The Naval Cottages and Fort Henry Garrison Hospital: Public Archaeology at Two of Kingston's Military Sites

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Kingston's past is rich in historical detail, whether it be architectural, political or archaeological. The staff of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation has drawn upon the archaeological collections to develop public access to the history and archaeology of the area with the view to promote and preserve the past. In addition to a variety of workshops, the Foundation provides a well-established summer archaeology field school program. An overview of public archaeology will provide the framework for two of Kingston's military sites that have been investigated as part of this program. The Naval Cottages at the Royal Naval Dockyard, now the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC), and the Fort Henry Garrison Hospital have both revealed the process of archaeology and provided insight into the past at both of these sites for the public. They have also helped to shape and refine the Foundation's approach to public archaeology.

What Is Public Archaeology?

General Overview

Public archaeology has different meanings and outcomes for those involved in doing archaeology, from government agencies and learning institutions to avocational organizations. In order to assess both positive and negative impacts of public archaeology, including whether it actually helps to preserve the past, it is necessary first to define what it is. Naturally, it involves public participation in the discipline of archaeology, but to what degree? The concept of public archaeology is not new and has undergone an evolution, or possibly a revolution, especially in the more recent past. Archaeology in the public's eye, even up to the first half of the twentieth century, was clearly not recognized as a tool for teaching people about the past.

Archaeologists generally know that archaeology and information about the past is often misunderstood by the public. Evidence for this comes from the "popular" presentation by the media, especially in the television and movie industries (Stone 1997,1994), and even as a direct result of inappropriate site interpretive techniques (Sansom 1996; Stone 1997). It is therefore necessary to begin with the most basic and broad definition of archaeology—the study

of the past of people through examination of the material evidence that they leave behind. The "traditional" and "romantic" view portrayed by the discoveries of Heinrich Schliemann and his work at Troy, Sir Arthur Evans at Knossos and Howard Carter at Tutankhamun's tomb, are what movie makers associate with archaeology. That is, archaeologists make magnificent discoveries and obtain spectacular objects of art. It is this long developed concept of "treasure hunting" that seems to be at the root of some of the public's misconceptions about archaeology, the search for artifacts.

Archaeology has developed since the nineteenth century into a scientifically based, multidisciplinary field. Archaeology involves the collection, analysis and interpretation of data from geophysical and aerial surveys, documentary sources, soils and stratigraphy, plants, animals, building materials and artifacts; these data are what enables archaeologists to investigate the past. It does not only involve collecting, analyzing and interpreting artifacts. Two important questions need then to be addressed here. (1) Why is it important to do archaeology? (2) Why is it important for others, non-archaeologists, to know about what archaeologists do and find?

Archaeology should be considered as a tool for accessing the past. It cannot be said that we know

everything about the past, and it is clear even from recently recorded history and archaeology that accepted knowledge can be biased (Arnold 1996; McCann 1990). Archaeology should not, however, be thought of as a means of refuting written history, but a method to enhance our knowledge about people, how they used resources and developed technologies, how they lived and survived, died and even what they believed. Archaeological research is thus carried out to find the answers to questions we have about the past, and in so doing, it preserves the past. It is necessary, however, to recognize that archaeological resources are fragile and nonrenewable, and this message must be clearly conveyed to the public. In order for people to support archaeology and take an active role in the preservation of archaeological heritage, they must have some level of interest and understanding of what it is and means. If archaeological interpretation is to be accessible to the public, they must be provided with the tools to evaluate critically what is presented to them. In doing so, they develop an understanding of the relevance of the past to the present (Davis 1997:84-98; Jameson 1997:12-14; Smith 1995:28).

Use of the word *public* in relation to archaeology indicates availability to all people. The public itself then takes several forms, including the local community, tourists, and students of all ages and levels. Participation of the public in archaeology can take one of two directions, *active*

or *passive*, or might involve a combination of both (Figure 1). Passive forms of public archaeology include museum, interpretive centre and other exhibits, trails and tours, and presentation through lectures and in the media including television, radio, newspapers, magazines and books. These forms can also contain elements of active participation or lead to it. The active types of public archaeology are field schools and workshops, but might also include interactive exhibits. This can include research, fieldwork, lab work and presentation of the data.

Is this what public archaeology means to those actively involved in doing archaeology? Until recently, the most readily acceptable concept of public archaeology seemed to be involvement by the public in fieldwork and directly related activities and the attitude, by professionals, that it was not appropriate for amateurs to be involved at all (Poirier and Feder 1995:3-4). While this attitude appears to be changing, an underlying sense of mistrust on the part of professionals and the public towards each other, particularly in relation to human remains and aboriginal material culture, is evinced in recent and ongoing repatriation issues (Hammil and Cruz 1989; Harrington 1993; Moore 1989; Richardson 1994). While the intricacies of archaeological preservation are complex and should not be over simplified, it must be recognized by archaeologists that the public and their involvement can have significant impacts on the resource.



Figure 1. Active and passive public archaeology at the Naval Cottages site during Can You Dig It? 1998.

Identified Concerns

Serious concerns have been voiced by archaeologists with regard to the real benefits of public involvement in archaeology. The primary concern appears to be that by providing the public with too much knowledge, they will have both the ability and desire to dig up archaeological sites without professional involvement (Florida Anthropological Society [FAS] 1994). Is this a valid concern? The professional community is reacting to the possibility that anyone can learn various steps in the process of archaeology and successfully apply them, whether their goal is personal gain or excavation to professional standards in the context of research. Perhaps this is a reflection of insecurity within the profession. Perhaps the concerns are valid, especially where vandalism and looting of archaeological sites have been identified as a problem (Hoffman 1997; Messenger and Smith 1994; Smith 1995).

It is the teaching of archaeological field methods and the involvement of students under the age of about 12 to 14 that seem to cause the most anxiety among professionals (Joe Last, personal communication 2000; Public Archaeology Facility [PAF] n.d.; Heath 1997:67). What messages are archaeology educators attempting to give to people learning field methods? What messages are these people actually getting? Members of the Society for American Archaeology Public Education Committee have found that pre-collegiate education programs are increasingly emphasizing stewardship and down-playing the role of digging and artifacts (Messenger and Smith 1994:2). To consider fully the detrimental effects of public involvement in fieldwork, we must question whether the public really needs to know anything about archaeology to loot a site or purchase artifacts from flea markets, antique dealers, or through the internet. Yet this is what seems to be the underlying factor in resistance to teaching the public field methods and artifact interpretation.

