

Ontario Archaeological Society

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Chris Brown and Becket Lailson are defeated by a November snow flurry while walking a field in Hamilton.

Photo by Andy Schoenhofer

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Editor's note

Sorry for the lateness of this issue: end-of-season rush fieldwork all piled up around deadline time.

In light of the many large picture files that I receive accompanying submissions to Arch Notes and the attendant trouble I have getting them, I'm changing the e-mail address for submissions to a HoTMaiL account. This will help in two ways: they have 25MB of storage and the address is easily transferred to any future editor. Please note the exact spelling of the address below.

At the moment, the mailbox is empty. Can anyone fill it? The deadline for the next issue is January 15.

Picture contest

Of the dozens of you out there who have digital cameras and the thousands of images you capture in a season, surely there must be a few that deserve a better fate than being hidden in a Ministry of Culture drawer forever. Send your best pix of the field season to me for consideration for the cover of Arch Notes!

Andy Schoenhofer
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President's message

Christine Caroppo

Passion, storytelling, respect. These were three themes I heard repeated over the first weekend in November as OAS members and guests gathered to hear a wonderful series of papers.

People, including me, talked about the passion that first interested them in the past and the possibilities of archaeology in particular. They also spoke over and over again about the passion of the people in our discipline, and in the heritage sector in general, that keeps them going despite everything.

Dena Doroszenko, among others, spoke about the importance of remembering to tell the story of the people whose past we excavate; to breathe life into the artifacts; to not be content with academic reporting only, but to write the story behind the finds.

Last, but definitely not least, we heard about the need for respect. The need for our community to respect both the cultural heritage of the First Nations that we study and respect for living First Nations communities and individuals who are attempting to build new bridges and strengthen existing ones between the archaeological community and that of the First Nations.

It was a delight to see that at least half of the audience in any given session were attending their first OAS Symposium. We hope to see them all next year in London when the venerable London Chapter hosts the Symposium.

I had a fabulous time in Petawawa at the OAS 32nd annual Symposium. Congratulations to the

Ottawa Chapter and the Friends of Bonnechere for running such a great event! On top of a fine assortment of speakers, other highlights included a smudging ceremony by the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn and a rollicking performance of Ottawa Valley fiddle music and step dancing. Some people in the audience even joined in by playing the spoons. The Town of Petawawa went out of its way to assist the OAS in putting on the Symposium and fielded all last minute requests with aplomb. Our thanks to them for making us feel welcome in their community.

I was very pleased to be able to present a number of 25-year membership pins, and also one 50-year pin to Glenna Roberts (Ottawa Chapter), who also happened to be the local arrangements organizer. Congratulations Glenna, and thanks for your support of the OAS over the years.

This will be my last President's blurb (for the foreseeable future, anyway). I did not submit my name for re-election to the OAS Board of Directors for 2006. Joining me in retirement is Dena Doroszenko. Thank you, Dena, for your exemplary work as Director of Publications for the last four years and for your wisdom. The nominations for the 2006 Board closed at the Annual Business Meeting. As there were only enough nominations to fill the required number of places on the Board, the slate of Directors for 2006, by acclamation, is: Cathy Crinnion, Alicia Hawkins, Holly Martelle, Jean-Luc Pilon, Carole Stimmell, Tony Stapells and Henry

van Lieshout. The new Board will elect from themselves a Treasurer and President in January 2006.

My sincere admiration and thanks go also to all of the Boards of Directors with whom I have served since 2002; to all of the Chapter Executive Committees; to my Executive Directors, Jo Holden and Lise Ferguson; and to all of the many, many other members who help run the OAS across the province by editing Arch Notes and all the Chapter newsletters; by editing and producing Ontario Archaeology and all of the various Chapter publications; by designing and running public programming; by hosting lectures and workshops; by representing the interests of the archaeological community and the past we all care about in your communities. To you all I offer my most heartfelt thanks.

It's easy to point out the shortcomings in an organization like ours. It's easy to sit back and think of all the ways things could be run better, but it's harder to step up to the plate and actually make it happen. Thank you to everyone who took their turn at bat. To anyone thinking of volunteering, in any capacity, I can tell you that there's plenty of room in the dugout. Just go for it.

I think these last four years, when added to my previous term as President, makes about 15 years altogether. Definitely time for a rest. To paraphrase Mr. Bennett in Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, "That will be quite enough, dear. Time to let the other young ladies [or gentlemen] make exhibitions of themselves."

From the OAS office...

by **Lise Ferguson,**
Executive Director

I recently returned from the OAS Symposium in Petawawa and am now trying to get caught up after nearly a week away from the office. I was not just satisfied with how the Symposium went, I was really impressed! The Ottawa Chapter did a fantastic job of organizing and planning this huge event. One of the things that struck me the most was the amount of support they got from local heritage groups (such as Friends of Bonnechere Park) and from Algonquin College, the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, the City of Petawawa, and many others. This support came in the form of funding, sponsorship, attendees, speakers and volunteers.

One highlight for me was the Presidents' Meeting. The reports we heard reinforced my desire to have some type of regular report on Chapter activities and news in Arch Notes (like a Chapters' Corner or something). The star of the week was, of course, the Ottawa Chapter. Glenna, Lois, Heather, Ellen, Jim, Irene-Ann and others had obviously worked very hard because the Symposium was a great success. Things went very smoothly and I know from my own experience planning events that things often appear simple when they are actually quite complicated, and that if something goes wrong someone invariably notices but when nothing goes wrong no one notices! Months and months of meetings, planning, talking, calling, e-mailing, etc., go into planning such a huge, multi-faceted

event and so I really want to thank everyone so much. In spite of having this huge project, the Chapter also managed to have its regular public archaeology program in Bonnechere Park and hold regular meetings.

The Hamilton Chapter, represented by President Brad Bandow, has been having regular meetings at the Fieldcote Museum in Ancaster and produces a full-colour newsletter (a revamped The Heights) that is chock full of information. Chapter activities have included a survey of the Reimer Site near Selkirk and bringing archaeology into the classroom by way of slide presentations. The Chapter has also been keenly interested in a multi-stakeholder project called the Grand River Ancient Pathway Study, which explores trails and portages between the Grand and Lake Ontario. This ambitious project may eventually include historic plaques, interpretive guided tours, etc.

London Chapter President Nancy Van Sas talked about the planning for the 2006 Symposium, which the Chapter is organizing. This one will be a full day of concurrent sessions on Saturday, Oct. 28, so if you have been unable to attend Symposia because you could not be away from work (or the field) during the week, this Symposium is for you! Kewa continues to be a popular newsletter full of great stuff like longer site reports that a lot of other newsletters don't offer, which is of interest to many of their institutional members, like libraries.

Sad news from the Niagara-on-

the-Lake Chapter, which has decided to cease to exist. It must be hard to maintain a Chapter in an area without a large museum or major university support.

Both the Thunder Bay and Windsor Chapters were represented by a phone in the middle of the table—Presidents Debra Babcock and Rosemarie Denunzio were the disembodied voices participating through conference call on speaker phone. TBay has 35 members, quite respectable for a smaller centre, and the executive is interested in getting more Lakehead U students involved in the Chapter. Debra is also working on getting a website together, since all the other Chapters have websites that link through the OAS website.

The Toronto Chapter is alive and well with 57 members, nine monthly meetings and their popular "Winter Solstice" party! One interesting activity in 2005 was a display promoting the OAS/Toronto Chapter at a local mall which is considered to be in a somewhat disadvantaged part of Toronto. What a great way to get info on the city's archaeological heritage to citizens not normally exposed to such information! And what a forward-thinking mall manager to think of hosting a community history event with 30 local groups! The Toronto Chapter also participated in this year's Archaeology Day again at the head office, engaging kids in interesting hands-on archaeological activities.

The aforementioned Windsor Chapter is back after a brief hiatus of sorts, with upcoming meetings (with speakers) at the historic

Duff-Baby House. Rosemarie was pleased to report that the Windsor Archaeological Master Plan was finally passed after many years of work, and will go to City Council for approval soon. [See www.citywindsor.ca/000244.asp — ed.]

