

# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

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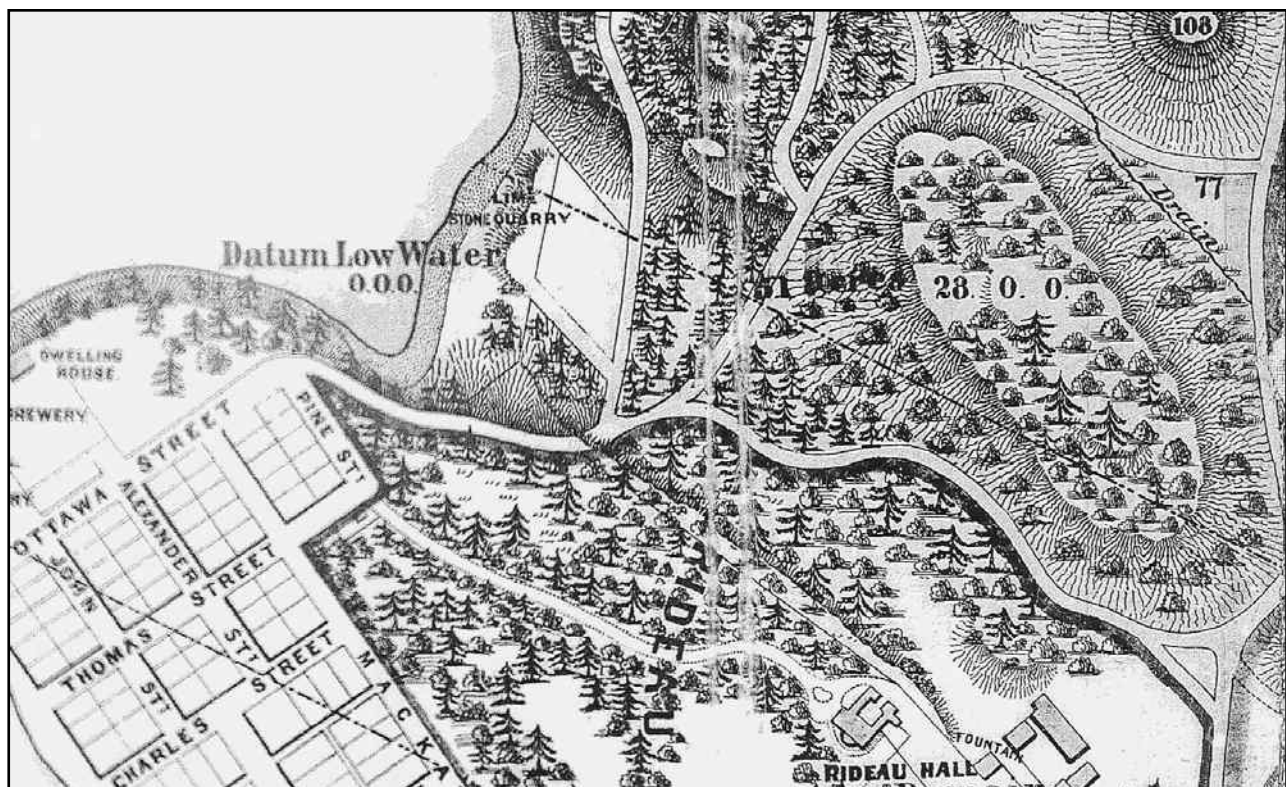


Figure 7 A section from the 1864 Mackay Estate map [National Archives of Canada NMC-17613] showing a trapezoidal area labelled as "Lime Stone Quarry" at the same area as the low area apparently used as a garbage dump in the late 19th/early 20th centuries behind the beach in Governor Bay and currently mined for artifacts by looters. Story starts on page 7.

## OAS News

3 President's message

4 2007 ABM Minutes

19 Symposium Call For Papers

## Articles

7 Getting over the falls: The archaeological heritage of Rockcliffe Park, by Jean-Luc Pilon

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# Ontario Archaeological Society

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### Symposium 2008 Toronto

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### Board Meetings for 2008

January 12  
April 5  
July 5  
October 4

# President's message

## **Jean-Luc Pilon President, OAS**

At the Annual Business Meeting held during the OAS Symposium in Kingston last November, I alluded to the need for the board to review the way the OAS does business. Memberships in the OAS are declining and consequently so are revenues. But let me allay fears about our solvency. WE'RE OKAY. At least for the moment.

If we were to continue in the way that we have, then we might reach a critical point sooner rather than later where we might have to begin using funds that had been set aside for just such an eventuality. So, if you know of someone who is putting off renewing or joining the OAS, encourage them to do so sooner rather than later.

Many people have been members of the OAS for literally decades. They have expectations from the OAS and the OAS owes them certain services. At the same time, there is a new generation of members that is as committed to the ideals of the OAS, but that has markedly different expectations and outlooks. And then, there are financial considerations which won't go away.

So how do we balance these sometimes competing interests? Well, serious and considered thought for one. Taking actions that were required for some time, for another. And throughout this continuing process, there are monkeys on our backs; worries that some decisions might not be the best. At all times, be assured, our

immediate and long-term concerns are for the OAS.

## **Where have all the monographs gone?**

Have you read a good monograph on an Ontario archaeological site lately? Yes monographs: extensive descriptions, analyses and discussions usually centered on a single archaeological excavation. In the 70s and 80s several monograph series appeared during those heady days when new horizons were being defined in the practice of archaeology across Canada and in Ontario.

Think of the ASC's Mercury Series, the old one, Ontario's Data Box and the Research Reports, and the Ministry's northern offices (Kenora, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie) with their report series. Yet, many of these series died slow and quiet deaths and are now largely forgotten. And still, these publications were the best opportunities to get the data out into the hands of other researchers.

Monographs are surprisingly rare today given the tremendous increase in archaeological sites being found, tested and excavated. So what will the basis of tomorrow's archaeological discourse look like? As well as monographs, even short descriptive articles have virtually taken the same route. And yet, how many times do we consult the old AARO's to find an important mention of a small site here or a unique discovery there? Often times, these short, in-passing references might be all that remain of

the archaeological record. And given the looming crisis with archaeological collections in Ontario, it would be wise for current practitioners to begin getting the information out in some form. It would be the responsible and professional thing to do.

