Modern technology should be making collaborative research easier by archiving images of our many and large collections, argues Paul Lennox (see page 7).

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Ontario Archaeological Society

Board of Directors

President
Jean-Luc Pilon
Jean-Luc.Pilon@civilisations.ca

Director of Finance/Treasurer
Henry van Lieshout
(416) 446-7673
hvanlieshout@rogers.com

Director of Chapter/Professional Services
Jim Keron
(519) 285-2379
jrkeron@yahoo.com

Director of Heritage Advocacy
Carole Stimmell
(416) 698-1164 Ext. 23 (w)
editor@beachmetro.com

Director of Membership Services
Alistair Jolly
alistairjolly@hotmail.com

Director of Outreach & Education Services
Vacant

Director of Student Services
Jennifer Birch
birchja@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca

Director of Publications
Alicia Hawkins
(705) 675-1151 ext. 4224
ahawkins@laurentian.ca

Executive Director
TBD
PO Box 62066
Victoria Terrace Post Office
Toronto, Ontario M4A 2W1
Phone/fax: (416) 406-5959
oasociety@bellnet.ca

Appointments

Editor, Ontario Archaeology
Andrew Stewart
andrew.stewart@bellnet.ca

Editor, Arch Notes
Andy Schoenhofer
aneditor@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

Editor, Website
Jean-Luc Pilon

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Symposium 2008 Toronto
Toronto Chapter

Board Meetings for 2008
January 12
April 5
July 5
October 4
President's message

Once again, at least where I live, talk of global warming took a bit of a back seat to the reality that seemed to be accumulating in record volumes on my roof and in my driveway. I have lived in Aylmer, Québec since 1990 and I have never seen as much snow as this. The worst part is that my father's old snow blower sat idle in my shed behind the house because I just didn't think it would get that bad. The lessons here are many. For one, truly significant global weather patterns cannot be easily extrapolated from a single season in a single area, or even over the course of a single human lifespan. Many data points over a long time are necessary before suggesting a meaningful pattern, let alone predicting the future. This simply brings us back to a similar point I talked about on this page last year at about this same time, namely: that the past has much to teach us about human behaviour as well as the dynamic world in which people lived. In today's discussions of the effects of greenhouse gases on the environment, to what point are we factoring long-term climate patterns into the debate? It was difficult enough to convince a majority that there is such a phenomenon as a greenhouse effect. What kind of cynicism would greet additional considerations such as Greenland Ice core and pollen data spanning millennia?

At a small and personal scale, this winter I exercised my myopic option and ended up breaking my back because I kept telling myself that this snowfall would likely be the last big one of the season (truth be known, I was in Toronto for one of the worst of the snowfalls and my wife and daughter were stuck, literally, with the snow). Next year, I will tune up the old snow blower in the fall and take it out at the first flurry!

A significant number of you have chosen to receive Arch Notes electronically. The first electronic issue was sent out for January-February and received very good reviews. Several of you wrote e-mails expressing your appreciation of the colour version and some asked to receive the electronic version from now on instead of paper copies. This represents a very important milestone for the OAS in terms of publishing electronically. We feel the number of people receiving Arch Notes via e-mail will only grow, and it will soon become the norm.

As more of you receive your copies of Arch Notes by e-mail, some will see this as a loss. In some ways, we will be parting company with a tradition that has served the OAS well. On the other hand, there is nothing wrong with establishing new traditions and setting out on new courses that hold much promise. There is a new generation of OAS members who require the OAS to be pertinent to their world. At the same time rest assured that the OAS will strive to be mindful of those who brought us to this point as well.

The OAS is no stranger to electronic publishing. In fact, the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS published a proceedings volume of articles stemming from the 1996 annual OAS symposium which the Ottawa Chapter organized in Kingston. At that time, 11 authors decided to submit their reworked papers for publication. Those articles, published as individual PDF
files along with an introduction and the summary of a forum discussion on the future of archaeology in Ontario, were first posted in 1997. Since at least 2002, the files have been housed on the servers of the National Library of Canada, now Library and Archives Canada. Monthly download statistics are produced and tell a very interesting story about the usage that these articles are being put to. From August of 2002 until March of 2008 (data are missing for 7 months over this entire time period), 18,053 downloads were made from the Library and Archives Canada site. Assuming that each article was downloaded as frequently as the next, if these 13 articles were bound together in a single book, these downloads would represent nearly 1,390 books!

