ARCH NOTES
Monthly Newsletter of
The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

February 1972

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Toronto 310, Ont.
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LAST CALL:

Have you renewed your membership for 1972? If not, why not?
Also, if not, this is the last issue of ARCH NOTES you will receive unless we hear from you by February 29, 1972!!!!!!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name_________________________________________ Active $5.00______
Address_______________________________________ Ph#________ Family (Husband & Wife) $8.00______
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All cheques and money orders should be made payable to:—
THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY and sent to:—
Miss M. Warnes,
Apt. 204,
241 Redpath Ave.,
Toronto 12, Ontario.
MONTHLY MEETING

This month's General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16, at 8:00 pm in the Archaeology Laboratory, Room 561A, Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St, Toronto 181, Ont.

Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Richard Ingalls, Graduate Student in the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. His topic will be "Current Archaeology in the Prince Rupert Area".

We now present - for your information and enjoyment - an abstract of the talk given by Prof. A. C. A. Dawson of Lakehead University at the General Meeting of November 17, 1971.

WAWA DROP-IN CAMP 1971

The project designed to introduce Canadian youth to a northern sub-arctic environment in a meaningful way was a co-operative venture of the National Museums of Canada and Opportunities for Youth with logistic support provided by the Department of National Defence. Apart from normal budgeting, funding was made available under the aegis of the Secretary of State.

The camp was centred around a multi-disciplinary ecological study of the lower Michipicoten River valley in northern Ontario. It involved archaeology, biology, entomology, geology and forestry research. Fifty students were engaged in research while an equal number were employed in running the camp and a further twenty which included a military component were involved in administration. The camp had facilities for a further one hundred and fifty travellers. They could, and many did, stay on for a few days to participate in the research and camp projects.

The Michipicoten River valley was of particular interest because it marks the transition zone between the boreal forest and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest. The major purposes of the research was to collect basic data on this little known area. Archaeologically, it was designed to determine the extent and affinity of prehistoric human populations in the area. Twenty-two sites were recorded and five were subject to extensive excavation.

Based on over 13,000 recoveries the river valley has seen a long time span of scattered human occupation extending from the Late Archaic Period to the proto-Historic Period. Sparse Shield Archaic manifestations are followed by Laurel Tradition assemblages of the Middle Woodland Period. These in turn are followed by stratified Late Woodland Period occupations of diverse origins. Blackduck Tradition ceramics from the northwest, Huron-Fetun branch ceramics of the Ontario Iroquois Traditions from the southeast and Peninsular Woodland and other ceramics with southern affinities are all present. Archaeologically then, the area like the forest cover appears in the Late Woodland Period to be one of blending traditions. The project was judged a uniquely successful venture.

Thank you, Professor Dawson.
My introduction is addressed to the topic of the talk because I think the nature of the topic is not only of great interest but above all, important to the society.

What I would like to ask you to keep in mind as you listen this evening is how the Ontario Archaeological Society can become involved in something like this. As a matter of fact, I'd like to submit that we, as a Society must become involved, and carry out projects like this or lose whatever place we have in Ontario Archaeology. Site surveys, salvage and education are areas in which Ontario Archaeology is moving; to stay out of these areas would mean that we would simply become a Society of collectors who gather once a month to listen to talks given by people who do the work. In the future we might even have to apply for a licence before we can step on a site.

Projects such as Mr. Konrad's are vital to the development of archaeology in Ontario, and I feel that the members of this Society are in an excellent position to contribute to such surveys (or carry them out themselves); thru the knowledge that they have of sites in Ontario (Ridley, Hurley). It is in these areas (surveys, salvage and education) that I can see a solid position for the Society; and it is for this reason that I consider Mr. Konrad's talk of particular interest at this time.

My interest in the archaeological resources of Metropolitan Toronto was sparked by an awareness of the looting and urban encroachment on the Parsons site in North York. The immediate need for the protection of Toronto's remaining, non-renewable, archaeological resources was apparent. No programme of protection is, however, possible without a comprehensive site survey. In Metropolitan Toronto, Canada's second metropolis, a site inventory was critically required.

In March 1971, I formulated a proposal for an inventory of the archaeological resources of Metropolitan Toronto. On the advice of Dr. W. Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum, and Dr. C. E. Heidenreich of York University, changes in the proposal were made and the paper was submitted to the "Opportunities for Youth" programme for approval. Fortunately, the project was approved and the work was carried out during the summer of 1971. We believe our project to have been successful in that we completed a comprehensive survey of the archaeological resources of Metropolitan Toronto; we published a report; we gendered increased co-operation between municipal and provincial agencies interested in our archaeological resources; we stimulated some public awareness of the problem; we experienced a rewarding summer of archaeological research and we, hopefully, have built a base for the continuation of the project for Preserving the Toronto Area Archaeological Resources.

In my presentation, I will describe the project and discuss the research procedures, the results of the inventory, the prospects for Toronto's archaeological resources and our recommendations for the remaining sites in Metropolitan Toronto.
The project inventory was carried out by boroughs within the boundaries of Metro Toronto. A few areas, adjacent to Metro, were surveyed for possible sites. One of these was the Boyd Conservation Area. During the month of June 1971, the participants engaged in library research and interviews in order to determine all the known sites. During the months of July and August these references were checked and areas of possible site concentration were searched. Five university students, from Guelph, York and the University of Toronto, participated in the project. Two field researchers joined the three participants in the beginning of July. Everyone then participated in the field work. The project was financed through contributions from "opportunities for youth", the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Department of Geography of York University. We received valuable information and advice from Dr. W. Kenyon, R.O.M.; Mr. T. Barlow, R.O.M.; Dr. Found, Dr. Heidenreich and the staff of the Dept. of Geography at York; Margaret Stott, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa; John Reid, Charles Garrad and others of the O. A. C.; Drs. Feeney and Hurley of the University of Toronto, and many more.

