

# STRATA

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Chief Wayne McQuabble and Bill Allen at a Rock Art site on the Pickerel River

## BILL ALLEN: SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE

For Bill Allen, a retired educator and avocational archaeologist, the rock art of First Nations peoples is so much more than just images on stone. These images, he says, “tell stories about the spirituality of place, provide perspectives on landscape, and revelations of the sacred.”

On Tuesday, March 19 Bill gave a presentation to the Peterborough Chapter and members of the public on his unique perspective on rock art. In his talk, which he significantly titled, “*Maninaakobihiganan: Preserving and Honouring Sacred Pictographs*,” he spoke not just about the motifs themselves but about “the importance of having traditional language spoken at the

sites, the need to honour such places, stories about the spirituality of place, landscape perspectives, and ways in which he has been taught to read pictographs that lead to other interesting discoveries.”

His approach to rock art was recently featured in TVO’s three part series, “*The Land Between*” as well as in a just published paper on Maori rock art, titled, “*Reflections on Sacred Images in Rocks*.” In his presentation Bill spoke about the “vulnerability of the land,” the “need to let the land speak for itself,” and the importance of working with First Nations people, “to preserve what’s been lost to memory.”



Bill Allen, Sheryl Smith, Doug Williams at Bill’s presentation for the Peterborough Chapter.

by Dirk Verhulst

## “How did you have the nerve.....?”...the words of a wise management consultant.

Forward

I can't say that the reception in Toronto was warm, but it is odd how fate seems to intervene in periods of need. A chance meeting with our Assistant Deputy Minister at a Christmas function in 1986, established a rapport which would prove exceedingly valuable over the next few years. I missed living in London, but I was “a man on a mission”.

Life was not all shirt and tie bureaucracy when I arrived in Toronto (Figure 1), as I continued to function as the informal unmarked grave investigator for southern Ontario, receiving calls from various police agencies and liaising with the Cemeteries Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I also continued my research activities on the Bruce Peninsula and initiated the multi-year underwater survey based in Tobermory, searching for evidence of Native activities when the way to Manitoulin was dry, some 9,000 years ago. Being in Toronto also had its benefits, as I was able to work more closely with the Provincial office of the OAS and participate in the development of a five part series concerning Ontario archaeology with TVOntario – *Archaeology from the Ground Up*. Advice to the producer resulted in the selection of a politically neutral show host (Dr. Gary Crawford of the University of Toronto) and episode segments shot at the Providence Bay site on Manitoulin Island and Bead Hill in Scarborough.

Tourism-related “passport” memento programs were becoming popular by the mid-80's, so I worked through the Ministry and approached the OAS concerning a program whereby members could have their volunteer activities documented (see *Arch Notes* 16-3). The concept was simple. A series of “passports” would be printed and distributed to interested OAS members. Various agencies and companies were canvassed to participate by having stamps made to record how many hours of a particular activity (field or lab

work) were donated to their projects. The OAS Administrator, Charles Garrad, was a strong supporter, and the program was kicked off with an announcement by the Minister of Culture and Communications, The Honourable Lily Munro. By May of 1987, I was supervising the Development Plans Review Unit and Neal had a permanent position in London! Thor Conway in the Sault and Peter Carruthers in Toronto were assigned to the new unit. Following Thor's resignation, I was able to hire two young planners (Sue Santedicola and Winston Wong – see Figure 2), who brought new energy to the endeavour. The unit began reviewing development applications under a variety of statutes for the entire range of cultural heritage concerns. We had been commenting on the archaeological potential of particular development lands since the late 70's under the Environmental Assessment Act (MTC highway corridors), and had continued to do so under the Planning Act with the assistance of ACP members during the 80's.



Bill and Peter Carruthers working the phones in Toronto

As the application of the Planning Act expanded geographically, there was a need to provide municipal planners with a readily available reference tool for applying archaeological conditions. Thus was born the Archaeological Master Plan program, with all its “warts” and preconceived notions concerning the distribution of significant First Nations sites (19<sup>th</sup> century and some earlier Euro-Canadian sites posed less of a challenge, due to historical documentation). Naturally, a well managed Borden site registration database for the Province was critical. This responsibility was ably discharged in those days by Kathy Dandy, Chris Andersen and then Penny Young, and continues to be by Robert von Bitter.



