



ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

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~~September~~ 1971

EXECUTIVE

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Ottawa, Ontario

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MONTHLY MEETING

This month's General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20th October 1971 at 8:00 p.m. in the Archaeology Laboratory, Room 561, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street, Toronto.

The speaker for this Meeting will be Mrs. Martha Latta of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto.

Mrs. Latta's topic for the evening will be: "The Robitaille Site: A contact period Huron village".

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At last month's General Meeting, we were privileged to have, as guest speaker, our Past President, Dr. J. Norman Emerson, of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Emerson for addressing our Meeting and for making it possible to present his talk to you in this issue of ARCH NOTES.

PRESENT AND FUTURE PROBLEMS FACING ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY:
THE ROLE OF THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

What are the problems?

The September Meeting is always a time for assessment as the past year draws rapidly to a close and the new year rapidly draws upon us.

In general, the activity of the society has been productive: membership has continued to increase, meetings have been well attended and a full slate of interesting speakers has contributed to our growing knowledge. The spring dig at the McLeod Site was quite successful and well attended.

The formation of the Windsor Chapter, and now an Ottawa Chapter, indicates the growing strength of the O.A.S.

The Executive has shown itself capable of offering strong leadership and, in particular, has faced up to the problem of dealing with the unpleasant task of ethical problems.

Publication has continued at a high level of excellence and in an attractive new format.

In general, the Society has been financially stable.

Thus, as they say, in general 1971 has been a very good year; however, has it been all that good? Could more have been done? Are we operating anywhere near our potential? I would suggest, no.

Having made this judgment, I will now suggest areas where our action is insufficient or even non-existent; I hope these suggestions will serve as guide lines for future development. I will only elaborate upon a few of the most major problems and some of my observations may seem harsh.

Membership:

This seems to increase with a minimum of effort; but we must ask how many of these are "paper members" who simply use our publication for very personal reasons and seldom participate in other Society activities. This is quite legitimate, but it does seem to represent a loss of potential energy and manpower.

Finances:

At the moment we are quite shakey and will face problems with paying for our next publication. It will be necessary to formulate a more realistic policy, even if this means increasing membership dues. It would appear that the OAS has lagged behind the increased cost of production and this has to be remedied somehow; otherwise the Society will be faced by a reoccurring financial crisis.

A Place of our Own:

Ever since its inception, the Society has not had its own quarters. It is time we began to attack this problem with some seriousness. Otherwise, we will continue to have a pillar-to-post existence and the Society will have little sense of security and permanence. This means a building and perhaps a building fund; and it may be a very long-term project, but today is the time to begin to seek its solution.

Affiliation or Independence?

I have noted a growing tendency for professionals and non-professionals to meet each other on a basis of mutual respect and trust. I believe the Society has survived the buaboo threat of "professional take-over". I have noted a number of cases of such co-operation as "archaeologists". The exchange is taking place, but it is guarded. If we think of ourselves as archaeologists, the health and development of the Society will increase. We must all merge divergent interests in a single purpose.

With whom shall we ally? Government agencies? Universities? Industry? Private individuals? Naturally we would like to remain free and unfettered; but twenty years of development has shown this to be next to impossible.

I would suggest that some university affiliation be sought, perhaps some combination of universities, in the formation of an Ontario Archaeological Institute which, with a Board of Directors, would be capable of steering a relatively independent path between government and university bodies. The benefits, financial and other, accruing from such a development could be very great.

The Broader Scene:

The OAS can do much to develop archaeology broadly. This is being done in a relatively small way as members set up local displays, give lectures and generally contribute. The more of this the better; you could make archaeology supper and cocktail time conversation. It all helps. It is no secret that, at the upper levels, archaeological jobs are hard to get and this is of great concern to graduate students and the universities which are developing them. We would be quite justified in seeking more Canadians teaching more Canadian content related to Ontario and Canadian archaeology. The dearth of such material in archaeological texts will be evident to all who read them.

if other nations protect their students, there seems every reason that Canada should do likewise. This does not negate the catholic nature of archaeological scholarship, but it does argue for a reasonable balance in content which does not exist today. At the same time, I see no particular lack of virtue in taking a pro-Canadian point-of-view. I would ask that, whenever possible, members argue and work towards more archaeology in the grade schools, high schools, community colleges and universities, wherever this is feasible and possible.

of Immediate Urgency:

We are all well aware of your President's impassioned talks and writings upon the problems of archaeological site destruction. I am sure we all agree, but as a Society we have done little about it. Obtaining action in this area seems almost impossible to achieve. Late last year and early in the new year, a group of professional archaeologists, all doing work in Ontario, held a series of meetings in Toronto and Peterborough to draft a brief concerned with antiquities laws and legislation, and seeking answers to the various problems of archaeological destruction. There was to say a general consensus of opinion as to the problems and their possible solution. This brief, which began with a fairly strong statement was gradually watered down and almost never got off the ground. It was ultimately forwarded to the Government by Royal Ontario Museum Director, Peter Swann. To date, I am unaware of any reaction to this brief, except that a letter has been sent to school authorities to discourage digging by school students without adequate professional archaeological supervision. In general, I would argue that the brief, as submitted, was both watered down and negative in its approach. The results so far have been negative in the sense that they have been largely restrictive in nature; and Bill 66 still stands as our only, and ineffectual, legislation.