## **E-membership**

On another matter entirely, welcome to the 21st century!!! You can now join or renew your membership in the OAS, join or renew your membership in a chapter or make a donation to any one of four OAS funds, ONLINE.

With the help of our Internet service provider, Pictographics (Luke Dalla Bona) in Sault Ste. Marie, there is now an online form where you can choose from a number of membership and donation options and pay through PayPal. To date a good proportion of this year's renewals have been received this way. No more possibilities of losing cheques in the mail or having them delivered to some of the other tenants in the heritage building where the OAS office is located. This new method is safe, secure, immediate and very efficient.

## **E-publications**

Another very important innovation on the horizon deals with Arch Notes. For 12 years now, Arch Notes has had a different format, recognized by the New Series designation. Soon, the OAS will be offering this bi-monthly publication in a PDF version. Two ele-

ments will distinguish this new version from previous incarnations. First, its distribution will be immediate and over the Internet. It will no longer arrive slowly, folded, wet or soiled. Because the PDF format is so efficient at compressing images, these can be in colour. Imagine all those black and white photographs of soil profiles, oblique or vertical shots of features where you could only barely make out what it was you were supposed to be looking at because the photographer had the kindness of outlining the feature with the tip of a trowel! No more! Colour will add a very critical dimension to these visual documents. FINALLY!

Of course, you can't take a PDF file to the beach or roll up with one in bed (unless you have a wireless laptop and are inclined to do so). As such, we will still consider sending out hard copies to those who insist on receiving one.

However, we must keep in mind that Arch Notes costs the OAS members on the order of \$7000 per year to produce and mail out. This is not an insignificant proportion of the overall OAS budget.

### **Lise Ferguson**

As of the end of January, Lise Ferguson is no longer employed by the OAS. Lise had served for three years as the Executive Director of the OAS and before that had served nine years on the board with a number of responsibilities. The current board would like to acknowledge Lise's important contributions to the OAS and wish her well in her future endeavours.

### **BoD**

The 2008 Board of Directors of the OAS has remained unchanged from its end of 2007 composition and all board members have retained their same areas of

responsibility. As such, I would like to thank all board members for agreeing to spend one more year at the service of the OAS. I know I speak on behalf of all members in thanking you all for the time and efforts that you invest for the good of the membership as well as for the good of the archaeological heritage of Ontario.

### **Ryan Primrose**

And finally, we all welcome Ryan Primrose who has happily agreed to join the board of directors as Director of Outreach and Education Services. We especially needed someone with both an educational and archaeological background to advise on the development of the online or virtual Edu-kits that will soon replace the used and abused physical Edu-kits. We'll undoubtedly be hearing from Ryan about this project in the future.

## **Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting**

Sunday, November 4, 2007

At the Confederation Place Hotel, Kingston, Ontario

### **In attendance**

Jean-Luc Pilon	President
Henry van Lieshout	Treasurer and Secretary
Jim Keron	Director of Chapter and Professional Services
Carole Stimmell	Director of Heritage Advocacy
Alistair Jolly	Director of Membership Services
Jennifer Birch	Director of Student Services
Alicia Hawkins	Director of Publications

In total there were 43 members present at the meeting.

### **President's opening remarks**

Jean-Luc welcomed all those attending and thanked all those who served the Society during 2007. He also thanked the 2007 Board of Directors, and the Chapter Executives for their efforts during the year, and in particular Jim and Alicia who have to travel to Toronto from London and Sudbury, respectively, in order to attend Board meetings (Note – Jean-Luc travels from Gatineau). He also thanked the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation for hosting this year's Symposium and congratulated them on an excellent event. In addition he thanked all the donors to the silent auction.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the 2006 Annual Business Meeting were published in the July/August 2007 issue

of Arch Notes, and were presented to the meeting.

UPON MOTION, duly made and seconded, it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes as presented.

### **Matters arising from these minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **President's report**

Jean-Luc reported that 2007 was a year for "staying the course". He reported that declining membership has been a concern over the last few years and that the Board would be looking at all options in order to reduce costs, while maintaining services to members and stakeholders. In his opinion, the Society must move towards becoming "the voice of archaeology" in the province, and do everything in its power to support advocacy. The Society has also improved its website and intends it to be bilingual. It is also working towards improving the Edu-Kits, and to make its material available on the website.

He reported that while there is still a backlog of Ontario Archaeology, the editorial board expects to publish two issues in 2007, the second one by mid-December 2007.

He also indicated that the reports of all the directors are to be published in Arch Notes shortly.

### **Treasurer's report**

Henry expanded on the matter of declining membership, pointing out that the cost of maintaining an office in Toronto was becoming financially insupportable, and that in the last few years the income from investments was now necessary to cover the cost of maintaining the office. He told the meeting that the Board would be looking at various alternatives during 2008.

### **Chapter Reports**

#### **Huronia Chapter**

At the Presidents' meeting on Friday evening, the president of the chapter, Marilyn Cornies, reported that the chapter was chartered this year and the first meeting took place in May 2007. The chapter now has 25-30 members and held a dig in the summer thanks to the efforts of Alicia. They have had a golf tournament as a fund-raiser, set up some committees, hope

to reach a membership of 40-50 people, and are looking at schools in the area for potential members.

#### **Ottawa**

At the Presidents' meeting on Friday evening, the president of the chapter, Heather Stronach, reported that the chapter celebrated its 35+1 anniversary in 2007, and celebrated this with old photos, video and a cake. Public archaeology continues at Bonnechere Park, and the chapter has ongoing partnerships with organizations in the Ottawa area. The chapter is reviewing its constitution and its strategic plan. Heather reported that the chapter received an e-mail about a site being looted, whereupon the chapter contacted the city, the result of which was that the city has improved its awareness of our issues, and is open to meet with the chapter on matters of interest to us. The chapter has had a variety of speakers, some meetings and tours of the Museum of Civilization. Gord Watson, a long time member of the chapter died in 2007, in his 91st year. As a result of his efforts, a graduate student bursary has been set up at Trent University.