Figure 2 Bill with Winston Wong, Sue Santedicola, Neal Ferris and Peter Carruthers

In May of 1987, I also had the opportunity to sit on a panel entitled “The Politically Savvy Archaeologist” during the Society for American Archaeology meetings being held at the Royal York Hotel. Rubbing shoulders with bureaucrats, academics and consultants from across the U.S. and Canada we discussed the “political reality” of archaeological resource conservation. One of the Canadian representatives, who had risen to a senior government position out west, explained to the audience how a delicate balance had to be struck between the current government political agenda and heritage conservation. Looking to me for acknowledgement, I remember stating that archaeological resource conservation was paramount and noting his facial expression, which clearly indicated that I had no future in the civil service of his Province!

Being based in Toronto with the other Ministry head offices provided additional opportunities and invitations to sit on inter-Ministerial committees advising on development-related issues. During the late 80’s, I was able to speak on archaeological resource conservation in the context of eight such studies ranging from Crown land cottaging, timber management guidelines and the fate of the Rouge valley lands in suburban Toronto (MNR), to the development of heritage assessment and mitigation guidelines with the Ontario Energy Board. On the other hand, to say that there was middle management inertia would be an understatement. There was no love for these activities by my manager or his manager. Luckily, there was support at a higher level. In fact, Assistant Deputy Minister, Linda Stevens, actively supported our goals by allowing me to attend the ADM level Provincial Land Use/Water Use/Municipal Issues Committee meetings, where I once witnessed her being teased about a concern for “arrowheads” by her counterpart (and committee chair) from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs! This was the venue charged with considering strategic planning for the build-out of the Greater Toronto Area or “GTA”.

It was during this period that the first serious (external) “push back” occurred. I received a call in 1989 from the a planner at the Regional Municipality of Kitchener-Waterloo, warning that the head of planning at another RM was in the process of approaching the Premier on behalf of some major players in the building industry to remove archaeological conditions to subdivision plan approvals! Weighing the options and trusting in the relationship built with various First Nations, I approached the Chiefs of Ontario and explained what the impact to their heritage would be, should this initiative succeed. Several weeks later a small delegation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs searched me out in my office and informed me that Cabinet had directed that a consultant should be hired by our Ministry to determine the cause of municipal subdivision plan approval delays.

I agreed to the latter, of course, and was “called on the carpet” several weeks later by a mildly annoyed ADM, who demanded to know where the money for the consulting contract would be found. Nevertheless, she kindly found the funding and a report was duly submitted in January of 1990 entitled *Report on Heritage Conservation (Specifically Archaeology) in Municipal Planning*, and concluding that any delays were due to municipal bureaucracy, not archaeological requirements!

During this stressful period, I continued my direct involvement in archaeology through field work and article writing related to my Cypriote research. A cottage near Barrow Bay also supported my interest in the archaeology (terrestrial and marine) of the Bruce Peninsula. Beyond the aforementioned Georgian Bay underwater program, my surveys were focused on the post-contact Odawa and Archaic Period occupations of the peninsula. The latter specifically concerned the Nipissing high water event (c. 4500 BP), when the north half of the peninsula became an island. I also explored the possibility of a return to university in a doctoral program, as I considered a career change. Discussions with Bruce Trigger resulted in an invitation to attend McGill, with only one year of residence required. I accepted the opportunity, enrolling in the Fall of 1990. This was a truly therapeutic experience, as I revelled in the chance to spend hours in the Redpath Library and to dialogue with Bruce about archaeological evidence of religious belief systems. Interaction with other faculty members included “chert chases” and flintknapping with Michael Bisson. Among the fellow graduate students during this heady time were future academics, such as Adrian Burke of the University of Montreal; while extra-curricular activities only heightened the pleasure of the experience.

The environment at the Ministry continued to be less than supportive upon my return the following summer; although, senior management support provided the opportunity to promote archaeological resource conservation in the context of inter-Ministerial committees involving the Niagara Escarpment five year plan review and

the Seaton planning area. Our little Development Plans Review unit soldiered on in support of cultural resource management across the Province for the next year, including support from Neal Ferris in London. Then, serendipity intervened once again – I received a call from a former Provincial employee who was then working for Parks Canada.

Sheryl Smith called on a Thursday to inform me that a call for applications involving an open competition for a “Chief of Archaeology” was closing the following day. By chance, Naomi had just produced my updated resume the day before, and I sent it off and promptly forgot about the matter. Three months later, I received a surprise call from Parks Canada requesting my attendance at an interview in Winnipeg (at my expense), to which I politely declined. A week later, they offered to cover the expenses and I had to “fish or cut bait”! Following a meeting with Linda Stevens (who assured me that Winnipeg was not the end of the world), I agreed to attend, and the rest is another story – a wonderful adventure that has provided the gift of experiencing this spectacular country from east to west and north to south, while visiting archaeological sites and living and learning on the land with Canada’s First Nations.