Potential Benefits

Can the benefits of public archaeology outweigh the negative aspects? Three beneficiaries can be identified: the public, the resource, and the professional community. Many heritage professionals believe that in educating members of the public about the past, their awareness of and appreciation for the past will be of immense benefit in the future (Davis 1997:85-86; Heath 1997:66; Jameson 1997:12; Knudson 1991; Poirier and Feder 1995:4; Smardz 1997:103; Smith 1995:28). While developer-funded archaeology is on the rise, limited publicly-funded projects are still conducted and the results of such work are presented through use of public funds. The public appetite for archaeological information seems insatiable, illustrated by a willingness to pay taxes and museum admission fees, take courses and workshops, purchase books, video tapes and other mementos (Poirier and Feder 1995:3-4). This enthusiasm is also reflected in membership in avocational organizations. A public that wants to know about archaeological heritage should be encouraged to learn more. A more knowledgeable public will promote a desire for greater knowledge.

This desire for more knowledge leads into a consideration of the second and third beneficiaries of public archaeology. The resource itself, when made available to the public through wellstructured education programs and interpretive presentations, can be better preserved. This response to public archaeology is promoted by people involved in cultural resource management (Davis 1997:86; Heath 1997:70-72; Hoffman 1997:73; Knudson 1991; Poirier and Feder 1995:4; Smardz 1997:103; Smith 1995:28). There is, however, according to Stone (1997:24), no direct evidence that a greater understanding of archaeology by the public will ensure protection of any archaeological resources now or in the future. It is a risk that has to be taken and provides an opportunity that can be used in a positive way.

The third beneficiary of public archaeology is the professional community, whether government agencies, educational institutions, museums or consultants. Public involvement, and thus support, has impacts on funding for both public and private undertakings. Government agencies are provided with data on site discovery and state of preservation through established stewardship programs and avocational organization participation (Ontario Archaeological Society [OAS] 2001; Messenger and Smith 1994). Educational institutions rely on

public and private funding to support archaeology departments and programs. They also need interested students to enrole in their programs. Museums present cultural heritage, including archaeological information, to the public, relying on public and private funds to conserve, interpret and present public exhibitions. Archaeological consultants act under government legislation, which is enacted for the benefit of the public and the resource, for the greater good of the public. Consultants also rely on compliance with legislation and payment by developers, whether government or private.

While it would be easy to state that the public has little to do with professional archaeology, the public can have a tremendous impact on the ability of professional archaeologists to conduct their work. There appears to be strong public interest in all archaeological work that is undertaken. Therefore any opportunity to share knowledge and information on archaeological heritage with the public, in whatever format is appropriate, should be seized.

Teaching About Preserving the Past

The Field School

Mention of "public archaeology" immediately brings to mind the field school. Traditionally associated with undergraduate courses, institutions other than universities have been conducting field schools for non-university students for some time. Field schools are available for pre- and post-university age groups through organizations such as the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado (Heath 1997), the Toronto Archaeological Resource Centre (Smardz 1997), regrettably closed in 1997, the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, and others. Even universities are providing field opportunities that incorporate more training for the public, such as the Community Archaeology Program of the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton (PAF n.d.) and the Southern Illinois University at Cahokia (Iseminger 1997).

The success of the Crow Canyon field school-type program involves preservation through education

and economic benefits through tourism. The key aspects, however, are the involvement of archaeologists throughout the program, the experiential nature of the public involvement, and high quality of the research (Heath 1997:68-70). At Crow Canyon, more about the past of this area is actively uncovered and interpreted to the public with public involvement. One concern is whether this is truly public archaeology if participants have to pay (Dena Doroszenko, personal communication 2001).

The profession recognizes that archaeological excavation is a destructive process through cultural resource management policies. In his opening address to the Institute of Field Archaeologists conference in 1994, Biddle (1994) examines the idea that preservation in situ of archaeological remains is the best policy with expected future improvements in excavation techniques. He argues, convincingly, that proponents of this idea essentially "outlaw" excavation while failing to distinguish between excavation methods and scientific techniques. Since the majority of current archaeological work in Britain is through policy guidance PPG 16 (Department of the Environment [D of E] 1990), under contract conditions, and not for research purposes, Biddle suggests that excavation today is not carried out to the higher standards of previous full-scale investigations. In addition, with little opportunity for students and interested individuals to get practical experience in excavation, how can it be assumed that excavation techniques will improve?

Field schools are an important element of both teaching about the past and preserving it. Field school excavation enhances the knowledge of the participants and those who interact with the data through other means. As Potter (1997:40) points out, there is no educational value in digging a fake site, or one with no research significance.

The field school, while tied to a specific site and season, can be flexible in duration (from one week to several weeks). Originally set in the university venue, it now includes both younger and older students. Field schools may also include tours and visits to museums, workshop elements, and presentations, as well as the hands-on aspects

of excavation and finds processing. The contents depend on several variables including program duration, participant age, skill level, and site sensitivity.

The Concept—Putting Together the "Camp"

The origins of an archaeology camp in Kingston began more than a decade ago. The concept of a summer archaeology camp, or field school, was a spin-off from a locally run university program called Kingfest and the small individual school workshops run sporadically by the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation. Kingfest was a one-week half-day program involving a simulated "dig". For the staff and volunteers of the Foundation, it was an inordinate amount of work for such a short period. It made more sense to run a longer Foundation program on an archaeological site, thus providing more educational as well as research value. The day-camp concept was focussed on sports, science and nature contexts, and there was nothing for people interested in heritage. Young people at junior, intermediate and senior levels, aged 8 years up to 18 years or pre-university, had few or no regular opportunities of this sort anywhere in the province of Ontario. It was unclear whether there was a market for this.

The Program

Can You Dig It? is a joint program of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, the Kingston Archaeological Centre (KAC) and a participating local museum. It was designed to provide participants with instruction and hands-on experience in all aspects of work related to an archaeological investigation (Figure 2). It consists of five major components related to history and archaeology: Research and the Archives; Archaeology and Excavation; Archaeological Fieldwork; What Happens After the Dig? and How Do We Show What Was Found? The program utilises significant local and national resources including archives, museums and their collections, as well as the excavation site, which is open to the general public during on-site work and for a designated public day. In addition, the use of scientific methods in research, data collection, analysis and interpretation assists the partner site in uncovering its history. The final objective of the program is to interpret and exhibit the information through production of the archaeological licence report and interpretive exhibits for the museum, or for associated projects such as the local heritage fair.