#### **London**

Nancy van Sas, the chapter president reported that the Symposium last year attracted some 150 people, and that there was a tour of the Museum of Archaeology on the day after the Symposium. The chapter celebrated its 30th anniversary in February at the Museum, with a dinner for attending members. It has speakers from September to April and in December the members gathered for the annual Christmas Party. The chapter is also working on publishing papers from the 2006 Symposium in honour of Dr. M. Spence, but not all the papers have been received. Spring 2008 is the target for completing this effort. KEWA is a few months behind due to lack of material. The chapter held an Archaeology Day, which was quite good. Some 30 members come to the monthly meetings, but student interest is poor unless there is a notable speaker.

#### **Toronto**

Sylvia reported that the chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary, and that this was celebrated with cake. A number of 25-year chapter members were present for the occasion too. The chapter has 49 members and

contributed 210 volunteer hours during the year. She reported that the chapter's meeting venue has recently changed. Plans are under way for the 2008 Symposium. The chapter participated in three community activities during the year, these being the Waterfront Archaeological Conservation and Management Strategy Stakeholder Advisory Committee, collaboration to organise the annual Archaeology Day at Fort York, and maintaining its partnership with the Toronto Historical Society. The chapter hosted eight lectures during the year.

Sylvia conveyed a concern from members of the Toronto Chapter that support from the office was not adequate. Jean-Luc responded that he was aware of certain issues, and that the Board was working to resolve the matter.

### **Hamilton**

The chapter submitted a report indicating that Ducks Unlimited, the owner of the Reimer/Boyd Sites, has approved a long-term project to conduct archaeological surveys on their property. This project involves the Hamilton Chapter working with Ducks Unlimited to survey the entire extent of the property over the

next 10 years. Material discovered will be catalogued, analysed and then returned "in situ".

### **Next Symposium**

The Symposium for 2008 will be hosted jointly by the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority and the Toronto Chapter and will be held at Black Creek Pioneer Village on October 17-19, 2008.

### **Election of Directors**

Jean-Luc informed the meeting that all the 2007 Directors were available to serve in 2008. He then called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations, so

UPON MOTION, duly made and seconded, it was resolved by a majority of the members to accept the service of current 2007 Directors for 2008.

### **Constitution change**

A notice of intent to change the Constitution was published in the May/June issue of Arch Notes. An opportunity to express their vote by proxy was provided to members, but none were received. Henry then outlined the reason for the changes, and

UPON MOTION, duly made

and seconded, the proposed changes were accepted by a majority of members present.

### **Other business**

Jean-Luc then reported that a request has been received to have the numeric ranking of the Ethical Principles of the Society be changed so that the role of First Nations appears foremost in the ranking. Jean-Luc pointed out that the ranking was not intended to indicate most-to-least importance, but that the Board would refer this to a committee in the new year, for review and recommendation.

A member announced that the Boyd Archaeological Field School is to be held from July 23-27, 2008.

Another member announced that the Ontario Historical Society will be holding its annual conference in the second week of January 2008 in Toronto.

### **Adjournment**

UPON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned.

### **Henry van Lieshout Secretary**

# Getting Over the Falls: The Archaeological Heritage of Rockcliffe Park

**Jean-Luc Pilon**  
**Curator of Ontario Archaeology**  
**Canadian Museum of Civilization**  
**Gatineau, Québec**

## Introduction

Within the historical cores of most medium to large-sized Canadian cities, there remain few untouched and relatively pristine landscapes. Of course, such a statement is underlain by a semi-romantic notion that the best past is one frozen in time at the moment of the arrival of the first Euro-Canadian settlers or, better yet, before that time when aboriginal cultures were forever changed by the arrival of Europeans. It suggests that post-contact history is somehow less valuable and often resulted in the unwitting destruction of the more valuable, pre-contact story. In fact, all such remains are equally important to inform us about how various landscapes and their potential were utilized by humans over time, albeit with differing cultural, economic and technological mechanisms at play.

Rockcliffe Park in Ottawa is located quite literally within the shadows of such emotionally charged symbols of Canadian nationhood as 24 Sussex Drive, the residence of the Prime Minister of Canada, and his neighbour, the Governor-General of Canada. It is a place where initial appearances can be deceiving, but Rockcliffe Park has the ability to enlighten us about Ottawa's more distant past as well as some of its more colourful recent history. While events and uses of Rockcliffe Park from the XIXth century onwards have been documented (Baeyer and Mulligan 1996), its pre-XIXth century past remained, until quite recently, unknown.

## Recent Archaeological Investigations in the National Capital Region

Some of the more significant archaeology ever done in the national capital region was undertaken during the 1990s and the first few years of the following decade by Marcel Laliberté at the mouth of the Gatineau River. There, Laliberté undertook a decade

of archaeological fieldwork aided by a variety of supporters including the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais, the National Capital Commission, the Communauté urbaine de l'Outaouais, the city of Hull, l'Université du Québec à Montréal, the Kitigan Zibi Algonquin Nation, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and both the federal and provincial governments. His discoveries spanned at least the past four millennia, but concentrated more intensively on the Middle Woodland period. While some publications, conference papers and student dissertations (at least one is on-going) have resulted from this work, the potential of these collections remain to be more fully realized.

Across the river in Ottawa the situation is much different, with the majority of the known inventory of archaeological sites predicated upon anecdotal information or documentation now several decades old (see Pilon and Marois 2000). With the relatively recent development (1999) of a predictive model by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (now adopted by the new City of Ottawa), more data points have been added as a result of mitigation work, but no sustained archaeological investigations have yet taken place. Even the recent intense testing and excavations required by the National Capital Commission at LeBreton Flats have not resulted in any detailed analyses, let alone publications.

