



ARCH NOTES

Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

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

January, 1975

75-1

This Month's Meeting

All members are cordially invited to the first meeting of the 25th year of the O.A.S. The Speaker for the evening will be Dr. J. Norman Emerson and his talk will be entitled "A Forward Look at the Past". Dr. Emerson will review the first 24 years of the O.A.S. and probably forecast the future of the Society.

This should prove an interesting and very informative evening for all, with a touch of nostalgia for members of long standing.

To demonstrate that we are the most active archaeological society in Canada, the largest possible turnout for this first meeting of our anniversary year is desirable. If you know of any members who have not attended recent meetings, please try and bring them along with you.

The meeting commences at 8.0 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 1975, in Room 572, Sidney Smith Hall, University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street, Toronto.

Let's bring in our 25th year with a memorable meeting!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The O.A.S. Executive would like to wish all members a Happy New Year. At the same time we should remind you that 1975 subscriptions are now due. Please use the enclosed loose form, making remittances payable to "The Ontario Archaeological Society" at the above address. Please mark envelopes "Membership". No other reminders will be issued.

1975 O.A.S. EXECUTIVE

At the last general meeting, on November 20, 1974, the following slate of those who had accepted nominations for the 1975 Executive was presented to the membership:

President	--	Peter Storck
Vice President	--	Patsy Cook
Treasurer	--	Betsy Gummow
Recording Secretary	--	Margaret-Ann Clark
Corresponding Secretary	--	Sharon Hick

At this meeting the first call for further nominations was made, but there was no response. At that time no mail-in nominations had been received. At the Christmas Banquet of December 6, 1974 the second call for nominations was made without response. The bulletin of late November, 1974, similarly drew no response.

As advised, nominations have now been closed and confirmation of the above slate, by acclamation, will be made at the first business meeting in 1975 (January 15).

The Executive contains a sixth position - that of Past President - which is automatically filled without election.

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O.A.S. ANNUAL BANQUET

The O.A.S. annual banquet, held on December 6, 1974 at the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto, was attended by 49 members of the Society.

The retiring President of the O.A.S., Charles Garrad, proposed toasts to the Queen and to the Society, and introduced the speaker for the evening: William Russell of the Ministry of Natural Resources. (An abstract of William Russell's talk should appear in a later edition of Arch Notes.)

Thanks to the speaker were proposed and comments were made by J. Norman Emerson, and a last call for nominations for the 1975 Executive was voiced.

It was altogether an enjoyable and successful evening, complete with the renewal of old acquaintances and the making of new.

Extracts from the retiring President's speech at the banquet appear on page 4.

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Extracts from the President's speech at the O.A.S. Banquet on December 6th, 1974.

"Early this year, in my first President's Page in Arch Notes, the membership was promised that the 1974 Executive would work for a continuation of the growth and vigour inherited from its predecessors. Looking back over the year, I think we can say we have kept that promise.

"My first and most pleasant duty after taking office was to present honorary life memberships to Dr. Howard Savage and Mr. J. Allan Blair.

"Then, for a while, it was one thing after another. First we lost Marion Press, and later Jim Burns, both of whom contributed much to the Society and to the Executive, and are greatly missed. However, when I called for volunteers, the call was answered, and I have to thank those who came forward to help at that time, among them Mike Kirby. Arch Notes came out on time throughout the year and was consistently excellent, thanks firstly to Jim Burns and later to Mike Kirby.

"Ontario Archaeology should be back on schedule shortly. Early in the year we mailed out Ontario Archaeology 21 to the 1973 membership, then Ontario Archaeology 22 to the 1974 membership, and if all goes well, we shall be including Ontario Archaeology 23 to the 1974 membership with the January 1975 Arch Notes. This will bring us up to date, for the first time I believe in some while, with our commitment of two issues of Ontario Archaeology per year to the membership.

"Throughout the year we have had consistently excellent speakers at the monthly meetings, and of course our Symposium was the highlight, for which we must thank Mima Kapches.

"Our excavation programme this year was extensive and extended, more so than in recent years, especially as far as the out-of-town members were concerned.

"Our education programme, perhaps not as extensive as we might have wished, was faithfully attended by a regular group of members.

"Of the Chapters, Ottawa flourishes, but Windsor seems to have died on the vine and I can only recommend that it be wound up.

"Financially, the Society will end this year on a sound base, and the small increase in dues set for 1975 will further ensure security and perhaps the opportunity to branch off into new ventures which the Society has hitherto not been able to afford.

"Looking forward into 1975 as an extension of our 1974 experience, I can see matters possibly arising in the areas of education, legislation and constitutional reform, but there will certainly be further growth and achievement for the Society. So, to those who will run the O.A.S. in 1975, we pass a stronger, more secure, and larger Society than ever before. To all those who contributed to this happy achievement, inside the Executive and out, in the Chapters, the volunteers and the general membership, I give my heartfelt thanks."