The aims of the project included a detailed inventory of Metro Toronto's archaeological resources in terms of their location, physical characteristics, property ownership, archaeological features, site condition and references, and evaluation of their future and a list of sites in need of urgent preservation and/or excavation.

The research plan consisted of an information compilation phase, a field investigation phase and a data evaluation phase. The information compilation phase included library research at the University of Toronto, York University, the R.O.M. and the National Museum. All possible site files, publications and manuscripts dealing with Toronto's archaeological resources were consulted. Interviews were carried out when required as was a programme of on-going research during the summer field work. The field investigation phase included an inspection of sites in terms of location, size, surface artifact samples and an assessment of the condition and future of the sites. Site maps were also drafted where possible. Included in the data evaluation phase were the site summary and classification procedures and the report evaluation. Artifact identification was carried out with the aid of Dr. J. N. Emerson.

Archaeological resources were once concentrated along the Humber River and Black Creek, in the Upper Highland Creek area and in the Rouge River area. The remaining archaeological resources are concentrated mainly in the Rouge River area. A few sites remain in the upper Highland Creek and upper Black Creek areas. Our evaluation of the results of the survey shows 78% of Metro's archaeological resources destroyed, 15% partially destroyed and 7% disturbed. None were found in a pristine state. The least destruction has occurred in the agricultural area of eastern Scarborough. Of the 13 sites located in pilot studies, in areas adjacent to Metro, only 5 were destroyed. Land speculation has probably reduced the destruction of sites in the adjacent townships north of Metro Toronto.

The prospects for the archaeological resources of Metro Toronto are dim indeed. Urbanization will not decrease. Looting will not decrease. In fact these agents of destruction will certainly increase in magnitude. Of all the site locations
discovered within Metro Toronto, a total of 60, 73% have been
developed, 7% are to be developed, 13% have uncertain futures
and 7% are to be maintained in their present state. The sites
to be maintained are located mostly on Hydro right-of-ways and
in ravine areas. A recent plan to develop bicycle trails along
Hydro right-of-ways will surely increase the threat of looting
to the remaining archaeological resources in Metro. Of the 13
sites examined adjacent to the Metro Toronto boundaries, 7 are
to be maintained and 6 are on developed sites or on sites soon
to be developed. Consequently, we can assume that we have a
brief period of grace in areas outside of Metro, in which time
we can carry out a comprehensive site survey. Now it the time
to act. Action should include extended site surveys, salvage
excavation and a programme of research and "educational
recreation" on important sites both in Metro and the metropolitan
Toronto Planning Area. In order to initiate action along these
lines our group has presented a list of sites that require
immediate attention. In addition to our final report, requests
were sent to the MTRCA for immediate action in regard to the
Parsons and Risebrough sites. Secondary reports, sent to the
R.O.M., the Borough of York and the MTRCA, suggested ways in
which archaeogeological resources could be integrated into pre-
historic educational and recreational programmes. This kind of
a programme could be integrated with our present Metro Toronto
Parks system. A reconstruction of one of these sites should be
an ultimate goal. The educational and recreational dividends
of such an achievement would be enormous. Unfortunately, time
for such necessary planning is running out.

Our recommendations at the completion of the Metropolitan
Toronto Site Survey were as follows:
1) That remaining sites be examined by trained archaeologists
   in order to determine excavation priority.
2) That excavation of sites in immediate danger be carried out.
3) That the most important sites be preserved by either
   excavation and/or reconstruction.
4) That new techniques in Ironman Archaeology be tested on
   sites endangered but not important to the prehistoric record.
5) That commemorative markers be placed at the locations of
   important, destroyed archaeological resources in Toronto.
6) That an extension of the site survey be carried on to include
   the Metro Planning Area and the MTRCA in 1972.

We, the students involved in Preserving the Toronto Area
Archaeological Resources, feel that we have taken the initiative
in a critical area at a critical time. But this in only the
beginning. The entire Planning Area, included in the
archaeological site complex of this part of Ontario, must be
surveyed for sites in 1972. The valuable archaeological
resources must be preserved for the educational and recreational
demands of both contemporary and future Torontonians.

Thank you, Victor. And thank you, Conrad for your introductory
remarks.

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Our past-president, Dr. J. V. Wright, sent the following message—which should have appeared in January's ARCH NOTES. We apologize for the delay.

We welcome our new treasurer, Miss Martha Warnes, to her new duties. Our thanks go out to Lorna Proctor, who filled the job for eight years and had to resign to go in to hospital for six weeks. Lorna wishes to thank all the O. A. S. for the gorgeous bouquet of flowers sent to her in hospital. She wishes every success to the new treasurer.

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And, our confreres from Ottawa have been at it again! Clyde Kennedy sends the following report.

OTTAWA CHAPTER
THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Friday, January 21, 1972, 8:00 pm
-annual dinner meeting, Town & Country Restaurant.
-James F. Pendergast gave an informal report on Recent Research on Hochelaga

Friday, February 18, 1972, 8:00 pm

-monthly meeting, conference room of the Archaeological Survey of Canada at Bells Corners.
-Gordon D. Watson to speak on A Woodland Indian Site at Constance Bay, Ontario.

Other Programs
- discussion and planning of the Ottawa Chapter's archaeological survey of Ottawa and lands immediate adjacent should probably be held Friday evening, March 17 at 8:00 pm in the conference room of the Archaeological Survey of Canada at Bells Corners.

Keep up the good work, Ottawa!

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