The OAS’s second venture into electronic publishing came in 2000 when the Canadian Archaeological Association held its annual conference in Ottawa. This time, to mark the 50th anniversary of the OAS, a joint electronic proceedings volume was published under the twin banners of the OAS and the CAA. In this case, there were 26 papers submitted as articles along with a foreword, a table of contents and a cover. The total number of downloads for the same period (similarly with 7 months lacking data) is 107,066. This collection has been posted since the fall of 2001. Once again, if we assume an equal number of downloads for each article, the total number of books represented by the downloads is more than 3,700!

If you examine the plots of monthly download statistics for these two publications (Figure 1), it is clear that initially there was a great interest in these articles, for a period lasting nearly 3 years. While the number of monthly downloads have dropped significantly, they now appear to have reached a plateau over the past year or so, and while those stabilized numbers are much more modest, they are nonetheless constant. One thing is certain, we do not have boxes of unsold books to store, nor continuing mailing costs to absorb, let alone the vagaries and uncertainties of receiving and filling orders.

As these articles are all available at no cost, save those incurred for an Internet connection, some would argue that giving these publications away has represented a very significant loss of revenue for the OAS. On the other hand, I would argue that collectively we have furthered the goals of the OAS in a way that selling the books would never have allowed. Without any doubt, we have been read by people who would never have purchased the books if they had been available in print form only. Moreover, people have downloaded these articles from parts of the world that hardly know anything about Canada’s past, let alone Ontario’s.

Library and Archives Canada has the mandate to make these electronic publications available in perpetuity and will ensure that the files are not left behind as a result of technological change. These electronic publications will not become rare books. In principle they will always be accessible to all. Now isn’t that what societies such as the OAS exist to do: to help preserve the record of Ontario’s past and create an awareness and appreciation of it?

Jean-Luc Pilon
President, OAS

The two OAS e-publications:
http://tinyurl.com/4lb5dz

Home is Where the Hearth Is. The contribution of small sites to our understanding of Ontario’s past, edited by Jean-Luc Pilon and Rachel Perkins, 1996
http://tinyurl.com/4r2r48

OAS Members’ Corner

In the first two months of 2008 the Board launched a number of initiatives that directly benefit members, and in all cases there is an improvement in the efficiency in our office operations and/or cost saving to members. Your feedback on any of the initiatives discussed below is welcome, as are any suggestions for improvements anywhere else in the Society.

PayPal

This is a process whereby members can renew their OAS and Chapter
membership, and make donations on-line through the OAS website. This process works through a secure server operated by PayPal, which then transfers your funds directly to our bank account. This makes the administration of membership renewal easier for members and for office administration because it is easy to use and you receive a confirmation of your renewal directly from PayPal soon after your renewal is processed, and you therefore don’t have to wonder whether your cheque arrived at the office, and wait for our acknowledgement a few weeks later. We have already received some 75 renewals this way, one of which was from an existing member in France.

In many European countries and elsewhere in the world, sending cheques through the mail has long been a totally archaic way of sending money, and in some countries you have to pay an extra fee for the privilege of sending a cheque in the mail, so the OAS is somewhat in the forefront of a movement in North America to catch up to the rest of the world.

We also intend to make PayPal processing available to register for the 2008 Symposium in Toronto, and here too, ease of use for members is a benefit and the uncertainty surrounding receipt of payment by mail is removed. We therefore encourage members to make use of PayPal for renewing memberships, making donations and for symposium registrations in the future. It saves you postage, and does the same for the OAS.

For 2009 renewals towards the end of this year, we will be notifying all members for whom we have an e-mail address, that renewal by PayPal is available. By doing it this way, the OAS will be able to save a lot of volunteer time and save at least $500 a year on paper and mailing costs.

Most of our new members hear about the OAS from our website anyway, and most new members now use PayPal when joining the OAS. We therefore hope that many existing members with internet access will embrace this way of renewing their memberships in the future.

Arch Notes by e-mail
This is another initiative to optimize technology to improve service to members and to reduce costs to the OAS.

The cost per year of printing Arch Notes, preparing it for mailing and postage, is about $10,000. Some 75% of members have e-mail addresses, so the amount of money that can be saved if the majority of members

Small Finds

Did you know?
The popularity of Ontario Archaeology #79/80 is gaining recognition beyond the borders of Ontario. In the middle of March we received an order for 10 copies from Montreal. Then an order came from an Australian-born Professor at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands.