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF THE SEVENTIES

by Dr. Howard Savage

The twenty-four year history of the Ontario Archaeological Society contains many significant events. The first step forward was its inception in January 1951 at a meeting in a private residence of 16 persons interested in archaeology under the chairmanship of Professor Norman Emerson. With the exception of the summer field seasons, monthly meetings have been held without interruption ever since. The Society was incorporated in December 1956, and was committed in its Letters Patent "to preserve, promote, investigate, record and publish an archaeological record of the Province of Ontario".

The archaeological sites which it has excavated, or assisted actively in excavating, during the first twenty years of its existence number in the neighbourhood of forty-nine. Information about many of these excavations has been published in the Society's monthly newsletter "Arch Notes", and in "Ontario Archaeology", the Society's journal which is published once or twice a year. Financial assistance in its publication programme was first given in 1962 by the Department of Tourism and Information of Ontario (later re-named the Department of Public Records and Archives, and then the Ministry of Colleges and Universities). This support has been gratefully received in annual grants ever since.

During the past five years, an ever-increasing number of events important to the Society have occurred. The election for the second time of Professor Emerson to the presidency of the Society in January 1970 was followed by excavations at the MacLeod and De Waele sites. Standing room only in the Archaeology Lab, Sidney Smith Hall of the University of Toronto, was to be found at some of the fall meetings of that year.

During 1971, in the presidency of Dr. J.V. Wright, the formation of the Ottawa Chapter of the O.A.S. was planned, and monthly meetings were begun in June 1971. The first grant to the Society by the Humanities and Social Sciences Division of the Canada Council was made in December, and aided in the recognition of the O.A.S. as a learned society. The transfer of the editorship of "Ontario Archaeology" from Dr. Conrad Heidenreich after four years of brilliant and dedicated editorial endeavour to Dr. William Hurley was made in this year.

During 1972, when the undersigned became your president for two years, the availability of salvage excavation funds from the Archaeological Survey of Canada of the National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, made possible a major excavation project at the MacLeod, Boys and Draper sites over a twelve week period. Increasing concern with the number of archaeological sites which had been or were being destroyed by the creation of subdivisions, road construction and systematic "potting", and the ineffectiveness of the protection given to sites by legislation at that time, prompted the preparation, at the request of the Department of Public Records and Archives in Ontario, of a brief, "Legislation for the Protection of Archaeological Resources in Ontario: Proposed Guidelines", under the chairmanship of Mr. Frank Mee. This brief was presented to the above department in June 1972. The participation of the Society in the American Anthropological Association's meeting in Toronto in November, by means of a booth exhibit of the Society's publications, served to make the activities of the Society known to many attending that meeting.

(more)

Early in 1973, our Society offered a certificate laboratory course in native Ontario peoples' ceramics, given by Mr. Peter Ramsden; its completion by 30 members was gratifying to the Society. In April 1973, the registration of the O.A.S. by the Department of National Revenue, Taxation, as a Canadian charitable organization gave further recognition to our aims and endeavours. The sponsorship by the Society of further salvage excavations at the Draper and White sites, supported by National Museums of Canada funds, was followed by a successful and productive field season. In addition, excavation by members of the Society of the Risebrough Site in north-western Toronto was funded by the Metro Toronto Parks Department. Exploration by the Society of the Cherry Hill Site as a pioneer and early settler archaeological site was supported by the Corporation of the County of Peel, the Royal Ontario Museum, and private donations. Transfer of much of the material excavated by the Society since its inception to storage facilities in Scarborough College was accomplished and was to be under the care of our Curatrix of Artifacts, Mrs. Marti Latta.

In 1974, during the presidency of Mr. Charles Garrad, monthly laboratory sessions of washing, examination and cataloguing of ceramic, bone and lithic finds from earlier O.A.S. excavations were initiated, and proved to be informative and of interest to many members. During August and September, week-long excavations were held at the Petun Kelly-Campbell Site, with the active support of Imperial Tobacco Products Ltd. and many O.A.S. members. The O.A.S. Symposium on "Ontario Iroquois Prehistory" in October attracted a full rostrum of speakers, and filled the Planetarium Lecture Theatre to capacity with an audience from across Ontario, as well as from New York State and Ohio. Very favourable comments and the demonstrated need for a forum for papers on Ontario Archaeology have strongly suggested its being staged again in the fall of 1975.

The healthy and vigorous state of the Ontario Archaeological Society as it enters its 25th year of activity can be attributed, I believe, to a fortunate combination of several factors. The knowledgeable enthusiasm of its members, the willingness of members to donate their time and substance to excavation and laboratory sessions and particularly as members of the Executive Committee, their organizing and office skills, have made the Society's growth and present position possible.