Part of the reasons for the relative dearth of archaeological information in Ottawa can almost certainly be attributed to the intense development of the city core over the past century and a half. In fact, more recent construction in the older part of the city tends to totally destroy archaeological evidence and as such, the authors of the city's potential-mapping study recommended against requiring assessment in the historic core prior to development. The responsibility for the identification of surviving bits and pieces of the core area's history during construction activities were therefore left to the crews undertaking the work:

While the Archaeological Resource Potential Mapping Study shows the historic core of the

city (as defined by the city limits at the time of its incorporation in 1855) as having archaeological potential, an archaeological resource assessment will not be required as part of the development review process. However, if archaeological resources are discovered during the course of construction in the city's historic core area, the site must be protected from further disturbance until a licensed archaeologist has completed an archaeological resource assessment and any necessary mitigation has been completed. (Ottawa n.d.: 4.6.2.5)

### Initial Archaeological Interest Rockcliffe Park

During part of the summer of 2002, I supervised some of the work being carried out at BiFw-6 and BiFw-16, two of the Leamy Lake sites located on the

shores of the Ottawa River, near the mouth of the Gatineau River. Quite frequently my gaze would be cast upon the opposite shore with the twinned falls of the Rideau almost directly across from us and Rockcliffe Park only slightly downstream from there. A marked dichotomy was evident between the urbanized landscape upriver from the falls, with the towers of Ottawa's downtown core looming in the background, and the nearly untouched, treed landscape below the falls with only a few large mansions and foreign embassies dotting the top of the nearly vertical cliff (see Figure 1). The archaeology of the Leamy Lake sites, through ceramic and lithic analyses, demonstrates how the delta at the mouth of the Gatineau River was a long-standing summer meeting area (Laliberté 1997), a fact which is reflected in the Algonquin place name given to the delta: Kabeshinàn or "summer camp" (Kitigan Zibi Education Council n.d.a, b). Good evidence (both distinctive lithic raw



Figure 1 Aerial photograph over the cores of the cities of Gatineau (Hull) on the north side of the Ottawa River and Ottawa to the south. Photo by





Figure 2 View of the cliff in front of the residence of the Prime Minister of Canada. This steep cliff is typical of the obstacle confronting travellers going between the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers.

Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

materials and ceramics) for communications up the Gatineau and Ottawa Rivers, as well as the Rideau River was recovered from various time periods.

Looking across to the south shore of the Ottawa, one had to wonder how the last leg of the trip down the Rideau River to the actual shores of the Ottawa River was actually carried out. While a lengthy portage is certainly not inconceivable, canoe travel is quite easy to a point just a few dozens of metres from the falls, at approximately the point where the river splits to form the twinned cataracts. All along the south shore, in the immediate vicinity of the Rideau River, the bank is characterized by a nearly vertical cliff, not the kind of place where a portage could be easily made (Figure 2). However, Rockcliffe Park, only a few hundred metres away, offered some less daunting slopes which could hold answers to this riddle.

### **A Word on Rockcliffe Park Toponymy**

Several historic and current maps provide a place name for the embayment lying just below the Prime Minister of Canada's current residence at 24 Sussex Drive. Governor Bay (the current name retained by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) is occasionally spelled as Governors or Governor's Bay. The name seems to date from the early days of Ottawa as a capital city when the embayment took its name from its then

most famous of residents, housed just inland from the deep indentation.

A second well-defined embayment is separated from Governor Bay by a very distinct bedrock promontory. To my knowledge there is no official place name for this feature, although there were local names for it given by those for whom Rockcliffe Park was their playground (Jacques Faucher, personal communication, December 2007). This included local and regional populations who built a ski jump on the promontory (then known as Suicide Hill) whose landing area was on the ice within the un-named embayment (again, see Baeyer and Mulligan 1996:17). The Canadian Jumping Championships were held here in 1914. For reasons that will become clear below, I am proposing that this embayment be henceforth known

as Portage Bay.

### **Rockcliffe Portage-I, BiFw-9I**

In 2002, a very brief stop at the active beach in the bottom of Portage Bay in the company of Gilbert Whiteduck and John Chabot, both of Kitigan Zibi, led to the discovery of a single ceramic sherd with what appeared to be pseudo-scallop shell impressions on the outer surface: a hallmark of Middle Woodland times. While this sherd was left where it had been found, its discovery confirmed the apparent potential of the location. At this spot, the limestone cliff swung inland, away from the water's edge, and in front of it were a sandy slope and sand terraces leading up to the cliff. This route reduced the arduous task of scaling the heights to reach the Rideau River.

In 2005, an afternoon of reconnaissance resulted in several pieces of lithic debitage and one well-formed lithic biface being recovered (Pilon 2005:5). However, it was not before 2006 that more substantial work could be undertaken.

Over a two-week period in the summer of 2006, activities were carried out within Portage Bay in order to better document the archaeological heritage resources there (Pilon 2006). In addition to surface collecting and mapping, a canoe was brought to the site and the bathymetry of the nearshore area was investigated. This was prompted by two observations.



Figure 3 Stumps in the nearshore zone directly in front of the Rockcliffe Portage-1 site. Photo by Jean-Luc Pilon

On the one hand, the stumps of very large trees, apparently pine trees, were visible immediately in front of the active beach (Figure 3). Additional tree stumps were also visible a significant distance away from the beach, forming a line that coincides more or less with the outer mouth of the embayment or the point at which the current of the river would flow. In fact, soundings with a lead weight suggested that the bottom of the bay slopes away very gently towards these distant stumps, and that the water within the embayment was between 1.5 m and 2 m in depth. Just beyond the outer stump line the river bottom drops off dramatically. A second reason for our curiosity about the depths of the water within the embayment stems from an examination of mid-XXth century aerial photographs which clearly show that a low terrace once extended as far out as the more distant tree stumps prior to the construction of the Carillon Dam (located just above the Lake of Two Mountains below the Long Sault which lay between Hawkesbury and Point Fortune/Carillon).

The potential implications of the bathymetric information, coupled with pre-dam aerial photographs, are of course very significant in terms of the survival of evidence relating to any possible occupation of the low terrace/active beach that once filled the embayment.

The second research initiative carried out consisted of a detailed inspection of the surface of the active beach, defined as that portion of the current lower

terrace that is seasonally flooded by high spring waters and marked by a distinct line of debris (flotsam and jetsam). All of the find spots were mapped and a limited number of shovel test pits or more controlled test units (50 cm x 50 cm) was also excavated.