Then came a phone call from New Jersey, in the USA, from a former member of the OAS who heard about this OA from his friend in Montreal, and ordered a copy for himself, and while he was on the phone to us, he decided to order a few older OAs too. Renewing his membership is the next thing on his list of things to do. Then came an order for copies of six different OAs (including OA 79/80) from another company in Montreal.

All this on top of the more than 30 copies sold in Toronto within weeks of publication.

Congratulations to the team that put OA 79/80 on the international map, and thanks for enhancing the profile of our Society well beyond our borders.

Then came a request from a public Library in Halton Hills, some 50km west of Toronto. One of their patrons wanted an article that was originally published in Arch Notes in 1966, yes, some 42 years ago. Within the week the Arch Notes article was found, scanned and emailed to the library, with a donation following. Another impressed and very satisfied patron of the library was the result, and a favourable impression of the OAS was spread around a little more, once again.

Archaeology and the Hamilton Official Plan
As a result of the City of Hamilton’s amalgamation in 2001, a new city-wide Official Plan (OP) is being drafted. That portion of the OP dealing with archaeology (Draft Cultural Heritage Resource Policies) is now
elect to receive Arch Notes by e-mail is significant.

The benefit to members is that the e-mail version of Arch Notes will have colour photos when available, whereas the mailed version will continue to be printed in black and white. To date some 90 members have already elected to receive Arch Notes by e-mail.

If you have not yet elected to receive Arch Notes by e-mail, you can do so any time by making your request in an e-mail to the office at oasociety@bellnet.ca.

One or two members have expressed concern that if the majority of members elect to receive Arch Notes by e-mail, then the paper copy will no longer be available. We recognize that there will always be members who wish to receive Arch Notes by regular mail, and we also recognize that not all members have access to e-mail. We wish to assure all members that there is no intent to discontinue the paper version of Arch Notes to those members who prefer to receive it in the mail.

Sharing of e-mail addresses with members

Legislated privacy policy demands that the OAS hold personal information strictly private, and we do so. Because we do receive requests from members from time to time for contact information, we are obligated to turn down such requests, unless we have the approval of the targeted member to release this information.

If you wish to make your e-mail address available to other members, please send an e-mail to the office at oasociety@bellnet.ca. Please be assured that if you agree to share your e-mail address with other members we will not release any personal information to any non-OAS member, for any purpose. Also, we do not sell or give our mailing lists to anyone.

Accuracy of street and e-mail addresses

A fair amount of mail is returned to us each year from members who have moved and have forgotten to notify the office. For the most part, our efforts to track these members through their e-mail address (if provided) or phone number are not successful because these have changed also.

It is therefore important that members notify the office if there is a change to your street and e-mail address as soon as possible so that there is no interruption in mail to your address.

This is now of particular importance to members who have elected to receive Arch Notes by e-mail because if you do not provide your updated e-mail address, it places an extra burden on the office to try to track you down.

Fax service at the office

The incoming telephone line to the office on Queen Street is somewhat fragile partly because there are now five tenants in the building (classified as a residence) instead of only the OAS, the case when we first moved there in 2004. In the past we had the fax and phone service on the same line and this meant that many incoming calls were met by the fax tone and callers were therefore unable to leave messages. This is clearly not acceptable and we have therefore disconnected the fax service, given that there is virtually no fax volume anyway as e-mail has become more convenient for most members.

1-800 phone service

Similarly, the volume of incoming calls that use the 1-800 number is so low that we no longer feel that it justifies the cost to the OAS. The service has therefore been terminated.

New members in 2008

During the whole of 2007 we welcomed 56 new members to the OAS and in the first two months of 2008 we welcome the following 16 new members.

Manuel Lapensee-Paquette Montreal, QC
Caitlin Pearce Toronto, ON
Suzanne Plousos Cornwall, ON
Christine King London, United Kingdom
Jamie Davidson Hamilton, ON
Jim Sherratt Bayfield, ON
Arthur Figura London, ON
Will Wilson Thunder Bay, ON
Johanna Kelly Richmond Hill, ON
Anthony Butler Thornhill, ON
Marilyn Wittwer Stittsville, ON
Annie Veilleux Toronto, ON
Norbert Stanchly Toronto, ON
H. Elizabeth Imrie Ottawa, ON
Janet Bachelor Ashawa, ON
Elizabeth Bond Ottawa, ON
open for stakeholder and public consultation. The draft OP text is available online at [http://www.hamilton.ca/officialplanpic](http://www.hamilton.ca/officialplanpic) on the lower half of the page.

