in the Ontario Heritage Act (and which many in our community consulted on earlier this year) has been referred from committee back to the House for third and final reading. Stay tuned.

Last, but not least, I would like to formally launch here a new fundraising campaign for the OAS Future Fund. As you know, through the generosity of the late Bob Mayer, the Ontario Archaeology Endowment Fund is now the better for his \$10,000 bequest. The OA Endowment Fund is sitting pretty comfortably right now. Thank you to all of the members who

have made that possible by your donations over the years. Right now, I'd like to turn your attention to our other fund, the Future Fund. This "nest egg" or "rainy day" fund is where we put donation dollars which are not ear-marked for specific purposes. It was established at about the same time as the OA Fund and was intended to provide us with a cushion for the dark day when our Provincial Heritage Organization operating grant ceased to exist. I am told that we are going to get one this year, for which I would like to thank Minister Tsubouchi and his staff for their affirmation in what the OAS is doing, but it will be flat-lined to last year's amount.

In the spirit of Bob's bequest, I would like to appeal to all members to donate whatever they can to this fundraising campaign to help make the OAS as financially independent and self-sufficient as possible. The goal is for us to raise a matching \$10,000 for the Future Fund by this time next

year. Several members stepped forward with donations at the Symposium banquet, where I unofficially launched the OAS Future Fund Campaign and again last night at the Toronto Chapter meeting which I attended. A list of donors so far will be prepared for the Jan-Feb Arch Notes. Thank you to all of our donors so far. Ten thousand dollars may seem like a lot of money, and it is, but if each of us gives only about \$20 we could easily reach our goal. How much is a two-four? More than \$20. Skip your coffee at Starbucks for a week and donate that money to your Society (that's what I'm doing; coffee addiction notwithstanding). Thanks, in advance.

Lastly, as the holiday season approaches, I'd like to wish all of you and your families the best of whichever Winter Solstice Celebration you celebrate. Take care.

Cheers, *Christine*

## ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HERITAGE DAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, February 16th, 2003  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit with the OAS 2003 Board of Directors  
and take part in the following activities:

- meet the summer 2002 excavation crew from the McGaw site
  - view the artifacts
  - watch flint knapping demonstrations
- learn and participate in the sport of "SNOW SNAKES"
- discover what's on tap for upcoming programs, summer 2003
  - and expect lots more!

Tea, Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Cookies available.

The OAS is located at 11099 Bathurst Street  
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 0N2  
(905) 787-9851

## From the OAS office...

I'd like to start this column off with a very special thank you to Susan Jamieson, Cath Oberholtzer, and all their volunteers for providing the Society with an interesting and extremely well run Symposium. Three Cheers Folks!!!

For the second year in a row the Society is moving into election mode in order to select the Directors for the 2003 Board. To me, this is a healthy sign of both interest in the affairs of the Society and growth of a sense of governance within our membership. By the time you are reading this column you should have received your ballot. The Nominating Committee is looking forward to counting your vote.

The majority of the current Board are standing for re-election. However, Eva MacDonald decided to step down to pursue more of her personal interests. Thank you Eva for three hard working years.

After four-and-a-half years of watching the Directors and Presidents that I have worked with retire from the Society's Board with little fanfare or recognition, except for a verbal thank you, I decided to institute the *Certificate of Participation* for all our future retiring Directors. I believe it's important to recognize participation, and I'm very pleased that Eva was the first recipient.

Now onto more sobering thoughts; at the time of writing this column there is still no clear sign from the Ministry of Culture as to when we will receive the Provincial Heritage Operating Grant. As of mid-November I was told that the paper work was "on its way upstairs" to be signed off by Minister of Culture, David Tsubouchi. How quickly it travels those halls is

anyone's guess? All the Provincial Heritage Operations, of which we are one, were asked to get the application in for the close of May, so there would be a quick turn around and we would see our funds and be able to set budgets by the end of August. August has come and gone. We are never guaranteed our funds and we can not depend on the amount to be consistent on a year to year basis, nor can we anticipate being rewarded monetarily for performing. This last point is an area that irks me considerably, as I have personally worked very hard to groom the OAS to meet the standards set by those who review these documents. The OAS has moved from what I perceived as a failing grade and is now meeting close to 90% of the criteria set by this review panel, yet we are not being rewarded for performing.

Unlike the Community Museum Operating Grants (CMOG), the Provincial Heritage Operating Grants are not protected so my Ontario Heritage Alliance colleagues and I are left wondering what does this mean. Once again the OAS and its sister societies are going into the dark of the year not knowing what our funding is or when it will arrive. It rather makes setting operating budgets a tad difficult.

However, we are going into a time of feasting, gathering, and expectations for new starts. Wishing you all the peace and tranquility this season offers ... JINGLE BELLS

Jo Holden, *Executive Director*

*The OAS Office will close  
Friday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m.  
and reopen  
Tuesday, January 7, 2003.*

# OAS ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

*Henry van Lieshout, OAS Secretary*

For some time it has been the intent of the Society to have an ethics statement, or set of ethical guidelines. At the 2001 Annual Business Meeting a draft proposal was presented to the members present, but the opinion was expressed that the proposal was not adequate, and the 2001 proposal was not accepted. During 2002 the Board again addressed this matter, and a revised draft was prepared, and presented to the membership at the November 3, 2002 Annual Business Meeting (ABM).

This time the Motion to accept the draft in principle was approved, with the condition that the draft be referred to the membership in general for input, prior to final approval by the Board of Directors.

In accordance with the November 3, 2002 ABM Motion therefore, the Statement of Ethical Principles is hereby presented to the members, with the request that any recommendations for additions, changes or deletions be notified to the Society in writing before March 31, 2003. The Board of Directors will review the merits of submissions, amend the proposed Guidelines accordingly, and publish the Guidelines as an addendum to the Constitution of the Society.

## **The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. Statement of Ethical Principles**

Archaeology is the search to know and understand humanity's past. This desire to learn about our common heritage is shared with many groups including: First Nations; avocationalists; students; teachers; genealogists; historians; cultural resource managers; academic researchers; and the public at large. In order to protect the information obtained from archaeological sites so that all will benefit, each archaeological practitioner must adhere to a set of principles and ethics. The members of the Society are proud to proclaim adherence to the following principles.

1. We respect and support all relevant Ontario, Canadian and International legislation and/or Conventions that deal with the practice of archaeology, and the preservation of any nation's heritage.
2. We oppose the purchase, sale and trading of genuine archaeological artifacts, and believe that licensed archaeologists hold artifacts in trust for the people of Ontario until a suitable repository can be found.
3. We believe that it is the responsibility of archaeologists to disseminate the results of research to the archaeological community as well as to the general public in an easily accessible manner, medium and format.
4. We encourage archaeological licence holders to sign the freedom of information declaration that accompanies their licence. This declaration allows the Ministry to promptly release reports without the requirement of contacting the authors for approval.
5. We view altering artifacts, records and/or falsifying reports prepared by others as unacceptable behaviour. Reporting information gathered by others without citation is also deemed unethical.