## Results - Lower Bench

### a) Surface Artifact Distribution

Artifacts were very numerous along the surface in the central and western portion of the active beach. They were virtually absent from the eastern portion and from the extreme western corner of the active beach (see Figure 4). However, it must be pointed out that surface vegetation on the eastern portion of the active beach is significantly denser than elsewhere along the active beach. Additionally, dense concentrations of floated debris have accumulated in the extreme western corner of the active beach, a situation quite likely facilitated by the deeper waters that lie in front of the western bedrock abutment of the embayment. These deeper waters appear to have existed prior to the damming of the Ottawa River at Carillon in 1961; a trough-like feature is visible on 1950s aerial photographs. Thus, currents are not impeded by contact

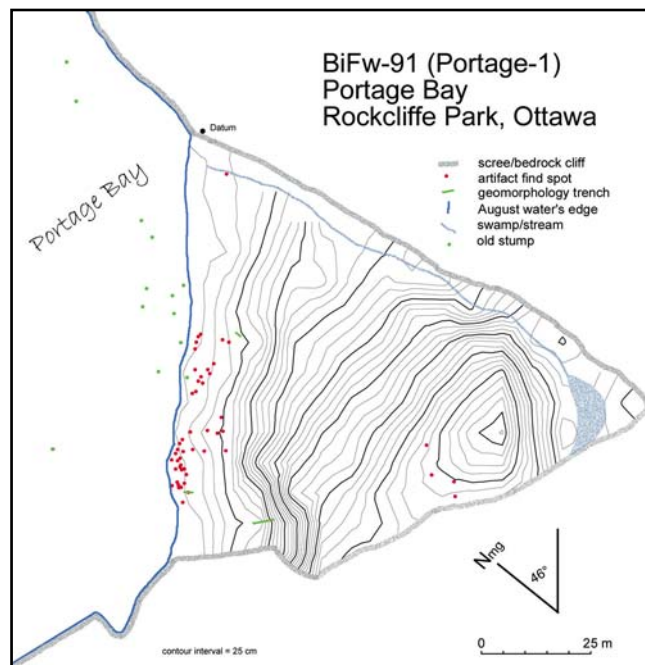


Figure 4 Topographic Map of the Portage Bay-1 [BiFw-91] Site.

**Table 1: Artifact and Raw Material Frequencies, BiFw-91**

	Kichi Sibi Chert	Quartzite	Rhyolite Chert	Fine-grained Stone	Other Chipped	Faunal Remains	Ceramic	Historic Artifacts	Totals
Lower Terrace	174	6	0	7	5	87	4	26	309
Upper Terrace	9	2	32	3	0	17	0	1	64
Totals	183	8	32	10	5	104	4	27	373

with a shallow bay bottom and are able to more successfully bring all manner of floating material ashore whereas currents which wash over the shallow, now flooded low terrace, lose much of their strength and only bring lighter materials ashore.

Thus, it would appear that if the primary source of the surface artifacts on the active beach is indeed archaeological deposits that were once found on the low terrace, these would seem to have been more concentrated in the central and western portions in front of the present-day active beach. This may therefore reflect the general pattern of use of the lower terrace before it was eroded away by the now stabilized and artificially maintained water levels of the Ottawa River. On the other hand, surface visibility, as noted above, was limited in the eastern sector of the active beach. Finer sediments are present in the immediate nearshore in the eastern portion of the active beach, effectively obscuring any artifacts which might otherwise be lying in the shallow waters. Again, this is a phenomenon most likely caused by current dynamics resulting from the extent of the shallows, which effectively reduce the energy of the waves reaching the eastern portion of the beach. This is in marked contrast to the central and western portions of the immediate nearshore where the surface of the shallow river bottom is littered with cobbles, pebbles and occasional artifacts.

With regards the effects of the Carillon Dam, it is important to point out that the water levels at Rockcliffe Park are barely a few centimetres higher than before the barrier was built on the river. However, its destructive effect results from maintaining the river during summertime at levels well above what they would normally be during that time of year. This then allows erosion of shorelines that previously would have been left high and dry by the lower summer water levels. This same effect is noted across the river at Leamy Lake, where late pre-contact

and early historic materials, while present, are extremely few and suggest that the usually prograding delta has, since the building of the Carillon Dam, been eroding instead.

Another possible source of the artifacts found on the surface of the active beach would be the slope behind this feature, which rises gently and thus could have suffered the combined effects of gravity and erosion by spring flood waters. In order to address this possibility, two 50 cm x 50 cm test pits were excavated. The first was placed more or less halfway between the water's edge and the spring flood line, while a second unit was located very near the flood line in an area where a few pieces of debitage were noted on the surface along with some fire-cracked rocks.

In the first instance, nothing more than historic, likely XXth century artifacts, were recovered and these were found in the upper 10-15 cm or so. However, in the second test unit, significant quantities of lithic debitage, and both calcined and unburned faunal remains were recovered, along with a single undecorated ceramic sherd and numerous fire-cracked rocks, from the base of the sandy humus layer overlying the basal, in situ sand of the lower terrace. The combination of small, delicate calcined bone fragments, tiny chert flakes, heavier blocks of rejected Kichi Sibi chert and large pieces of fire-cracked rock, suggest that there has not been any significant sorting or reworking of these cultural remains by wave action. In other words, these artifacts appear to be in their original, primary depositional contexts.

#### **b) Overview of the Artifact Collection**

The collection of artifacts from surface find spots and excavated test units is 309 pieces (see Table 1). This includes a sample of surface historic items that was retained for its ability to evoke historic period occupations. Additionally, any and all historic artifacts found within test units were kept.

Other than a few historic period items, the surface collection is composed almost uniquely of lithic specimens. Of these, blocky pieces of Kichi Sibi chert, a local raw material, predominate. Tools were quite few and included a finely crafted lanceolate Kichi Sibi chert biface (Figure 5a), two Kichi Sibi chert pièces esquillées (Figure 5d,e), a crudely retouched Kichi Sibi chert biface preform (Figure 5h), a grey quartzite biface tip (Figure 5g), a black rhyolite-like biface tip (Figure 5f) and the mesial section of a fine-grained, dark-grey chert biface (Figure 5c). While Kichi Sibi chert is the dominant raw material found, other lithic types were also recovered. These include a probable Mistassini Quartzite flake; the previously mentioned grey quartzite biface tip; and a small number of fine-grained, grey chert flakes, which could be Onondaga chert; as well as non-typed grey chert—or again, these could simply be particularly siliceous Kichi Sibi chert flakes.

The collection includes so few ceramic fragments that it is a fair statement to say that ceramics, while present, are negligible as far as their overall significance or presence is concerned. In all likelihood, ceramic containers quite simply passed through the site, but did not play a large role, or at least, the opportunities to break these vessels were few. This is either a reflection of the activities taking place at the site, the length of time any particular group would actually stay at the site, or a combination of both.

