

# STRATA

## Peterborough Chapter to Host Symposium 2014



**Sheryl Makes the Big Announcement**

by Dirk Verhulst

Tom Mohr, president of the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, is delighted to inform chapter members that Peterborough has recently been chosen as the site of the 2014 OAS Symposium. Mr. Mohr explained that this event, which will be held on the week---end of Oct.24---26, 2014 at the Peterborough Waterfront Holiday Inn, marks an important milestone for the young (three year old) Peterborough Chapter.

“The theme of the conference,” said Mr. Mohr, “will be *‘The Land Between.’*”

“This is an extremely topical choice,” he explained, “in light of the recent TVO series and accompanying book. The name denotes a transitional zone between the St. Lawrence Lowlands and the Canadian Shield and marks a specific ecological niche that is home to several unique species of plant and animal life. On a more human scale, the region has witnessed

the interaction between various First Nations peoples as well as European explorers and settlers. It is a vibrant place with a rich cultural heritage making it of special interest to archaeologists. Peterborough is located centrally in the region.”

Sheryl Smith, co---chair of the symposium with Mr. Mohr and provincial OAS vice---president, described the event as “an annual gathering of professional archaeologists and interested members of the public to share what is going on around the province in archaeology.”

Opportunities will also be available for members of the public to participate in the proceedings, including a conference opening public presentation on the evening of Thursday Oct.23. Details of this event will be announced in the near future. *(continued on page 2)*



PETERBOROUGH TO HOST OAS SYMPOSIUM 2014 (CON'T FROM P.1)



**Above:** Tom congratulates Rudy Fecteau, winner of the Norman Emerson award for 2013.



**Below:** Niagara Falls, site of Symposium 2013

Symposium Program Convener, Bill Fox, outlined a number of other conference features that would be of interest to participants, including outings to local sites such as the Petroglyphs, the Canoe Museum, and the Peterborough Museum and Archives.

Program, Curve Lake, and the Canadian Canoe Museum.

"We look forward to introducing our friends and colleagues from Ontario as well as surrounding provinces and states, to 'The Land Between,' next October," said Mr. Mohr.

A project such as this one is a major undertaking that relies on many community volunteers. Other members of the planning committee include Bill Fox, Harry Johnson, Deb Mohr, Dirk Verhulst, Morgan Tamplin, Pat Asling, Ellen Blaubergs, and Carol Johnson.

Local chapter members will be working closely with representatives from Trent University's Archaeological Research Centre, Sir Sandford Fleming's Heritage Preservation

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**OF CHIPMUNKS AND DOGS: AZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS FROM JACOB'S ISLAND**

by Dirk Verhulst



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Kristen Czenkey (above) will give the Peterborough Chapter's first public presentation of 2014 on Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Ms. Czenky is the latest recipient of the Ontario Archaeological Society's Gordon and Margaret Watson Bursary, an award managed by the Peterborough Chapter.

**“OF CHIPMUNKS AND DOGS: AZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS FROM JACOB’S ISLAND” (CON’T)**

Analysis of findings from archaeological excavations on Jacob’s Island near Peterborough suggest that dogs have played the role of ‘man’s best friend’ in our area for thousands of years.

In 2009, the remains of a woman and an infant, were found on the island during construction work. Dr. James Conolly, an archaeology professor at Trent University, was asked to undertake a Determination of Burial at the site. Further test pits revealed evidence of a larger burial area that included both human and animal remains.

With the permission of the land-owners and under the oversight of the Mississauga First Nation at Curve Lake\*, exploration of the extent of these burial activities was begun. Radiocarbon dating of the remains suggested that the burials dated back to the Late Archaic Period, between 3500 and 2800 years ago.

For the last several summers Jacob’s Island, which is located on Pigeon Lake near Gannon’s Narrows, has been the location of Trent University’s Archaeological Field School.

On Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Kristen Czenkey, a graduate student, who has worked at the site under the direction of Dr. Conolly, will share her findings at

the next meeting of the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society. .

“Results of the faunal analysis,” said Ms Czenkey, “indicate that the domesticated dog was the primary species interred at Jacob’s Island,



suggesting that dogs were likely associated with ritual and mortuary activities.” In her presentation she will discuss burial patterns, dietary patterns, characteristics of material culture, and the chronology of the site.

\*Note - For the purposes of clarity, consistency, and respect for our First Nations neighbour communities, we

will be using the format as recommended by Curve Lake First Nation on their website: "... we speak

the Anishnaabeg language, we are Ojibway by description and of the Mississauga Nation..."



**ANNOUNCING THE PETERBOROUGH CHAPTER’S ANNUAL POPCORN SOCIAL**

Forget about the ice, snow, and cold for a few hours on Feb. 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. and join us for what has become a Peterborough tradition: our annual ‘gather-around-the-DVD player’ and enjoy a movie and conversation with an archaeological theme. Details to be announced.

