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ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

No. 72-2

February 1972

EXECUTIVE

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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 _____	Family (Husband & Wife) \$8.00 _____
Ph# _____	Institutional \$5.00 _____
Signature _____	Date _____

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 Inglis, Graduate Student in the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. His topic will be "Current Archaeology in the Prince Rupert Area".

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We now present - for your information and enjoyment - an abstract of the talk given by Prof. K. 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-Petun 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.

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And, for more information and enjoyment
"The Archaeological Resources of Metropolitan Toronto: Inventory
and Prospect" by Victor Konrad, with an introduction by
Dr. C. E. Heidenreich (at the General Meeting of January 19, 1972)

My introduction is addressed to the topic of the talk be-
cause 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 be-
come 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 en-
croachment 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 pro-
tection 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 pro-
posal 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 com-
pleted a comprehensive survey of the archaeological resources
of Metropolitan Toronto; we published a report; we generated
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. Barber, MTRCA; Dr. Pound, 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. S.; Drs. Wasson 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 archageological 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 Iroquoian 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.

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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