6. We believe that differing hypotheses must be freely proposed and tested, and that we will contribute to collective knowledge through constructive criticism.
7. We respect the right of First Nations to play a primary role in the conduct of any aboriginal archaeological investigation.
8. We affirm that every reasonable effort should be made to consult and cooperate with First Nations in the stewardship, conservation, and display of aboriginal artifacts, and that the wishes of First Nations must be respected concerning disturbance and re-interment of human remains.
9. We promote stewardship of all archaeological resources, materials from archaeological investigations including artifacts, reports, notes, photos, etc., and believe that these should be maintained in an appropriate repository for long term conservation.
10. Members are obligated to notify the Board of Directors of any material breach of these ethical guidelines, and we support initiatives that the Board may implement to obtain fair resolution to such breach, or to resort to remedies as provided for in our Constitution.

### **OAS MEMBER AWARDED THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDAL**

The Commemorative Medal for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee as Queen of Canada, together with a certificate signed by Governor-General Adrian Clarkson, has been awarded to OAS Life Member and Past-President Collingwood area archaeologist Charles Garrad.

An accompanying letter from Hon. Jim Peterson, MP Willowdale, explains that this is "in recognition of your outstanding achievements and contributions to archaeology in Ontario over the past forty-one years. You have played an instrumental role in recording, preserving and protecting Ontario's history, cultural heritage and prehistory".

Charlie says he is pleased at this implied recognition of the value of archaeology.

### **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 will ever know.

Respectfully,

Jo Holden, Executive Director and the  
2002 Board of Directors

### **Contributions to the Robert G. Mayer Bequest Matching Fund**

The Ontario Archaeological Society continues to receive donations.

We are very grateful to the following:

*Christine Caroppo  
Henry and Sonja van Lieshout  
Robert Pihl*

The target is to match  
Bob's donation of \$10,000.00  
by December 31, 2003

## Unearthed: Working with Archaeological Material in Study Collections & Museums

*Amy Barron, OAS Program Development Officer*

The Ontario Archaeological Society is embarking on a new project in the winter of 2003. In partnership with the Ontario Museums Association we will be hosting a conference in London, Ontario entitled "Unearthed: Working with Archaeological Material in Study Collections and Museums".

This two-day workshop will include a full day session with Judy Logan, Senior Conservator for Archaeology with the Canadian Conservation Institute. She will answer many questions regarding the part a conservator plays on an excavation team, and deal with many practical aspects such as useful materials to take into the field, simple examinations, identifications and treatments, and how to prepare an artifact for storage. Common situations found on both wet and dry sites will be examined with slides to help illustrate solutions. Participants will also be left with samples of materials suitable for a field kit.

The second day will consist of several shorter sessions. A mount-making workshop will be run by Elizabeth Pelozo and Cynthia Adams to explore the practical possibilities for exhibiting archaeological artifacts. A regional representative for the Ministry of Culture will speak on legal concerns with ownership and exhibition of archaeological materials. And Ruth Freeman from Blue Sky Designs will explore how to discover the inner story within archaeological material to create interesting public exhibits.

Join us at the London Museum of Archaeology on January 27th and 28th for a fun and information packed workshop. Have a chance to mingle with both field and museum-based individuals as they explore a common ground in the handling of archaeological materials.

For further information or to register please contact the Ontario Museums Association at 416-348-8672 or their website at [www.museumsontario.com](http://www.museumsontario.com). Cost is \$185 plus GST (lunch is included). Registration is limited.

### New Members

K. Denning - Ancaster  
A. Sinclair - Newmarket  
A. Jolly - Bolton  
J. Francavilla - Toronto  
P. Drew - Midland  
K. Shanahan - Mississauga  
C. Pelletier - Ottawa  
L. Kerr - Toronto  
S. & D. Oyama - Toronto  
Dr. J. W. Pollock - New Liskeard



G. Clark - Toronto  
M. Havelka - Cayuga  
P. Ghany - Kitchener  
I. Sanderson - Leeds, U. K.  
M. Kidon - Midhurst

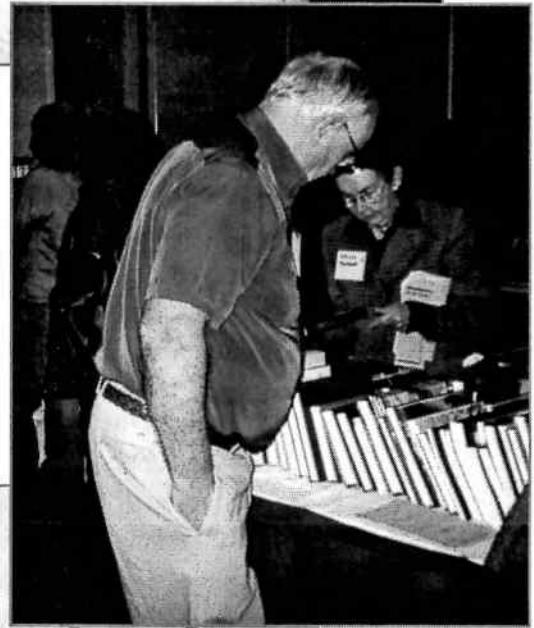
### POSITION AVAILABLE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

required for the *Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie* a 21 year old non-profit society. The successful candidate for this full time position in Ottawa will oversee the activities of the head office and of the membership, and will interact with eleven branches across Ontario. This person must demonstrate excellent oral and written skills in both French and English, administrative experience and ability in grant requests or fund raising. Other duties to be assigned by the Board of Directors. A knowledge of genealogical research an asset but not compulsory.

For more information or to send your resumé, please write to: [sfohg@magma.ca](mailto:sfohg@magma.ca) or  
S.F.O.H.G., C.P. 8254 Succ. T, Ottawa ON K1G 3H7.



# Snapshots of the OAS Symposium Peterborough 2002



# Native Journeys in Simcoe County *Past and Present*

Paul Lennox

*Regional Archaeologist, Ontario Ministry of Transportation*

&

Sue Anderson

*Elder, Mnjikaning First Nation, Rama*

*As we are realizing in Canada - indeed, in many parts of the world, and certainly in Simcoe County - the work that we do as archaeologists, is bringing us face to face with First Nations people. Contrary to attempts at assimilation, they are still here! We think that archaeologists have a role to play in helping to reconstruct what has been all but put to rest. Archaeologists and indigenous people must work closely with each other to do this in a way that is beneficial to both of our needs.*

*For us, the journey has been an "eye opening" and rewarding experience. "Cultural resource management" is bigger than archaeology alone. This paper briefly explores some of the recent events that have placed Archaeologists and First Nation people on adjacent "playing fields" in Simcoe County.*

I HAVE BEEN involved with the archaeology of Simcoe County for almost two decades. Unfortunately, my involvement with the First Nation people has not been as intensive. It seems that as students of archaeology and anthropology we looked at numerous ethnographies and endless historical documents detailing the lives of Canada's Native people. However, while archaeologists have seen endless comparisons between these studies of living people and the stones and bones that are recovered from the ground we have not involved the people whose past we find so intriguing.

