



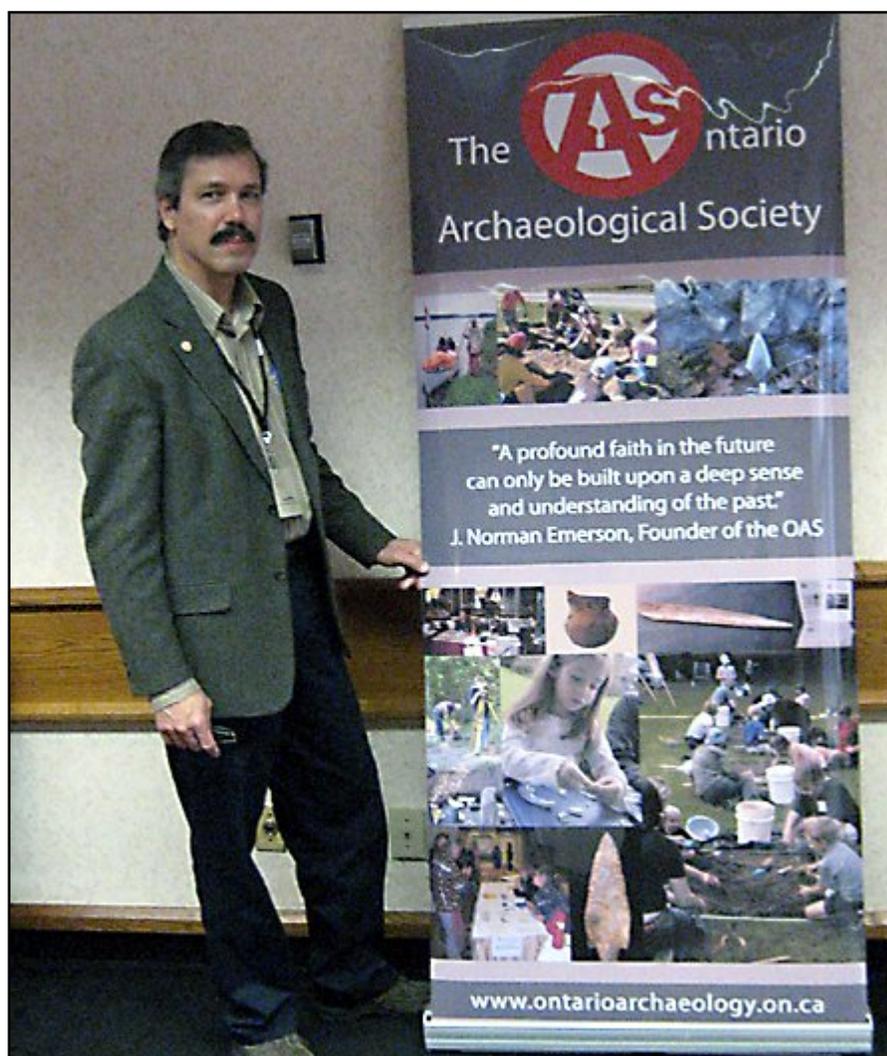
# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

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**OAS  
President  
Jean Luc  
Pilon  
unveils the  
society's  
new  
information  
poster at  
this year's  
CAA  
meetings  
in Thunder  
Bay.**

## **OAS News**

**3** President's message

**5** Chapters' Corner

Visit us on the Web at [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

## **Articles**

**7** Highway 10 Credit River Bridge Replacement

**12** Archaeology students make Iroquian pots speak

# Ontario Archaeological Society

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The Ontario Archaeological Society gratefully acknowledges funding from the Ministry of Culture through the Provincial Heritage Organization Operating Grant Program.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the winter of 2002, February and March to be precise, I built a 16 ft. Chestnut Prospector-type cedar strip canoe in my basement workshop. Yes, the classic story about the ship in the bottle. Getting it out did not, however, require creating a new doorway to the exterior at the end of the workshop (although I was prepared to do so), but it did entail moving a cupboard and removing the frame from the side door.