The first camp program, in 1996, had 15 participants and one summer student grant position under the project director. In 1997, 37 participants were registered. Supervisory staff included the camp and project director, two archaeological technicians hired under the Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions (Department of Canadian Heritage) funding program, and the partner museum curator. Instructor-to-participant supervision evolved to a 1:5 ratio. Building on this success, an adult program was designed.



Figure 2. Can You Dig It? participants screen dirt as part of their excavation activities, Fort Henry Garrison Hospital site, 2000.

The overall goals of the program are to educate and enhance public awareness of cultural heritage in the local and regional community. The *Can You Dig It?* camp was designed as a long-term, on-going project with museum partnerships to provide sites for excavation.

The greatest testimony to the value of the *Can* You Dig It? program lies in the fact that there was a need to develop four years of programming. Several first year participants wanted to return for a second year. More workshop subjects were planned, giving participants greater exposure to history and archaeology. Third and fourth year programs were also expanded. The second to fourth year programs include field trips to Queen's University Archives and to other community museums, transcription of original archival documents, an introduction to marine archaeology, internet exploration of archives, archaeology and museums, artifact photography, artifact research projects for web site exhibition, an introduction to pre-disturbance surveys, surveying and drafting, computer simulated excavation and interpretation, and artifact conservation.

Both the third and fourth seasons of the program (1998 and 1999) were conducted in partnership with the Royal Military College of Canada Museum, using the Naval Cottages for the excavation component (Bazely 1999, 2001a, 2002a) (Figure 3). Further refinement of all programming, although ongoing, was a focus during the following three seasons in partnership with Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada in association with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, operator and Parks Canada, owner (Bazely 2002b, 2004) (Figure 3).

The Naval Cottages Site (BbGc-43)

Occupation and Use of Point Frederick

The site of Kingston was settled by the French, who established Fort Frontenac in 1673. While settlement was not limited to the confines of the fort, indeed Native peoples camped within a safe

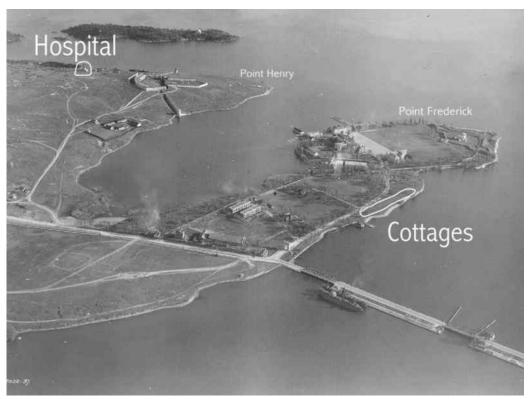


Figure 3. Proximity of sites to one another and to the military complexes they served, A 1933-0010C, Massey Library, RMC.

distance and civilians were encouraged to settle and farm, there is to date no archival or archaeological evidence to support the use of Point Frederick, known as Pointe de Montréal, during the French period. Official French settlement in the area ended in 1758. It was not until 1783, when Fort Frontenac was formally re-occupied by the British military after the American Revolutionary War, that Point Montreal was considered for use. Both Point Frederick, which was named for General Sir Frederick Haldimand, Governor of Canada from 1777 to 1786, and adjacent Point Henry became part of the military reserve and were therefore not surveyed for civilian settlement (Bazely 2001a:6).

At the urging of Kingston merchants in 1789, Point Frederick became the trans-shipment point for government stores. Over the next few years, buildings for naval purposes were constructed on Point Frederick but were not, however, fortified or defended in any way. By 1800 it is reported that there was a transport store, naval store, deputy commissary and storekeeper's house, a work shed and sail loft (Preston 1959:lxxxi). This site became the headquarters of the Provincial Marine and was administered under the Quartermaster-General's office. Several vessels were constructed during the early years of the dockyard. Point Frederick effectively became the headquarters of the Navy on Lake Ontario (Preston 1959:lxxxiii; Stanley and Preston 1950:9).

The War of 1812

Prior to the outbreak of war in 1812, the defence of Kingston and the dockyard was discussed extensively, with some attempts made to move the dockyard to York. With the outbreak of war, a blockhouse was built on Point Henry and the position of the Kingston dockyard was formalised as the British Naval Base for the Great Lakes fleet. Batteries were hastily constructed on Mississauga Point and Point Frederick, which repelled the November 1812 American attack. Defences were strengthened throughout the war, a blockhouse was built on Point Frederick to protect the dockyard and the first Fort Henry was constructed. In 1813 Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, Royal Navy, took charge of the fleet

and all naval establishments on Lake Ontario were transferred to the Royal Navy. The dock-yard at Kingston became heavily involved in the shipbuilding race, which provided the means to end the war (Stanley and Preston 1950:9-13).

Dockyard Workers and Accommodation

Kingston was a military or garrison town with soldiers and sailors swelling the population, but who was it that actually worked at the dockyard and who built the ships? The term *artificer* was often used on maps and in documents and refers to skilled craftsmen providing their specialised trade to the military or navy. Artificers were not, however, soldiers or sailors, but civilians in the employ of the military or navy.

In a letter dated October 30, 1820 to the Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy, Robert Barrie, the Acting Commissioner at the Naval Yard, Kingston wrote:

With reference to your Honourable Boards letter to me of the 9th August (just received) on the subject of the Houses I proposed to Build for the reception of the Officers and Artificers, I beg to observe that till the compliment of Artificers be increased at the Isle Aux Noix, the Barracks there will with temporary partitions answer for the lodging of the Shipwrights.

As the majority of the Shipwrights are for the time being, withdrawn from Grand River and Penetanguishene, there is no immediate necessity for constructing Shipwrights' dwellings at those Establishments. But here, the "Chanties" the Shipwrights occupy, are so unserviceable and completely fallen to decay, that I think it absolutely necessary better and more wholesome accommodation should be provided for them.

On this side the Water Lodging is not to be procured. In Kingston the rent of a House, with one Room on the Ground floor and two Rooms upstairs, could not now be procured for less than Twenty five pounds currency per annum.

If the Shipwrights were allowed this sum for Lodging money, and resided at Kingston, we should often lose their Labour, for in the Spring and fall the River is impassable for about eight or ten days. It is also frequently impassable during the Gales of Wind in the summer.

I therefore beg to recommend that as many Houses as are absolutely necessary for the Officers and Artificers be built, but, if your Honourable Board do not think proper to allow me to build, I do not think you can allow a Shipwright with a family less than twenty five pounds Halifax Currency per annum for Lodging money and the Inferior Officers and Clerks fifty [Library and Archives Canada (LAC), MG12, ADM 106, 1820].