Sue, on the other hand, has at least 39 years of involvement directly with First Nation's interests. She began her journey on Southhampton Island in Hudson Bay, where her ancestry

might be described as Inuit. More recently, Sue, and her now late husband Harvey, have helped to guide the interests of the Ojibway of southern Ontario. Sue was recently given the title Nokomis - Grandmother in Ojibway or Aboriginal Advisor, by the Department of National Defense. She has also worked with formal educational and correctional institutions, with First Nation people and "newcomers", even with archaeologists, to help our understanding of each other's needs.

I would like to begin with some of the highlights of my work in this county over the past 20 years. When these investigations are arranged chronologically they provide not only an outline of the long and most interesting history of this area, but each investigation raises

questions about our working outlines, assumptions and cultural chronologies. Actually, I don't think that I have ever excavated a site that fits perfectly into our existing frameworks. I think that our contributions, through site exca-

vations, are the details and the revisions we can provide to these understandings. This suggests to me that we still have a long way to go, despite over a century of archaeological research – in this area specifically!

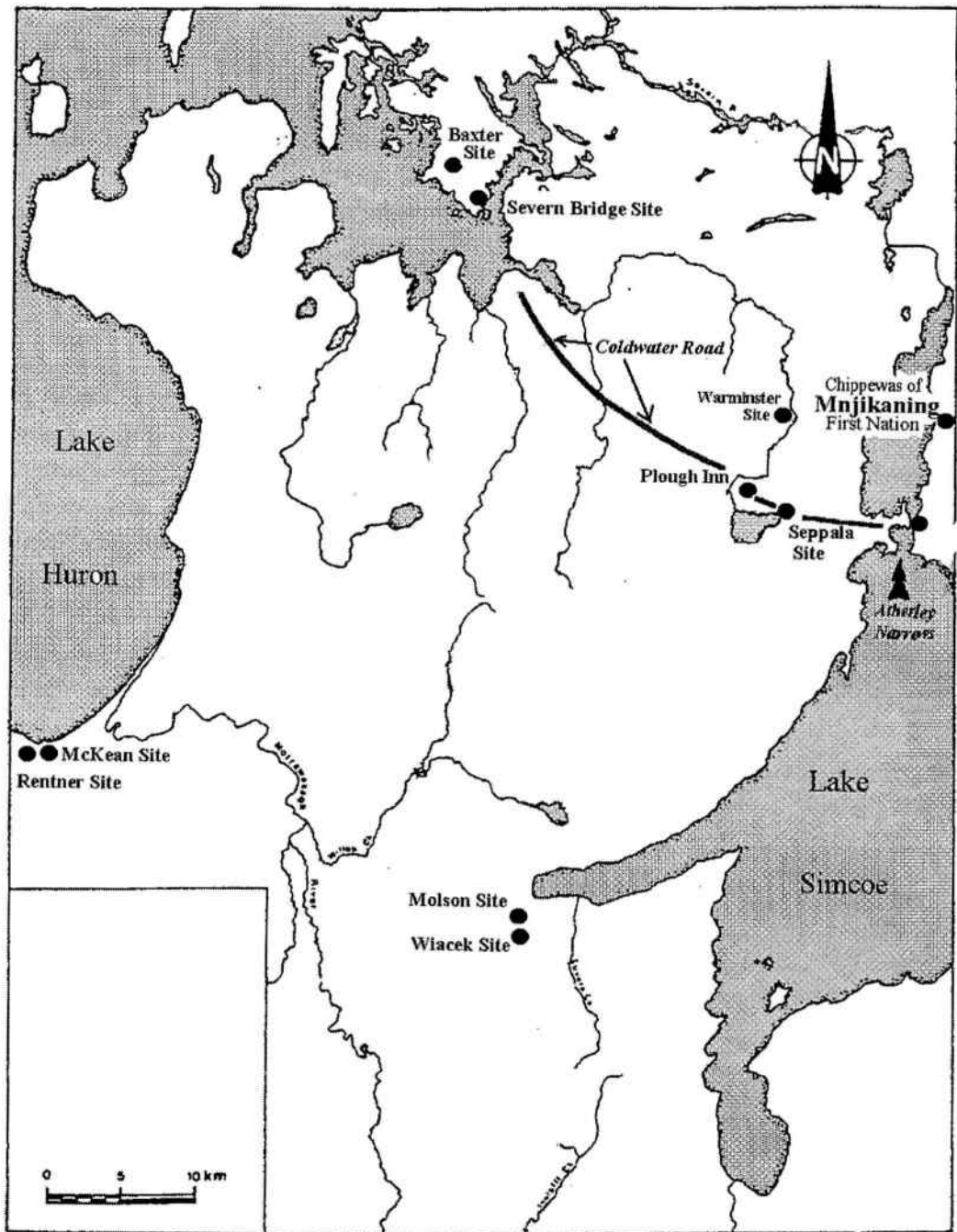


Figure 1. Archaeological sites and important places in Simcoe County noted in this paper.

Most recently our involvement with First Nation Peoples has been encouraged by the Canadian Archaeological Association's Principles of Ethical Conduct. In attempting to follow these principles, I have met a number of people who are, or could be, our strong allies. They are interested in our findings for very important and personal reasons.

To begin in the west, MTO did some interesting work just east of Collingwood, on a proposed new Highway 26 alignment, at the Rentner and McKean sites (Figure 1). These sites were identified during archaeological survey in 1989 and were salvage excavated in 1994. The final report was recently completed, submitted to the provincial government for licencing purposes and was accepted by Ontario Archaeology for publication. As we can see, archaeology or cultural resource management, under whatever classification we choose, is a slow process.

The Rentner site is located on the raised Nipissing beach at the former mouth of the Batteaux River. Not surprisingly Rentner produced evidence of about six components ranging from Middle (Laurentian) Archaic (carbon dated here at 5900 BP) to a small Late Woodland (Petun?) encampment that is guess dated to about 1400 AD. Notably, even though this site was not always at the river's mouth along the Nipissing lakeshore, many people in the past agreed that this was a very good place to live. This combined with ploughing however, made it pretty much impossible to assign the non-diagnostic tools to any one of the occupations there (Figures 2 and 3) (Lennox 1996, 2000).

Despite the significant problems posed by multiple and mixed components, contrary to some, our work here indicates that yes indeed – the Archaic does exist in Simcoe County! Furthermore, our radiocarbon date (a single one mind you) suggests, along with a very few

other early dates from sites elsewhere, that the high water fluctuations in the Huron basin might have been earlier than is generally ascribed for Nipissing (cf. Anderton 1999). However, if we keep in mind the recent discovery of living, 1200 year-old cedar trees along the Niagara Escarpment (Kelly et al 1994), we can imagine the havoc that their existence must have had during the flooding of these very same forests, the burial of wood along that lakeshore, and on our radiocarbon dates and cultural chronologies - in this area especially.



Figure 2. Rentner – diagnostic projectile points.