This past Monday, and for the second year running, I came to work in my canoe aided by an equally enthusiastic friend. I only live two and a half blocks from the shore of the Ottawa River, so it seemed natural that at least once a year, I take the river route to get to work at the Canadian Museum of Civilization which sits on the shore of the same river.

Yes, there are rapids, a dam and a city which must be shot, bypassed or traversed. But still, the bragging rights from such an adventure seem worth it. As we travelled along this storied river, the sights, sounds and smells are remarkable in their other-worldly characteristics. They were those experienced by countless generations over thousands of years. At many points we could hardly hear the din of the nearby cities but instead were overwhelmed by the roar of rapids or the lusty songs of finches, warblers and jays. The sweet fragrances of honey-

suckle, plum trees and lilacs competed with the heavy musty scents wafting out from the dense and moist forest along the river edge. We became one with the land. We turned back the hands of time.

As I write these few words, I occasionally look up outside my window and my eyes lit on that same Ottawa River, that watery artery to a heart of a continent. Sunday June 14th is Canadian Rivers Day. So much travel today is on highways or by aircraft and travellers are kept at a distance from the rivers and streams which used to be

pulse of the watery landscape remains.

In national capital region, the Ottawa Riverkeeper, a community-based group intent on helping maintain the health of and an appreciation for the Ottawa River, is organizing a 20 km long trip from Victoria Island just below the Chaudière Falls in the centre of Ottawa-Gatineau to Petrie Island in Orleans. It will be an event filled with colour and excitement with large 'voyagers' canoes as well as many, many other smaller craft. They are expecting over 300 paddlers.



That same day, a four-day conference will begin in Ottawa dedicated to Canada's waterways: the Canadian River Heritage Conference. It is anticipated that sometime during this conference, a n

announcement might be made whereby the Ottawa River will be declared an official Canadian Heritage River. Just imagine that a river like the Ottawa, which was always at the heart of Canadian history, both ancient and modern, is only now being accorded such recognition.

Rivers and streams are links with the land's past. They formed the essential definitions of maps, mental or paper. They change their face with the seasons. They feed the people who live on their shores. They provide power to nurture our lives. But today, our rivers and streams are often abused, neglected, dammed or diverted and sometimes even covered over. But the

It took years of work on the part of many dedicated volunteers, but it is now nearing reality (read more about the Ottawa River at the following website <http://ottawariver.org/index.html>).

In early May, a visitor to the new Art Gallery of Ontario signed up for a tour

of an archaeological excavation in the basement of the Grange, an early 19th century Georgian mansion in downtown Toronto, immediately adjacent to the AGO. They met a tour guide who related the discoveries of mysterious treasures (“spices encased in balls of wax, bones hidden in clay bricks, and most intriguingly, a bundle of letters sealed in wax and buried in the basement of this historic house”) that had been hidden by a maid of the house and discovered by the excavators. As they left the tour, they were even given a newsletter titled ‘Grange Excavation Notes 03/2009’. The excitement of these people was eventually brought to a grinding halt when they were informed that the excavation was ‘haptic conceptual art’. They genuinely thought they had just had the privilege of witnessing the careful study of a great early XIXth century mystery.

Obviously the ‘art’ installation worked well. It was very credible, fooling lots of people, including a Queen’s University history Ph.D. student. By burying the true nature of the installation in the ‘Excavation Notes’, the likelihood is that many of the visitors left the Grange with false perceptions of what they had actually seen and what had really happened there. Moreover, there is no reason why their beliefs would have changed if they did not bother to carefully read the newsletter.

The tale of the canoe commute and the ‘archaeological art installation’ share something in common that actually does have a serious side for those interested in archaeology and the presentation of the past to the public.

