



ARCH NOTES

Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

P.O. Box 241, Postal Station "P", Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2S8.

March/April, 1974

74-3

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The upcoming meeting of the OAS will feature Mr. Chas. Garrad with a slide illustrated talk to which he has given the title "Peter Clarke's Book [a thinly disguised excuse for a dissertation on the Petuns, according to Chas.]. The Editor determined that the book in question was entitled "Origin and Traditional History of the Wyandotts...", by Peter Dooyentate Clarke, published in 1870 by the Hunter, Rose Co., of Toronto. Using this source as a "jumping off" point, Charles will give a sketch look at developments in the history and archaeology of the Petun.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 1974, in Rm. 561A, 100 St. George St., Toronto, at 8:00 p.m.

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ARCH NOTES is published 7-10 times a year by the Ontario Archaeological Society. Editor and Chairman, ARCH NOTES Committee, James Burns. Please address all enquiries and short research articles to the Editor, c/o post box above. ^{o*}o

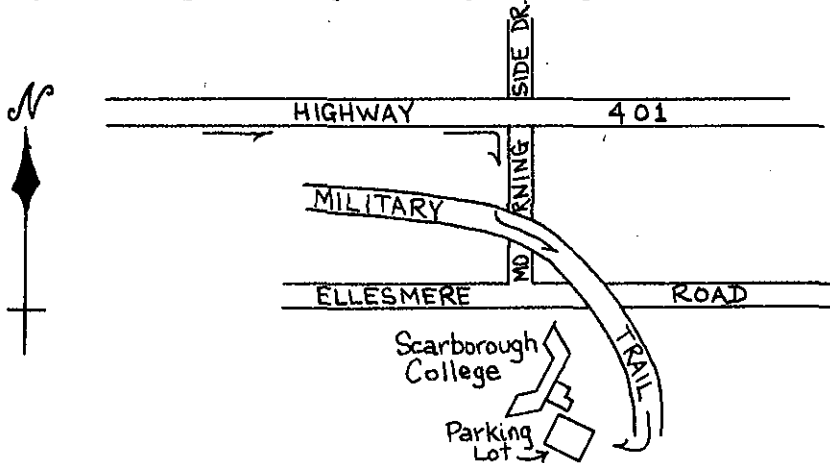
ANNOUNCING

PRELIMINARY COURSE IN LABORATORY ANALYSIS

This course will be offered one Saturday of every month from April to September, 1974 (April 6; May 4; June 1; July 6; August 10; September 7). It will run from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. and will be held in Room R-2509, Scarborough College, University of Toronto (see map below).

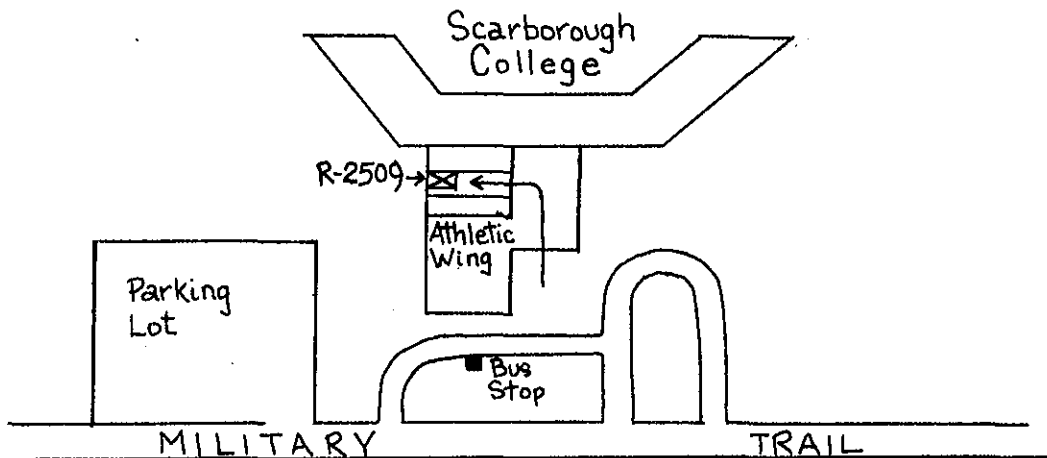
The course will cover washing, cataloguing, sorting, indexing, and informal discussions concerning various aspects of archaeological analysis. It will be a chance to see some of the material the OAS has excavated in the past few years. Material from the Beeton and Draper sites, as well as other smaller collections, will be studied. The course is open to all OAS members; it is not necessary to have taken the Ceramic Analysis Course presented last spring. NOTE: bring your lunch. If you forget, the cafeteria at Scarborough College will probably be open.