The nearby McKean Site, 40 metres back from this ancient shore, produced what we rarely see - Early Archaic notched St. Charles points and a Thebes knife (Abel 1990, Justice 1987), amongst a small collection of flake tools and debitage, about 1,000 waste flakes, from nearly 100 square metres of excavations (Lennox 1996, 2000). This was probably a base camp.

Given the small size and limited artifact density on such sites, in plowed fields, it is no surprise that we rarely see them (Lennox and Kenyon 1996, Lennox 1996). Most interesting, are the flake tools such as spurred end-scrapers, burins (yes real burins, not pseudo-morphs (Figures 4, 5, and 6)(Lennox 2000, Julig 1988a,b), together with the predominant use of Onondaga chert - 200 kilometres north of it's source and close to the Collingwood and Fossil Hill cherts that are preferred by Palaeo-Indians and used, but minimally, at McKean. This, along with the exploitation of annually migrating cervids, suggests that the long distance travel that we associate with earlier Palaeo-Indian sites (Deller 1989, Ellis 1987) continues here in what we usually have argued is the Early Archaic. Such examples, as is represented here at McKean, raise questions about their placement in our cultural chronologies. Is this really the Palaeo-



Figure 3. Rentner - Late Woodland artifacts.

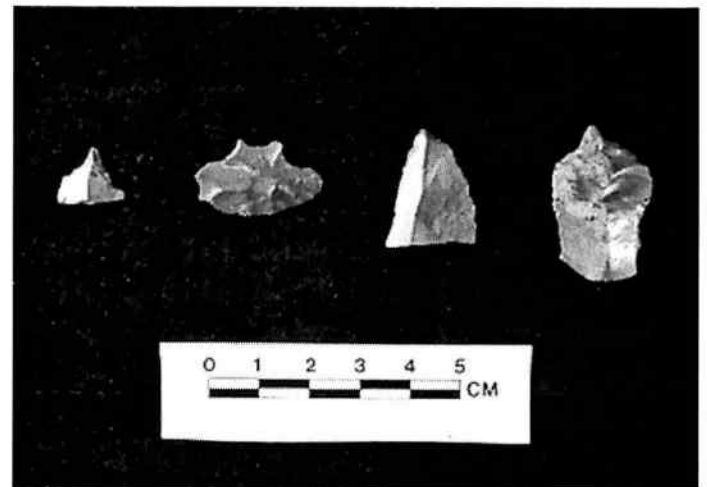


Figure 4. McKean - borers.

Indian tool kit and lifestyle transition into what we traditionally consider Early Archaic? I think the McKean site challenges our definitions of what is Palaeo-Indian and what is Archaic (cf. Ellis and Deller 1990, Ellis et al 1990, Lennox 2000a). Are these major stages based on diagnostic tools or the lifestyles that these tools are thought to represent? Is this

typical of a transition between major episodes? Surely it is.

Notable too are several mineralized (fossilized) cervid (deer family) tooth fragments recovered from McKean. They are said to be, "too large for deer, too small for moose - perhaps elk" (Spiess pers. comm. 1996). While I



Figure 5. McKean – burins.



Figure 6. McKean – scrapers.

would like to think they are caribou, this is undoubtedly because of my preconceptions of what Palaeo-Indian sites should look like and my desire to see caribou migrations account for this movement of people considerable distances north and south, and to match raw material acquisition and discard as is so well argued for Palaeo-Indians. In fact, elk may

have been migratory in this environment too (Banfield 1974). But, with the McKean site investigations, we now have about as much evidence for elk as we do for caribou at about this time.

Surprisingly, the McKean Site, guess dated at 9500 years BP, did not get destroyed by the subsequent Nipissing high waters in the Huron Basin. Some of the flint artifacts, however, are heavily patinated and these may suggest that Nipissing waters, or more likely an earlier high water level such as other post Algonquian highs (Anderton 1999), inundated the site. Having frequented a few places on the Lake Huron shore myself over the past 30 years, I have seen the shoreline change 40 metres or more horizontally on a gently sloping beach. Similar fluctuations, over less than one lifetime, could account for the patination of the McKean assemblage but erosion and longshore transport were obviously not a part of this geoarchaeological scenario.

On the east side of Georgian Bay near the mouth of the Severn River, our work on Highway 69 (now the 400 interchange at Port Severn) produced an Early Archaic bifurcate base projectile point and some heavily patinated chert debitage (Figure 7) (Dodd 1996), along with at least four Middle Woodland components. Further to the southwest in Ontario, a carbon date of 8,300 BP on an Early Archaic bifurcate base component agrees with others of this period (Lennox 1993) and indicates, along with the patination, that this Early Archaic component at Port Severn was also inundated by high lake levels after this time.

At the Middle Woodland Baxter site was discovered a most interesting cache of bannerstone blanks or preforms. Made from banded

green "Huronian slate", these items were likely intended for transport and trade elsewhere, but were somehow forgotten.

Four sites are attributed to the Late Woodland Period: the Wiacek and Molson sites are just west of Lake Simcoe; the Severn Bridge site is at the mouth of the Severn River at Georgian Bay Lake Huron and the Seppala site is on the east end of Bass Lake (Figure 1). The Wiacek site is Middleport or early Late Prehistoric (ca 1400 AD). Here, on a proposed highway interchange, MTO excavated two longhouse structures that contained many subsoil features (Lennox et al 1986). With further threats to the site, Archaeological Services Inc. went back a few years later and reported on a third longhouse and two small cabins located some distance to the southeast of the longhouses. Most notably, one of the small cabins contained a semi-subterranean sweatlodge with a bear skull sitting on its floor (Robertson et al 1996).

Some of my first work in Simcoe County was at the Wiacek Site in 1983. With full time staff leaving MTO at that time, the future of contract work looked bleak and an Ontario Heritage Foundation grant in 1984 provided for archaeological survey in the Barrie area to see what all those 'For Sale' signs were about in this rapidly expanding city. The Molson site project resulted in 1985. About ten archaeologists worked with 20 senior high school students to excavate most of the

Protohistoric Molson site (ca 1600 AD). The site contained three intensively occupied longhouses (or long houses), surrounded by at least eight, relatively clean, shorter, "long-houses" and cabins (Figures 8, 9, and 10). Aside from the archaeology; the unusual set-



Figure 7. Baxter – Archaic artifacts including a patinated bifurcate base projectile point.

tlement pattern, the early 17th century European trade goods, the beautiful ceramics, clay beads, smoking pipes and faunal remains – the typical archaeology stuff (Lennox 2000), under the grant requirements the Molson project needed a community facility and a display was deemed appropriate.