This early correspondence provides detail on a number of issues. The artificers were actually shipwrights, those responsible for the design and construction of the ships. Accommodation on the point, in decayed, roughly built cabins, was less than comfortable. There was no bridge connecting the town of Kingston to the east shore of the Cataraqui River, and the now infamous winds made the ferry crossing near impossible at certain times of the year. The shipwrights had families and rents were exorbitantly high.

There is considerable correspondence devoted to the merits of building better accommodation, but funds from the Navy Board for this purpose were not forthcoming. Almost two years later, in March 1822 an advertisement appeared in the *Kingston Chronicle*: "NOTICE is hereby given that sealed Tenders will be received at His Majesty's dock yard... from all persons desirous to contract for building a range of 16 COTTAGES..." (Stauffer Library, Queen's University).

The building contract was awarded to John Hynes of Kingston. The "Articles of Agreement" dated April 4, 1822 (Massey Library, RMC) clearly outlines the standards to which the cottages are to be built. It states that John Hynes will "erect and build" a range of sixteen stone cottages on Point Frederick according to plans and specifications "exhibited in the Master Shipwright's office in His Majesty's Dock Yard" (Massey Library, RMC). The contract continues:

The foundation of the ...buildings to be carried down to the solid rock, and each ...cottages to be one story high above the basement. The walls to be eighteen inches thick ...of good solid rubble stone work ...with stud partitions filled in with brick—The length ...of each ...cottages to be thirty feet nine inches, the breadth seventeen feet, the height from the ...ground sill to the eve to be fifteen feet. The chimnies to be built of brick ...and stones for stove pipes to be cut and set in each room [Massey Library, RMC].

The agreement continues on to spell out the way in which the work is to be done and finished by 2nd October 1822. Only five were to be built at a time so that they could be inspected and that the carpenters and joiners work could be finished for each section. A similar agreement is outlined for John Corry of Kingston who won the carpenters and joiners contract. The details of both contracts are of interest in piecing together the archaeological puzzle. It is also clear from these documents, along with historic plans, illustrations and photographs (Figure 4), that once erected, the Naval Cottages had an imposing presence on Kingston's waterfront.

Interim Peace and Sporadic Hostilities

According to the terms of the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817, the activities of naval forces on the Great Lakes were severely limited. As a result, in 1819-20, Robert Barrie the Acting Commissioner at the Naval Yard, Kingston had a large stone building constructed for the purpose of storing the masts, rigging, sails and other equipment of the fleet. That building came to be known as the Stone Frigate, and remains in use today as a dormitory. By terms of the Agreement, the dockyard was maintained on a greatly reduced scale (Stanley and Preston 1950:15-17). It is strange that at a time when hostilities had ended and the fleet was laid up in ordinary, effectively mothballed, that new facilities were required for the shipwrights. Were the hostilities really over? The shipwrights would have been necessary to maintain the vessels of the fleet even though they were not in active use, as there was



Figure 4. A c. 1865 photograph of the Naval Cottages, Kingston, Queen's University Archives.

always a possibility that the warships were required. Finally in 1825 a Commission was appointed to examine all the defences of British North America and it was determined that an alternate defendable waterway was required to connect the Great Lakes to the eastern seaboard. The construction of the Rideau Canal began in 1826 and the rebuilding of Fort Henry was begun in 1832. The surviving vessels of the War of 1812 fleet were, however, sold at auction or sunk in Hamilton Cove, now known as Deadman Bay, in 1832 (Osborne and Swainson 1988:54-59, 61).

It is not at all clear who was living in the Naval Cottages during this period but it seems likely that some shipwrights would necessarily be present at the dockyard. Some references indicate that possibly the 66th Royal Berkshire Regiment, who were stationed in Kingston between 1831 and 1833 (Stewart and Wilson 1973:93), used the Naval Cottages as barracks in 1832. The cholera epidemic of that year claimed three men and one woman of the 66th and the company that was quartered there was removed to camp on the hill (Stewart and Wilson 1973:103), most likely Fort Henry. By 1834 some of the cottages were being rented out but it is unknown to whom and for how long. The dockyard was closed in 1837 but border raids and the rebellion caused it to be hurriedly re-opened in 1838. A small fleet was maintained, resulting in the first breach of the 1817 Agreement. The border crisis of the 1840s required that the dockyard remain operative and it was not closed until 1853 when the Board of Ordnance took charge of the property. It was again re-opened as the naval base for a final period in 1865 during the Fenian raids (Stanley and Preston 1950:17; Osborne and Swainson 1988:61). It is highly unlikely that shipwrights were required during this latter period. If so, the

numbers would have been small compared to the heyday of the dockyard.

Accidental Destruction, Intentional Demolition It is not until 1868 that a clear picture emerges of who inhabited the cottages. On the evening of August 30, 1868, a raging fire, fanned by winds, began at the south end, destroying cottages 10 to 16—a veritable spectacle for Kingstonians that was recorded in the Kingston Daily News and Daily British Whig (Stauffer Library, Queen's University), fortunately with no loss of life. A Board of Inquiry was set up the next day to: " ...examine into and report upon all the circumstances of a fire which took place at the Naval Cottages on the evening of 30 August 1868." (LAC, RG8 1868). The Board inspected the site and heard evidence from the occupants. Those of Cottages No. 15 and 13 were questioned and it was ascertained that none were cooking or smoking in No. 15 that evening. It was noted that the wife of a Private residing in No. 14 had been reported the previous week for cooking. Although cooking was not allowed inside during the summer months, as the chimneys were not cleaned, and all interviewed occupants of Cottage No. 15 denied cooking, the Board determined that the fire must have been caused by someone cooking, contrary to orders, in their barrack rooms.

The proceedings of the Board also included a list of items lost in the fire. All interviewed occupants were in the Royal Canadian Rifles and lived with their families in one of the four rooms of each cottage. A total of 36 families were displaced from their homes, but alternate accommodation was found. The damaged cottages were left standing and roofless until 1875 when they were torn down to prepare for the new facilities of the Military College (LAC, *RG*11, B1 1875).

Prior to this, in 1870, all British military were withdrawn and the various establishments were handed over to the Canadian government (Stanley and Preston 1950:31). Detailed surveys were undertaken between 1869 and 1870 and all structures were accounted for. It was determined that the new and badly needed military college would be located at the former dockyard (Osborne and Swainson, 1988:275-270) and another survey was conducted in 1874 to determine the state of all existing buildings. The fact that the Naval Cottages needed repairs necessary for habitation suggests that they were empty for a period and the surviving nine cottages were subsequently occupied by servants and civil subordinate staff (LAC, RG11, B1 1874). It is not known exactly when they were finally abandoned, but the remaining row of stone cottages were sold at auction for \$110 and torn down in 1910, according to the Daily British Whig and Daily Standard (Stauffer Library, Queen's University).