Faunal remains were found in the 50 cm x 50 cm test pit located at the rear of the active beach. These, along with some fire-cracked rock fragments in immediate proximity to the test unit, occurred within the sandy sod layer and into the upper portion of the underlying mottled beach sands. Both calcined and non-calcined (“fresh”) bone fragments were recovered. The bone and the rock indicate proximity to a hearth feature.

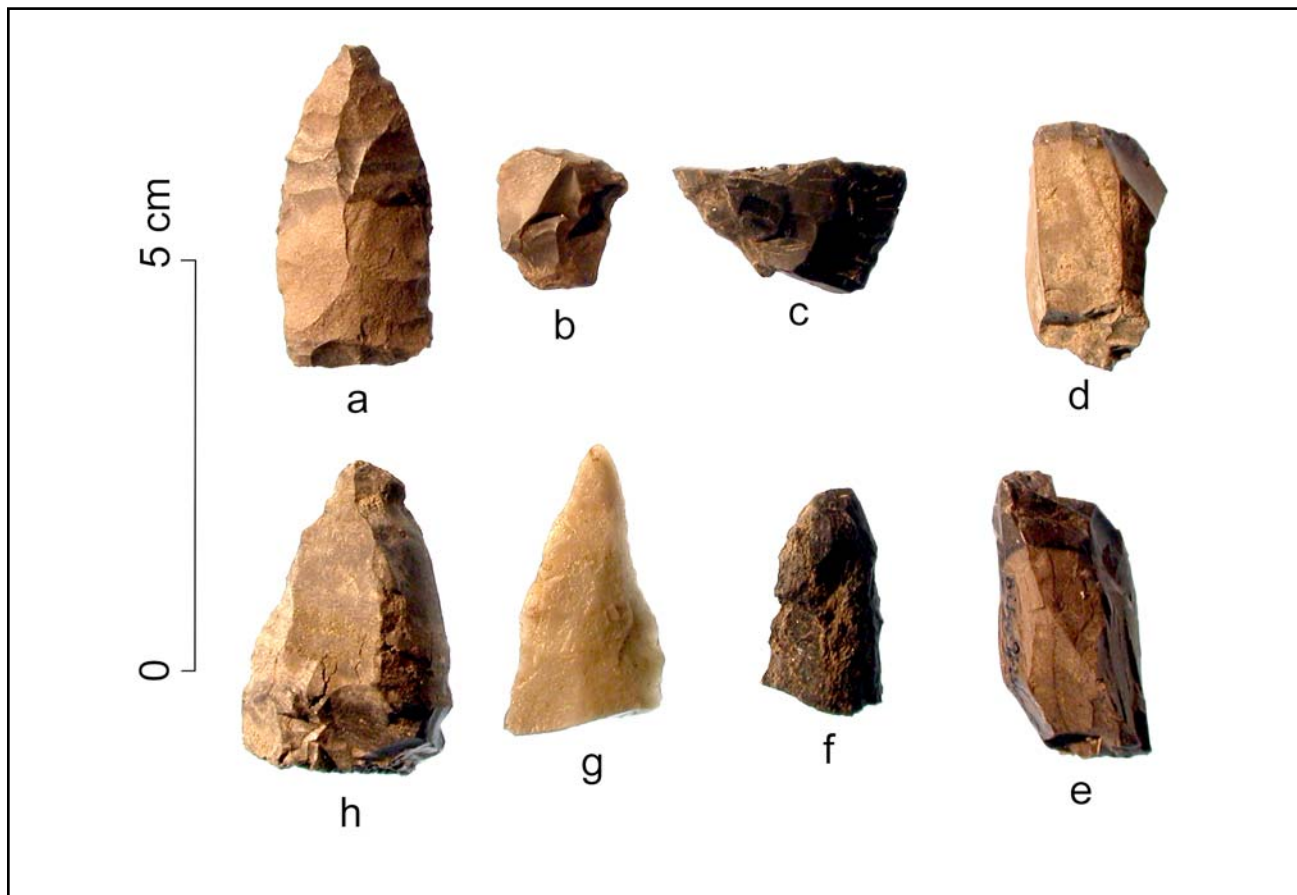


Figure 5 Rockcliffe Portage-1 Site [BiFw-91] [Lower Terrace] Artifacts: a-lanceolate biface [BiFw-91:1], b-end-scraper [BiFw-91:82], c-biface mesial fragment [BiFw-91:57], d,e-pièces esquillées [BiFw-91:13,10], f,g-biface distal fragments [BiFw-91:33], h-biface preform [BiFw-91:41]. All are of Kichi Sibi Chert except for b,c, fine grey cherts, g, a quartzite, and f,a metamorphic stone. photo Jean-Luc Pilon

## Upper Bench - Archaeological Context and Finds

While surface indicators were quite strong on the lower terrace, only a single surface find was made in the higher reaches of the embayment: a large quartzite cobble spall (BiFw-91:102) was found near the edge of the creek on the southeastern corner of the site, near a groundhog hole.

In spite of the paucity of surface indications, random shovel test pits were nonetheless excavated over the entire area, albeit at great intervals. In the southwestern portion of the upper bench, where there is a relatively broad and flat area immediately in front of the scree slope leading to the bedrock plateau above, artifacts were found in four shovel test pits. While only one of these contained substantial finds, the others did nonetheless confirm that remains occur over a significant area.

With the exception of some minute calcined bone fragments (17 pieces) in two of the test pits and possible fire-cracked rocks in another, the artifacts in the

upper bench area consist of lithic debitage (see Table 1).

The parent material of the upper bench is coarse, golden-orange sand. The upper 20 to 25 cm of the typical soil profile contains a high proportion of organic matter, undoubtedly resulting from the decomposition of the forest litter. A lens of grey, gritty sand was noted roughly halfway down this organic layer. Some of the pieces of debitage were recovered from the base of the organic layer while many were clearly found well within the upper few centimetres of the underlying golden-orange sand.

