



# ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of  
The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

No.70 - 6

EXECUTIVE

June, 1970

President:  
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University of Toronto,  
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Recording Secretary:  
Miss Pat Sutherland

Editors: David Stothers and Ian Kenyon,  
Department of Anthropology,

## MONTHLY MEETING

As usual, the June meeting will be a barbecue. This year the annual get-together will be held at Dr. Emerson's home at Bond Lake (just north of Toronto). The party will start at 2:30 p.m., Sat., June 20, 1970 and continue ad infinitum. Let's have a good turnout, since this is the last meeting of the summer. (No meetings will be held in July and August.)

∟ AURORA

∟ OAK RIDGES

King Side Road

Yonge  
Street

Miss Lorna Procter

Librarian: 1st Turn or Drive  
on Right Going  
North on Curve

Bond  
Lake  
Emerson's

Stouffville Rd. Kenyon,  
Department of Anthropology,

Hwy.  
#11

∟ Richmond Hill

∟ AURORA

No.70 - 6

EXECUTIVE

June, 1970

President:  
Dr. J. N. Emerson  
Department of Anthropology,  
Hwy. Meeting at Dr. Emerson's  
#400 Sat. June 20 at 2:30 p.m.  
Activity will be  
determined.

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LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Physical Anthropology in the Upper Great Lakes (Abstract of Talk to O.A.S., May 1970 by Dr. F. J. Melbye, University of Toronto)

"The Northern Great Lakes Archaeological Project provided an excellent opportunity to study the skeletal biology of a people from the Upper Great Lakes. Early investigators into the area were quickly discouraged by low artifact yields and poorly preserved skeletons. Therefore, northern Wisconsin and much of the Upper Great Lakes is relatively unknown archaeologically, and even less is known about the biological affinities of its prehistoric peoples. Further, new methods of analysis of skeletal material have been developed in recent years, and it remained for these methods to be tested under less than ideal conditions.

Special techniques of burial excavation had to be developed while digging in the lacustrine jungle-like conditions.

Burial practices are analyzed in conjunction with the study of the bone material, and four burial types are put forward on the basis of the sequence of events from the time of death to the final interment of the bones. Although a survey of the published literature was disappointing and no significant comparisons could be made with comparable sites, the typology is presented as a model for future analyses in the Upper Great Lakes.

The skeletal biology of the Robinson people is studied in depth, and the derived data include metrics, continuous morphology and discrete traits as well as the palaeopathology. The descriptive data on the Robinson people emphasize discrete traits because these data have shown to be of greater value in assessing population relationships. Since these methods are relatively new and not standardized, the discrete morphology could only be used in assessing intrasite differences. Regardless of its limited use at the present time the data are presented to establish a basic model of a Late Woodland population in the Upper Great Lakes at ca. AD 1100  $\pm$  100 years.

An analysis of the palaeopathology revealed the Robinson people to be generally very healthy. There are only a few cases of infection and a few neoplastic growths, and no obvious cases of anemia or vitamin deficiency are present. Violence among the Robinson people appears to have been restricted to the early part of the Late Woodland occupation. The incidence of violence is highest among women and children, and includes both healed and unhealed wounds which could have been inflicted by other people.

Intersite comparisons are restricted to cranial measurements because of the dearth of data. Conclusions concerning external relationships are considered tentative until they have been corroborated by discrete traits:

1. The Robinson people are not related to contemporary populations of the Central Plains

2. Two sites group together suggesting a Central Woodlands people in Late Woodland times in southern Wisconsin and southern Michigan. The temporal and spatial limits of this population are beyond the scope of the present data.

3. Four sites group together forming a Northern Woodlands people in the Upper Great Lakes. Spatially, this population ranges from southern Manitoba to northern Georgian Bay and includes northern Wisconsin and extreme northern Michigan. Temporally, the Robinson people date the earliest at ca. AD 1100  $\pm$  100, and the Old Birch Island people are the latest at ca. AD 1750  $\pm$  50. The Juntunen and Melita people are intermediate at ca. AD 1350  $\pm$  100.

4. Differences are apparent at each of the three time horizons of the Northern Woodlands people, and at least one descendant population is Ojibwa. It is suggested, therefore, that the so-called Algonkians have dominated the Upper Great Lakes since at least AD 1000.

PRESIDENTIAL EDITORIAL

As indicated in Dr. James V. Wright's presidential address to the Canadian Archaeological Association, the problem of the salvage of Canada's pre-history is one of top priority for Canadian archaeologists. It is easy for us who look about with archaeological eyes to see the destruction of sites going on. The question is, what can be done about it?