#### Epilogue

In hindsight, it was time to leave (I was burnt out), despite the apparent jeopardy in which the Provincial program found itself. Neal Ferris informs me that my replacement (a geologist from the Ontario Geological Survey) received “marching orders” from middle management to terminate the unit. How this was avoided, despite subsequent Provincial constraint exercises like the “Red Tape Commission” is not my story; although, I rather expect that Neal, Peter and the resilient unit crew had something to do with it! You can read more concerning their subsequent adventures in Neal’s articles below, and a 2012 M.A. thesis by University of Western Ontario student, Joshua Dent, entitled “Past Tents: Temporal Themes and Patterns of Provincial Archaeological Governance in British Columbia and Ontario”.

- 1998 “I don’t think we are in Kansas anymore”:  
The Rise of the Archaeological Consulting  
Industry in Ontario, in *Bringing Back the  
Past: Historical Perspectives on Canadian  
Archaeology. Canadian Museum of  
Civilization Mercury Series Paper 158:*  
225-248. Gatineau.
- 2002 When the Air Thins: the Rapid Rise of the  
Archaeological Consulting Industry in  
Ontario. *Revista de Arqueologia Americana*  
Numero 21: 53-88.
- 2007 Fear and Loathing in Applied Archaeology,  
Or, Befuddled Bureaucrats & Contemptible  
Consultants – Lies My Career Taught Me.  
Paper presented at the Ontario  
Archaeological Society Symposium in  
Kingston.

feel compelled to dedicate my brief autobiography  
to his memory! I hope that our readers have  
found this series of vignettes as entertaining as  
was intended; however, the more serious  
objective has been to provide current Ministry of  
Tourism, Culture and Sport, Archaeology Unit staff  
with a portion of their corporate history. While  
such knowledge is not promoted within the  
Provincial government, I believe theirs is a proud  
heritage which I hope will help to sustain them as  
they continue to weather the challenges of  
archaeological resource conservation in 21<sup>st</sup>  
century Ontario. My part of the history has been  
limited, as emphasized throughout; so that I hope  
that other “veterans” will be encouraged to step  
forward to fill out the narrative. I know that there is  
much more entertainment therein!

As this final episode was in production, I learned  
that my former Director (now Deputy Minister!)  
Robert Montgomery was about to retire and thus,



Bill and his son Roberto at the Barcroft site  
in Harvey Twp.

### Thank-you and an Invitation

During the last several issues of  
STRATA we have all enjoyed Bill Fox’s  
reminiscences of his early years in  
Ontario archaeology. Unfortunately,  
this is his last installment.

So.....what would you think about  
continuing Bill’s excellent example?  
Many of you have extensive experience  
working in the archaeology of the  
Peterborough area. How about sending  
me your stories about people, places  
and events related to regional  
archaeology. Perhaps this could  
become a regular feature in STRATA.

Dirk Verhulst, editor,  
[dverhulst@cogeco.ca](mailto:dverhulst@cogeco.ca)

# Dig Day at Sebastien: Peterborough Chapter Members Demonstrate How to Excavate, One Square Meter at a Time

by Dirk Verhulst



Step 1 Dig! With shovel...but use feet as needed.

Peterborough Chapter  
Participants:  
Harry Johnson, and his granddaughter Casey, Ursula Hawkings, Rita Granda, Deb and Tom Mohr, Dirk Verhulst, Grant Karcich, Sonia Mohr-Cornelius, Elaine and Lauralee Lenaerts



Step 2 Screen! Pour dirt into the screener. Preferably not the whole bucket at once!



Step 3 Shake! Be sure to wear white or blue gloves.



Step 4 Scrub! (or squish if you prefer). Break up clumps of soil in case of sherds or worms.



Step 5 Scrape! With trowel... dust pan recommended.



Step 6: Read the soil...with aid of blue knee pad.



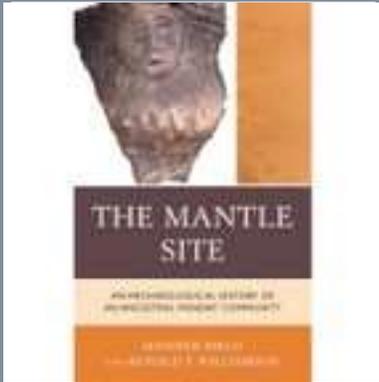
Step 7 Show your stuff!