Christine and I both thought the common themes for the weekend were passion, storytelling and respect. Another theme would have been partnerships—it really was obvious looking at all the organizing of the Symposium and the discussions at the Presidents' Meeting

that partnering, sharing info and working collaboratively can result in great things. It also struck me more than it usually does that a huge amount of OAS work is done by an extraordinarily small number of dedicated volunteers. With two long-term Board members stepping down and two new ones coming on, it's a good time to remember and thank everyone who works so hard for the OAS. It is also an opportunity to ask everyone to think about doing your "bit" to further the cause by helping with and attending Chapter meet-

ing and events, and volunteering your time for the OAS in various activities of the Chapters, the Board, and various committees. We all need to give a bit to continue the passion, to tell those stories, and to promote respect on all levels.

Finally, a special farewell to Christine and Dena, who are stepping down from the Board. It has been great to work with such dedicated people who really embody the themes we experienced in the Symposium of passion, storytelling and respect. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

I must firstly thank and acknowledge the OAS, the Ottawa chapter, the town of Petawawa, and CFB Petawawa for hosting a successful symposium. Notwithstanding the above, I must also thank the Ministry of Culture for amending the Heritage Act.

Unfortunately nobody invited the general public to your symposium, considering it was a main topic. And, to quote Dr. Warrick, "SHAME on the ministry" not to be present to discuss aboriginal issues, ethics, and the new law, partnerships, etc.

It was my opinion, on the day the ministry made a "dog and pony show", that the laws are empty words on paper: there is and was no clear procedure for enforcement made evident, even to your stakeholders who travelled all that way to be enlightened.

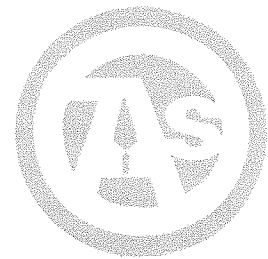
Once again I must say shame on Mr. [Johnson] and his assistant for

walking out in the midst of the finale of a presenter. It was rude to get up and leave in front of all the people who begged for answers, once he was gone.

Considering the new legislation names the minister as being responsible for dealing with looting, demolition etc., I suggest to my fellow members of the OAS to write, e-mail, fax, and phone the Minister of Culture herself, along with the manager Mr. [Johnson], to voice your opinions and demand full disclosure and clarification to the procedure of enforcement and prosecution under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Once again, my thanks to all of the presenters and co-ordinators and sponsors of a wonderful partnership to the past.

Mark Volterman



Dues are due!

Along with any Christmas or other cards you'll be sending this season, why not include one to the OAS with your membership renewal cheque for 2006 enclosed?

See the back page for OAS and local chapter fees. Pay now and make sure you won't miss an issue of *Arch Notes!*

Bruce Trigger appointed to the Order of Canada

Those of you who noticed Shania Twain being appointed to the level of Officer of the Order of Canada in November may have missed that Bruce Trigger also shared the stage. The investiture ceremony took place November 18, 2005 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa where he and others received from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean the insignia of membership.

Hailed as one of Canada's most distinguished anthropologists, Trigger is also renowned and respected around the world for his work in history and archaeology. He is an innovative thinker whose books and publications challenge people to question widely accepted beliefs and stereotypes, such as the role of Native cultures in history.

His two volume work focussing on the Huron people and the fur trade, *The Children of Aataentsic: A History of Huron People to 1660*, is a classic in its field. An influential scholar, he has helped to reevaluate the way in which Canadian history is viewed.

The Order of Canada is the centerpiece of Canada's Honour System, with membership awarded to those who exemplify the Order's Latin motto *Desiderantes meliorem patriam*: "They desire a better country". Created in 1967, the Order was established



Bruce Trigger

Photo by Ronald Maisonneuve from the Prix du Quebec page at the Quebec government website, 2001.

to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to Canadians and to humanity at large. Appointments are made on the recommendation of an advisory council, with the Governor General acting as the Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order and chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada. Three different levels of membership honour people whose accomplishments vary in degree and scope: Companion (highest), Officer and Member.

Thank you to raffle prize donors

On behalf of The Ontario Archaeological Society, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to these organizations and individuals for donating truly inspired raffle prizes at the recent OAS Symposium in Petawawa.

Many thanks to everyone!

**Ellen Blaubergs and Heather Stronach,
Raffle Coordinators**

- Ottawa River Heritage Designation Project
- Bonnechere Provincial Park
- The Friends of Bonnechere Provincial Park
- Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.
- Ottawa Chapter, OAS
- The Ontario Heritage Foundation
- The OPP Museum
- Pelee Island Winery
- Marian Clark and Lorne Sheridan
- Dena Doroszenko
- Petawawa Heritage Society
- Incredible Edibles
- Blue Plate Specials

The failure of deductive reasoning: A cautionary tale

By Michael B. Henry

In the late 1990s Marilyn Cornies and I excavated two infant burials. These interments were placed with care on a prominent knoll under a majestic tree overlooking a scenic vista of an inland lake. The site of the graves was ringed with massive granite slabs set on edge and sunk into the ground. The scene was evocative of a deep and abiding affection. Why these children were buried here and who they were became a haunting enigma that lingered with us long after we had finished our investigation.

We did what we could within the permitted parameters to complete our research and to say what we could about the individuals. However, as I am sure many reading this will know, often the facts surrounding the case of unmarked graves leave many questions unanswered. Sometimes, as this story makes clear, the facts available lead us away from the truth. I will relate the story as it unfolded in order to illustrate the sequence in which evidence was collected and how these facts influenced our thinking. The importance of doing so should be clear enough when

we arrive at the conclusion. I have also omitted names and geographic data to avoid any affront to living relatives. At any rate, that information is of little importance to the purpose of this discussion.

You are probably wondering why I would be writing about this “cold case” now, particularly as it has become that much colder since the time of our investigation. I had always intended to return to the subject of these two infant burials at some point because it was such an intriguing little mystery. As chance would have it, I was conducting research on an entirely unrelated matter when I came into contact with an archivist, who, with passing mention to the infant burial case, happened to have some very specific information relating to it. It is odd how fortuitous circumstance occasionally brings light to bear on subjects long abandoned.

Finding the feature

As with so many of these stories, ours begins with a Stage 1–2 archaeological assessment of a property proposed for development. When we were awarded the contract, the planner advised us that local residents had come forward with information that two children were buried on the property within the last 50 to 100 years. While we were thankful for the information, we could not imagine how we were going to be able to prove or disprove the rumour since we were provided no location data for the alleged graves, and the entire property was covered by a woodlot. However, once we began the assessment, the source of the story was immediately apparent. On a point of land overlooking an inland body of water was a low stone enclosure constructed of granite slabs, measuring roughly 1 m wide by 1.5 m long. It certainly appeared to be the sort of structure that might contain one or more graves.

Having completed our shovel test pit survey of the property, and lacking any other suspect areas, we returned to the



The stone enclosure as found.

Photo by Mike Henry



Marilyn Cornies exposing the stone beneath the topsoil within the enclosure.

Photo by Mike Henry

stone enclosure. Our first attempt to resolve the matter of the questionable graves was to strip the topsoil from the interior of the enclosure to look for evidence of grave shafts. Immediately beneath the topsoil layer (6–10 cm thick), we found a layer of rock composed of large water-worn cobbles (10–30 cm in diameter) across the enclosed space. We reasoned that this layer of stone must have been placed here with the intention of deterring any interference with the graves. It was one of many elements that bespoke a degree of care that could only be expressed by manual labour.

Not wishing to disrupt this architectural element prior to recording, we chose to excavate a 30 cm by 30 cm square in the southeast corner of the enclosure. We had expected that the stone enclosure would outline the edges of two sub-adult graves and that through excavation in the corner of the enclosure we would find evidence of a grave shaft or perhaps the corner or edge of a coffin. We chose the southeast corner because it was the only corner within the enclosure not covered by rock. This work was done entirely by trowel and dust pan with each scoop of excavated earth screened to see if any grave goods might be uncovered. What we found in the fill immediately below topsoil was a half-inch iron washer and a three-inch common wire nail. Approximately 80 cm below that level, we recovered two femora of an infant; not at all how we had envisioned this investi-

gation proceeding, but we certainly had proof positive of human remains. (See Figure 1 on next page.)