BY CAR:



BY T.T.C.: Yonge Subway north to York Mills Station. Take the York Mills bus to Scarborough College. The bus stops right at the College and the ride takes a good hour (bring along a book to read!).

AT THE COLLEGE: Using the map below, which is absolutely NOT to scale, you will find your way to Room R-2509; it is in the Athletic Wing.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE - Chas. Garrad.

CHAY !

Last issue we headed our page with the west-coast greeting KLA-HOW-YA and expected that someone would surely question this in the light of our Ontario Algonkian/Iroquois languages. Nobody did.

Mr. Don MacLeod is to be congratulated on his election to the post of Vice/president at the February meeting, and Mrs. Marti Latta is to be thanked for providing the membership with a close choice and a reminder that the Executive Committee represents the will and interests of the membership. Both Don and Marti contribute much and the Society benefits by their continuing enthusiasm.

Our 1974 organisation is now operating smoothly. A number of plans and programmes are being considered. Already announced is the first-Saturday-each-month ongoing artifact familiarisation course.

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY 21 has arrived from the printers and distribution arrangements are in hand. Authors Peter Storck and David Stothers have justified the support our publication receives from agencies of both Provincial and Federal Governments, which it is a pleasure to acknowledge.

On behalf of our Ottawa Branch/Chapter, Chapter President Gord Watson has forwarded an encouraging status report and list of 1974 officers. It is good to see a membership of some 35, active and well-organised. Congratulations are in order for all concerned. Victor Konrad spoke to this Branch at the March meeting and conveyed the esteem of the other O.A.S. members.

Our Windsor Branch, which suffered the pains of pioneering the Branch status, is presently being reorganised. Meanwhile, active area members are full members of the parent body.

The O.A.S. was well represented at the recent C.A.A. Whitehorse Convention, and all survived without frostbite. John Reid's report to our members was given at our March meeting.

Our Society was founded in 1950, so we have an anniversary coming up next year, our twenty-fifth. Some advance planning by your present Executive Committee would seem appropriate. But what are your views as to most appropriately mark 1975? Let your opinion be heard.

ONNEN SAGUE !

Ouracha.

President's Groaner: Did you hear about the anthropologist who couldn't pay his excorcist's fee - and was re-possessed ?

C.G.

WHITEHORSE ECONOMY ISSUE

The March issue of ARCH NOTES is somewhat late and for this the Editor is the culprit. Basking in the snow white freshness of Whitehorse and Calgary, he left the worries of ARCH NOTES behind. As a result, the current issue is a combined effort for both March and April, Vol.74-3. An effort was made to reach all the nearest members with a flyer which gave information on the place, time, and topic of the March meeting. The Editor is sincerely sorry if anyone missed the meeting for lack of warning. See footnote, p.8.

OAS MAILING LIST

Have you wondered how ARCH NOTES and ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY reach you? or how those address labels get typed? They are typed by volunteers each time they are needed, due to the constant changes in membership details. The entire membership list takes about 4 hours to type onto labels and this is done about once a month. If you will volunteer to type up labels one month, please contact the Editor, Jim Burns. Your ARCH NOTES Committee has worked out the postal codes for Toronto area members but we do not have out-of-town code directories. If you wish to advise us of your postal code, you can do so without cost by using special free cards from the Post Office. Mail to OAS, Box 241, Station P, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2S8.

PICKERING AIRPORT SALVAGE PROJECT

At the March meeting, Mr. Victor Konrad advised that the Society had now abandoned plans for salvage archaeology at Pickering in 1974, and that the persons who have applied for employment are being advised by mail directly by Dr. Wm. C. Noble, the Director.

We are sorry to see this project fall through as members of the 1973 and 1974 Executive and the Salvage Committees put much time and effort into compiling proposals designed to meet the needs of the Ministry of Transport, the Archaeological Survey of Canada, and the OAS.

FOND FAREWELL

The Editor would like to take this opportunity to express a wish for happiness and success to Marion Press, our Corresponding Secretary for several years until she stepped down at the end of last year. She and her husband are leaving Canada for an extended tour abroad. Marion's assistance as co-editor of ARCH NOTES is also gratefully acknowledged. BON VOYAGE!

OTTAWA CHAPTER NEWS * Excerpted from ARCHAIC NOTES, under the Editorship of Gordon Watson.