Above: Lauralee proudly displays a handful of pot sherds and a possible eyelet she and members of her team found in their square meter. Note visual effectiveness of blue gloves.



Step 8 Celebrate! Socialize! Eat!  
Chairs optional but recommended.

DR. RON WILLIAMSON PRESENTS:  
FINDINGS FROM THE MANTLE SITE



Photos provided by Dr. Williamson (Mantle Site book cover, Huron publicity photo from "Curse of the Axe", pot found at the Mantle site)

## Looking Eastward from the Mantle Site: Foreign Affairs in the 16th Century

by Dirk Verhulst

On April 23 The Peterborough Chapter of the OAS and TUARC (Trent University Archaeological Research Centre) hosted a special, and very successful, joint presentation. An overflow crowd gathered at Trent's Bagnani Hall to hear Dr. Ron Williamson speak about his work at the Mantle Site, the results of which have just been published in a new book he has co-authored with Jennifer Birch.

The Mantle Site was discovered in 2002 during the construction of a subdivision near Stouffville, north east of Toronto. Excavations took place between 2003 and 2005. Evidence of 95 houses and over 100,000 artifacts were found. Habitation at this ancestral Wendat community dates back to the early 1300's. At its peak it was home to as many as 1800 people.

Dr. Williamson's presentation focused on evidence from the site for extensive contact with neighbouring communities. He

pointed to the lack of scattered human bone as possible evidence of a period of peaceful co-existence between members of this community and neighbouring groups. Resulting in, what he referred to, as a 16th century version of "foreign affairs."

Evidence of extensive trade included: remnants of "cornhusk figures," likely of Oneida or Onondaga origin; pot sherds made from non-local clay; ceramic pipe bowl effigies, similar to those made by 16th century Mohawks; and bone remnants suggestive of trade in fish and fur bearing animals.

The most well known find from the Mantle site was, of course, the infamous fragment of an iron tool that inspired the title of a recent documentary film. Dr. Williamson recalled expressing, in jest, that they not call it the "Curse of the Axe." The producers, however, thought that was just the perfect name. (Since then almost 2 million people have seen the documentary, so perhaps they were right).

## The Scugog Carrying Place: “A Pre-historic highway.”

By Dirk Verhulst

Grant Karcich, a founding member of the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS, has just published a new book about the Scugog Carrying Place. On May 28 he gave a fascinating presentation to chapter members and members of the public about this traditional native trail that at one time linked Lakes Ontario, Simcoe and Scugog.

He began by showing the location of the trail on the first full survey map, dated to 1795, that showed the route it followed from what is now Whitby to Lake Simcoe. He also referred to historical evidence, such as block houses, cemeteries and gun flints, of use of the trail by fur traders from the 1780's to the 1820's.

Prior to the arrival of the first settlers, the trail had, of course, been created and used for hundreds of years by First Nations Peoples. Most recently, the Mississaugans and Chippewas, whose presence was reported along the trail by the first settlers.

Grant explained that the trail was used by native people to travel to their winter hunt

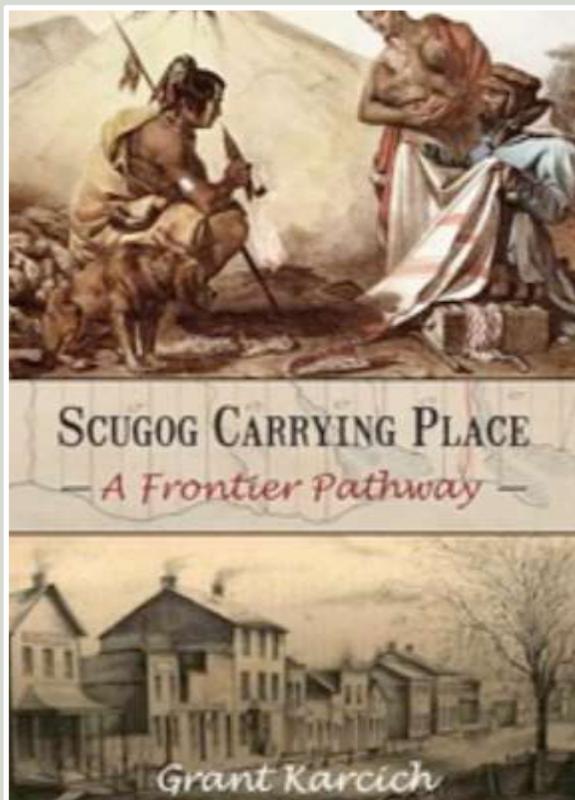
camp, spring fishing grounds, maple sugar camps, and the rice beds along Lake Scugog.