Enter, the three-ring circus. The police arrived in force with lights ablaze and headed by a plainclothes detective. Crime scene tape was erected, flash bulbs went off like fireworks, and the archaeologists were given the third degree. As had been

our experience without exception, the conduct of the police investigation and the resulting occurrence report was largely directed by the archaeologists. The chagrin of CSI fans everywhere is sadly felt. What was not typical in this case was that the police retained the remains, presumably to verify independently that these were, in fact, human elements. The police attending the scene seemed to be of the opinion that these were actually chicken bones, not human. Fair enough, but still.... Having verified for themselves the human origin of the bones, the police promptly returned them; species identification apparently had little impact on the determination of their level of interest.

The specimens were then taken to Dr. Michael Spence at the University of Western Ontario to see what information he could offer. I quote from his letter report:

The bones are the left and right femora of a human infant. The length of the right femur is 76 mm. By the linear regression formula of Scheuer, Musgrave and Evans, this indicates an age of 38.6 gestation weeks, while Kosa would place it at 10 lunar months (40 weeks). The infant was thus either stillborn or died shortly after birth.

Although both bones appear to be of the same individual, the left femur is distorted and

damaged. The proximal end shows two areas of damage. One, a scrape on the bone, is quite recent, and probably occurred during excavation. The other damage, an apparently sheared surface on the proximal end, looks older, but its colour is still slightly lighter than other parts of the bone. This damage may thus be post-interment, though not as recent as the other abrasion.

The main problem, though, is that the proximal end of the left femur is distorted and the shaft shows torsion of about 90 degrees. This is possibly due to congenital hip dysplasia, the congenital displacement of the femur's proximal end from its normal articulation with the pelvis. This sort of defect is often associated with other physical defects, and with low birthweight and a low level of immunity to infection. The infant, then, would have been at heightened risk. It may have died of either congenital defects or an infection.

To summarize: We had an infant with presumed congenital defects who was either stillborn or who died immediately after birth. The remains were found within a grave covered with fill containing an artifact which suggests a post-1890s context (the common wire nail). Evidence on one of the bones (sheared surface on the proximal end) suggests that we were not the first to intrude upon this child's restful slumber.

Testing the site

The Stage 3 investigations at this site entailed stripping the topsoil from an area extending 15 m outward from the stone enclosure on all sides to determine if further graves were present. Since the site was not accessible to heavy equipment, this work was done entirely by hand. Thankfully, there are others to whom such unsavory tasks can be delegated these days. This work resulted in the discovery of no additional graves. The Stage 4 investigations of the site consisted of the excavation of the entire interior area of the stone enclosure, and of select exterior areas, in order to document the nature of the structure itself.

It was clear from the size of the stone enclosure and the location of the first burial (Burial 1) that there was ample room for further interments within the stone work. As a result, excavations were commenced simultaneously in two areas. The first excavation unit (A) was outside the stone enclosure at the north end and ran along the length of the stone wall. The second unit (B) was on the east side of the enclosure and ran from the southeast corner to the north end of the principal stone slab defining the east edge of the feature.

These preliminary excavation units were so arranged for two main reasons. First, there was simply not enough room within the structure to work without standing on the burials themselves. The only way to excavate this site without damaging any burials was to dig our way into the centre from the outside. Beginning the excavation work on the exterior would allow us to remove the stone walls thereby freeing up working room. Second, the excavations outside of the structure would hopefully provide information regarding the construction of the feature, how the stratigraphy of construction related to that of any burials inside, and perhaps provide associated datable goods.

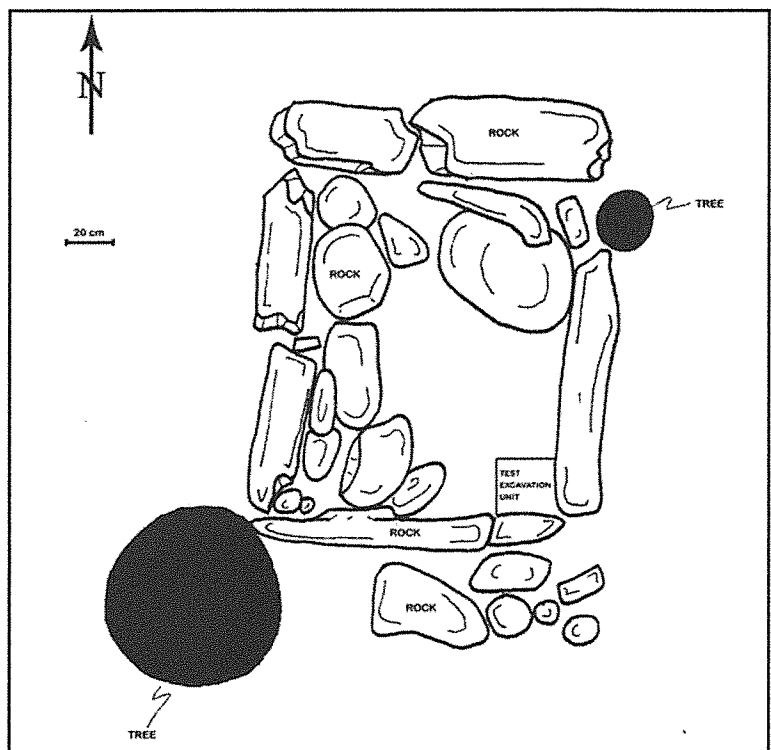


Figure 1. The mapped area of the enclosure showing the arrangement of stone.

Drawing by Mike Henry

Unit A was excavated well into sterile subsoil to allow for the stone slabs of the enclosure wall to be collapsed into it and to allow for soil from excavation inside the feature to be deposited into it. Excavation of Unit A showed that the stone enclosure had been erected at the same time that Burial 2 was dug. The stratum representing the matrix of Burial 2 is the same stratum in which the granite slabs were placed on edge. The entire area of the stone enclosure had been excavated as a pit feature into which the stone slabs and Burial 2 were placed. It is notable that Burial 2 was placed at the north edge of the feature; this suggests that when the structure was built there was some reason to believe that further burial space might be needed. The placement of Burial 1 in the extreme southeast corner suggests that either people were unsure as to the precise location of Burial 2, or they may have anticipated further burials. In any event, it seems clear that the structure was designed to allow room for at least one additional burial fol-

lowing that of Burial 2. Excavation of Unit B produced identical stratigraphic data. So far, a pretty typical burial site investigation, right?

Once the north wall of Unit A was collapsed, the corner of what appeared to be a coffin was exposed. The coffin within Unit A turned out to be a late 19th century or early 20th century suitcase made in the style of a steamer trunk. Almost the entire case was rotted away, with the exception of the hardware and decorative edging. The edging of the container was leather studded with copper alloy upholstery tacks (see photos on next two pages). The corrosion product of the copper had preserved the edging of the container. The corners of the case were reinforced with steel brackets. The hinges, lock plate, lock, and hasp were all in situ as though the case were intact in a closed and locked configuration. In addition, two buckles (probably from wrap-around leather straps) were found to either side of the lock plate on the south side of the suitcase. The long axis of the case was oriented east-west with the hinges facing north. A tree root of moderate size had grown across the north side of the case and had compressed that facet while the case was intact.