I would like to introduce a term which I hope will become a household word with the members of the O.A.S., namely, "historical pollution". If we adopt this point of view we can then ally ourselves and our action policy with the great ground swell of groups, associations and individuals who are seeking to prevent the increasing pollution of our environment. We could even wear buttons which say "SOPH" (Save our Prehistory & History), and become known as Sophists, to suggest an example. We could even picket construction sites that are destroying archaeological sites (it has been done before! unsuccessfully, naturally).

The above remarks are partly in jest but I hope they emphasize the point that action, some action, is becoming an absolute necessity to protect our archaeological heritage. There is one fact that must clearly underly all our thinking on the subject; just like minerals, fish, forests and other items, archaeological sites are non-renewable historical resources, and however rich and numerous they may seem to be, they are limited. Once they are destroyed by whatever agency, they represent an irretrievable loss to our historical and prehistoric heritage. It is self-evident that such loss, destruction, and in some cases, desecration, must be brought under some means of control. The problem then arises what kind of control, and by whom, or what agency?

Seeking the answer to such questions brings us face to face with very basic problems which are part and parcel of our Canadian way of life. The problems are very real, and the answers to the problems given will reflect all the varied traditional attitudes and vested interests which go to make up the fabric of our Canadian society. I hope that the OAS can formulate a firm policy as regards the destruction of our archaeological sites and suggest action and regulations to prevent it. To do this we must arrive at a consensus of opinion and to do this we must reach agreement upon a number of very serious questions.

First, we must decide, who are the rightful and legitimate owners of archaeological sites? Our point of view will be restricted to the Province of Ontario. The immediate answer is simple, the owner is the owner of the property, upon which the site is located. Such ownership varies from the most individualistic to the most public (government). It runs the whole gamut from John Doe to large development corporations (residential and industrial) to numerous government (federal and provincial) departments such as highways, Lands & Forests, and the control by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Regional Development Councils. At the moment it can only be said that a wide and varied group of individuals and institutions "own" Ontario's non-renewable historical resources.

Despite the passage of Bill 66 which seeks to protect our archaeological and historical resources, the simple fact remains that this legislation is patently ineffective because in the last analysis any investigation or development of an archaeological site depends upon the permission of the owner of the site. This means that the development of Ontario prehistory must follow and depend upon the whims and vagaries of the particular owner; and we know that these vary from the most friendly and enthusiastic to the most negative and hostile. This may appear an undesirable and intolerable basis upon which to pursue a program of archaeological research; but at the moment it is a fact.

Ultimately to me the question in its extreme form boils down to the question of private versus public ownership. Should archaeological sites, and hence the potential for writing Ontario's prehistory through excavation and analysis, belong to the people of Ontario for present and future generations?

or should the present policy be defended, that it is the right of the individual owner to cooperate or not as he sees fit? I am writing to ask all OAS members to stand and be counted on this issue.

If we were in England or Mexico this would not be a problem. In England, with a wealth of tradition and a deep sense of history, it would be unthinkable that historical sites and relics exist for other than the edification, appreciation, and enjoyment of all persons. In Mexico, if you were digging without authorization, the "policia" and even grim young men with steel helmets and rifles with bayonets would soon convince you that history and prehistory was the government's business. You could quite quickly find yourself in a very unpleasant jail cell!

On the other hand in Ontario, we must respect the individual owner's rights to his land. He may not wish to have his privacy invaded by motley diggers. A large development corporation may well not wish to delay development of a high rise apartment complex while archaeologists grub away in the dirt. It is not impossible that individual owners may have a good thing going in the excavation and sale of "archaeological goodies", in the lucrative sale of exotic prehistoric relics. Certainly a major Hydro Electric power development cannot feasibly await total archaeological investigation before it proceeds with construction.

In the foregoing comments I have really asked only one basic question: To whom should the rights to the basic sources of Ontario's archaeological history and prehistory belong? The answer may be, to all, or to the individual, or possibly a compromise somewhere between.