**New Peterborough Archaeology Policy described as “a model for the province.” by Dirk Verhulst**



On October 15, 2013 the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society and the Peterborough Historical Society held a joint public presentation on the recently released Peterborough Archaeology Policy. This meeting was the first joint effort of the two local groups and, appropriately, was on a subject where history and archaeology overlap.

inter the bones where they had been found and to erect a memorial plaque.

Prof. Conolly described the predictive model as “a computer model to indicate the level of likelihood of encountering archaeological resources.” It includes factors such as proximity to water, landscape characteristics, and information about soil and vegetation. He went on to explain that the city will soon release a set of on-line heritage resource maps that will enable developers, as well as individual property owners to determine the likelihood of finding archaeological items in specific local places.



A large group, including members of the general public, gathered in the Peterborough Public Library to hear Erik Hanson, the city’s Heritage Resources Co-ordinator, and a panel of experts, explain the new policy and its implications for professionals, developers and individual property owners.

After the presentation, Tom Mohr, president of the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS, and Dennis Carter-Edwards, past president of PHS, joined Mr. Hanson and Prof. Conolly in a panel discussion about the applications of the new policy. Mr. Carter-Edwards congratulated the city on the new policy and used the discovery of historical items from a recently excavated well at Hutchison House as an example of how the policy would provide guidelines for handling such discoveries in the future. Mr. Mohr echoed this positive response and proposed that an artifact management facility, similar to the one at Western University in London, be built locally.

Mr. Hanson, who manages heritage programming for the city, played a significant role in the development and implementation of the new policy. Joining him was Prof. James Conolly, an archaeologist at Trent University, who contributed the “predictive model” to the policy.

Mr. Hanson explained that the impetus for the creation of the policy came as the result of the discovery of human remains during the refurbishment of the Brock St. Parking Lot in 2003.

“We live in an area where archaeological resources are all around us,” he said. He went on to describe the Brock St. findings as “an opportunity to build bridges between the city and the local First Nation at Curve Lake.” Their consultation eventually led to the decision to re-

Everyone agreed that consultation and co-operation would be essential to successful implementation of the policy, which the Ontario Manager of Cemeteries has described as “model worth replicating across the province.”

*Erik Hanson, Dennis Carter-Edwards, James Conolly, Tom Mohr, and Barbara McIntosh (President of the Peterborough Historical Society, at the microphone)*



**COMING EVENTS**



Please mark Tuesday March 25 on your calendars. Marit Munson and Susan Jamieson, editors of the recently published, *Before Ontario*, will give a presentation on this important addition to the archaeological record of this province. This event will be held at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

## Peterborough Chapter Annual Report – 2012/2013

by Tom Mohr

In keeping with the preferred reporting structure, one may note some overlap with 2012's comments as we shift to a September-August time frame. Our third year as an OAS chapter continues at an active pace. Our newsletter, *Strata*, has seen publication three times in the last reporting year. Beyond Chapter activities, it has also included the continuing adventures of Chapter Vice President Bill Fox in a series he has referred to as an account of his "checkered career in archaeology," and recently compiled in a volume entitled "*Reminiscences of a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Archaeologist*."

Our monthly public outreach featured the following presentations:

- September – Paul Healy: "*Mayan Archaeology and the 2012 Apocalypse*";
- October – Catherine Mathias: "*Archaeological Conservation and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Costume Artifacts from Ferryland, Newfoundland*" and Brian Ross: "*Parks Canada's National Parks and Native Sites Programme: 20 Years on the Trent Severn Waterway*"
- November – William A Fox: "*The Peopling of the*

*Americas: New Evidence, Old Controversies*"

- December – Pot Luck Dinner
- January – Amy Barron: "*Agatha Christie, Archaeology, & Alzheimer's*"
- February – Popcorn Social for members only
- March – Bill Allen: "*Mazinaakobihiganan: Preserving and Honouring Sacred Pictographs*"
- April – Ron Williamson: "*Looking Eastward from the Mantle Site: Foreign Affairs in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century*"
- May – Grant Karcich: "*Archaeology and History of the Scugog Carrying Place*"
- June – Dena Doroszenko: "*Archaeology and the Ontario Heritage Trust*"

April's presentation was conducted in concert with the Trent University Archaeological Research Centre (TUARC), and we look forward to a further sharing of resources with Trent as their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary approaches. October saw Sheryl Smith and Tom Mohr take their joint presentation, "*The Search for Gandatsetiagon: Chasing 'Gandy'*" on the road, with a visit to the Toronto Chapter.

Peterborough Chapter pursued its advocacy role in a number of

endeavours. Letters of support went out to support Charles Garrad's (successful) efforts to bring the Plater-Martin Site under municipal control. Notices were sent to the OAS requesting a policy statement on the issue of homeowners' accidental discoveries of artifacts and remains, as well as to address media insensitivity in depicting First Nations human remains. Comments were submitted regarding the City of Peterborough's new Archaeological Policy; Ontario Parks' Balsam Lake Provincial Park Management Plan, and the City of Kawartha Lakes is also being encouraged to prepare an Archaeological Management Plan.