The January, 1974 meeting of the Chapter was held in the form of a dinner at the Gordon Watsons' home, attended by a number of people including the then-President of the Society, Dr. Howard Savage who passed on notes of interest from the parent body. The highlight of the evening was a talk by James Pendergast, Deputy Director of the National Museum of Man. To quote Mr. Watson: "He read a paper analyzing early historic period references to maple syrup and examining the evidence that maple syrup and maple sugar industries were of prehistoric origin, and were known to native populations before the white man's arrival". He suggested a more critical search for such evidence in future excavations of late pre-contact sites.

The February meeting featured a talk by Mr. Clyde Kennedy entitled "A Woodland Site Near Arnprior, Ontario". The site represents an occupation by Initial (Middle) Woodland Indians. The March 1st issue of ARCHAIC NOTES gives a more detailed description of the site along with a short discussion of some of the artifacts that were recovered. Mr. Kennedy, who is the Archaeologist for the Ottawa Valley Historical Society, included the services of several OAS members on the excavation crew.

On March 13th, the meeting featured Mr. V.A. Konrad who gave an illustrated talk on the topic of the Pickering Salvage Project, entitled "Airport, New Town, and Archaeology: Toward Prehistorical Resource Appreciation in the Metropolitan Toronto Area". It included discussion of the excavation and analytical work carried out by Marti Latta, Peter Ramsden, Brian Hayden, and Patsy Cook.

* * * * *

BACK ISSUES * For those members wishing to read up on back issues of ARCHAIC NOTES, the newsletter of the Ottawa Chapter, you may be interested to know that we will try to arrange for a set to be made available through our Society Library which, incidentally, is under the able care of Mrs. Betsy Gummow, whose OFFICIAL address is P.O. Box 241, Station P, Toronto, Ontario. M5S 2S8.

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GROANER (?) : an irregular contribution to Arch-Notes

Had you heard about the shorter than average archaeologist who was so fanatic in his objection to the use of the metric system that all his friends called him a "five-foot-square" ?

McMaster's WHIDDEN LECTURE SERIES * 1974

Report by Tim Kenyon

This year the speaker for the Whidden Lectures at McMaster University, Hamilton was Richard Stckton MacNeish. Three lectures on three consecutive nights (January 15-17) were given, under the title "The Science of Archaeology?". In his first lecture, Dr. MacNeish outlined the theories of American archaeologists. Illustrated with pictorial and graphic slides, the following two lectures dealt with Dr. MacNeish's involvement in the origins of agriculture and settled life in Mexico and Peru. In the third lecture he was introduced as "Scotty" MacNeish by Chairman, Dr. Wm. Noble, who also revealed that amongst the many honours bestowed upon Dr. MacNeish was the most surprising "Golden Gloves Boxing Championship, Binghampton, New York, 1938".

The Lectures were well attended with a near capacity audience (1400) on Tuesday and Wednesday; on Thursday night, inclement weather reduced the attendance to about 850.

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CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION Meeting, Whitehorse, Y.T.

Report by John Reid, OAS Rep.

The 7th Annual Meeting of the C.A.A. was held in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, from March 7-10, 1974, attended by about 100 persons. The symposia offered about 40 papers of wide scope from Labrador to the west coast. Several OAS members gave papers in archaeology and physical anthropology; Dr. Emerson's paper on psychic archaeology was again well received, being a resume of the psychometric analyses of his west coast argillite carving.

An election was held in which the following were chosen:

President: Roscoe Wilmeth	Sec.-Treas.: Jim Shaeffer
Vice-Pres.: Chris Turnbull	Bulletin Editor: Bill Finlayson
Pres.-Elect: J.N. Emerson	(appointed)

The next meeting will be held in Thunder Bay, Ontario, under the auspices of Lakehead University and Prof. Ken Dawson. It is expected that its central location will encourage a large turnout of OAS members.

The C.A.A. Bulletin #5 should be in the hands of 1973 members by now. The several articles are interesting and the current research section informative. Membership for 1974 (including subscription to the Bulletin) is \$3.00, due April 1st. Send to Dr. J.B. Shaeffer, Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8.

February's Meeting

The February meeting saw one of the best turnouts ever for an evening's gathering. Business aside, the no-standing-room audience was treated to an interesting talk and discussion of parapsychology and psychometry. Our President, Charles Garrad, introduced Mrs. Sheila Conway, of the Metaphysics Speakers' Bureau, who spent about thirty minutes filling in for us some of the background which pertains to the rapidly expanding field of advanced perceptive abilities, and to some of the training programmes which teach people a greater awareness of their surroundings. One of the keys to such extrasensory capacities is the ability to capture "first impressions" - a very difficult task; too often we have skipped on to the second and third impressions by which time the first is fading. For nearly an hour after the closing of her talk, Mrs. Conway entertained questions from the audience which touched on many things, including some of the latest developments in parapsychological testing and measurement.