Both instances speak to the issue of fact versus fiction. The trip down the river from home to work was a wonderful illusion which allowed me to connect with a variety of aspects of the Ottawa River; its history, its natural characteristics, its modern condition, its flora, etc. Yet, I was also aware that it was a privilege to find myself able to enjoy this setting. In many respects, environmental laws, historical events and developments, geopolitics, etc. had

all contributed to maintain the corridor through which I was passing. The near-constant reminder of what lay just beyond sight in some cases, served to remind me of the fragility of the world that surrounds us. It also helped me appreciate even more those efforts which had prevented the entire shoreline from being built up, for all the mighty rapids to have been dammed, for all the forests to have been cut away and replaced with manicured lawns.

Now, back to the AGO’s ‘archaeological installation’. The offended visitor chose to write to the director of the AGO with copies to the chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, the executive-director of the Ontario Museum Association, the executive-director of Heritage Toronto and yours truly, the president of the OAS. His very real discomfort revolved around issues of authenticity and trust. His recommendations were as follows:

1. Never expect visitors to decipher bad writing. Write clearly.
2. Never abuse the trust of your visitors.
3. Never sell fiction as historical fact.

The kinds of discoveries made by real archaeological projects are rarely as exciting as the veritable treasure that was purportedly being unearthed in the basement of the Grange. But archaeologists, especially those who interact with the public, are very often faced with precisely that perception. Indeed, this expectation is surely the one that spurs on pot-hunters who usually end up finding a few recognizable items and destroying so much invaluable and irreplaceable archaeological information.

If the irate AGO visitor is correct, sadly for the artist, Iris Haussler, a great many of the visitors to her installation will never actually come to appreciate her art if they failed to carefully read the newsletter. At some point, the illusion should be brought to an end in a controlled fashion. In this way, the artist receives due recognition for her work, the visiting public’s notion that archaeology is a true source of information about the past is preserved.

And finally, the AGO story drives home a very important point, namely that people are very curious to experience archaeology firsthand, to see the process unfolding in front of their eyes. They are willing to go out of their way to witness it and they are willing to pay to see it. And of course, they want to see the real thing and if it must be embellished, then they want to know that it is and what parts are interpretations and what parts are facts. The illusion is worth it, as long as everyone knows it’s not quite real or at least an approximation of past reality. The very same can be said for my annual canoe commute route.

Authenticity, honesty, trust; these are values that are not about to go out of style.

### **2009 Draft Standards and Guidelines**

One last and very important note. OAS members are invited to review and comment on the 2009 Draft Standards and Guidelines which the Ministry of Culture released the first week of June (see the link below or go to the Ministry of Culture’s website). While this document is aimed at creating a broad set of expectations about the manner in which consulting archaeology takes place in the future, the board of directors feels that this document will greatly affect the nature of the archaeological record that will be created in Ontario and as such, is of concern to all who share an interest in Ontario’s archaeological past ([http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/heritage/archaeology/arch\\_sng.htm](http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/heritage/archaeology/arch_sng.htm)).

There is a series of joint APA-OAS regional meetings scheduled over the course of the summer. Go to the OAS website for a date, place, time and contact near you and make your voice heard. The timing is crucial if we are to expect to have some influence on this important document.

You also can send your written comments to Neal Ferris who is taking the lead in this area ([advocacy@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](mailto:advocacy@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)). He will be collating OAS feedback. We hope to submit

our members' views to the Ministry by the fall.

In the meantime, for those carrying out fieldwork this summer, find lots,

learn lots. For those taking some holidays, be safe and have a pleasant time. I look forward to see you all in Waterloo next October ([http://oas20-](http://oas20-09.uwaterloo.ca/)

09.uwaterloo.ca/).

**Jean-Luc Pilon**  
President, OAS

## OAS CHAPTERS' CORNER

### TORONTO CHAPTER

The Toronto Chapter has been building an exciting relationship with Black Creek Pioneer Village, starting with arranging for the village to be the venue for the 2008 OAS Symposium. This year, some of our members assisted the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority with their displays at the village during March Break, including providing our ever-popular simulated dig boxes where kids try their hands at excavating carefully seeded 'artifacts'.