There are three more dates and locations for the static display panels, which are also available on the same page with the background paper. Comments may be sent to:

Kirstin Maxwell  
905-546-2424 x1288  
opreview@hamilton.ca  
or routed through me (jmuller@hamilton.ca).

Thank you for your consideration.
Joseph Muller  
Cultural Heritage Planner  
City of Hamilton

**Old Slides and New Technology**

Around the office, lab, or in our special places are likely pictures or slides that are important. They may be pictures of old sites, artifacts, features and their profiles, pictures of artwork meant for publication and so on. They may be just fun pictures of good times, good friends and good places; but they are more likely documentation of important stuff.

Fortunately, I am still in possession of large collection of slides. They are looking a little old but not nearly as old as some of the images that they contain. Like the President’s message to the OAS last issue suggested: there are forming digital archives across the country and it is our duty, as recipients of public funding or as just people who are interested in preserving this old stuff, to help preserve this important material.

As a result I am about to contribute several thousand images to the museum of Ontario Archaeology. I hope that they are able to present them in a format that others may use.

I ask members to join with others of the OAS to preserve what we are here for.

Best regards,  
Paul Lennox

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**An archaeological story to beat all fish stories**

Fishing Season 2008 opened in Petunia on April 17, and many bridges across small streams were crowded with parked vehicles and optimistic anglers. As we drove by I could not help but think that no fish story that might develop would match the archaeological story of the day before.

During our Archaeological Survey of Petunia in June 1967 we heard with some disbelief that a car being driven past road work had developed a flat tire from being punctured by an “arrowhead”. We tracked the driver in question down to either confirm or discredit the curious story and she confirmed it. She added that McKee Tire at nearby Nottawa had repaired her tire after extracting a “golden arrowhead”. With heightened curiosity we hastened to McKee Tire but there the trail died. The staff on duty knew nothing of the story and could only refer us to the absent Mr. McKee when he returned. We did not wait and we did not return. We dismissed the story as an unsolved mystery, an inconspicuous item consigned to our 1967 field notes.

On April 16, 2008 we were at a meeting in Collingwood which included the former Reeve of Nottawasaga Township, Mr. McKee, owner of McKee Tire, Nottawa. We told him the story from more than forty years ago. He confirmed it in every detail! He

![Artifacts from somewhere along Highway 15.](Photo courtesy Paul Lennox)
personally had extracted an “arrowhead” from the tire and remembered it well. It was not “golden” but iron. He remembered and named the lady who owned the car and had phoned for help. He remembered and named the lad to whom he gave the “arrowhead”.

As for the artifact itself he not only described it well enough to identify but even drew a picture for us. It was a French iron trade arrowpoint with the tang still attached. It had evidently washed onto the road surface from adjacent bulldozing work.

More than forty years after the event the mystery was solved. I have met other residents of Nottawasaga with the same phenomenal memory. I look forward to further conversations with Mr. McKee. Meanwhile, it is good to have our 1967 Survey finally finished! That is better than any fish story.

Charles Garrad

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**Part-time Contract Employment Opportunity:**

**Executive Director of**

**The Ontario Archaeological Society**

The OAS is seeking a dynamic, self-motivated individual with excellent, administrative, organizational and communication skills. The successful candidate will possess a working knowledge of the practice of archaeology in Ontario. The Executive Director reports to the president of a volunteer board of directors.

The successful candidate will be responsible for running the Society’s office which will include maintaining the membership database, conducting the annual membership renewal process, preparing mailing lists and the annual grant application, banking, responding to member’s enquiries, and other duties.

Candidates should be able to work in partnership with various levels of government, heritage organizations and First Nations to advocate for excellent heritage practices in Ontario.

The position is a one-year renewable contract contingent on the availability of funding.