Perhaps the climax of the meeting featured Mrs. Conway performing psychometric analysis on a medal which currently belongs to Mr. Jay Blair, our recently elected Honorary Member from Stayner, Ontario. Jay found the medal on a Petun site near Collingwood back in 1932. He believes the medal belonged formerly to Father Charles Garnier, S.J., who was martyred by the Iroquois in 1649, and was later canonized. Mrs. Conway clutched the medal and went into what appeared like a semi-trance. She stated that she felt she was running, clothed in a fringed deerskin tunic and leggings; ashes were also present in or on the soil. Burning sensations followed as she felt the medal ripped off her neck. And for relief, lest we think that she really left us, she was interrupted by the vision of Bert Reynolds' hairy chest - which she explained was due to a parley on the subject somewhere in her spirit world. Mr. Garrad said that what she had related - and she remembered not a word - fitted well to the scene of the village of Etharita being put to the torch by the marauding southern Iroquois on 7 December, 1649 - and Father Garnier's subsequent death in the ruins.

Dr. Emerson - with what amounted to a mini-speech- explained something of his involvement in psychic archaeology with people like Mrs. Conway (who is his favourite female psychometrist). He thanked her for spending this time with us and asked Charles to present her with a token of our appreciation; whereupon, he gave her a beautiful Eskimo carving on behalf of the Society. Mrs. Conway was pleased, and later assured us that it was genuinely Eskimo and that it was produced by a man who had but four digits on one hand!

jb

Last Month's Meeting

The March Meeting, featuring Mr. Gary Crawford, included a slide-illustrated talk on the OAS salvage operations at the site of Cherry Hill in Mississauga, Ontario. The original inhabitants, Joseph and Jane Silverthorn and their 14 progeny lived in the house for many years; the first house was built in 1807. Through the years, other buildings and additions were completed

(continued...)

Last Month's Meeting (continued)

which, according to sketch map of 1877, was a beautiful homestead, basing its income on many things but particularly on farming activities. The last Silverthorns abandoned the property in the early years of the 20th century but other persons occupied it right up till 1972, thus rationalizing the tremendous deposits of refuse around the house.

The salvage operations were made necessary by the impending destruction of the land and of the house to make way for the construction of high-rise apartments and a highway cloverleaf. The initial plans included a search for evidence of Mississauga Indian encampments which historical sources report to have existed literally "in the back yard". However, it is fairly certain that these campsites were churned up during the work on the apartments and that a beautiful concrete and asphalt parking lot overlies them.

Artifacts recovered echoed the later days of pioneer settlement in the area and reached well into the 20th century. The archaeological record was occasionally shown to relate to the historical as in the case of several dishes which featured a particularly distinctive pattern; a bill is extant which records the purchase of that set of dishes in 1858. Even the bones of discarded dinners showed some interesting patterns. For instance, the butchering methods indicate that some slaughtering and purveying was done right on the Silverthorn farm, by the unusual way the cuts were made. Deer, rabbit, and several wild bird species turned up, as well. Some of the bird specimens may relate to a subspecies of Canada Goose which is both rare and out of range in south-central Ontario.

Destruction of such non-renewable resources as our historic and prehistoric heritage is at least a crime against society but so-called "progress" appears inexorable. The bulldozers have done a fine job of kicking over the traces at the original site of Cherry Hill; the upper two storeys of the main house have been salvaged, however, and have been moved a short distance away - by the grace of the apartment developers. Unfortunately, it will be a restaurant-museum situation which will with great difficulty preserve the atmosphere of the past. On another score, the bulldozers have been aided by vandals. It might be one thing to dig and remove artifacts from their context; it is quite another to behold the crumbled walls of the smoke house a week after you had excavated it.

So, a short historical sketch of a house from the pioneer days in Ontario draws to a close. Further support for the project is being sought, in order that work may carry on in the coming summer months. The work obviously entails historical and archival research of a magnitude equal to the archaeological, both of which, properly done, take a great deal of time, and there is still much to do. Thank you Gary for telling us about this landmark of Ontario history. jb

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For future reference, it may be noted that our monthly general meetings are held on the THIRD Wednesday of every month. If the announcement of a meeting does not reach you early, you can at least deduce the date of it. (ed.)