On May 24, we held our annual Archaeology Day at the Village. Since this was during Doors Open Toronto, it gave the chapter fantastic exposure to the 5,300 visitors who passed through the village that day.

In addition to our Chapter information booth, information was provided by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority on the Boyd Field School. Our displays included demonstrations of flint knapping, and exhibits of animal pelts and skulls, pale botanical material,



and historic and prehistoric artifacts. For the kids, we had the dig boxes plus a very popular pottery reconstruction table. Our used book sale generated a satisfying amount of money, which we are splitting with the OAS (since some of

the books had been gathered by them in past years).

The weather was wonderful, the location was perfect, and we are looking forward to holding our Archaeology Day at the village again next year.

### HAMILTON CHAPTER

During May and June OAS members have been conducting an archaeological survey and reconnaissance of the Reimer Site and surrounding area. The Project Director is James B. Bandow. The project is open to OAS



### Members Only

In October, the chapter will offer a course on Advanced Map & Compass For Archaeologists. The course will be offered in association with Outdoor Life & Recreation Department, McMaster University.

### LONDON CHAPTER

The April 2009 meeting of the London Chapter was held on Thursday, April 9. The speaker was Dr. J. Marla Toyne, Dept. of Anthropology, University Western Ontario, who talked about her Peruvian research in a presentation entitled They Offered their Hearts and their Heads: Human Sacrifice Rituals in Ancient Peru.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

The chapter will be holding its annual summer picnic in

conjunction with 'Archaeology Day' at Longwoods Conservation Area near Delaware. Check the London Chapter website for further details.

### OTTAWA CHAPTER

Monday, Aug. 3 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., will be Colonel By Day at the Rideau Canal locks below the Chateau Laurier and beside the Bytown Museum.

On Saturday, Aug. 15 between 10 a.m. and noon, the chapter will celebrate Archaeology Day at Bonnechere Provincial Park. The programme takes place on the beach.

Saturday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will be Riverfest at Pinhey's Point Historic Site. This fair-like event combines music, boating, crafts, picnics, hayrides, and celebrates the history and traditions of the Ottawa River (270 Pinhey's Point Road, Dunrobin).

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee is actively seeking members willing to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Archaeological Society. This is your opportunity to actively contribute to the OAS. The board is

comprised of seven directors. Should more than seven individuals present themselves, an election will take place. Nominations close at the Annual Business Meeting to be held during the Annual Symposium in Waterloo,

Oct.16-18, 2009. Please send your nominations to: Jean-Luc Pilon, Chair of the OAS Nominations Committee, Ontario Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 62066 Victoria Terrace Post Office, Toronto, ON M4A 2W1

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# OAS INVITES YOU TO THE 36TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN WATERLOO

The Ontario Archaeological Society's 36th annual symposium will be held from Friday evening Oct. 16 through Sunday morning Oct. 18 on the campus of the University of Waterloo in the fascinating and evocative surroundings of the university's Earth Sciences Museum.

The central theme of this year's symposium is 'Ontario Archaeology: Expanding the Audience'.

The symposium will commence Friday evening with a public lecture by Canadian author Heather Pringle, considered by many to be North America's foremost popularizer of archaeological knowledge. We're delighted that she has agreed to give a talk on the challenges and rewards of conveying archaeological information to the public. Her lecture will be followed by a reception. Following OAS symposium tradition, Saturday during the day and Sunday morning will be devoted to scholarly presentations and discussions.

The website for the symposium can be accessed at <http://oas2009.uwaterloo.ca>. There you will find more information about:

- The symposium theme and the call for papers;

- Hotel accommodations in Waterloo; and
- Highlights of the program, including Friday evening's public lecture and the banquet on Saturday.