Your résumé, the names of three references, and hourly pay rate expectation must be received at the latest by May 30, 2008. These can be sent to:

Jean-Luc Pilon  
Ontario Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 62066  
Victoria Terrace Post Office  
Toronto, ON  
M4A 2W1  
or by email to:  
president@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

Additional details can be found on the OAS website:  
http://ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/ed.html
Cluster B: a sacrificial stone tool site in Queenston

By Tara Jenkins

In spring of 2000, D.R. Poulton & Associates Inc. excavated a site in Queenston, Ontario, referred to as Cluster B (AhGs-34). Their findings indicated that Cluster B is not a typical Late Archaic site of its period, but rather a deposit depicting a ritual of “sacrificed” stone tools. Intrigued by its uniqueness, I conducted an intensive study of Cluster B in spring 2007.

The location of Cluster B is significant for it is situated at the end of a ravine providing hunters and gatherers the only exit point from the Niagara River in order to portage Niagara Falls. Biface and biface-related fragments recovered account for approximately 70 percent of the artifact assemblage. The minimum number of bifaces is an estimated 22. All were in the early stages of use-life and were subjected to intense prolonged heating. One biface was left unburned and unbroken.

The small spatial distribution forms a cluster of bifaces known as a cache. Chipping debris accounted for the remaining assemblage and of these, the majority are pot-lids and likely related biface fragments since they have been subjected to prolonged heating. It can be hypothesized that the presence of pot-lids is an indication that burning was conducted at the site location, although the lack of flake debris suggests that the finished bifaces were transported to the location and not manufactured on site.

Documented rituals of the Late Archaic period were observed at William Ritchie’s (1980) Broad Point Piffard site in New York State and the later Glacial Kame mortuary complex in Canada. Both are recognized for their biface offerings and presence of human remains; however, Cluster B is lacking human remains (or features).

During literary exploration it was noted that Late Paleo-Indian sites have been documented to have biface caches that have been burned and broken without burials or cremation. As these sites proved similar in characteristics, I was unable to collect data in the Late Archaic period of such an assemblage.

All evidence does suggest however, that Cluster B is in its own right a ritual site:

1. There was an offering of material objects.
2. A lack of evidence of everyday activities being carried out insinuates that this location has spiritual importance.
3. The donation of these bifaces
demanded a great investment in wealth in the form of an offering (Ellis and Deller 2002).

Cluster B and the discovery and excavation of similar sites certainly warrants attention as they may hold a key to understanding more about ritual beliefs of the inhabitants for the time period between the Late Paleo-Indians and the Glacial Kame mortuary complex in Canada.

References


**Toronto fieldwork news: Bishop’s Block**

By Aleksandra Pradzynski

2007 was another busy field season in Toronto and, as the archaeologists start writing their reports, here are some fascinating discoveries they made.

During the summer and fall of 2007, Archaeological Services Inc. conducted a Stage 4 mitigative excavation of one of the oldest residences in Toronto, the Bishop's Block town homes. The archaeological site (AjGu-49) is located within a larger parcel of land bounded by Simcoe Street to the west, Adelaide Street to the south, and University Avenue to the east. The site proved to be an exceptional one in terms of preservation and the amount of recovered material.

Five three-storey buildings, located in a former desirable neighbourhood, were constructed in the 1830s. For a brief time, circa 1836, one of them was occupied by the author Anna Jameson, whose novel Winter Studies and Summer Ramble in Canada chronicled some of her time spent living in downtown Toronto. Today, only two out of five town homes remain. The rear yards of these residences, as well as two of the interiors, were the focus of the archaeological study (Photo 1).

The archaeologists were rewarded with very-well-preserved features and some of the most spectacular artifacts. The archaeological deposits document the evolution of how space was used on these narrow city lots between the 1830s and the 1960s. During that period, the town homes underwent several alterations including brick additions (Photo 2). Each backyard contained at least one cistern and a privy, all of which conformed to a general pattern, with the privies placed at the extreme rear of each building lot (Photo 3, 4).

1: Overall view of the site area showing foundation walls and backyard features.

Photo by Toronto Heritage Preservation Society

2: The basement of House 4 modified to hold a large coal-burning furnace.

Photo by Andrew Clish
Approximately 130 banker’s boxes of artifacts have been recovered and their analysis will provide us with a detailed picture of early 19th century Toronto life. A wide range of activities are represented by children’s toys, writing slates, an exotic coconut husk, smoking pipes, and ubiquitous container glass and ceramics common on domestic archaeological sites (Photo 5).

Now that the archaeological excavation is complete, in 2008, construction will begin on the new Shangri-La Hotel and residences, beginning a new chapter in the history of this city block.