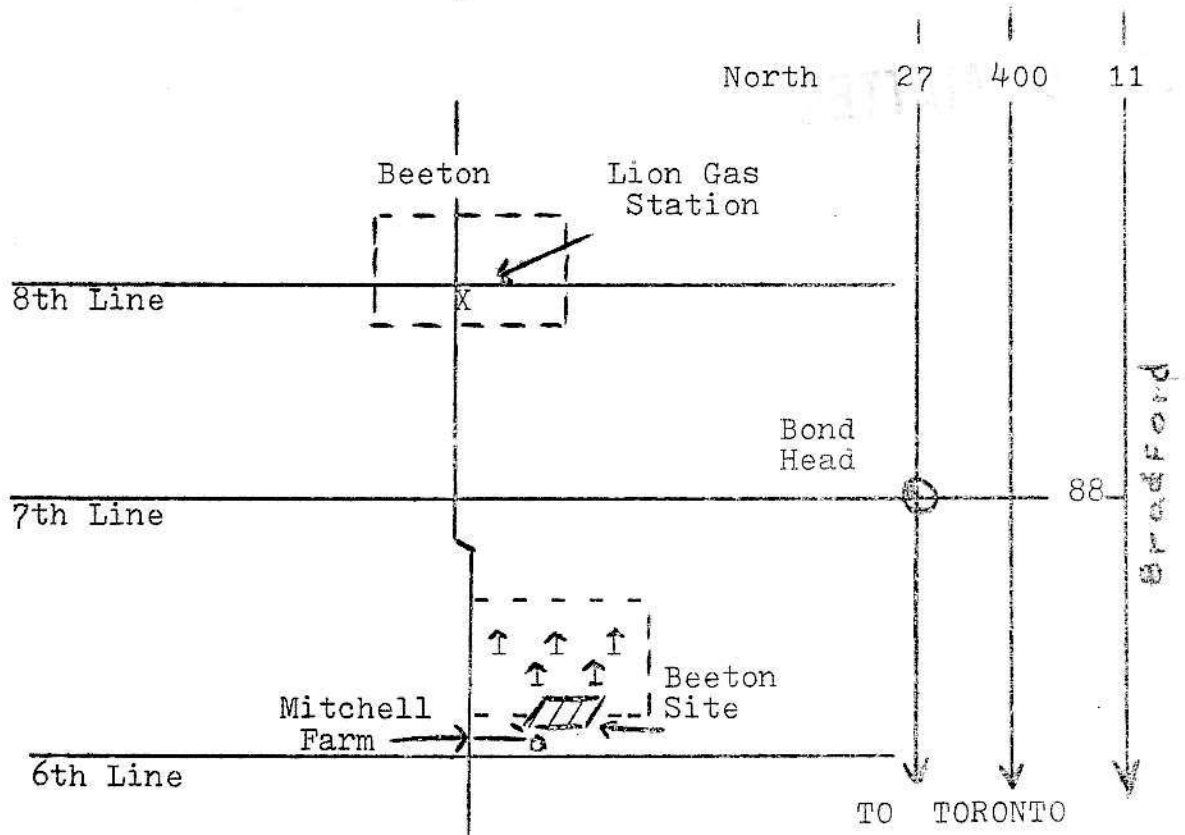
The OAS, with a twenty year history of a developing interest in Ontario's prehistory is a most legitimate body to come to reasonable answers upon this subject. If we can reach a consensus of opinion, or a majority opinion, we should then be able to approach, advise, and argue with authority with those authorities who could be instrumental in seeking a solution to the severe and ever-increasing problem of "historical pollution".

As your president I would urgently ask that you take pen in hand and write a letter to the corresponding secretary expressing your thoughts and opinions upon the matter. These can be studied by the Executive Committee and reported back to you. Gradually a policy program can be formulated. I hope in future Arch Notes to raise further problems for your consideration which are relevant to the preservation of our historical heritage and the control of "historical pollution". We have over three hundred members, the number of responses submitted should form a clear indication as to whether this society is doing archaeology or playing at archaeology. I firmly believe we have an objective which can and should stimulate, challenge, and energize the thoughts and resources of each and every member. As I stated above, the time will come when we have to stand and be counted upon real, vital, and basic issues for Ontario archaeology.

SUMMER DIG - The Society's Summer "Dig" will be held on the weekend of June 13 - 14 at the Beeton Site (which is located about 35 miles north of Toronto, see below for sketch map). The Dig will commence at 10:00 a.m. Members should bring (if possible) - a lunch, 4" or 5" trowel, paint brush, whisk broom, dust pan, pen, pencil, notebook and paper bags.

For further information and transportation arrangements, contact Dr. J. N. Emerson, Tel. 928-3294 (Dept. of Anthropology, Toronto) OR 1 - 773-5554 (Home, Oakridges).

(See Map - next page)



MAP FOR BEETON SITE