In May, POAS members joined with others in a "Dig Day" sponsored by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and located on the Sebastien Site, a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Huron Wendat village located near Whitevale, in Pickering. Thanks go out to the TRCA for making possible an informative and entertaining field trip.

And finally, we'd like to give express our appreciation to the OAS for underwriting the cost of a digital projector for Chapter outreach, and to the City of Peterborough for a \$700 grant to aid in the cost of our monthly public presentations.

*One of the most important fundraisers for the OAS is the Silent Auction held annually at the provincial symposium. This year, once again, we were delighted by the generosity of various donors and patrons who enabled our chapter to pass along a significant number of goodies for the occasion. Please express our appreciation by patronizing the goods and services of those businesses who contributed to this worthy cause. Our thanks also go out to POAS Director Deb Mohr for assembling the donations into very attractive gift baskets.*

Mississaugas of Curve Lake First Nation Cultural Centre; Pat's Preserves Deer Run Farm, Little Britain; Sheryl Smith; Pickering Township Historical Society; Kawartha Country Wines, Buckhorn; Youngtown Rock and Roll Museum, Omeme; Reid's Valumart, Lindsay; Valas Honey, Lindsay; City of Kawartha Lakes; Hot Belly Mama's Restaurant, Peterborough; The Old Stone Brewing Company Brewpub and Restaurant, Peterborough; Wendy Thompson, Lindsay; Tom and Deb Mohr.

**Sometimes it's just a rock...**

by Tom Mohr

Having some knowledge about local archaeology often means that folks will pop by with items in the hopes that they are artifacts. I was presented with a piece of hand-forged and seriously corroded iron, dutifully wrapped in tin foil, after a recent broadcast of *The Curse of the Axe*. Alas – it appeared to be the remnants of a settler's hay saw. No Basque axe there. No need to call Ron Williamson just yet.

And not long ago, I was delivered a couple of stones which had turned up in a local garden. The finder was quite enthusiastic about them, and had hopes that she might be sharing her lands with a long-ago First Nations community. She was indeed disappointed to learn that were simply 'pointy rocks'. *Quel dommage...* but we were left with a teachable moment at hand. Living as we do, upon a landscape that has been occupied for some 10 thousand years, I encourage folks to keep their eyes open and report what they find. Even being handed a dud allows us to demonstrate what a real ground or chipped stone tool looks like, and what attributes we seek to make such a determination.

However, I do tend fall back on one of my mentor's gentle comforts in such circumstances: "...but it's the nicest one of those I've seen all day."

Am I above such high-hopes and confusion? I wish! I have been engaged in a research project regarding Duffin's Creek, in the Ajax/Pickering area. While pouring

through some old materials (think dust – not dirt) I rediscovered "A Mystery". Lured by the following report in a local paper, based upon a much earlier piece, I bit:

*"The banks of Duffin's Creek possess an unsolved mystery...A 'monument-like structure' apparently constructed over three hundred years ago...described as an eight foot cube-like shape... constructed of many smaller granite rocks bound with a red mortar-like substance... unconfirmed speculation that it was built by early missionaries... it had had a hole in the top once filled with lead. It is believed that his historic structure still stands on the shore of Duffin's Creek."*



Hmmm... Readers of POAS member Grant Karcich's recent book *Scugog Carrying Place* will recall mention of an historical feature believed to have been sited near Oshawa Harbour, and dating back to the French fur trade. It has been assumed that it was a post, or a

blockhouse but there is no great certainty about it. It appeared on maps of the day as 'Cabane de Plomb'. Cabin of Lead? Duffin's Creek is really not that far from Oshawa Harbour...certainly within the margin of error found on old French maps. Was there a connection with my mysterious "eight foot cube-like" stone structure with 'a hole in the top once filled with lead'? Could Duffin's traditional 18<sup>th</sup> Century trading cabin be associated with an old French post?

Some consultation with my A&P cohorts led me to a photo and a rough location for the 'monument'. My theory had generated some enthusiasm, but the photo troubled me. A query to my go-to rock guy, Bill Fox, echoed my suspicions, but it was a nice day and I set off to brave the mosquitoes and poison ivy in my quest. The monument, if indeed I had the right item, was not that difficult to find. It was a boulder, a glacial erratic, and as I (and Bill) had suspected, of conglomerate.

Those who delve into 19<sup>th</sup> Century journalism are no strangers to the sense of the dramatic which may often be found in those yellowed pages. In fact, it might be said, to quote Twain, that they "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story." Well, I was disappointed at being denied the opportunity to change local history, even just a bit, but I ended up consoling myself with those very same words that I had often passed along to others.

Sometimes it's just a rock...