It would appear that the OAS and, for that matter, the normal group of professional archaeologists, has been largely biased in these Government negotiations. Certainly action has been minimal. The drawing up of a brief that is strong in its recommendations and positive in its viewpoint, should be an objective of the Society - and soon.

Dialogue:

Finally, I would like to suggest, that if development is to take place in the Society, I believe that more members should meet more often with each other than they do today. I also feel that could be achieved best by small group meetings of about ten to twenty; could be done rather informally by people who are friends and colleagues. They could assess the problems and activities of their particular area; and hopefully a summary of these discussions could be disseminated through ARCH NOTES. If we don't meet and talk, there will be no dialogue. It is apparent that today action is taken and largely through meeting, even confrontation, and dialogue. If we can approach the OAS, I hope, would cultivate.

The results of the Constitutional Changes ballot are as follows:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
1) Associate member	25	2
2) Fees	22	2
3) Notice of Motion	26	1
4) Article XVI, Section 5	26	0
5) Article XVI, Section 10	24	2

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The Fall Dig this year was held, September 25th and 26th, at the DeWaele Site near Norwich, Ontario. Despite a poor turn out, it was a productive weekend, with about twenty two-meter squares being excavated to some depth. We are hoping to give you more details on this at a later date.

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I hope everyone noticed the change of Corresponding Secretary on the front page. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Zaputovich on behalf of the OAS and to welcome our new Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Press.

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There are still some back issues of ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY available. Prices: members \$2.00 each; non-members \$3.00 each; plus a 35¢ handling charge.

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Now, to those members who were omitted from the June list - APOLOGIES to those new members - WELCOME.

Miss Heather Dew	Port Credit	Ontario
Mr. & Mrs. Gino Ferri	Toronto	Ontario
Mrs. J. P. Finnegan	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. R. J. Maybee	Mount Albert	Ontario
Judge W.A.E. Shepherd	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. Peter Shevchenko	Toronto	Ontario
Espanola High School	Espanola	Ontario
Mrs. Edith Smith	Wardsville	Ontario
Mr. Laird Nixon	Sarnia	Ontario
Mr. Jon Harstone	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. J. Baumann	Islington	Ontario
Miss M.L. Siegel	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. & Mrs. H.W. Walker	Ottawa	Ontario
Miss Elsy McKillop	Sheddon	Ontario
Mr. Edward M. Green	Taylor	Michigan
Miss Frances L. Stewart	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. Victor A. Konrad	Downsview	Ontario
Mr. William Case	Scarborough	Ontario
Mr. John Pollock	Englehart	Ontario

Mr. Leon Zeller Mayer	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. Roger W. Bellamy	Windham Centre	Ontario
Mrs. Marcia F. Wiseman	Toronto	Ontario
Thomas J. Batta Library, Trent U.	Peterborough	Ontario
Mr. Harold B. Myers	Peterborough	Ontario
Mr. & Mrs. F. Douglas Herman	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. Alfred Peirol	Thornhill	Ontario
Mrs. Marjorie Roberts	Toronto	Ontario
Mrs. M. M. Press	Toronto	Ontario
Mrs. Patricia MacKay	Willowdale	Ontario
Mr. Peter Hamalainen	Toronto	Ontario
Mrs. M. Whitehill	Toronto	Ontario
Mrs. Marie E. Syed	Burlington	Ontario
Mr. John G. Zablocki	Hamilton	Ontario
Mr. Jesse Greenblatt	Toronto	Ontario
Mr. & Mrs. Derek Hayter	Toronto	Ontario

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OAS ACTIVITIES AT THE McLEOD SITE, SUMMER 1971

Excavations in the southeast sector of the McLeod Site, south of Rossland Road and east of Thornton Road, Oshawa, were extended on 19th June 1971 by thirty-nine OAS members under the supervision of Bill Donaldson. Progress was slowed by packed and deeply plowed soil and irregularly placed boulders. Post moulds in the general line of those exposed during 1970 digs were exposed. Incidental findings of ceramic, bone and flint artifacts were made.

Socializing in the evening at Bill Donaldson's after the heat of the day, rounded out the activities very pleasantly. Further work at the Site by small parties on several occasions during the following months enabled investigation of possible post moulds and charting of confirmed post moulds to be done. Additional mapping still remains to be done.

Your OAS Executive appreciates sincerely the work and efforts of all those who participated in the digs, or assisted in the arrangements and hopes that the next dig will be even better.

HOWARD SAVAGE

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