I first met Sue and Harvey Anderson and a few other Native people with similar interests when the Native Advisory Committee for the Simcoe County Board of Education raised a concern about an archaeological exhibit that was recently completed from the results of the Molson site investigations. This I didn't understand! I thought the exhibit was beauti-

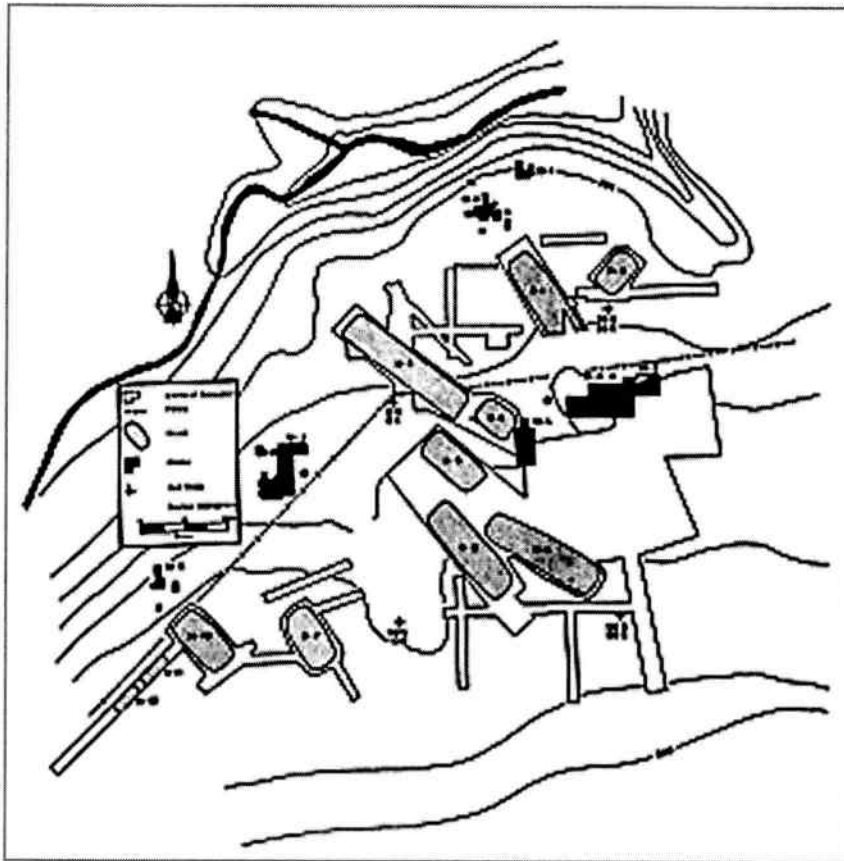


Figure 8. Molson site plan.

fully done. Those in opposition had not even seen it yet – how could there be an objection? Perhaps more important, I was significantly out of pocket the cost of the exhibit – a hold back on the grant – and was told by the Minister of Culture to handle it, handle it, handle it!

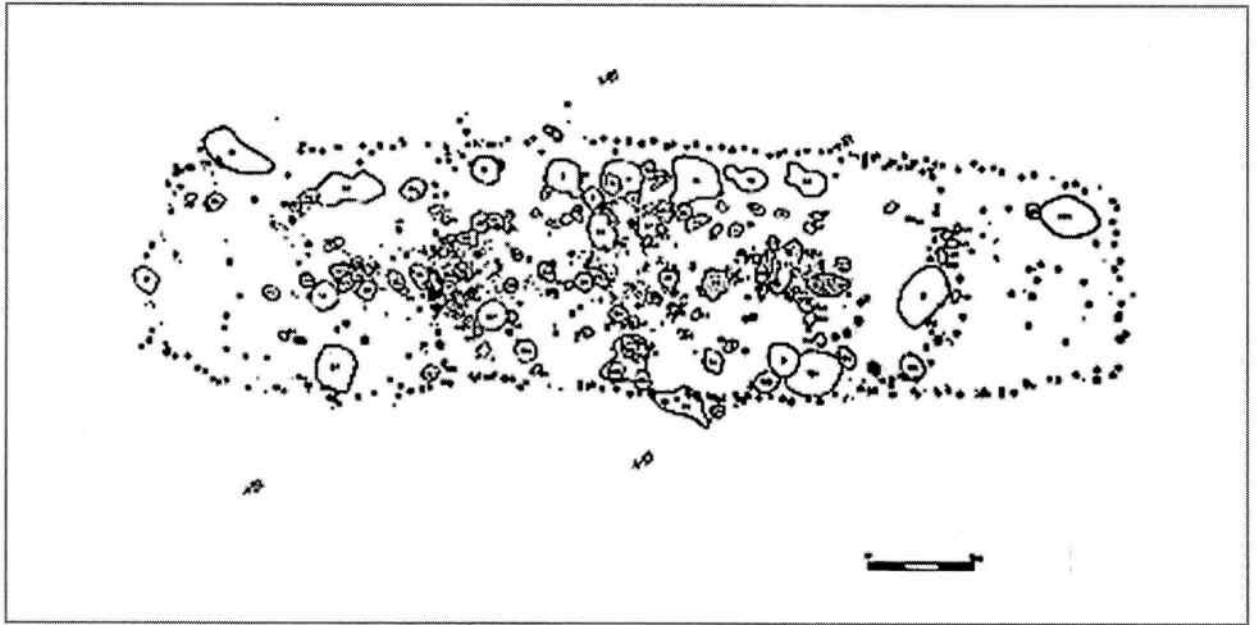
I met with those who objected and found that, even though they hadn't seen the display, they were concerned about how it would portray or display their history, their respected ancestors, and their people. Would they approve? Opinions amongst those who expressed a concern varied greatly from, "All of these objects (artifacts) have spirits and they should be treated with respect and not put on display. Maybe they are better off left

in the ground." to "Maybe these things are what our ancestors left us to tell us about our past." The people themselves had difficulties coming to a consensus. Not only that, at that time we were interpreting the Molson site as Huron-Iroquoian and the concerns were coming from the Ojibway-Algonquians. Out of proper respect, we would have to meet with the Iroquois – I was told – and we did. Their response at that time was, "It's your backyards, your territory" – you handle it, handle it, handle it!

I was introduced to many things. "Indians," for example, are still alive today! They are concerned (and

we should be) about how they are portrayed to our children in both our and their communities. Concepts like "consensus" and "Indian time" were to have new and real meanings for me (meanings that the bank did not understand). After many discussions, I think we came to understand each other better. At the unveiling of the exhibit, the First Nations were well represented, learning and teaching us about their views of their past and their present. Looking back now, I think that most of those people involved would probably agree that the process, and what we learned working our way through it, was as valuable as the relatively short term, immediate product (at least the bank was happy). At the opening, an Elder (one of the original objectors to the exhibit) commented that it had been an inter-