The human remains found within Burial 2 were in very poor condition, although there was no evidence of any post-interment intrusion apart from the tree root noted above. The bones within the suitcase were scattered across what would have been the floor of the case without any apparent relationship to their correct anatomical position. Marilyn Cornies and I had observed similar apparent disarticulation within other coffins on cemetery sites. The only explanation we can offer for this phenomenon is the following: while the coffin remains in reasonable condition it acts as a reservoir that collects rainwater and spring melt water. The body of the deceased floats within this circumstantial cistern and breaks apart as it rots. As the flesh decays, bones are released and sink to the bottom—the location of their deposition and eventual discovery being dependent only upon where they happen to be released. The skeletal remains recovered represented only a partial skeleton. Given the extreme



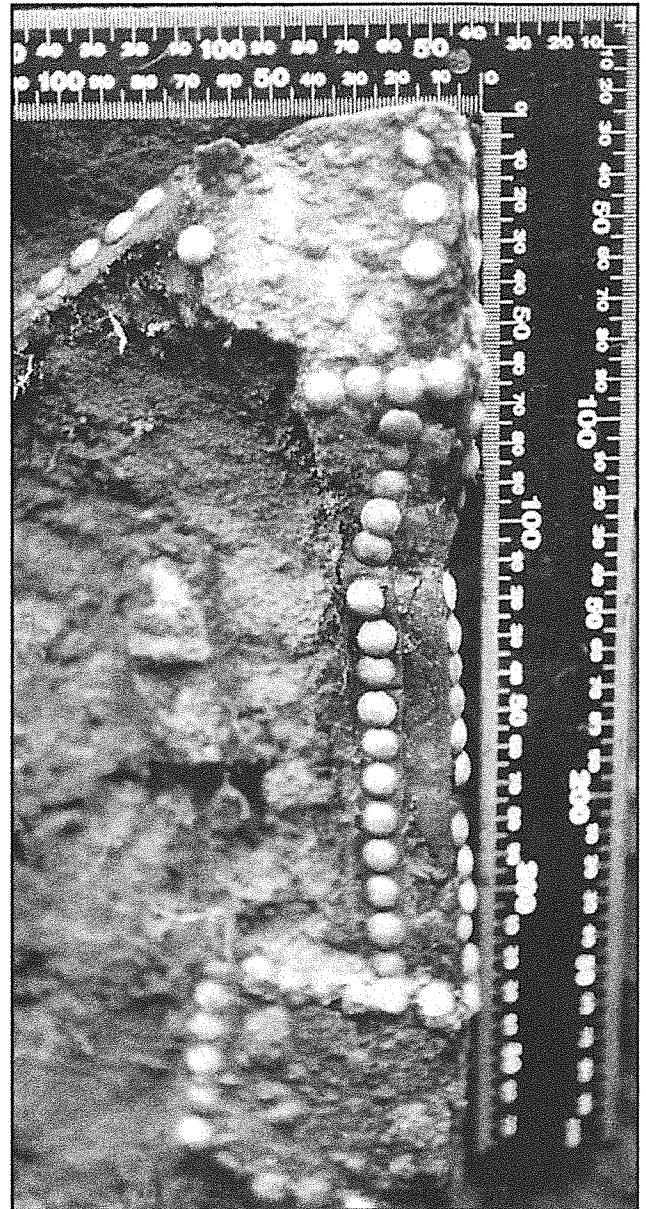
The exposed surface of the interior area beneath the cobbles. The area of the disturbance of Burial 1 is clearly evident, as is the north-west corner of the suitcase of Burial 2, in the profile of the feature revealed by removal of the north wall.

Photo by Mike Henry

fragility of infant bones, it seems likely that the smaller and less robust bones simply decayed over time.

Burial 1 had originally been found during the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment. The chance excavation of both femora during the testing of this feature suggested that this burial would be articulated. However, exposure revealed a jumbled mass of bone and bone fragments along with a series of six 3" cut nails. The original grave shaft had been obliterated by a subsequent excavation, which proved to be much more extensive than our original test unit. The mixed soil matrix containing this burial was consistent up to the surface. The disturbance is quite noticeable in the photo showing the interior of the enclosure after the removal of the cobbles. The skeletal material and the cut nails were found at the bottom of this 93 cm deep hole. Within the mixed soil fill of this intrusive excavation, located some distance above the remains, we encountered a jackknife blade and a crown closure from a beverage bottle. Crown closures were the dominant beverage bottle cap from about 1920 to about 1985, when they began to be replaced by twist-off crown closures and plastic screw caps.

The crown closure and the jackknife blade seemed to be representative of provisions one might expect inquisitive children to bring along on a high adventure, such as looking for bodies in the woods. Regardless of who brought these articles into the woods and why, their presence in the fill clearly indicates the remains were disturbed sometime in the 20th century. The jumble of bone and nails at the bottom of the disturbance probably indicates the likely depth and location of the original grave. It would appear that the person or persons who dug the hole simply poured the contents of the grave back into the pit once they had made the unanticipated ghastly discovery. The crown closure and the jackknife blade were either items discarded by the culprit(s), or material accidentally collected and included in the soil used to fill in the hole. The heavy corrosion of the crown closure would also suggest that this disturbance occurred in the early-to-middle decades of the 20th century, perhaps circa 1920-1960. We believe the cut nails were from the original burial and were what remained of a makeshift coffin, this being a wood box of heavy planks, as the framing nails would suggest. The cut nails also had wood grain preserved in the corrosion product, which suggests they had



The exposed northwest corner of the suitcase within Burial 2 showing the steel corner brackets, copper alloy tacks, remnant leather edging, and an in situ steel hinge. The top of the suitcase is at the top of the photo.

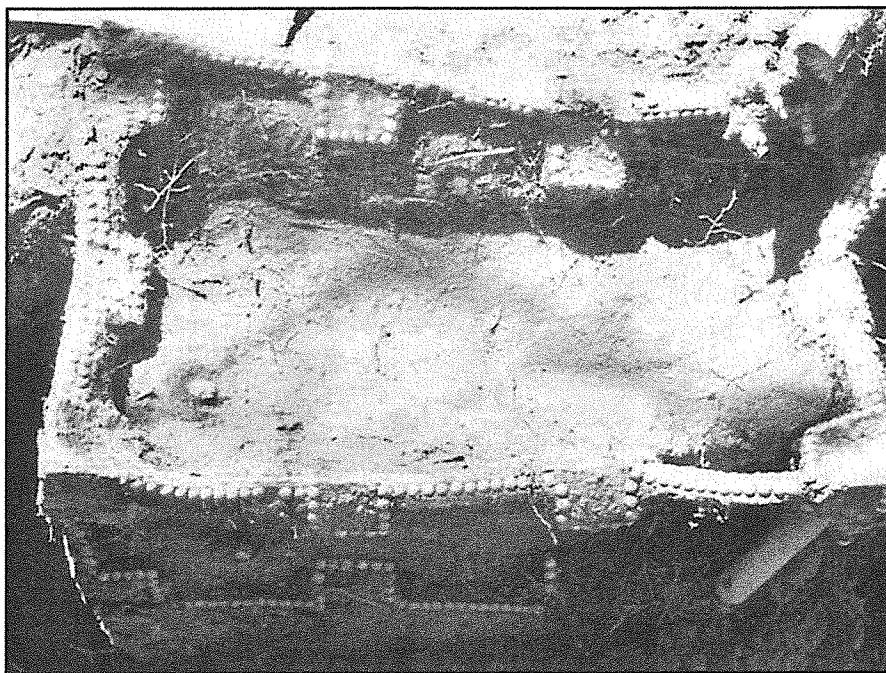
Photo by Mike Henry

been imbedded in wood within an oxygen-deprived environment for quite some time, or at least long enough for the surrounding wood to have largely rotted away. Cut nails were the dominant wood fastener from about 1825 to 1890.

As noted earlier, the first grave contained the remains of an infant who exhibited evidence of congenital defects and who had been either stillborn or had died very soon after birth. The second infant did not exhibit any obvious defects, but had also been

either stillborn or had died very soon after birth. Now: we had two infants. One was apparently buried in a plain wood box, most likely constructed prior to 1890. The second was buried in a suitcase of a style typical of the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th.

Stratigraphic evidence indicated that the burial found within the suitcase (Burial 2) was deposited at the same time that the enclosure was constructed. The placement of Burial 2, centrally positioned along the north wall, would suggest that further burials were



The fully exposed suitcase of Burial 2.

Photo by Mike Henry

anticipated since the enclosure was constructed to encompass a much larger area. Had it been built with the sole purpose of marking Burial 2, we would expect that this burial would have been placed in a more central position. The placement of Burial 1 in the extreme southeast corner of the enclosure suggests that the people who buried this individual sought to avoid disrupting the other burial and that they may also have wanted to leave room for further graves. Given the above, it would seem reasonable to infer that both graves were originally dug prior to 1890, as it would seem unlikely that anyone would have built the box or coffin of Burial 1 using antique nails. The suitcase and the nails suggest that both burials probably occurred between 1880 and 1890, give or take five years.