Archaeology of the Naval Cottages

In the fall of 1997, a ground-penetrating radar survey was conducted (Crow 1998). In addition, "crop marks," caused by relatively dry winters and springs showed the location of individual rooms and fireplaces where foundation walls were located close to the surface. This information helped to guide the excavation strategy. In 1998 excavation focussed around the foundations of Cottage No. 16, which was further examined in 1999 along with portions of Cottage No. 15 (Figure 5). Both cottages had been destroyed by the 1868 fire.

Fifteen of the eighteen excavation units contained structural elements of the cottages, while eight contained evidence of the 1868 fire in the form of ash, charcoal, burnt artifacts and demolition rubble. The main structural features consisted of both exterior and interior wall foundations of mortared limestone and masonry fireplace pads and chimney bases. Sections of the north, east, south and west walls of Cottage No. 16 were uncovered, as well as portions of the north and south fireplace pads. A small section of each of the north, east and west walls of Cottage No. 15 were excavated. Interior partition walls and stairways, long since demolished, were found to rest on two

sets of square stone piers. These measured 50 cm x 50 cm. Three of these were identified in Cottage No. 15. Interior and exterior builders' trenches were encountered for the exterior foundation walls of both cottages. Another construction feature, as yet unidentified, was noted wherever there was a junction between two walls. These square and rectangular shaped areas, consisting of stone chips, may have been places to dispose the chippings from dressing and fitting blocks into the walls.

Three large pits, approximately 4 m across, were identified in the centre portion of the cottage rooms, containing post-fire debris, including what appeared to be collapse and subsequent demolition deposits. It was determined that the underlying clay sloped down and in towards the centre of the cottages, which likely represents basement depressions. The presence of the support piers and the pits indicate that the ground floor was raised somewhat above existing grade to provide for at least a shallow basement.

Over 16,000 artifacts were recovered during two seasons of excavation at the Naval Cottages. The variety of artifacts illustrates an occupation of a domestic rather than military nature, consistent with the documentation of occupations. Sections of a stove were recovered from the most southerly debris pit including a claw foot, pipe sections and side panels. The maker was "J. Van Norman U.C". Joseph Van Norman successfully operated the Normandale Furnace from 1821 to 1847 (Ball 1982:897-898). Since the 1822 construction contract includes a reference to "...stones for stove pipes to be cut and set in each room..." (Massey Library, RMC) it is likely that the stove remnants were from the original installation. Although much of the ceramic assemblage was burnt, it represents the early to mid-nineteenth century and includes creamware (19%), pearlware (22.5%), refined white earthenware (54%), and smaller amounts of coarse red earthenware and refined stoneware. Of the pearlware present, the largest amount was transfer-printed and undecorated sherds (76%). Hand-painted (12.7%), greenedged (6.3%) and blue-edged (4.6%) comprised the balance. The refined white earthenware includes mocha, annular banded, hand-painted and sponge decorated vessels. This ceramic

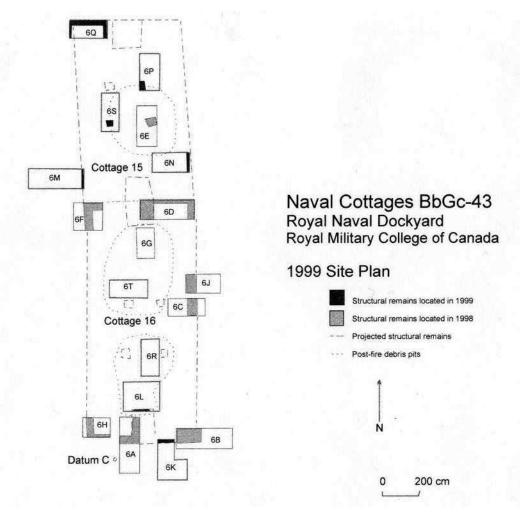


Figure 5. Site plan—Naval Cottages 1998 to 1999, Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation.

assemblage consistently represents inexpensive and readily available wares rather than high priced merchandise. This is again consistent with expectations for artificers and their families, as well as those for the Royal Canadian Rifles. Personal items include clay smoking pipes, shell, bone and metal buttons, clay marbles, brass jews harp and a straight razor. Five tokens were recovered, all dated 1816, two commemorating Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington and his success at the Battle of Waterloo and three recognizing the "Hero of Upper Canada", Sir Isaac Brock and his heroism during the War of 1812. Four of these were found in close association with a wall, suggesting intentional placement during construction.

Perhaps this reflects the naval tradition of placing a coin in the mast-step. The fifth was found in a pile of dirt that predates the fire, possibly related to the original excavation for the foundation. Large amounts of butchered bone, bottle glass (mostly melted) and building and structural hardware were recovered. These latter included nails, window glass, hinges, keys and locks.

Military presence is represented by three 74th (Highland Light Infantry) Regiment pewter buttons. This battalion served in Canada from 1818 to 1828 and 1841 to 1845, but were never stationed in Kingston (Stewart 1964:307). It is possible that a soldier of the 74th joined the Royal Canadian Rifles, who were barracked in the

Naval Cottages. One 41st Regiment of Foot silver-plated button was also recovered. The 41st Welch Regiment was in Kingston in 1801, 1802, 1805, 1808, 1812, 1814 and saw action in the major battles of the War of 1812, but left Canada in 1815 (Stewart 1964:199). It is unclear why this regimental button should be associated with the 1868 fire debris. There were also buttons from the 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment who were at Fort Henry in 1862-1863 (Stewart 1964:265), and 15th (Yorkshire East) Regiment who were at Kingston, Fort Henry and Fort Frederick in 1827-1828 and in Kingston from 1833 to 1834 (Stewart 1964:120).

All artifacts fit the time period of occupation of the site and no late nineteenth century material was found within the occupation layers of the site. Both Cottage No. 15 and 16 have now been investigated and structural information collected. There are still questions, and more detailed analysis of the data is warranted, but no further investigations of the Naval Cottages Site are currently proposed.