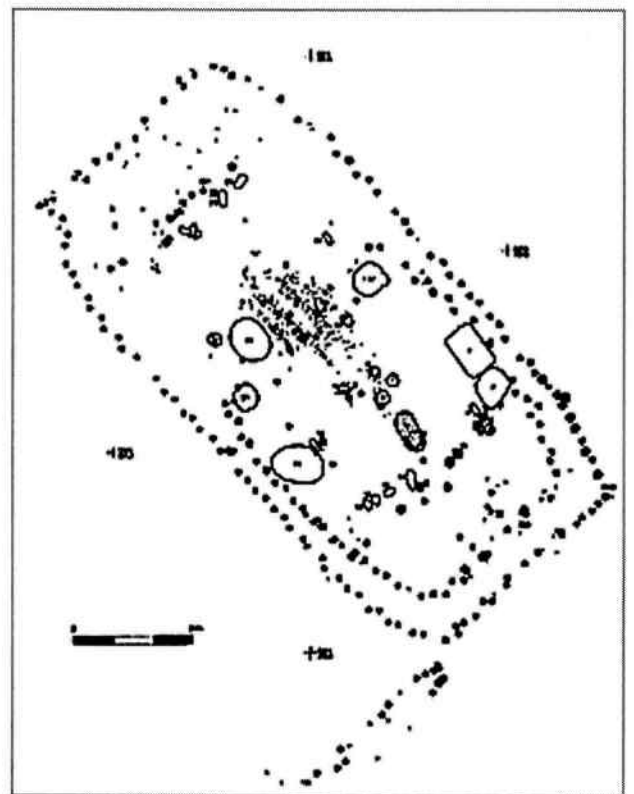




esting process and she wondered, if the opportunity arose again, what her viewpoint might be. She thought that her views had not changed significantly. We agreed to reexamine the exhibit and its contents in the future.

A little after the Molson site investigations, MTO prepared to twin the bridge over Atherley Narrows. 'The Narrows' are located between Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching (Figure 1) and have a long and very rich history of use, particularly for capturing fish as they migrate between Lake Simcoe, which is deep and cold, and the shallow and warm Lake Couchiching. Here fish could be directed into traps using a fish fence or weir. This place was undoubtedly significant; a place where food was plentiful and people could meet to gather an abundance. For example, the weirs were witnessed, used, and documented by the first European in Simcoe County – Champlain in 1615 (Biggar 1929:56-57). They were more recently studied by several expeditions: by Walter Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum (Kenyon 1966), Richard Johnston and Kenneth Cassavoy

Figures 9 and 10. Molson – longhouse plan (above) and shorter house or cabin plan (below).



from Trent University (Cassavoy and Johnston 1977, Johnston and Cassavoy 1978) and in the 1990's by marine archaeologists

with the Canadian Parks Service (Ringer 1991).

In summary, these investigations indicate that the Atherley Narrows fishweirs represent one of the few examples of such structures in North America and are thus significant if only for this reason. In addition, based on a number of radiocarbon dates taken from preserved wooden stakes lodged in the river bottom, the

events, little was done to preserve the fishweirs until the 1990s, when the Canadian Parks Service claimed responsibility of the navigable waterway channel bottomlands in the face of bridge construction. Now, with some urgency, they brought in their divers, their boats, cameras and recording equipment, to see what might be in the way. Looking at the expertise of these dive teams, their capabilities were truly impressive. In short, they



*Figure 11. Fishing lines wrapped around fish weir stakes at Atherley Narrows  
(Photo courtesy of the Canadian Parks Service).*

fishweirs have been constructed in the narrows for over 4,000 years. However, despite the century of attention the weirs have received and their scarcity in all of North America, boat anchors and propellers continue to rip through the fragile remains and fish lines wrap around and pull out these ancient stakes (Figure 11).

While big bronze plaques and statues mark and commemorate these rare historical

found that there was little left specifically in the way of the new bridge.

As interesting as the preservation of significant heritage resources are to people like us, members of the OAS, I am coming to believe that even more important are the interests in heritage in long cultural traditions that are arising locally. Some Native people continue to practice and others are discovering traditional beliefs and values and, together with

local non-native people, some who remember the teachings of Dr. J. Norman Emerson (the founding President of the OAS) and who worked with him at the Warminster site just west of Lake Couchiching (Figure 1), have come together and formed the Mnjikaning Fish Fence Circle – dedicated to the preservation of the fish weirs and First Nations cultural/heritage interests in the area. They are

there in the mid-90s. The Seppala site excavations recovered but a few artifacts and subsoil features on the edge of an Early Late Woodland (possibly Uren Phase) occupation. Most notable was a large feature interpreted as a semi-subterranean sweatlodge (Figure 13). This was especially exciting for me because it was the first one I had ever recorded and it was a classic! More important than



Figure 12. Mnjikaning - the place of the fish fence.

currently establishing an information centre under the east end of the Bridge (Figure 12). In the longer term, they will likely build and staff a Museum or Cultural Center in the Orillia area.

While work at Atherley Narrows was underway, and following the Canadian Archaeological Association's Principals of Ethical Conduct, the Band Council was notified of MTO's proposed salvage excavations along Highway 12 at Bass Lake, west of Orillia, months before we began our work

our few findings at Seppala, however, was that the people from Rama came to the site. Amongst others, a man, woman and their child were there for an hour or two: relaxed, talking, amazed and excited about their heritage being unearthed before their very eyes. The Mnjikaning First Nation was also excited to see this sweatlodge. Sue and Harvey were then using the sweatlodge in their community. Converted Christian Natives, however, who did not want the return of the traditional belief system to their community, were burning some sweatlodges.

The Traditionalists, on the other hand, were excited. They thought that the sweatlodge had been introduced relatively recently from Western North America. They were happy to see that the sweatlodge had been used by their people for a long time – that it had long been a part of their culture.

Also of interest, in researching the history of Highway 12 (Orillia to Coldwater), are the histories of the Loyalist First Nations People who had moved here with the British and the Indian agent – Thomas Gummersal

Anderson. They came from Drummond Island when, following the establishment of the American border, these Loyalists found that they were on the wrong or other side. Hammond shows T.G. Anderson's house/Indian Agency on the Coldwater Road, (once a Huron trail and now Highway 12) in the early AARO's (Hammond 1905, Hunter 1909). But of particular interest to this story are the unsuccessful attempts at assimilating the Native "newcomers" by giving them European style cabins and plows (Johnson 1985). Recent work further north-

west at Price's Corners (Figure 1) revealed buried portions of an inn where, one of the 'gifts' to the Native people found its use here as a sign announcing the presence of the Plough Inn (Timmins 1996).

Shortly after our investigations on Hwy 12, the people at Rama recovered some human remains in one of their gravel pits and called to see if the MTO archaeologists could help them sort through an estimated 40 truckloads of sand and gravel, thought to contain more bone. I said we would help but when there was difficulty getting together the ten people I recommended for screening this material, I saw a monstrous task ahead! The Mnjikaning First Nation, however, were able to negotiate the use of a fantastic mechanical screen and front-end loader that managed the job quite well (Lennox 1996).