It is further inferred that these infants were probable siblings, given the apparently narrow time period between the two burials and the inclusion of both within an enclosure, which suggested a familial bond. Furthermore, the construction of this stone enclosure was a huge undertaking, given the size of granite slabs that were used. This would have been a heavy task, requiring many helping hands and probably draught animals to haul the material to this location by wagon or stone sledge. It is a monument which speaks of genuine affection, albeit one which required little or no expenditure of money. Likewise, the containers that served as coffins further suggested that money was lacking for purpose-built containers.

Family informants

Once the excavation was completed, it was time to speak to the living descendants of the family that had owned the property during the period of interment. In this case, the family had originally purchased the property in 1850 and, according to land registry records, maintained possession of it until 1963. We interviewed two descendants and former residents of the property who were probably in their early 60s when we questioned them. They were

a sister and a brother who had grown up on the old family farm, as it was termed.

The sister reported that, as far as she knew, the children in the graves were those of former black slaves who were hired hands on the farm. According to her version of events, the family had gone out on the lake for an afternoon boating excursion, and while they were away, the servants had accidentally set fire to the house. These children were the unfortunate victims. While it is true that the house did burn down in 1909, it seemed unlikely that this event would account for two burials which appeared to have occurred on separate dates. As well, it would seem improbable that two infants so close in age and so young would be left unattended to be consumed in a fire.

The brother reported that these children were cholera victims. In his account, a steam tour boat suffered a cholera epidemic while on the lake and these children had died onboard. The boat stopped at this location to bury them. If true, this would likely be the single historical example of a cholera epidemic beginning on a pleasure cruise of a few hours' duration. Furthermore, why would a steam boat stop to bury deceased persons in the middle of nowhere while travelling along a lakeshore lined with settlements? It seemed equally unlikely that the passengers and crew of the boat would disembark for the purpose of performing the hard manual labour involved in constructing this elaborate grave site.

Neither story accounts for the very strong likelihood that both were stillborn. If one or both were stillborn, both stories very quickly lose any possibility of being correct—not that they had much hope from the start. It seemed clear to us that both accounts were fabrications designed with the intention of misdirecting any inquiry. Both parties were insistent that these children were in no way related to the family. We were convinced that the siblings knew a great deal more about this situation than they were prepared to admit. Then, almost as if they wanted to heighten our suspicions, they offered to have these children reburied within the family plot. The reason offered for this generosity toward the unknown and unrelated was that they felt they should accept responsibility for their reburial because they had been found on the family farm. You can probably imagine whence we then thought these children originated.

Given the circumstances of burial and the bizarre conduct of the living family descendants, we began to suspect that these were illegitimate children that the family would prefer to keep invisible—perhaps the result of an illicit union between a family member and one of the hired help. This theory fits the time period, it accords with the fact that hired hands worked on the property and in the household, it would explain the apparent lack of funds to purchase coffins or markers, and it may add further reasons for their exclusion from the church cemetery.

This brought to a close our formal investigation of the site. The likelihood that they were stillborn and not baptized would at least explain why they were not located within a cemetery. It might explain why people, at the time that they were buried, would be reluctant to discuss the matter, but not why people today would seem intent on disguising their identities. Needless to say, we reported neither the stories offered by the descendants, nor our suspicions as to what this seemed to suggest regarding the origins of the children. It remained yet another unsolved case of

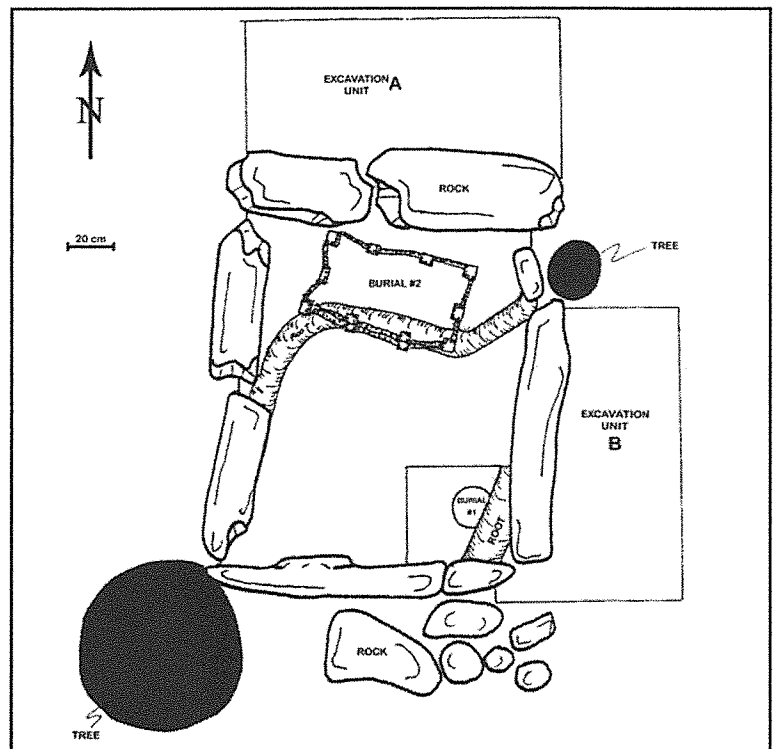


Figure 2. Plan of the excavation.

Drawing by Mike Henry

unmarked graves located in an unusual location for unspecified reasons, with nobody willing or able to claim them as kin.

New information comes to light

It was nearly 10 years later, while I was conducting archival research on an entirely unrelated matter, that new information came to hand. As so often occurs, people with an interest in subjects generally long forgotten swap notes on the more esoteric or unusual things they have encountered. As I was recounting this mystery to the archivist, along with our suspicions and dead ends, she shared some little-known facts about the former owners and occupants of this

farm which seemed to piece it all together seamlessly. Calculate the odds, if you dare.

The story the archivist had recently heard from local informants was that one of the girls raised on the farm attended a prestigious local all-girls school. After graduation, this young woman obtained a degree at the University of Toronto and returned to teach at the same all-girls school. While she was working there between 1933 and 1950, she ran the school infirmary. Up to this point, this story is confirmed by published genealogical accounts of the family. The story goes on to relate that, upon occasion, students would become pregnant, as one might expect. When one student's child was stillborn or died shortly after birth, this woman took the body and buried it on the old family farm to protect the privacy and dignity of the mother and family. This version of events would explain the reluctance of the living family members to betray the illegal but compassionate actions of the infirmary nurse—their aunt. Unfortunately, there is no way to actually verify this account since any records pertaining to the school or to vital statistics of the period will remain sealed for another 50 years under privacy protection legislation. However, this version of events accords with all the facts as we know them and does not defy reason. Nonetheless, it is a story that represents a most unlikely line of reasoning from the archaeological and historical evidence.

If we are prepared to accept this as truth, it highlights a number of issues in archaeology that I believe we forget all too often. We confuse facts with inference and are, perhaps, too eager to apply what is generally true (or rather, generally assumed) to occasions of idiosyncratic incident or behaviour. In this case, we were led to conclude that the burials must have been made in the last two decades of the 19th century based on the containers used for coffins. However, what we failed to take into consideration was that the useful life of artifacts very often extends well beyond either the period of production or even of average usage. We assumed that a container would be procured or manufactured at the time of the burial, whereas it now appears that, when the crises arose, suitable containers were found amongst things already owned and perhaps not serving any useful function at the time. We could well imagine the old suitcase being pulled out of the attic and an old

wooden box being found in a tool shed. These were old things lying about that answered to the requirements of the moment. It is not unusual to find artifacts employed in a manner for which they were never intended, and we probably find many in deposits that we simply do not recognize as secondary usage contexts.

This case is interesting and useful in how well it demonstrates the ease with which one can be led to think in entirely wrong directions. The information provided by well-meaning and knowledgeable informants obviously can mislead with intent or by how the information is viewed by the recipient. This is equally true of written documents as well as oral accounts. I like to think, and I fervently hope, that as archaeologists we are not wrong all of the time, but it makes you wonder how often we can arrive at the truth or a meaningful approximation of it. At least in cases like this of recent history, or of the historic period generally, we have the possibility of discovering further evidence that will correct earlier errors. Historic sites are rarely looked at as emblematic or exemplars of a culture or a time period. We usually look at each in isolation as an archaeological problem and relate our findings to larger, previously documented historical trends. Here, there is an advantage in that when errors are made they do not normally send ripples through the whole edifice of our interpretation of the past. How much of Ontario's prehistory might be constructed on incorrect facts, inferences or assumptions, only to be compounded and amplified by subsequent research built on such foundations? I point out these concerns not to demean prehistoric archaeology, but only to suggest that when such things become apparent in historic site investigations, we ought to use this information as a cautionary note in our analysis and interpretation of findings on prehistoric sites. People are idiosyncratic and, even when living within communal social organizations, they will assert their individuality; nobody conforms to social convention all of the time.