Fort Henry Garrison Hospital 131H (BbGc-28)

Building a Hospital on Point Henry

Military buildings were first constructed on Point Henry during the War of 1812 (Mecredy 1985). After the war, a hospital was built to serve the garrison and early cartographic evidence showing structures in the area dates to 1816 (National Map Collection [NMC] 11378). It is unclear whether these structures are the hospital buildings. However a government contract advertisement appeared in the Kingston Chronicle on March 1, 1822 calling for proposals for building a hospital on Point Henry:

Government Contract

Proposals will be received on the 15th inst. for building an Hospital on Point Henry, agreeably to a plan and specification which may be seen at the Royal Engineer's Office, between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock, after the 7th instant. The building to be completed by the 25th December next. Two approved securities

will be required to the amount of the Contract.

W.R. PAYNE, Capt R. E. Commanding [Kingston Chronicle 1822].

Without the contract it is impossible to determine whether the hospital was constructed at that time or if any other related structures were part of that contract. An 1824 plan (NMC 16105), which documents in great detail all military structures in the vicinity, does not indicate anything on the east side of Fort Henry. The first definitive map evidence is 1827 (NMC 22957), which illustrates a structure consistent with the shape and location of the hospital, but no other structures are depicted. An 1829 illustration by Major-General James Pattison Cockburn shows the hospital and surrounding picket fence with the fort in the background, but not until 1830 are other features of the compound, including the guard house and dead house, clearly identified in the Annual Ordnance Return for Kingston on a "Plan of the Military Hospital at Point Henry, Kingston Upper Canada" (Fort Henry Archives). No interior structural details of any of the buildings are included, but a cellar and covered way are identified.

The construction date of the hospital is further confused by the 1831 Ordnance Report, in which a small wooden house is noted "...on the Ordnance Reserve, Point Henry, near the New Military Hospital..." (Fort Henry Archives). The Kingston Chronicle of October 1, 1831 confirms the newness of the construction with an advertisement to paint the new hospital at Point Henry.

CONTRACT for ENGINEER work.

NOTICE is hereby given, that sealed Tenders, with the names of Sureties, will be received at the Commissariat Office at this Post, until 12 o'clock, on the 10th proximo, from such persons who will undertake to perform the undermentioned services for the Royal Engineer Department, viz;

To re-Shingle the Roof of Officer's Barrack at Point Frederick.

Do. do. of the Quarter occupied by the Officer commanding Royal Artillery, Kingston.

Do. do.of the old Hospital in Kingston, and to paint the exterior wood work of the

Quarter occupied by the Officer Commanding Artillery—the Commandant's House in Kingston—the New Hospital at point Henry—and the Officer's Barrack within the Tete du Pont at Kingston.

All particulars will be made known on enquiry at the Office of the Royal Engineers.

The several sums will be paid in British Silver, after the rate of 4s. 4d. sterling, per Dollar, upon drafts drawn by the Ordnance Storekeeper—and the Tenders must express the Rates in sterling money.

JNO. HARE, A.C.C. Commissariat Kingston, 28th September, 1831 [Kingston Chronicle 1831].

These documentary sources suggest a later construction date than indicated by the cartographic data, as it is unreasonable to expect new wood work to remain unpainted for four or more years.

The earliest details of the buildings of the hospital compound come from the 1831 Ordnance Report. The description of the Hospital and other structures provides not only the dimensions, but also building materials, division of space and use.

A stone building 83 x 29 and 35 in width at the wings. It is three stories high and built of hammered stone. The front has an area in which is a cellar and privies. The hospital contains on the ground floor a bath room, surgery mens room, kitchen and two store rooms. On the second floor there are 3 wards, a surgery and medical officers room, on the upper floor are two wards. It is fitted up for 37 patients. The hospital is enclosed by a picket fence and at the main gate there is a stone guard [house] [Fort Henry Archives].

The guard house is identified as "14 x 15 for a Corporal's Guard and near this little building is another building 14 x 30 fitted up for a dissecting and dead room and straw store, both these

buildings have shingled roofs." (Fort Henry Archives). The compound is depicted in several contemporary illustrations, including Mrs. Cartwright's 1832 sketch. William Henry Bartlett, an English professional topographical painter, produced an image c. 1838 that is somewhat exaggerated. A comparison with today's terrain confirms Bartlett's artistic licence. Both illustrations, however, clearly indicate all the known structures.

The pleasant situation of the hospital is noted by Sir Richard Bonnycastle in 1841:

On a verdant slope facing the picturesque rocks of Cedar Island, and commanding a beautiful view of the opening of the lake, stands the garrison hospital, an extremely neat building of dark blue stone, with a shining tin roof, and ample verandah in front, under which, in the hottest summer days, the patients can walk and enjoy the air" [Bonnycastle 1841].

Although his bias appears evident, the description indicates a sound and seemingly more than adequate structure.

Post Confederation Use

Limited archival research has produced little documentary evidence of the use and occupation of the structures within the Hospital compound up to 1871. After Canadian Confederation in 1867, British military were withdrawn from Canada by 1870. At this time carefully prepared plans (NMC 5017) detailed the condition of all structures to be handed over. Descriptions accompanying the plan indicate the "Hospital Store" built of stone had one storey, no basement or attic, a shingle roof and was in good repair. The dead house, also built of stone, had one storey, no basement or attic, had a shingle roof and was in a state of good repair. The guard house, was similarly built of stone and had like qualities as did the men's privies. The hospital, also of stone, had a centre of three, and two wings of two storeys with no basement or attic indicated. It was in a state of good repair with a tin roof. In the "Remarks" the hospital is noted

as being for 19 patients with a kitchen, wash house and sergeant's quarters on the ground floor.

Another glimpse into the condition and layout of the hospital is provided by the Assistant Surgeon, Royal Artillery in 1870, and a c. 1874 photograph, which also shows the guard house and dead house (Figure 6).

The hospital is without the Fort—situated below the east salient and distant from it about 300 yards and 30 yards from the water. It is very healthy. Well built and the arrangements are excellent. It is sheltered by rising ground at the back from the north and south winds and faces the south. The water supply is from a pump and is also dipped from the water. The Hospital is built of blue lias [?] lime stone, is two stories high besides the basement, the flooring throughout is of oak, which is a great improvement on deal, it does not stain and chip up like deal. The basement contains the kitchens, stores and quarters for Hospital Lieut and cook. The ground floor contains 5 rooms consisting of Surgery, 3 wards and an orderly's room. The floor above consists of two large wards—the ventilation is perfect, the wards are warmed by stoves; fuel wood-The wards are light, lofty and airy, the cubic space per man is below the amount laid down by legislation but the excellent ventilation prevents any ill effects from it. The cooking and diets have been good, the bath room is complete and in fact, take the Hospital altogether, nothing more could be desired. [LAC, MG40 F1, 1870].