Grant's book includes a survey of the archaeological sites along the trail, dated from the 1380's to the early 1500's.

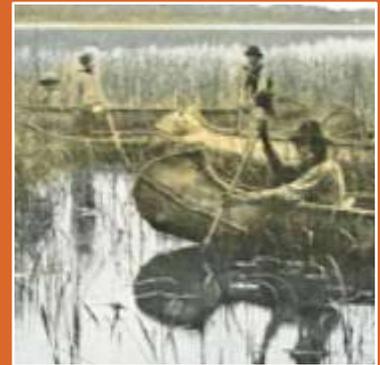
In his presentation he showed how the trail related to the early development of Oshawa, Whitby, Port Perry, Cannington and Beaverton. These communities, Grant explained, can all trace their beginnings to places along the original Scugog Carrying Place.

Today, every time we drive our cars on Simcoe Street north out of Oshawa, we are following what Grant has aptly called “a pre-historic highway.”

Those interested in learning more about this remarkable aspect of our history, copies of Grant's book can be ordered from Dundurn Press in Toronto.



## TRADITIONAL SIGHTS ALONG THE SCUGOG CARRYING PLACE



1. Harvesting Wild Rice on L. Scugog
2. Troutman-Miller Log Cabin
3. Doorman Family Sugar Camp
4. Directional Tree Marking



**created by Tom Mohr**

Well, the snow has gone and with the kinder weather, the open road beckons. In our last issue of Strata, we promised to provide a few destinations that the archaeologically-minded traveler or cultural tourist might incorporate into a summer road trip. We have started locally, with sites in the Peterborough/Kawartha Lakes region, but hope to add to our listing with the help of reports from our readership.

Please note that in most of these locations, archaeology and the story of the First Nations are but a part of the visitor experience. Also consider that in certain circumstances photography is not encouraged due to the spiritual aspect of artifacts or place. So, check the websites provided to learn more about what is offered, and to find details required to plan your excursion. Happy Motoring!



“Curve Lake First Nation is dedicated to maintaining the richness of their Anishnaabe culture and encourages visitor to engage in traditional activities like their annual powwow.” <http://www.whetung.com/pow.html>



“Step into history at Curve Lake Cultural Centre and immerse yourself in the diverse culture of the Curve Lake First Nation. With artifacts and unique exhibits we will take you into a world of storytelling, art, history and ceremony. With artifacts which have been handed down from generation to generation and donated by community members, the centre brings history to life and reaffirms your connection with all of creation”

The centre features services such as pottery exhibits; historical artifacts; genealogy research; workshops; tours storytelling and a library.

<http://www.curvelakeculturalcentre.ca/>

Located on the Mississaugas of Curve Lake First Nation, this must-see destination describes itself as follows:

“Whetung Ojibwa Centre offers a spectacular collection of Indian crafts as well as fine art, sculpture, masks, leather work, clothing, jewelry, music, and books from across Canada and right here at home. We have a very special section of the centre dedicated to the celebration of the past. We have chosen to share with our visitors a small collection of truly spectacular pieces of our cultural history. One-of-a-kind artifacts are lovingly displayed in our historical era. Many of the items are family heirlooms, we are able to answer all questions and give insight into the history of our people, the reserve, and the Iroquois Nation.” (Ed. note: as well as a great deal of ethnographic material from a wide range of indigenous peoples, this collection also contains a number of local artifacts representing the St. Lawrence Iroquoians.)

<http://www.whetung.com/index.html>



Maryboro Lodge, the Fenelon Falls Museum, relates the history of the Kawarthas with emphasis on the relationships between residents and the changes they wrought upon the landscape. The narrative of First Nations prehistory is accompanied by two cabinets of locally sourced chipped stone tools, bone awls, celts and Huron/Wendat pottery, mainly from Fenelon and Verulam townships. Some St. Lawrence Iroquoian material appears in the collection, but there is generally little shown in the way of provenance. Displays of regional ethnographic material and photographs from the Mississauga community nicely illustrate their way of life in historical periods.

<http://www.maryboro.ca/index.html>



### **Annual Pow Wow**

The Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation hosts a traditional Pow Wow the 3rd weekend in July annually. It is a 2 day event held behind the Administration building at 22521 Island Rd, Port Perry, approximately one mile north of Great Blue Heron Charity Casino.