Throughout many of our investigations in Simcoe County, questions concerning boundaries often recur. At the McKean site for instance, archaeologists wonder about the academic

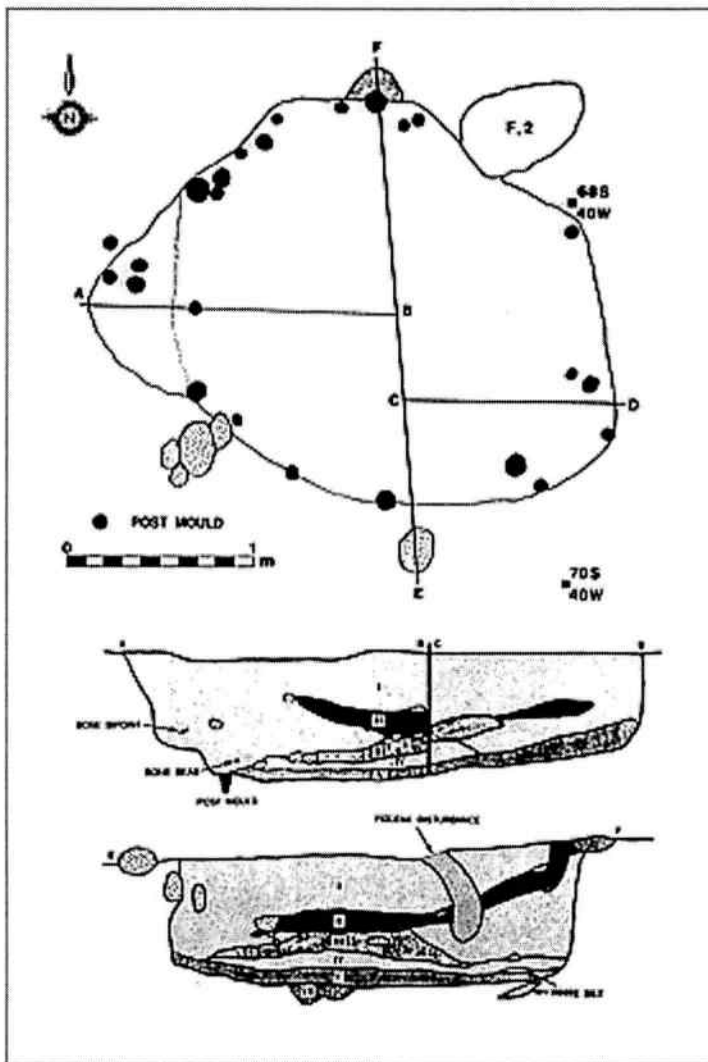


Figure 13. Semisubterranean sweatlodge at the Seppala site.

division between Palaeo-Indian and Archaic cultures. At the other temporal extreme, at the Molson and Seppala sites, we wonder about ethnicity and ethnic boundaries. Are these sites representative of Iroquoian (Huron or Petun) or Algonquian settlements and what might really distinguish these people if we could distinguish them archaeologically or in the archaeological record. At Molson, and similarly at McKean, the classification of these components questioned, amongst of course other things, the unusual recovered faunal remains; the unusual fish species at Molson, and cervids (elk or caribou) at McKean. Can people be classed so simply as by their foods? Are you what you eat? Are village and house sizes, their organization, pottery types, and so on, indicative of ethnic affinity? At Seppala, and many sites elsewhere, it seems that we often ask if semi-subterranean sweatlodges are an Iroquoian or an Algonquian feature type, trait or attribute? As archaeologists, we strive to understand the ethnic and temporal divisions that we use so freely, but these classificatory terms had and have different and new meanings outside of our disciplines and surely to the people that we try to pigeonhole.

Revisionist historical constructs as simple as 'European copper trinkets and ally' have different meanings in the various contexts we see them and take on different lives when they are thought about or viewed as, for example, the scales of the Serpent – Mishipizheu or Loyalist. There are endless assumptions, (and many, but not all, are likely true) when we readily say things like Iroquoian longhouse, Iroquoian pottery, or Algonquian Hunters and gathers. These ethno-archaeological innuendoes were never meant for a court of law – when we cannot even agree what is or is not a slash pit let alone a sweatlodge. I hate to

think, given their subtle distinguishing features in the ground, how many I personally have missed in the field – minimally hundreds! So lets move away from the stuff of archaeology. Such a classification revision was entertained a few years ago at the OAS Symposium and proceedings entitled Taming the Taxonomy (Williamson and Watts 1999).

So, are these people Algonquian or Iroquois? I don't think that too many really care or cared. I think that ethnicity was adaptively fluid, particularly amongst the Iroquois, as Jennings boldly indicates in his book entitled *The Ambiguous Iroquois Empire* (Jennings 1984). Perhaps what is most important is that European attempts at assimilation have failed and that aboriginal people worldwide, native peoples throughout the province, and certainly in Simcoe County, are rediscovering the importance of their past; their almost forgotten identity.

Speaking to this reality, about ten years ago my wife's Brownie pack was exploring First Nations cultures when one little girl with slightly darker skin and long, straight, black hair asked, "Do Indians live today?" At that time it was pointed out to her that she herself was of Native American decent. Shortly afterwards she was heard proudly passing this new information on to anyone she could. My daughter came home to announce that her friend found out that she was half-Indian...and half human!

At Atherley Narrows there is much more than a few pieces of wood stuck in the mud. While MTO replaces an outdated bridge and Parks Canada declares the national significance of this heritage resource, nearby First Nations people and a neighbouring community of "whites" together celebrate a remarkable past.

To conclude with what appears to be a new beginning, we have participated in a long journey. We didn't begin it, nor are we going to end the journey here. Archaeologists and First Nations people are finding a common ground as we explore and hesitantly discover together the old and the new. As once suggested, and now brings ever further interpretations – "Archaeology is anthropology or it is nothing." Aside from the stones and bones and post moulds and features from the archaeological record that we investigate, what we can tell from these findings had a past meaning as well as an interpretation that is to bear on the present and future. Much of what we will know depends greatly on how we perceive what is there to be understood. We, whether white or red, must be careful about our reconstructions, our interpretations of the data, and what and how we record what we

think is worthy of saving, since, no matter what, our views will be tainted by where we came from, and where we think we are going.

In Simcoe County, a long history of archaeology has been encouraged by the large population that existed here since time immemorial. The 'indigenous' population that was indeed successful reached unprecedented highs (and lows) and unmatched peaks. Its presence has been apparent since the land was first cleared – for the second time – and its early recognition, coupled with the vast 17th century documentation and a proud and progressive First Nation community makes Simcoe County's heritage a unique and extraordinary, world class resource. Today, at the beginning of the 21st century, anthropologists, archaeologists and First Nations people can only be excited to be a part of its promising future.

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## News from the McGaw Site Public Archaeology Program

*by Robert H. Pihl,  
Archaeological Services Inc.,  
Director of the McGaw Site  
Public Archaeology Program*

As you may know, the Ontario Archaeological Society is in the second year of a three-year program of public archaeology at the McGaw site (AlGu-88) being conducted through the A. J. Clark Interpretive Centre. This program is in partnership with the Town of Richmond Hill and is funded by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. Archaeological Services Inc.'s long involvement with the site has recently culminated with the on-going design and implementation of all archaeological field-based programs and research conducted at the site. In order to convey pertinent and breaking news about the program and to relay noteworthy information and results about McGaw site research, I am preparing a short column that will appear in this newsletter three times a year. I hope you will find this useful and informative.