Those of you who are planning to attend the symposium should consult the accommodations information and make reservations immediately, since that weekend we will be up against the biggest draw of the year for visitors to the Kitchener-Waterloo region – Oktoberfest.

Those of you who are planning to present papers at the symposium should make sure to submit your titles and abstracts by the deadline of June 30.

In order to encourage students to participate actively in the scholarly part of the symposium, undergraduate or graduate students whose abstracts are accepted and who present papers will be eligible to receive an honorarium of \$100 after the symposium. Application forms will be available at the symposium itself.

Everyone should feel free to direct submissions or any questions concerning paper topics to Robert Park ([rwpark@watarts.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:rwpark@watarts.uwaterloo.ca)) or Robert MacDonald ([rimacdon@watarts.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:rimacdon@watarts.uwaterloo.ca)).

# HIGHWAY 10 CREDIT RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

by Tom Arnold

## Introduction

During my recent contract position as Regional Archaeologist, Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Central Region, I was required to do an emergency Stage 3/Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment at the site of a bridge widening on Highway 10. The bridge widening was part of the larger project to widen Highway 10 to four lanes from 1 km north of Highway 24 to the Highway intersection in Orangeville. The site location lies about approximately 3.5 km south of the intersection of Highway 10 and Highway 9 in Town of Orangeville and lies within the current and historic right-of-way for the road allowance that separates Lots 26, Concessions 1 East and West of Hurontario Street.

The emergency involved the discovery of bridge footings of abutment walls and wing walls of an earlier bridge to the west of the current bridge. Upon their discovery, a local anonymous resident commented to the construction crew that these were the footings of a covered bridge that once stood at this location. When this comment was relayed to me and my fellow Regional Archaeologist Carla Parslow by the Environmental Planner Mr. Chris Tschirhart, it became apparent we had the ever dreaded 'deeply buried archaeological deposits'. Since construction of the new bridge in this location was on going it was imperative that we react immediately to record any information possible without delaying construction.

## Methods

Consultation with the Ministry of Culture produced an agreed upon strategy of a Stage 3, involving detailed

archival research on the possibility that a covered bridge once stood at this location and Stage 4 field monitoring and recording of the extent of these footings. The latter was due to the fact that the footings were buried in the river bottom immediately adjacent the existing channel making traditional field methods inherently dangerous due to flooding and collapse. The best that could be accomplished on such short notice was monitoring, recording through photography and if conditions permitted basic measuring of any exposed deposits.

## Previous Archaeological Research

The study area as part of a much larger MTO highway-widening project was subjected to two Stage 1-2 archaeological assessments (one each at the Preliminary and Detail Design stages of the project, ASI 2001; ASI 2005) and had been submitted and accepted prior to the beginning of my contract. Reviewing these reports revealed them to be typical of Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment reports. No particular mention of the bridge locale was made in either report and the area of the bridge footings was not subjected to test pit survey because the areas were deemed disturbed,