<http://www.scugogfirstnation.com/Page.asp?IdPage=5539&WebAddress=misfn>



Tucked into a small cell...yes a real cell...of Lindsay's 1860's-era Olde Gaol Museum is an interesting array of First Nations artifacts. While reflecting that which might come from a farmer's field, it benefits from having been analyzed and categorized by OAS members. Chert varieties have been sourced, and there is considerable Archaic and St Lawrence Iroquoian material on display. The more recent, mostly Mississauga material culture has been described by an ethnographer, and ultimately, the entire display has been developed in consultation with local First Nations. Not a large collection, but ambitious in its scope. <http://www.oldegaolmuseum.ca/index.php>



The PMA's long-term gallery explores the story of Peterborough beginning with our aboriginal peoples and on display are some wonderful examples of early stone tools, including a Clovis point, antler harpoons, and pottery. The process of knapping is explained with artifacts and simple illustrations. Behind-the-scenes, the PMA has custody of materials from several local prominent archaeological digs: the Brock Street Burial site (1960), the Peterborough County Jail Site (1995), and the MNR Site (1995). One of the PMA's most successful interactive educational activities is its archaeology program." [www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca](http://www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca)



### **Scugog's First Peoples: A Living History**

On display at the Scugog Shores Heritage & Archives, this permanent exhibit depicts the story, both past and present, of the First Nations peoples who have lived around Lake Scugog. It features hands-on materials, an audio station and other multi-sensory components to provide an interactive story that covers the Paleo-Indian to Late Woodland periods, interactions between First Nations and Europeans, and the life of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island today. Funding for this exhibit was provided through a Museums Assistance Program grant from the federal government and a donation from the Baagwating Community

### **Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands (OHIL)**

“A partnership between the Scugog Shores Museum and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation created the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands (OHIL), an exhibit that interprets the natural and cultural history of the Scugog Watershed prior to European settlement. Also on display in the summer are a traditionally built wigwam, and First Nations artifacts.”

<http://www.scugogshoresmuseum.com/ojibway.php>



Deep within a forest northeast of Peterborough is the largest known concentration of Aboriginal rock carvings in Canada. Carved into the white marble rock face hundreds of years ago, the 900 petroglyphs depict turtles, snakes, birds, humans and other images. Hiking trails meander through surrounding forests, wetlands and rocky ridges. Explore The Learning Place interpretive centre.”

<http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/petr.html>



## President's Report

The Peterborough Chapter of the OAS celebrated the anniversary with an excursion to District of Whitevale, hosted by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. There we were joined by members of the Toronto Chapter and of the Pickering Township Historical Society to assist in excavation of the Sebastien Site, a 14<sup>th</sup> century Huron-Wendat village. Many of our respective members had never had the opportunity to assist in an actual archaeological excavation, and we were able to lend a hand in all aspects of the exercise - not just screening but excavation and mapping as well. This allowed our groups to gain an understanding for the process beyond the simple retrieval of artifacts. Special mention must be made of the staff on-site, for their patience, expertise, enthusiasm and good humour. They made sure it was a great day for all of our participants.

Noteworthy, too, is the recent enrichment of our Chapter executive with the addition of three new Directors: Pat Asling and Deb Mohr have come aboard to lend their sage council to our discussions, as has Morgan Tamplin, having finished his term on the OAS exec. Please welcome them to the team.

As mentioned in previous issues of *Strata*, the POAS assumes a stakeholder role in issues of local archaeological interest and we have been active in that regard. We contributed commentary towards the City of Peterborough's recent adoption of a municipal Archaeological Policy. This was a most laudable action on their Council's part, and one which is also being encouraged in the City of Kawartha Lakes. We responded to a request for input from Ontario Parks' Balsam Lake Management Plan and to a successful appeal from long-time OAS member Charlie Garrad to support the municipal acquisition of Collingwood's sensitive Plater-Martin Site.

A big thank you to the City of Peterborough for the Community Projects Grant we have just received. The \$700 will go a long way to supporting the archaeology presentations we organize each year, all of which are open to the general public.

So, in conclusion, thank you all for your continuing interest in the Chapter and please consider attending the annual OAS symposium in Niagara this year (and book early). Meanwhile, if you check out a destination or two as suggested in this issue, don't forget to tell them we sent you. Have a great summer!

**Coming Events June 25**  
**7:00 p.m. @St. Paul's**

**The Struggle for Race and  
Freedom in Ontario:  
An Archaeological Perspective**

**by Dena Doroszenko of the  
Ontario Heritage Trust**