The raw materials found in these few shovel test pits differ markedly from those found in the lower bench test units. While there definitely is some Kichi Sibi chert present (9 of 49 pieces), at least 63% consists of a raw material that is of a different nature, one referred to as "pyroclastique" (possibly a rhyolite) in excavations at Leamy Lake (BiFw-20), directly across from Portage Bay (Laliberté 1997:37).

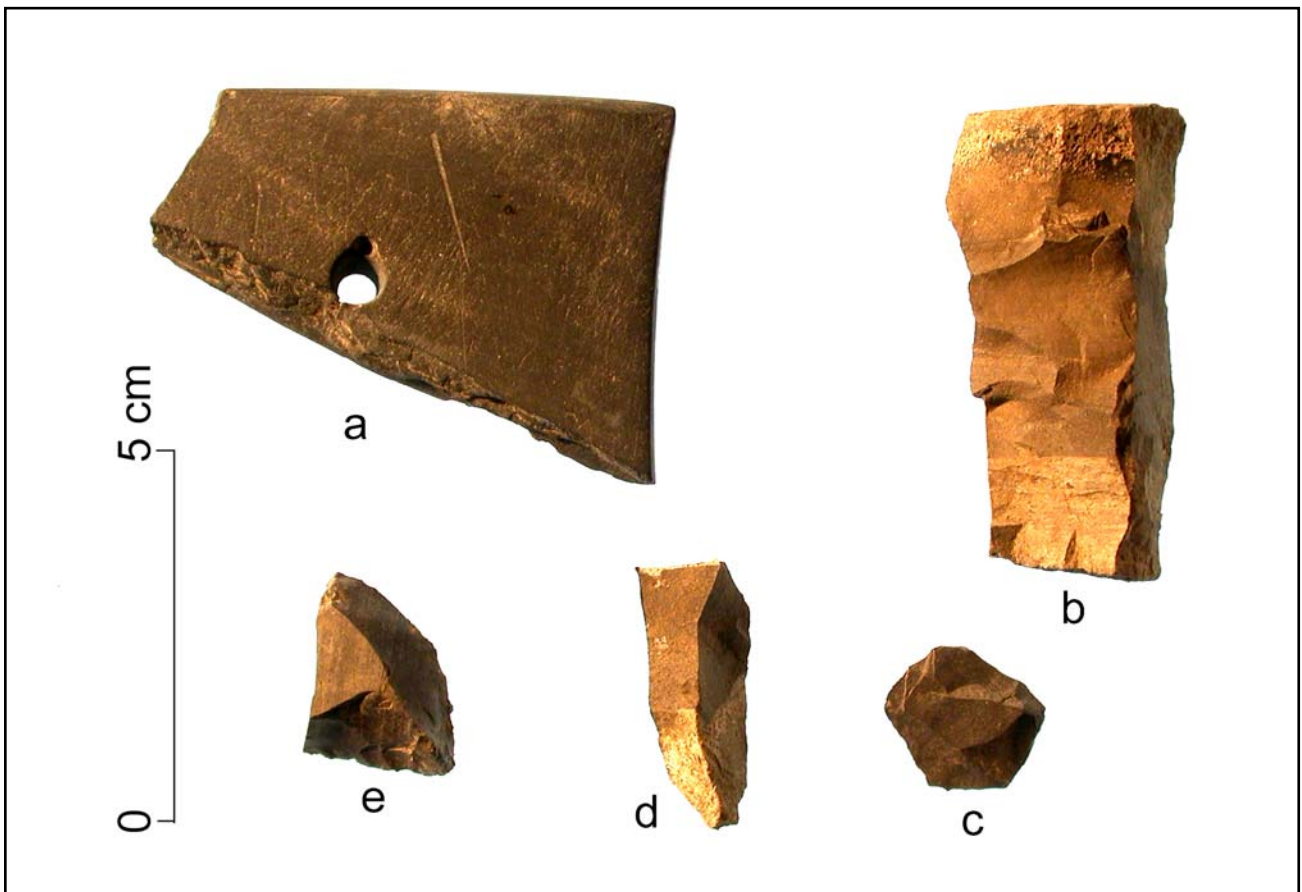


Figure 6 Rockcliffe Portage-2 Site (BiFw-92) Artifacts: a-ground stone gorget fragment (BiFw-92:1), b-Kichi Sibi Chert core remnant (BiFw-92:2), c,d,e-Kichi Sibi Chert debitage (BiFw-92:3).

Photo by

## Chronological Considerations

Few things give as much pleasure to an archaeologist as differences that may have cultural/chronological significance. In this particular instance, there are quite substantial differences between the remains found on the two benches of the Portage Bay site. The most significant of these lies in the raw materials employed in each area. In both cases, it came as no surprise to see the presence of the local Kichi Sibi chert. In the lower bench, it is by far the predominant raw material type. While present on the upper bench, it is clearly of lesser importance.

A similar situation was also found across the river among the Leamy Lake complex of sites investigated by Marcel Laliberté. His excavations have shown that Kichi Sibi chert is overwhelmingly the main material recovered. In fact, proximity to a source of this material resulted in massive amounts of detritus on those sites in the area of the delta of the Gatineau River. The quality of this stone is such that large amounts must be reduced in order to produce a good, workable piece. The lithic type has bedding planes that naturally lead to blocky fractures. In fact, according to Laliberté (personal communication), the local people had developed particular reduction strategies for controlling the fracture patterns of this stone. He has also proposed that the numerous pièces esquillées which he recovered from the Woodland sites that he investigated were actually used as punches to orient the force of blows aimed at detaching blanks with particular characteristics.

At least one site excavated by Laliberté comprised a markedly different assemblage, one dominated by a different raw material that he refers to as “pyroclastique”. Not only is there a different lithic type used, but typological considerations suggest that this site is significantly older than most within Leamy Lake Park, and relates to a late Archaic period occupation, dating somewhere on the order of 4700 B.P.

On the basis of these considerations alone, I propose that the upper bench occupation is distinct from the lower bench occupation and substantially older as well. Geomorphological considerations outlined by John Harrison (2006) lend credence to this conclusion inasmuch as the lower bench only became available for human occupation sometime after about 4700 B.P., the time when the flow of water through the Ottawa River was greatly reduced because the

Upper Great Lakes began to flow into the St. Lawrence River via the Lower Great Lakes. Of course, it does not necessarily follow that people would have avoided using what would have become the upper bench area for temporary encampments. For the time being, the parallels with the well-documented situation in Leamy Lake Park suggests that the primary post-4700 B.P. use of the embayment was at or near the water's edge. Was this the case in the pre-4700 B.P. period as well?