“There is nothing as deceptive as an obvious fact.”
—Sherlock Holmes in *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*,
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Twenty years of archaeological master plans in Ontario: A review and prospectus

[This article is the text of one of the presentations at the November 2005 OAS symposium in Petawawa—ed.]

**by Robert I. MacDonald, PhD, RPA
Archaeological Services Inc.**

The development of archaeological master plans has been underway in Ontario since the late 1980s, yet to date only a small minority of municipalities has taken advantage of this planning tool. In this paper I will review the nature and evolution of archaeological master plans in Ontario and try to see what their future may hold.

Archaeological master plans are essentially tools created by archaeologists and heritage planners to help municipal land-use planners address their responsibilities under the Ontario Planning Act. Since 1982, the Planning Act has stipulated that: “the conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest” is a provincial concern for which municipalities need to have regard in the course of approving development applications. In the 1980s, this “regard for” archaeology generally took the form of Ministry of Culture staff asking municipalities to include them in the development application review process and notifying municipal planners when archaeological assessments should be required. Ministry of Culture staff also began to encourage municipalities to undertake archaeological master plans in order to streamline the development application review process and make archaeology a routine consideration. A few avant-garde municipalities saw the merit of this and commissioned archaeological master plans. Some, like the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the City of London, even hired archaeologists on contract to work in-house alongside their planning staff, while others, like the Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Kingston, hired consulting firms to undertake the studies on their behalf. While both approaches have their merits, the majority of master plans have been

produced by consultants.

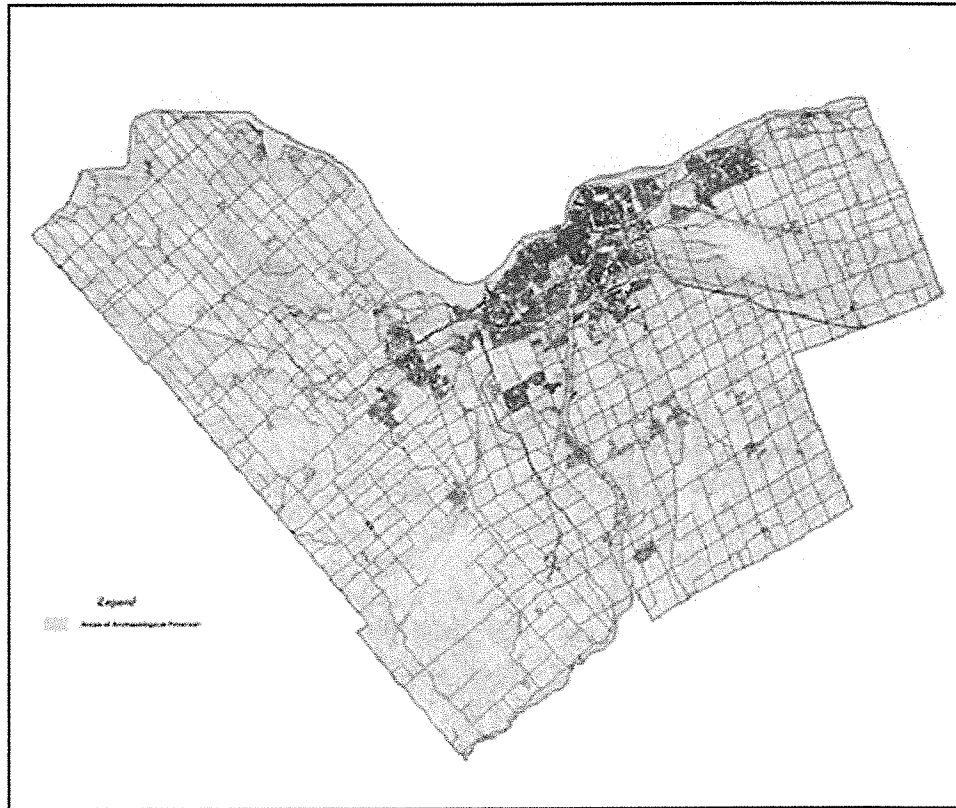
The impetus for completing an archaeological master plan increased in the mid-1990s when the provincial government initiated cost-cutting measures which led to the so-called “downloading of responsibilities” to municipalities. Among these was the responsibility of deciding when an archaeological assessment would be required as a condition of development application approval. Lacking the expertise to make such a decision, municipal land-use planners had two options when evaluating any given development application: use the generic checklist provided by the Ministry of Culture, which would almost invariably lead to the decision to require an assessment, or commission an archaeological master plan that would partition the entire municipality into areas that would or would not require assessment. The latter choice not only provided municipalities with a product custom designed for their municipality, but was also appealing as it tended to substantially reduce the proportion of the municipality deemed to merit archaeological concern. While this development seems to have convinced a few additional municipalities to get on the master plan bandwagon—especially those experiencing significant development pressure—inertia has continued to prevail for the majority.

Archaeological master plans have improved significantly over the nearly two decades they have been available in Ontario, and they all tend to share certain basic components. One of the first steps in preparing a master plan is to compile an inventory of all known archaeological sites within the municipality. While the majority of this information often comes from the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, which is maintained by the Ministry of Culture, data concerning unregistered archaeological sites can also prove to be important, especially in jurisdictions which have not traditionally been the focus of much archaeological survey work. For example, the existing registered inventory of 22 archaeological sites in the District

Municipality of Muskoka was essentially doubled during the master plan process simply by canvassing the knowledge of local residents. Similarly, in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, the initial inventory comprised 17 registered and 94 unregistered pre-contact Aboriginal sites. Locational information was sufficient for 11 of the registered sites and 54 of the unregistered sites to be included in the subsequent mapping exercise. A review of past archaeological work in the municipality is thus an important adjunct to the archaeological site inventory since it provides the historical context necessary for understanding potential biases in the existing data.

Master plans also include an outline of the pre-contact Aboriginal culture history of the study area to provide a basis for interpreting probable settlement and land-use patterns over time. A similar historical outline is provided for Euro-Canadian settlement, and this outline is typically organized by themes relevant to the particular municipality. The objective here is not to write a comprehensive history of the municipality, but rather to identify and organize the various socio-cultural trends which influenced past human settlement and land use.

Equally important in understanding past human land use is the structure and evolution of the natural landscape over time. Given that human occupation in Ontario began as early as 11,000 years ago, it is necessary to first characterize the paleoenvironment as it was at various key time horizons, and then to interpret how the contemporary human occupants would have articulated with that landscape. For example, the evolution of the Ottawa River, which was much larger until around 5,500 years ago when drainage from the Upper Great Lakes declined, has no doubt pro-



An example of a GIS-produced map of the Ottawa-Carleton area to be used in the region's archaeological master plan.

foundly affected the nature and distribution of pre-historic human settlement throughout the Ottawa Valley. Ecological attributes considered in such an analysis typically include bedrock and Quaternary geology, hydrography, soils, paleoclimatology, paleovegetation, and potential floral and faunal resources.

Together, the various elements of the cultural and natural history of the municipality become layers of a complex narrative which characterizes how the social and natural environment constrained and influenced human settlement and land use. Indeed, these figurative layers are ideally suited to mapping and manipulation as layers in computer-based geographic information systems (GIS), and it has been the implementation and development of this technology over the last decade which has ushered in the second generation of archaeological master plans in Ontario. More than just a fancy way to produce maps, GIS have been embraced by municipalities needing to manage and integrate large amounts of spatial data, and it has tremendously expanded the capacity for quantitative modeling of archaeological site potential.

Site potential modeling lies at the very heart of archaeological master planning. It is the process of using the various bodies of archaeological, historical, and environmental data in order to partition the municipality into two zones: one which exhibits potential for the discovery of archaeological sites and one which does not. Early master plans included an intermediate class of moderate archaeological potential, but although favoured by archaeologists, who tend to see the world as a gradient of archaeological potential, it has long since been dropped in favour of the need of municipal planners to have a simple yes or no answer to the question of whether an area warrants archaeological attention or not.