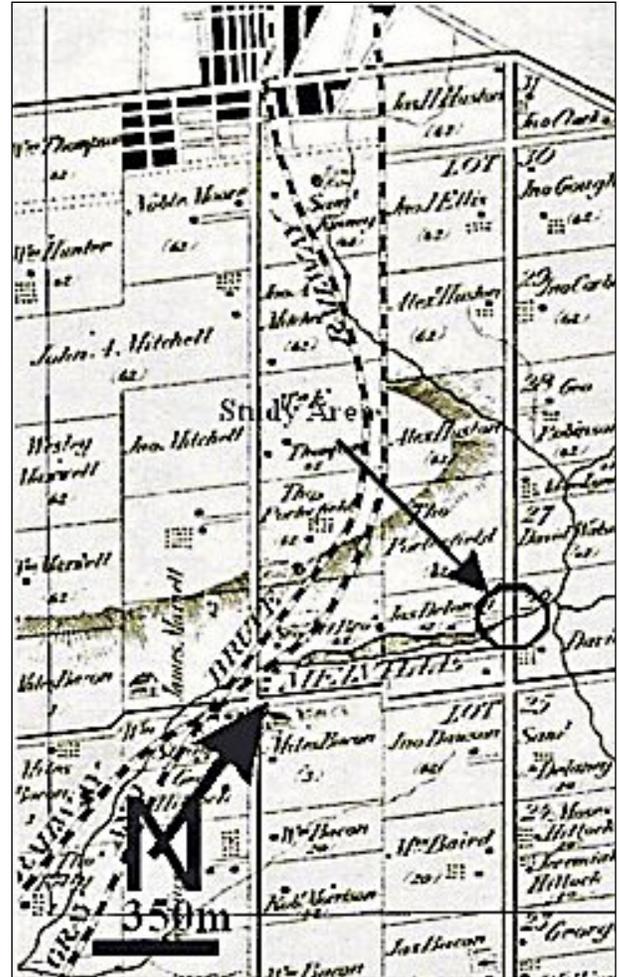


Figure 1: Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel County (Pope 1877:6-7)

consisting of excessive slope or poorly drained (ASI 2001: Map 15; ASI 2005: Figure 4-18). Based on monitoring during Stage 4 (see below), I would concur with that description.

During the Stage 1-2 work an historic Eurocanadian site (Delaney Farm, AlHa-14) was found about 100 m north of the bridge on the western edge of the highway right-of-way. The Stage 3 test excavation recovered 476 historic artifacts dating from the 1830s to 1860s (ASI 2005b). According to the Ministry of Culture's archaeological site database this is the only recorded



Work on Hurontario Street, approximately 1910, looking south near lot 27

Donated by Mrs. Gordon Black

In 1907 some work was done widening the road which was then a narrow corduroy one covered with sand and gravel. New cement bridges were put in to replace the old log bridges over the Credit near 25 Side Road and lot 28, and the road was widened.

Work went on for several years and often some twenty teams were working at once. It was declared a County Road, and in 1910 Mr. Edward Ellis of the first line 3, was appointed Good Roads Commissioner. Stone was collected from the rock piles on the adjacent farms and the road-bed was built up considerably. The shoulders were widened with sand and gravel taken from 25 hill. A stone crusher was set up first on the J. J. Ellis farm, then on the Huston farm and later at Albert Sawden's.

In the picture Mr. Ellis is seen standing on the left, the man beside him is probably Johnny Watson. The men and their teams reading from right to left are first, George Torrance, Joseph Hillock, and Earl Harrison; other men working on the project were J. B. and Wilfred Irwin, Sam Island, Thomas Speers and Joe Stubbs, but they cannot be identified. Mr. Henry Torrance and Mr. Harold Watson remember their work on the project and have given us this information.

As this was now a County Road the work was paid for out of taxes. This was no longer statute labour. A man with a team and wagon earned \$3.50 a day. In 1907 times were very hard owing to both a severe drought and intense heat. There was no rain of any account from seed time to harvest, and many farmers were only too glad of the opportunity of working on the road. While known officially as Hurontario Street it was generally referred to as the Centre Road. Some time in the Twenties it was made a Provincial Highway No. 10 and in 1930 it was first paved.

Figure 2: Description of Highway 10 Road Improvement and Bridge Replacement, ca. 1907 (Courtesy Region of Peel Archives, Brampton)

archaeological site within 2 km of the study area (Von Bitter personal communication, email Sept 23, 2008).

Since the site location is within the current and original right-of-way (ROW) of the road allowance it has been owned by the township, county or province since it was surveyed. The landowners on either side of ROW are noted as J. Ketchum, Jr. (west) and Jas. Watson (east) on the 1859 Tremaine map and Jas Delaney (west) and David

Watson (east) on the 1887 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel (ASI 2001: 4; 2005a: 3; Figure 1).