RESEARCH NOTE

AN EXPERIMENT IN GROUND STONE TOOL MANUFACTURE

by David Arthurs

Though not as popular a material as chert, slate was often employed in the production of a number of types of artifacts in prehistoric Ontario, notably during the Archaic period. The manufacture of such tools as lanceolate slate projectile points or ceremonial objects such as birdstones required a knowledge of specific lithic properties and techniques of stone working which differed considerably from those employed in the flaking of chert and other materials. In an attempt to better understand the methods by which these and other such artifacts were fashioned by aboriginal craftsmen, an attempt was made to duplicate one of the simpler ground stone forms, the semi-lunar knife or ulu, a multi-purpose cutting tool. Ulu have a wide distribution across the Great Lakes area (see Wright, 1962), and survive as the metal knives of the present day Canadian Eskimo.

A thin rectangular piece of grey slate was selected as the material from which the experimental ulu would be fashioned. With a soft pebble, the characteristic crescentic shape of the ulu was scratched on its surface, as a guide for the subsequent work. The slab was then roughly flaked into shape with a small hammerstone. Slate has a tendency to produce rather irregular flakes, and light to moderate finger pressure was found to be necessary along the working edge in order to control the size and thickness of the flakes removed during this process.

The second step involved the grinding of the rough-out on both faces to remove flake scars and other imperfections. A basalt abraded with a flat grinding surface was used, and a circular rather than a straight back and forth grinding motion was employed. This offered more sensitive control and prevented the pores in the abrading stone from filling up with dust quite as quickly. It was found that dampening the stone with a little water increased the abrasive action by causing the slate dust to form a clay paste. The grinding process was continued until the surfaces were relatively smooth and flat. Some of the deeper flake scars were not removed, lest the stone be ground too thin and thus weakened. The back of the blade, which was left thicker than the rest to increase the strength of the tool, was flattened by rubbing the abraded back and forth along the edge. The crescentic working edge was then ground in the same manner to produce a blunt-edged smoothly curving surface free of the nicks and cracks resulting from the initial flaking of the piece.

Finally, an edge was put on the tool by bevelling each face along the crescent curve. Experimentation with various methods showed that the most satisfactory was to hold the artifact in one hand and rub it against the abraded with a slight rotary motion to obtain the correct bevel. It was found that an angle of 20° was best for the production of a strong sharp edge. If the angle

(continued...)

GROUND SLATE TOOL MANUFACTURE (continued)

was less than this, the edge chipped away along the natural planes of weakness within the slate; if greater, the edge remained blunted. It was also noted that the thinner (2mm.) end of the ulu would not take an edge as well as the thicker (4mm.) end, where an angle of 20° could be more readily produced over the larger angular surface. There would seem to be a functional relationship between thickness of the stone used and the angle of bevel which determines the strength and sharpness of the blade edge produced.

The finished knife was not particularly sharp - it would score paper and shave soft wood, (its primary archaeological use was probably as it is among the Eskimo, for skinning and butchery, which were not attempted for lack of resources), but quickly dulled and frequently chipped at the thinner end. When this occurred, the blade edge was blunted with the abrader, and a new bevel of 20° ground on it. With repeated use and resharpening, the blade-to-back distance would decrease, resulting in the eventual breakage of the tool, or the inability to grind a sharp edge on the thickened part of the blade closer to the back. Perhaps the working edge could be heat treated to retain its edge longer, but this has yet to be attempted.

The production of a ground slate implement is a multi-step process, requiring an understanding of the properties and peculiarities of the material. This initial experiment took some six hours to complete, but once the basic techniques had been established, and the response of the material to knapping and grinding realized and brought under control, the process was accelerated, and it is expected that the time of manufacture could, with practice, be cut in half. Though the finished tool was not as sharp as was expected, in terms of acquiring an appreciation of the ways in which ground slate implements may have been produced in the past, and the problems encountered during the process of manufacture, the experiment proved relatively successful.

Reference

Wright, J.V.
1962 A Distributional Study of Some Archaic Traits in
 Southern Ontario. National Museums of Canada,
 Bulletin 180, pp. 124-141.

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Mr. Arthurs' article is welcome and much appreciated. A previous contribution to ARCH NOTES (Vol.72, No.10, Dec. 1972) by him concerning a shell tool used in pottery decoration was read with interest by the Editor of the Pennsylvania Archaeologist, Mr. P. Schuyler Miller. The latter then solicited an expanded version of the article for inclusion in the P.A. Subsequently, the paper appeared in the April, 1973 issue (Vol.43, No.1). It was entitled "The Freshwater Bivalve: A Versatile Pottery Decorating Tool". Congratulations, David.