Public archaeology commenced in early May with our curriculum-based programs geared to Grade 6 and 11 classes within the York Region



*Norma and Norangie.*



*Kristi and class.*

Board of Education. Between May 7 and June 14, nineteen classes, each comprising approximately 27 students and totalling 509 students, learned basic archaeological techniques, participated in a research-oriented excavation, and experienced the thrill of discovering artifacts and learning about the past. All fieldwork was supervised by me and three very capable field assistants: Kristi Bates, Katherine Cappella, and Norma Knowlton. They were certainly patient archaeological coaches for all the students!

In the spring, the McGaw site also hosted the University of Toronto field school class working at the Emmerson Springs site under Dr. Alicia Hawkins, Department of Anthropology. They visited our project for a day to get some experience with excavation at an undisturbed site and within the context of public archaeology. I would like to thank them for setting up and completing a one by four metre test trench in search of elusive settlement pattern!



*Marna Pihl.*

During the summer months, a series of adult-based archaeology programs were also offered. Two separate Day-on-the-Dig excavations took place in which participants spent the day digging on the site and learning about its hidden past. The first



*Katherine and class.*



*The 2002 Day-on-the-Dig participants.*

was conducted on July 6, and it attracted seventeen eager participants. The fieldwork focussed on a continuation of our 2001 testing of the Midden 8 area, and the program was supervised by Kristi and Katherine. The second dig was carried out on August 17 with seventeen enthusiastic, would-be archaeologists of all ages, braving beautiful weather, to begin work on a new area – Midden 7. Helping me was the ever-present Norma Knowlton, as well as Jo Holden, and our summer Student Employment Program participant and aspiring archaeologist, Norangie Cabello-Garcia.

The McGaw crew also had the excitement of participating in a film shoot documenting the OAS's past and present involvement in public archaeology. Marna Pihl (no relation to me, really...well, OK) is a student at Concordia University's Communication Studies Program, and she is cur-

rently producing a fifteen-minute video on the topic to complete her internship project for a diploma. The video's premiere will hopefully be in the near future!

We have finished our fall class programming which began on September 24th and ran until November 8th. Assistance with the field direction was provided by Linda Torbidone, who is back with the program after a summer pursuing other archaeological experiences, and we were very ably assisted by Sobrina Holden from York University, and Michael Gregg and Stacey Stoddard from the University of Toronto. East of the three inter-related middens (Midden 6-8), the McGaw site topography is flat and very suitable terrain for longhouses. Our fall field school classes focussed on this area to investigate the presence of possible 15th century living floors and hopefully gain our first glimpse of some settlement pattern.

# Lectures and Events

## The Hamilton Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

Mr. Tom Arnold, Simon Fraser University  
*Radiocarbon Dating The Ice Free Corridor*

Tom Arnold is a researcher and professional archaeologist with over 20 years of experience. He has excavated extensively in both Ontario and Alberta. Tom completed his undergraduate education from the University of Western Ontario (1982), his MA from the University of Calgary (1985), and is currently a PhD Candidate with the Department of Anthropology, at Simon Fraser University.

**Thursday, December 19, 2002**  
**Historic Dundurn Castle Coachhouse (upstairs)**  
**610 York Blvd, Hamilton, Ontario**  
**7:00 pm (sharp); light refreshments following**

## The Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

**January 15, 2003 - Toronto Chapter Member's Night**

*Exhibit Opening - Re-Viewing the Past: Images from the William Renison Collection*

H.E. Devereux and Pat Reed invite you to view the new exhibit in the cases outside of Rm 560A during the coffee break. This exhibit, "Re-Viewing the Past", showcases selected images from William Renison's slide donation to the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. Bill Renison is a charter member of the OAS and recently donated 654 slides to the department. These slides depict archaeological excavations by the department of 25 sites in Southern Ontario. Ten of these excavations were in conjunction with the Ontario Archaeological Society. The excavations occurred between 1950 and 1970 and the sites date from 2000 BC to 1700 AD. This slide collection is in the process of being catalogued, and will be available to interested researchers.

*Penny and Pat's Excellent Southern Adventures!*

Escape winter and travel with Penny Young and Pat Reed to Mexico and Central America. Penny will be showing her slides from her work examining the Zapotec culture in Oaxaca, Mexico and Pat will show slides from excavations in Honduras and her visits to Mayan sites in Honduras and Guatemala including Copan, Quirigua and Tikal.

**Room 560a, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St., Toronto.**  
**Everyone is welcome!**  
**Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.**



# 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](mailto:oas@globalserve.net)  
Internet: [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

## Membership

(second figure includes subscription to Ontario Archaeology)

Individual	\$34 / \$46
Family	\$38 / \$50
Student	\$23 / \$32
Institution/Corporate	\$60
Life	\$750

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Contributer deadlines:

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

### NEW ADDRESS

Arch Notes editor  
56 Highway 52, PO Box 68  
Copetown ON, L0R 1J0  
[fdieterm@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:fdieterm@chass.utoronto.ca)

## Grand River- Waterloo chapter

President - Dean I  
Secretary - (S)  
Mailing address - c/o Dr. Dean I  
Wilfred Laurier University, Archa  
75 University Avenue  
Waterloo ON N2

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Mailing address - 452 Jackson Str  
Hamilton ON L8P 1N4 Membership  
Meetings - usually at 7:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the  
except June-August, at Dundurn  
Email - [hamilton.oas@hwcn.org](mailto:hamilton.oas@hwcn.org) / Internet - [www.hwcn.org/link](http://www.hwcn.org/link)

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Newsletter - KEWA; Editors - Christine Dodd & Chr  
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Tel. (519) 675-7742, Fax (519) 675  
Internet - <http://yoda.ssc.uwo.ca:80/assoc/oas/london>  
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except May-August, at the London Museum of Archa

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Niagara-on-the-Lake ON L  
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on the 1st Wednesday of the month, except July-A  
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Mailing address - Box 4939 Station E, Ottawa ON K  
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## Thunder Bay chapter

President - Frances  
Secretary/Treasurer - Andrew Hinshe  
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Thunder Bay ON P7  
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Building, Lakehead Uni

## Toronto chapter

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Treasurer - Roberta O'Brien / Program Convenor - Pa  
Newsletter - Profile; Editor - Andy Schoe  
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260 Adelaide Street East, Box 48, Toronto ON M5L  
Internet: [www.chass.utoronto.ca/anthropology/OAS/torchap](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/anthropology/OAS/torchap)  
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Sidney Smith Hall basement, room 560a, University of Toronto, 100 St. George

## Windsor chapter

President - Rosemary Dei  
Vice-President - James Wash  
Secretary - Lor  
Treasurer - Michael Pi  
Newsletter - Squirrel County Gazette; Editor - Pete  
Mailing address - 2338 Chilver Road, Windsor ON N8V  
Tel. (519) 253-1977 Membership - individual \$17, fam  
Meetings - usually held at 7:00pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month except June-A  
at the Windsor Family Credit Union, 2800 Tecumseh Road East (back