## Rockcliffe Portage-2, BiFw-92

This site is located in Governor Bay. It was only briefly visited during the summer of 2005 as earlier cursory inspections had suggested that there had been a massive amount of disturbance throughout the historic period such that the chances of recovering meaningful samples were deemed to be very low (Pilon 2005:4,5). In 2006, the work confirmed this impression and provided additional insight into what the pre-contact landscape might have been like and thus what the site's potential might actually have been.

Earlier visits had shown that very extensive pot-hunting, apparently for XIXth century artifacts, has taken place immediately behind the modern beach. In fact, observations during the summer of 2006 indicate that this practice is ongoing. The nature of the deposit which is being mined by these treasure-seekers is quite interesting, in that the deposits seem deep (more than 40-50 cm), quite low-lying (the area is actually lower than the rear of the active beach) and extensive (essentially filling the entire area behind the active beach between the exposed bedrock on the east and the storm sewer exit on the west, adjacent to the cliff leading to the plateau above).

Closer examination of the soils exposed by the myriad of pot-hunters' pits (some several square meters in extent), reveal that the soil is not composed of the expected reworked river deposited sands and organic litter, but rather a major constituent is what appears to be slag from coal fired furnaces. Mixed in with this coarse dark matrix is a wide array of XIXth century artifacts and table scraps (of note are large quantities of oyster, likely from the finer tables in the Rockcliffe area).

At the back of the active beach the land rises gently to a low crest which is littered with limestone chips

forming a compact, gravel-like layer. Geomorphologist John Harrison has suggested that we are in the presence of a landscape which has been dramatically altered over the past two centuries. The existence of a limestone quarry in the bottom of Governor Bay is attested to by period maps (see Baeyer and Mulligan 1996: P1, P2, P4-1864) (see Figure 7, front cover). A 1911 photograph of the bottom of Governor Bay shows considerable disturbance of the lower lying area behind the active beach, including a road and rock quarrying debris as well as a general absence of trees.

Thus, it appears as if the bottom of Governor Bay had once been filled with significant limestone deposits that were quarried in the XIXth century, likely to build some of the spectacular mansions that characterize the immediate Rockcliffe neighbourhood. Subsequently, the quarry was used as a dump for the furnaces and kitchens of those same residences. Much later, in the late XXth century, those refuse deposits became attractive sources for bottle collectors and souvenir hunters.

While a pre-contact use is definitely indicated by the discovery of lithic detritus (16 pieces of Kichi Sibi chert debitage and a Kichi Sibi chert core) and a ground stone gorget fragment from the surface of the sand beach at the mouth of the modern storm sewer outlet, it would appear that few undisturbed deposits from pre-contact times remain (Figure 6). In fact, if the limestone cliffs did in fact fill much of the space now occupied by refuse deposits, then there would have been little space actually available for use by pre-contact peoples, let alone a route to the plateau above. Therefore, while the existence of a pre-contact archaeological site is confirmed, I've had to conclude that its integrity has been greatly reduced. Again, the artificially maintained summer water levels may be responsible for reducing the inhabitable surface in this bay as well.

### **Final Considerations - Rockcliffe Park Portage Route(s)**

It is obvious from the name that has been tentatively proposed for the second embayment below 24 Sussex Drive, that I feel this locale related directly to the challenge of travelling between the Ottawa and Rideau rivers. In particular, the embayment offered three clear advantages as a portage route. First, its

sandy bottom offered a much more suitable landing and loading area for birch bark canoes. Of course, in the absence of sandy landings, people always found ways to make do. Neighbouring Governor Bay also seems to have substantially similar bottom characteristics.

Another consideration is the availability of a suitable campsite, such as represented by the broad, flat, low bench in Portage Bay. In earlier times, prior to the final drop in the water levels of the Ottawa River, a significant, albeit less expansive, campsite was available on the upper bench at the back of Portage Bay as well. Such level, habitable areas would have allowed brief stops during what might have been arduous journeys. Again, this is not a necessity as travelers could have simply crossed over from the lower terrace at the mouth of the Gatineau River during portages.

A final factor to consider is the nature of the topography. In particular, the top of the bedrock plateau can be reached by the gently rising slope in the centre of the embayment, then following the crest of the ridge as it leads to the plateau. While there is a steep rise to be negotiated, at that point it is short and much of the height has already been travelled. Once above the bedrock edge, any number of trails could have wound their way towards the Rideau River, more than likely reaching the Rideau somewhere in the current Stanley Street Park, which occupies the right bank of the Rideau River just above the split.

These last two considerations have no parallels in Governor Bay. While today the situation in Governor Bay appears to offer a relatively gentle slope to the top of the bedrock plateau, it is more than likely that the quarry that was once located there effectively pushed back what would have been a fairly steep, near-vertical bedrock cliff at or near the water's edge. In other words: there would have been no significant camping area, but more importantly, no good, easily accessible portage trail upwards—only difficult, steep cliffs. The embayment at Portage Bay remains by far the more attractive landing and loading site. The artifacts found in Governor Bay more likely attest to exploitation of resources within the embayment itself.

The work that has been carried out in Rockcliffe Park to date has demonstrated that significant research potential exists there. Unlike most of the historic core of Ottawa, this is one part of the city which

still preserves early chapters of the city's history and as a National Capital Commission park it is not under threat of development.

The archaeological heritage resources of Rockcliffe Park appear to link the archaeological complex of Leamy Lake Park with known influences from up the Rideau River.

### Acknowledgements

The initial 2002 visit to the Rockcliffe Portage-1 site was made in the company of Gilbert Whiteduck and John Chabot, both of Kitigan Zibi. In 2005, I was accompanied by Jennifer Birch and Victor Rabinovitch. In 2006, I was ably assisted by Beverly Sawchuk, and John Harrison undertook a geomorphological study of Portage Bay. I thank all of these people for their company and the enriching conversations we had in the field as we attempted to create a picture of Rockcliffe Park's more distant past. However, I am solely responsible for the ideas presented in this article.

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