References
Jameson, Anna
1838 Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada. Saunders and Ottley, London

Correction
In the Jan/Feb issue, we provided incorrect information relating to the Boyd Archaeological Field School.

The course dates for 2008 are July 27 to August 16.

More information is available at trca.on.ca/archaeological_field_schools
Gordon D. Watson, a founding member of the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society, and his wife Margaret, worked side by side on many archaeological projects. Gordon's lifelong interest in archaeology began with the discovery of Indian artifacts on his parents' prairie homestead. Later, in the late 1960s, he and Margaret discovered prehistoric pottery on the grounds of their cottage at Constance Bay, Ontario. With the assistance of Dr. James V. Wright and of Clyde Kennedy, Gordon undertook a small scientific study, which was published in Ontario Archaeology. Upon his retirement from the Department of National Defence, Gordon proceeded to earn a Master of Arts degree in archaeology at Trent University (1981). His thesis was entitled, “The Wyght Site: A Multi-component Woodland Site on the Lower Rideau Lake, Leeds County, Ontario”. For more than thirty years, Gordon documented 8000 years of prehistory in the Rideau Lakes and Constance Bay areas. In 1998 he donated his collection of twenty thousand artifacts from 38 archaeological sites to the Canadian Museum of Civilization. At that time, David Morrison, Curator of Archaeology, said, “It wasn’t just that Gordon had amassed so many artifacts that they were important, it was that they were handled with proper scientific diligence.”

In 1991, Gordon was the recipient of the OAS Emerson Award, which recognizes the contribution of a non-professional archaeologist. In 1998, he received the Spirit of Trent Award from Trent University for his unique contribution to archaeology. In 2001, he was presented with the OAS Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology award.

Gordon passed away on July 18, 2007, predeceased by Margaret. In recognition of their dedication to archaeology, their support of the Ottawa Chapter and their inspiration to others, the Ottawa Chapter, in partnership with Trent University, is paying tribute to Gordon and Margaret in the form of a bursary to be awarded each year to a graduate student studying Canadian anthropology or archaeology.

As expressed by the Trent Advancement Office, student financial need has never been greater and donations to support bursaries and awards are working to eliminate financial difficulties for students. Your donation could make a difference to generations of students.

For information on Gordon and the complete donation form, please access www.ottawaoas.ca
OAS Symposium 2008
October 17 to 19
Black Creek Pioneer Village and Hilton Garden Inn Vaughan

Preliminary Program

COLLABORATIONS:
PAST PEOPLES, FUTURE PARTNERS, SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Watch for the symposium registration coming to the OAS website and in the next ArchNotes!

Preliminary Program Highlights

Friday October 17: Collaborations with Descendants (Roundtable), Presidents Meeting, Evening Reception featuring slide show presentations
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Vaughan

Location: Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto

Sunday October 19: Annual Business Meeting, Panel Discussions, Workshops
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Vaughan

Please consider contributing for a First Nations community rep or Elder to attend by donating any amount for this purpose through the OAS office: 416-406-5959

To discuss corporate sponsorship, trade room, silent auction, and volunteer opportunities please contact Sylvia Teaves at oassymposium2008@gmail.com

A reminder that we are now accepting titles for papers and posters: please submit your title by May 31. Please consider the theme of ‘Collaborations’ in your submission.
Students are encouraged to submit proposals for session papers and posters that will be judged for a student achievement award.

Proposed Sessions
Collaborations: Archaeologists and Descendant Populations
Session in Celebration of Bob Burgar’s Archaeological Career
Pre-Contact Session
Historic Period Session
Poster Session

Proposals are to include an abstract of 100 to 150 words, the title of your submission, whether paper or poster, your name, affiliation, e-mail, mailing address.
Please submit your abstract by July 31. Be sure to indicate audio-visual requirements.
Note: papers are to be 15 minutes in length and a short question period will follow each. Details regarding poster specifications to come.

Send submissions and questions to:
Cathy Crinnion at ccrinnion@trca.on.ca
Membership

(Canadian $. Second figure includes a subscription to Ontario Archaeology)

Individual 34 / 46
Family 38 / 50
Student 23 / 32
Institution / Corporate 60
Life 750

Arch Notes submissions

Contributor deadlines:
- January 15
- March 15
- May 15
- July 15
- September 15
- November 15

Send articles to:
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or
Arch Notes editor
32 Marchmount Road,
Toronto, Ontario M6G 2A9

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