## Results

The focus of the archival research was on locating information on a possible covered bridge at this crossing of the Credit River. To begin this process, I contacted the Heritage Resource Officer of the Town of Caledon and asked if she had knowledge of such a bridge at this location. Her response was that she had no such knowledge, and to confirm this, she contacted a 96-year-old local resident who commented that a covered bridge had never stood at that location. A similar call to the Peel Regional Archives produced a similar response of no knowledge of a covered bridge at that crossing. Thus, the oral history of a covered bridge at this location does not appear to have been well known.

The earliest survey record of the study area that is archived in Survey Records, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and dates to 1819. These records consist of a map and field notes of the east half of Caledon Township conducted by James G. Chewett. The



**Figure 3: Engineering Plan Showing Pre-1958 Bridge**

map shows the layout of the township along with marginal notations indicating bearings and distances in chains (1 chain = 22 yards or about 20 m). An early survey map covers the study area in the ROW in front of Lot 26, Concession 1 East. Wavy lines suggest a swamp in the area of the river crossing and this is confirmed from the field notes that record from south to north the basic vegetation along the survey line. It notes (with 'R' standing for road allowance for the east/west running road between Lots 25 and 26, now called Highpoints Sideroad) even stands of Hemlock, Beech and, Maple, followed by a descent towards the Credit River then Cedar swamp (south bank of the Credit) and Alder swamp (north bank) and finally what appears to be Basswood, Elm Beech and Maple trees. There is no mention or indication of a bridge at this time and this is not unexpected since it was only after this survey that the Township of Caledon was settled (Pope 1877:64).

The Peel Regional Archive houses the Rosehill Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History writings and collections.

A scanned page identified as PN2007\_03792 (Page 112) (Figure 2) has

a black and white photograph with the caption indicating that it was taken about 1910 looking south from near Lot 27 (Township of Caledon) and was donated by a Mrs. Gordon Black. The accompanying anonymous short article states that work began in 1907 on widening and building up the road bed using field stones from the adjacent farms and that a new cement bridges replaced the "old log bridges over the Credit at 25 Side Road (now Highpoint Sideroad) and lot 28..." (Anonymous n.d.). Figure 2 is a copy of this document.

This anonymously written document, although very short, provides a wealth of information about local environmental and social conditions in the area around this portion of Highway 10 during the first decade of the 20th century. It appears the author had interviewed at least two individuals who had worked on the road during this time, a Mr. Henry Torrance and a Mr. Harold Watson. Environmentally it notes that the summer of 1907 was hot and dry without "...rain of any account from seed time to harvest." Since Hurontario (what would become Highway 10) was a county road, the



**Figure 4: Old Wood Planking from South Bank Wing Wall**

work was not considered as statue labour and farmers hired as part of the road crew were paid (a relief since farming was so bad). The road prior to this improvement was "...narrow corduroy road covered with sand and gravel."

Besides replacing the bridges the work consisted building up the roadbed using stones collected from local farms and widening the shoulders with sand and gravel. The black and white photography (Figure 2) shows the work crew with wagon teams behind the roadbed built up with stone. Lastly, the article notes that Hurontario became a provincial highway sometime in the 1920s. According to Bevers (2009) it became a highway in 1920.

The final archival research was done in the Geomatics Section, Engineering Office, Central Region. The Geomatics Section archives drawings, engineering plans and survey notes for provincial highways in the Central Region. A review of the files for Highway 10 at this location uncovered engineering plans and survey field notes dating to 1956 and 1957 prior to the construction of the current bridge.

The plans and notes document the presence of a bridge that matches the location of the exposed concrete footings. Figure 3 overlays this bridge with the a recent aerial photograph of the crossing. The previous bridge and road alignment were at the western edge of the original 1819 66 ft. (20 m)

right-of-way. This may indicate the location of the original ford of the Credit prior to any bridge construction.