There are fundamentally two approaches to site potential modeling, a deductive approach and an inductive approach, although most master plans employ both techniques in concert. Inductive modeling uses the location of known archaeological sites as a basis for extrapolating where additional sites are likely to be found. Although a potentially powerful indicator, it requires a substantial unbiased sample of known archaeological sites in order to be most effective. Deductive modeling is predicated on anthropological theory and analogy to suggest how people are likely to have adapted to a particular landscape. The advent of GIS technology introduced a powerful tool capable of both overlaying different classes of spatial data for purposes of deductive modeling, such as was done for the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, as well as quantifying trends in site locations for inductive modeling. The latter technique was used to advantage in the master plans for the City of London, the City of Brantford, and the Regional Municipality of Halton.

Proximity to water remains one of the strongest indicators of archaeological potential, and this is reflected in zones of archaeological potential which tend to buffer watercourses. Other indicators include known archaeological sites, physical features such as ancient shorelines, soil drainage attributes, early settlement roads, and structures and settlement areas depicted by early maps and atlases. Once the zones of potential have been defined, the final step in the modeling process is to then clip out any areas which are deemed to have low archaeological integrity, generally due to previous land development activity. The process of determining archaeological integrity has

been most refined in what may be considered the first example of the third generation of archaeological master plans in Ontario, the archaeological master plan for the City of Toronto [in which ASI is a major partner—ed.]. This five-year study began with the examination of demonstration areas where very detailed land-use histories and high resolution aerial photographs have been used to identify post-1950s construction that tends to have involved much more widespread grading and filling than earlier developments. The analytical techniques developed for these demonstration areas are now being applied throughout the City of Toronto.

Another unique aspect of this master plan is the largely urban character of the study area, and this has been addressed by focusing on the historical settlement areas which were the nuclei that grew together to form the metropolitan area we have now. As in many other master plans, these core areas of original Euro-Canadian settlement are granted special status regarding archaeological potential and pre-development assessment requirements. Also singled out for special attention are known pre-contact Aboriginal sites which may retain some or all of their archaeological integrity in spite of their location within the urban landscape. Many examples of important sites turning up in sports fields, parks, and other green spaces across Ontario underscore the imperative of caution when it comes to evaluating archaeological integrity in the urban setting.

In addition to the archaeological site potential model and the technical background data that supports it, master plans include a series of recommendations to planners. These include steps for re-visiting the site potential model periodically in order to update it based on the accumulation of archaeological data and other technical improvements. Many early master plans, for example, have been recently updated and converted to GIS platforms in order to better integrate them with municipal information systems. More important, however, these recommendations lay out policies, procedures, and implementation guidelines for dealing with archaeological concerns that are both consistent with provincial requirements and tailored to the specific needs of the municipality. They are basically a how-to manual for municipal planners confronted with the need to work on behalf of the province in addressing archae-

ological concerns. Also included in these recommendations are suggestions for the management, stewardship, and public interpretation of archaeological sites and collections within the municipality.

Most master plan projects now involve technical advisory committees, including Ministry of Culture representatives and community stakeholders, which help municipal officials prepare terms of reference, select study teams, work with the consulting team during the study, and evaluate and implement the study products and recommendations. This framework ensures an open and transparent study process which can be easily endorsed at the political level when the master plan is finally referred to municipal council for adoption.

The development of archaeological master plans in Ontario, as with the other aspects of archaeological resource management, has been largely driven by various pieces of enabling legislation. First articulated in the 1982 version of the Planning Act, the fundamental value of heritage conservation has been strengthened through subsequent revisions, including the 1990 version and its attendant regulations. Several recent developments, however, may have profound implications for archaeological resource management generally and ultimately to the importance of archaeological master plans.

In 2002, the Government Efficiency Act clarified and strengthened the protection provisions for archaeological sites, making it an offense for anyone except a licensed archaeologist to modify or remove artifacts from a known archaeological site. The maximum penalty for contravention of this statute was raised to one million dollars. This and other protections have been further enhanced by the enactment this year of the Ontario Heritage Amendment Act, which overhauls and up-dates the 1990 version of the Heritage Act. Also this year, a new Provincial Policy Statement was issued under the provisions of the Planning Act, which revised the wording of the clause pertaining to the conservation of archaeological sites from "shall have regard to" to "shall be consistent with." Whereas the earlier wording was somewhat vague about what constituted "having regard," the revised wording, and the policies to which it refers, are designed to make the obligations of municipal planners patently clear.

Finally, if provincial legislation regarding archae-

ology isn't enough to get the attention of municipal planners, a recent court decision arising from the failure of a provincial government agency to properly consult with Aboriginal groups on archaeological issues is just one example of the sort of liability to which municipalities may now be exposed. Interest in archaeology by First Nations is finally starting to grow in Ontario, and while many of us in the archaeology field welcome and encourage this development, there are likely to be many bumps in the road before the role and responsibilities of these important stakeholders in the heritage resource management process can be fully resolved. In the meantime, it behooves us all to be prudent in this regard and ensure that the proper channels of communication are open when archaeological issues arise. Archaeological master plans can have a role in this by helping municipalities prepare for various contingencies. It is also worth noting that several municipalities have already engaged in partnerships with First Nations to jointly commission archaeological master plans (for example, the District Municipality of Muskoka and the Wahta Mohawks; and the Township of Howland, Ojibways of Sucker Creek and the Sheguiandah First Nation), while one of the very first archaeological master plans in Ontario was independently commissioned by the Walpole Island First Nation.

In a typically Canadian fashion, archaeological master plans have developed slowly and cautiously in Ontario over the last 15 or so years, adopting new techniques and technology as appropriate, but not generating much fanfare. In the course of undertaking the master plan for the City of Toronto, we felt it would be a useful exercise to canvass other major municipalities around the world to find out how master plans were done elsewhere, to make sure we weren't re-inventing the wheel or missing out on important ideas, and to see how Ontario master plans ranked world wide. This thorough, although not exhaustive, investigation of major jurisdictions in the United States, Britain, Europe, and Asia revealed the surprising fact that Ontario seems to be a world leader when it comes to archaeological resource management in general and archaeological master plans in particular. Perhaps it is time we stopped hiding our light under a bushel.

Time machines, meteorites UFOs and candles, or things that you don't expect to find in motels

by Margie Kenedy

My first clue was when I called to book a room for the weekend of the OAS conference in Petawawa and there was no answer at the motel.

No, come to think of it, my first clue was that the place was actually called the Time Travellers Motel, and then I had to leave a message on an answering machine and wait for a call back.

My third clue (I am kind of slow) was when the owner called me back and I had to explain to him several times that I wanted to stay at his motel from the 3rd to the 6th of November. He, on the other hand, was convinced for some reason that I will be staying there from the seventh to the tenth, and he tried several variations—Monday to Thursday, or seventh to tenth—to book me for those dates.

His speech was little slurry, a little loud.

He didn't want a credit card, he just said "You'll be coming for sure, right?"

Most of you would have given up, but I was intrigued and, since following intrigue got me into trouble many times before, I went ahead and booked the room.

Yes, I had some regrets in the days leading to the conference, and when Amanda and I pulled into the parking lot we exchanged worried looks, but walked right into the office to register.

On the phone he sounded like a big guy and I thought that he will be wearing a stained undershirt and a beer gut, but the guy that shuffled from the back room was rather small and there was something faded about him. I think he was wearing sev-

eral layers under his sweater even though the room was very warm.

He had the dates wrong again.

"No, we are not staying for four nights. In fact," I said, quickly assessing the situation, "we don't know how long we'll be staying. We'll let you know tomorrow."

He wanted payment in advance and assured me, when I suggested paying when we check out, that "there is no hotel in the world that lets you pay when you leave because what if you want to leave at five in the morning and there is no one to pay to?"

We didn't argue.