From 1871 to 1883 "A" and "B" Battery of Garrison Artillery occupied Fort Henry, and after becoming the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, they remained at the Fort until 1891 (Grenville et al. 2000:105). The hospital was in use during this twenty-year period of occupation by the artillery as the Artillery Letter Book for January 7, 1885 notes "Fort, Hospital and towers occupied and need fuel and light ration" (Fort Henry Archives). It is not known whether this was as barracks or as a functioning hospital. No mention is made of the guard house and dead house. A 1980 obituary in the Kingston-Whig Standard noted that Mary E. Lawless was born in "the old military hospital once adjacent to Fort Henry" (Fort Henry Archives). She was 88 years old and would therefore have been born in 1892. Again, it is not clear whether it was an active hospital at this time.

By 1902 Cadets from the Royal Military College of Canada used the hospital grounds for encampment. This evidence is from two photographs (Massey Library, RMC). Neither the guard house nor the dead house are visible in either view. The hospital appears in good condition, and this has has been assumed to be the case for the other buildings. Another photograph, possibly from the same period, used as a postcard with the earliest known postmark being 1906 (John Grenville, personal communication 2000), shows an addition to the east side of the guard house. While the dead house is not standing at the time this image was recorded, the photograph provides a visual relationship between the hospital compound and the surrounding landscape and the larger military site of Fort Henry. Several early twentieth century photographs

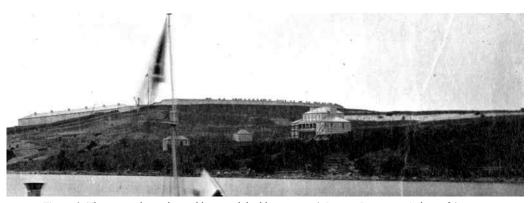


Figure 6. The garrison hospital, guard house and dead house c. 1874, Barrows I0009575, Archives of Ontario.

held in the Archives of Ontario depict the hospital and guard house during a period when the Canadian Military leased out land for summer cottages. The guard house and addition were subsequently incorporated into cottage life.

Destroyed by Fire

The hospital burned in 1924. Accounts of the mishap in the November 17 issues of the *Kingston Daily Standard* and the *Daily British Whig* illustrate tremendous concern for the cottages.

OLD MILITARY HOSP. WENT UP IN FLAMES: Barriefield Landmark Completely Gutted This Morning

The old Military Hospital, facing the lake on Barriefield, was completely gutted by fire this morning, and nothing now remains except the walls. The fire was first discovered, at about 10 a.m., word being immediately telephoned to Military Headquarters, who instructed the O.C., R.C.H.A., to send a detachment of men to the scene of the fire in order to prevent it from spreading. Twenty-five men from the R.C.H.A. Brigade were immediately sent, and this party successfully prevented the flames from spreading to the other buildings in the vicinity, and through the grass to the bush, then men and a non-commissioned officer being still at the scene of the fire at the time of going to press.

The origin of the fire is as yet unknown, but it is thought that some person had been sleeping in the lower part of the building and owing to the sudden cold ...had lighted a fire which sp[read thr]ough the floors and wood ...with great rapidity.

Owing to the fact ...[build] ing had not been use[d] ...years, and had been a[bandoned?] ...[prac]tically go to ruin th[e] ...[bri]gade were not called ...in fighting the flames, ...Armstrong was on hand ...preventing the spread o[f] ...[Kingston Daily Standard 1924].

THE OLD MILITARY HOSPITAL IS BURNED: It is Thought That Tramps Were Responsible for the Fire

The old military hospital building, located on the shore of Dead Man's Bay, about a mile and a half from the city and unoccupied for years, was gutted by fire on Monday morning. The building which is a stone structure, was used about fifty years as a hospital for the permanent troops which were stationed in Kingston. At one time it was used as an isolation hospital.

About 10.30 o'clock the fire was first noticed, and the city department was asked to send some men over. When the firemen arrived it was clearly seen that the blaze had been underway for some time, as the two wooden floors and the roof of the building had taken fire. Before long the roof fell in. The brick fireplaces and the chimney also collapsed.

Although no person knows the cause of the fire, it is supposed that some tramps spent the night in the building and left a lighted fire on the floor

A number of Kingstonians, who have summer camps in that locality were called but there was very little danger of any of their buildings taking fire as the wind was blowing in the direction of Cedar Island. The Y.W.C.A. summer home was the closest to the scene of the blaze. C.S. Anglin, whose camp is next to the "Y" camp, went over to see that his cottage was alright [Daily British Whig 1924].

The cottage phase ends with the commencement of the "Great Depression" restoration of Fort Henry in 1936. The cottages were torn down and it is assumed that the addition to the guard house was removed and any required restoration undertaken. Detailed drawings were made of the hospital by architect William Sommerville. It can only be assumed that the intent was to restore the hospital structure to its full grandeur as part of the overall restoration project. The shell of the hospital remained until c. 1941 when the Canadian army removed it to prevent use as a hiding place for potential escaping German Prisoners of War interned at Fort Henry (Stephen Mecredy, personal communication, August 2000). Throughout the remainder of the twentieth century the guard house was

used sporadically for storage. A parking lot built over the hospital site can be traced through aerial photography of the 1960s. Photographs from the same period show that the interior structure of the guard house was gutted, and all plaster, lath, and the door were removed. In c. 1980 the floor was excavated to install washrooms which never materialized (Neil Kelly, personal communication 2000). Also at about the same time the guard house roof was replaced (John Grenville, personal communication 2000).

Archaeology at the Garrison Hospital

Archival research and a ground penetrating radar survey conducted in 1999 (Bickerton et al. 1999) assisted in selecting test areas for the 2000 season, with subsequent excavation results dictating further research strategies in 2001 and 2002. Three discrete locations were identified and investigated: the general vicinity of the hospital structure and the hospital itself, the guard house structure, and the dead house (Figure 7).