Moreover, the presence of a knowledgeable organization which will encourage people interested in archaeology to take an active part under instruction in field and laboratory sessions and in assistance in publication fills a need not likely to be met by other organizations. Finally, in these days of increasingly sophisticated laboratory examination of excavated material, e.g. soil, faunal, pollen, seed and lithic analysis, the expertise of many other fields of knowledge is necessary for the interpretation of the contents of a site. In all these activities, people in all stages of archaeological knowledge have a vital and essential role to play.

To members of the Ontario Archaeological Society in its twenty-fifth year, I salute you!

Howard Savage

Past President,
Ontario Archaeological Society

(STOP PRESS: see page 8)

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Notes on Dr. David Newlands' lecture to the O.A.S.
November 20, 1974.

Dr. Newlands of the Royal Ontario Museum talked to members of the O.A.S. about his approach to historical archaeology, with special reference to his excavations at the Egmondville Pottery Site.

Since historical archaeology deals with the immediate past, it relies heavily on documents for much of its basic data, as well as on people, still living, who can recall details from an early age. Extensive research in back numbers of local newspapers, land titles records, maps, census and fire insurance records have to be undertaken in order to build up as complete a body of information as possible on a particular site.

If there are still gaps left in the knowledge about the site, once all the available information has been studied, and after all the research results have been correlated, then the time has come to consider excavation.

Since the objective of any such excavation is specific, detailed records need to be kept, requiring meticulous attention to digging and recording techniques. Dr. Newlands usually lays out a four metre grid (although at Egmondville he used two-metre squares), and digs a probe trench to establish and number the strata. Each square is taken down by the removal of narrow layers, and photographs are taken at each stage in order to record accurately the patterns of features, structures, baulks, and so on. Also, very careful measurements are taken, and drawings made, of each stone and artifact. By using this method anomalies show up more clearly. Considerable importance attaches to structures and their relation to each stratum of the excavation.

Although few potteries in Canada, and fewer in America, have been excavated, careful records have allowed some comparative work to be done.

Generally speaking, the Ontario earthenware potteries were immigrant industries with very varied origins, mainly English, German and American. Such origins distinguish both the design of the kilns and the style of the earthenware.

From about 1830 onwards, these country potteries developed in areas of growing population. Communities at this time were almost self-sufficient, and this was reflected in the potteries, which were situated close to local clay, water and fuel supplies, and sold their wares to a local market. By 1880 there were 400 potters known to be working in 60 potteries.

In the 1890s the potteries were forced into a decline by the growing affluence of the population. Former customers now had more money and increased access to the more sophisticated products being imported into the area.

From statistics of kiln building and use, Dr. Newlands deduced that these country potteries, although filling an important place in the local economy, were in fact rather inefficient in their production methods.

EDITOR'S NOTE

With this edition of Arch Notes, the first for 1975, is included your membership application form, Ontario Archaeology No. 23, and the E.S.A.F. Bulletin No. 33.

If we're lucky maybe the postal service won't take the usual two or three or four weeks to deliver our first class mail, and you'll receive this well before the January general meeting. But as the postal service seems to be getting progressively less efficient, please keep in mind that the monthly general meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month and, hopefully, you don't need Arch Notes to remind you of this.

At the January meeting it's possible we may hear of a new (and rather more comfortable) venue for our monthly meetings, not too far away from Sidney Smith. If you're not at the meeting (and we'd really like you there), the new location should be in February's Arch Notes.

We are still looking for regular contributors to Arch Notes, so if you want to say anything to the archaeological world in Canada, please send it to us. (A look at the membership list will show quite an interesting readership.) Even a regular archaeological crossword would be a help. Or a regular cartoon. Or a regular book review ... the choice is wide. Perhaps the professional archaeologists could submit a few reports - publication anywhere is a help to the profession - especially if you normally wait for years for the right opportunity. (The Scottish group of the Council for British Archaeology has started to publish a list, with some very distinguished names on it, of people known to have excavated or conducted a major field work in Scotland recently but who have contributed no record!)

Mike Kirby

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STOP PRESS

Welcome news in January 1975 was word of the first reading in the Ontario Legislative Assembly of Bill 176, "An Act to Provide for the Conservation, Protection and Preservation of the Heritage of Ontario" (also known as "The Ontario Heritage Act 1974") on December 12th, 1974. This Act includes many of the features of the brief of the Legislative Committee of the O.A.S. prepared in 1972. A careful perusal of this Act should be interesting to most O.A.S. members.

Howard Savage

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ARCH NOTES is published 7 - 10 times a year by the Ontario Archaeological Society. All enquiries and contributions should be addressed to the Chairman, Arch Notes Committee, c/o 2 Minorca Place, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 2Z6. Please note that Arch Notes was not published in December, 1974. The full volume for 1974 was therefore complete with issue 74-7, November.

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