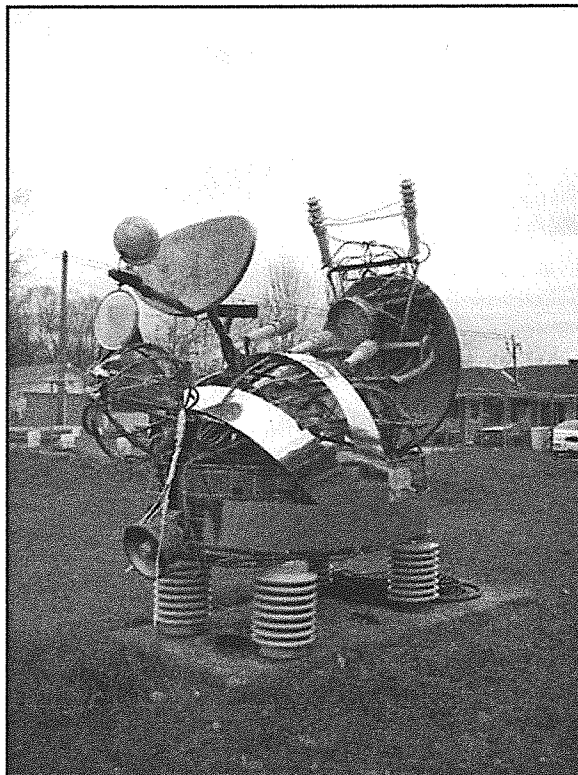
We checked the bathrooms. We checked the beds. We checked under the beds. The place was clean, the room was big, and we had a fridge, microwave, toaster, coffee maker and kettle. The beds were dressed in mauve satin, and on the shelf were two vases with pink and mauve plastic flowers.

There were also two candle holders with candles in them. Odd, but maybe he was hoping that the place would burn down.

After the first night we decided to stay for the rest of the weekend. The room was clean, the shower had the strongest pressure ever, the beds were really comfortable, and the place was very quiet at night—what more can you ask for? Well, you can ask for someone to be at the motel office in case you want to let them know that you'll be staying for the rest of the weekend.

Our motel owner and, I think, only employee of the Time Travellers Motel, was missing.

It was Saturday, the day that follows Friday, which in



The time machine.

Photo by Margie Kenedy

some northern cultures is the day before hangover. We gave up after several trips to the closed office. I used my cell phone to call the office and leave a message pleading with him not to give our room away as we'll be staying another night, and yes, I'll take care of the payment as soon as there is someone at the office.

Amanda and I were worried again, and driving back to our motel in the afternoon, we tried to look in the ditches along the road—maybe he is lying there passed out. In our world you normally show up for work unless something happens.

Maybe we were really looking around for the first time, because that was the first time we noticed there was a time machine in front of the motel. It was beside the empty pool, almost right under the big sign that boasted:

TIME TRAVELLERS MOTEL

VACANCIES NO

Doubles: 55

Singles: 45

Well, nothing happened to us.

Not that lectures weren't interesting, they were, and the company was great (there are pictures to prove that as well), but really, one of the highlights of this conference was this surreal place and this absurd guy. I just wish I had talked to him some more.

Images from the 2005 Symposium



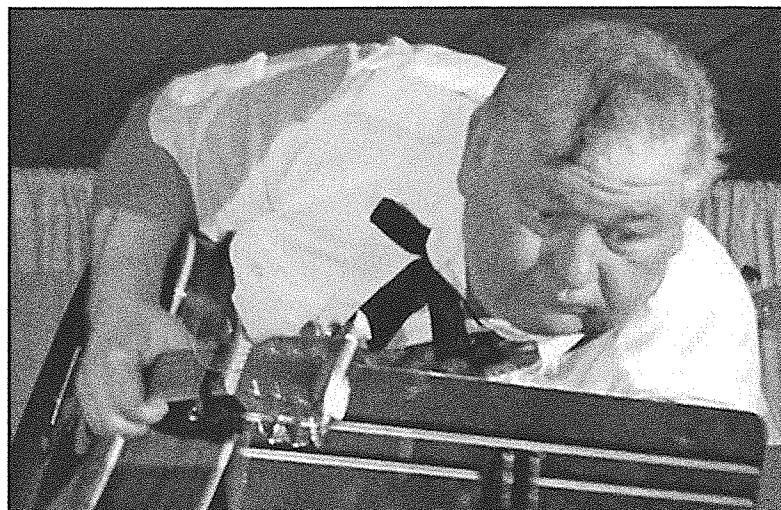
Ellen Blaubergs, left, is happy to get her 25-year pin and certificate from OAS President Christine Caroppo, centre, and Holly Martelle, Director of Member Services.

Other 25-year pins went to Annie Gould, Gary Warrick, Jeff Bursey, Evelyn Danelly, Robert MacDonald and Gary Warrick.

Photo by Andrew Murray

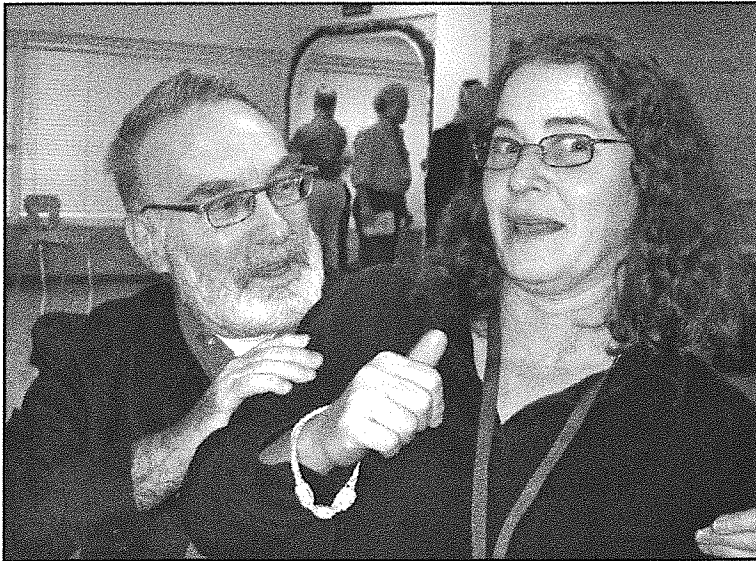
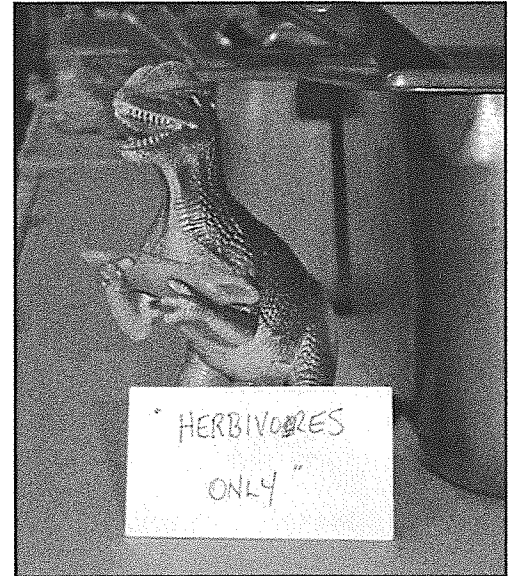
A Stone Fence Theatre cast member playing the role of an old-time Ottawa Valley musician takes a bow during the on-stage re-creation of a live radio show. The after-dinner revue featured many songs of the Ottawa Valley with meaningful local references and lots of hijinks.

Photo by Bill Allen



Even though it blurred the line between palaeontology and archaeology once again, this penne-toting dino signified that even vegetarians were recipients of special fare from the excellent catering of Moncion's Deli at the banquet dinner. Other catering and treats came from Kelsey's, Pelee Island Winery, Tim Hortons and Ullrich's.

Photo by Andrew Murray



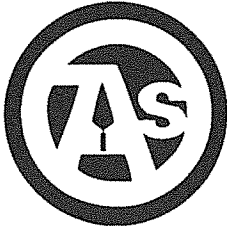
Toronto Chapter members Henry Stapells and Margie Kenedy discuss the finer points of the new Ministry guidelines as the banquet wound down Saturday night.

Photo by Bill Allen

100 years of Ontario archaeology got together as Ottawa Chapter member Glenna Roberts, left, was acknowledged for her 50 years of membership in the OAS. She shares the honour with fellow 50-year [and more] member Helen Devereaux, who travelled from Toronto to attend the lectures.

Photo by Bill Allen





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