Metal roofing directly below a collapsed brick wall was the first evidence of the 1924 fire. The exact location of the hospital remained unknown until a portion of the west wall and southwest corner of the hospital was identified nearby. The south wall of the south wing was identified, and the ditch, or covered way, and the north wall of the privy. Large amounts of demolition rubble were noted throughout. The dominant artifact types include nails and roofing fragments, with two Royal Canadian Artillery buttons. There were also large amounts of bottle glass, mostly twentieth century, but no evidence of pre-fire occupation nor use of the hospital was encountered. In the final season, excavation focussed on delineating the east wall of the hospital and on the privies. Three of four stone constructed vaulted chambers of the latrines were uncovered illustrating the tremendous effort put into the drainage system of this structure. Each chamber, from the top of the drain up, was filled with demolition rubble. Only one had the capstones removed at an earlier time, and was full of refuse dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. Although not investigated, it is suspected that an extensive drainage system runs beneath the glacis of Fort Henry, and feeds into the hospital privy system. At the hospital end, a drain extends from the southeast corner of the hospital eastwards to Deadman Bay where it is exposed on the escarpment face.

The guard house is extant. Excavation was only conducted on the exterior due to the known interior disturbances. Fragments of a Royal Regiment of Artillery shako badge of the Regency pattern (Figure 8), which dates from 1816 to 1828 (Charles Bradley, personal communication 2000), were recovered. Buttons of the 34th (Border) Regiment of Foot and 43rd (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) Regiment of Foot or were also recovered. Both regiments remained in Kingston for only a month, the 43rd in June 1838, and the 34th in May 1841 (Stewart 1964:179, 205). Royal Artillery buttons from the Victorian period were also excavated, and an 1844 Bank of Montreal half penny token was recovered. All of these date from the earliest period of the hospital through its British military use. Other artifacts that illustrate a multi-period, mixed use of the site include a golf club fragment and parts of a flash cube. Of the artifacts recovered the dominant types are metal including nails and a variety of hardware items. Some ceramics were encountered, which fit well with the British military period and include a small amount of pearlware, larger quantities of refined white earthenware, and small amounts of vitrified white earthenware. The largest quantities of smoking pipe fragments were recovered from around the guard house, perhaps an indication of a common past time, along with large amounts of bottle and window glass. Evidence of occupation at the guard house, while somewhat disturbed, contained the strongest elements of the military period from the site. It is apparent that there have been several restoration and maintenance episodes, including that of the 1936-1938 restoration.

Excavation of the dead house and immediate area confirmed that there has been serious impact during the cottage period and later picnic activities. The dead house investigations provided very little cultural material to assist in interpreting its use over time. Most of the recovered material consists of

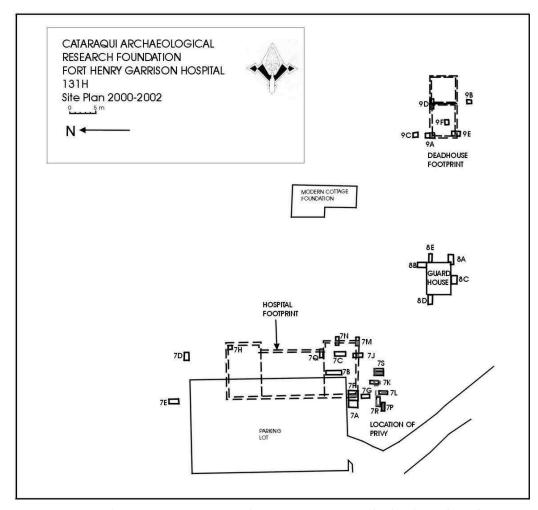


Figure 7. Site plan—Fort Henry Garrison Hospital 2000 to 2002, Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation.

modern nails and bottle glass, while the structural remains consist of small sections of limestone foundations. It was determined from both archival and archaeological evidence that a cottage structure had been built on top of the dead house, which had quite effectively removed all evidence relating to the construction and use of this feature.

Three seasons of investigation at the Fort Henry Garrison Hospital has produced in excess of 20,000 artifacts and confirmed the location of the hospital and dead house structures. There has been a great impact on the hospital remains caused initially by the fire and the subsequent demolition of the building, but it is likely that



Figure 8. Fragments of Royal Regiment of Artillery shako badge from the guard house.

pockets of evidence of the occupation and use of the hospital remain hidden below the rubble. The covered way and associated privy structure may provide more data. The exterior of the guard house has provided the best occupation evidence for the military period as well as information on the condition of the foundations of the structure. The dead house was in use for a short period of time compared to the other two structures, and has been essentially removed from the landscape through demolition, scabbing of building materials, new construction and subsequent demolition. The "clean" nature of the area suggests that either cottaging activities and subsequent scrounging completely removed all cultural material related to its use, or the use itself left behind little or no material evidence. There is no doubt that the physical isolation of the hospital compound put severe limits on the site formation processes that allow significant accumulations of cultural material.

Conclusions

The Can You Dig It? field program of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation undergoes continuous refinement as staff work with new partners and sites. This is imperative to ensure that the goals of the program and the mandate of the Foundation are met, but also that justice is being done to public archaeology. The summer program of 2005 was the tenth season at the fourth partner site. The potential scope of this type of project for developing heritage leaders, investigating and interpreting community heritage resources and implementing a co-operative research model is tremendous. It is the practical aspects of archaeology and ultimately the ability to be in places and touch things that belonged to people, including children, soldiers and many others a hundred or more years ago, that makes history through archaeology come alive. The Fort Henry Garrison Hospital project goes a step further in that the archival and archaeological information have been used to provide on-site interpretation. In 2003, the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation continued its partnership with Parks Canada and Fort Henry, and with additional funding from the City of Kingston installed interpretive signage. Four panels depict the history and archaeology of the Garrison Hospital Complex, in addition to promoting the *Can You Dig It?* program and illustrating the ongoing commitment of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation to its educational mandate. These public activities contribute to preserving our past.

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L'histoire récente de Kingston regorge d'enseignements de nature architecturale, politique ou archéologique. Le personnel de la Cataraqui Archaeological Research Fondation s'est inspiré des collections archéologiques pour élaborer un plan public d'accès à l'histoire et à l'archéologie de la région, susceptible de promouvoir et de préserver le passé. En plus de plusieurs tables de travail, la Fondation appuie un camp-école estival visant l'apprentissage des techniques de fouilles archéologiques. Un survol des activités de l'archéologie publique sert de toile de fond à l'examen de deux sites militaires de Kingston fouillés dans le cadre de ce programme. Les casernes navales du Royal Naval Dockyard, maintenant le Collège royal militaire du Canada (RMC), et l'Hôpital de la garnison de Fort Henry ont été mis en valeur par le procédé archéologique et ont permis d'approfondir le passé de ces deux sites pour le bénéfice du public. Ils ont aussi aidé à forger et à raffiner l'approche de la Fondation à l'archéologie auprès du public.

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