Figure 3 confirms that the eastern end of the pre-1958 bridge overlaps the current bridge and was probably impacted by the construction of the current bridge. A copy of an April 1956

field drawing of the bridge made by surveyor J.R. Lancaster describes the structure as a concrete culvert that is 32.6 ft. (9.94 m) wide by 50 ft. long (15.24 m).

The three days of monitoring were conducted on Sept. 2, 5 and 12, 2008 and confirm the evidence from the archival research. They showed a basic box construction consisting of abutment walls paralleling the river channel on the north and south banks of the credit and wing walls at the west end. The eastern end of the abutment walls and presumably the eastern wing walls had been impacted by the construction of the current bridge built in 1958. The remnant abutment walls were between 8-9 m long (26 – 29 ft.). On the south the wing wall was about 7.75 m long and both it and the abutment wall were 1.25 m wide. On the north bank the wing wall was only 4.85 m long and 1.25 m wide while the abutment wall was approximately 2.25 m wide. Both the north and south bank abutment walls appeared to be beveled towards the river.

On the south bank the abutment wall was constrained between sheet pilings and the river. Due to its location it did not need to be removed in order for construction to continue. The wing wall was not so fortunate. During its removal old wood planks were seen around the edges and were probably part of the original forms used to hold the cement as it cured and large

uncrushed rocks and cobbles were noted in the matrix of the cement (Figure 4). The latter matches the description of the use of fieldstones to build up the roadbed from the Rosehill Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History article noted above.

The exposure of north bank abutment and wing wall showed similar construction methods, including a possible beveled surface and uncrushed fieldstones in the cement matrix. For construction reasons, the sheet piling had to be placed exactly where the abutment and wing walls were located this required their removal.

## Conclusions

Based on the archival research, field measurements and monitoring the concrete footings uncovered at the South Credit River Crossing appear to belong to the original cement bridge built between 1907 and 1910 and not to a 'covered bridge'.

This is based on the fact:

1. The presence of field cobbles in the matrix of the footing cement. This matches the construction techniques of the early 20th century, as noted in the document from the Rosehill Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History,
2. The latter also documents the replacement of an older log bridge with the concrete bridge at this location,
3. In addition, the 1956 surveyor's field drawing of a concrete culvert and the 1957 engineering drawing of that section of Highway 10 matches the location of the uncovered footings

Although it is possible that a covered bridge once stood at this location, there is currently no documentary or physical evidence to support this claim. Since log bridges were the earliest and simplest bridge construction technique in Ontario (Shipley et al. n.d: 7), it seems unlikely that it would replace a more technological sophisticated earlier covered bridge. The best explanation at this time is that the log bridge, through local oral history re-telling, was transformed into a covered bridge.

In all likelihood, the log bridge and its

successor the cement bridge built about 1907 was at the location of the original ford of the Credit River. This would explain the deviation from the centre line of the current right-of-way and why the footings were positioned at the western edge of the originally surveyed 66 ft. road right-of-way demarcated by J.G. Chewett in 1819.

The remaining bridge abutment footing has been registered as an archaeological site and given the designation AlHa-32.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Chris Tschirhart, Environmental Planner, Planning and Environmental Office, Ministry of Transportation; Fred Vok, Morrison Herschfield Ltd.; Robert Fulton, Geomatics Section, Engineering Office, Ministry of Transportation; Robert Von Bitter, Ministry of Culture; Sally Drummond, Heritage Resource Officer, Town of Caledon; Barb Dickson, Acting Survey Records Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources; Brian Gilchrist, Reference Archivist, Region of Peel Archives; and Diane Allangame, Acting Curator, Region of Peel Archives

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- Pope, J.H.  
*Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel County, Walker and Miles*, Toronto, 3
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## OAS Awards call for nominations

The deadline for nominations for OAS awards has been changed to August 1. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to Ontario Archaeology? Please review the short descriptions of the awards below and refer to the OAS website <http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/awards.php> for a full description of each and nomination criteria.

The J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal is awarded to an outstanding Ontario non-professional archaeologist whose life's work has been consistently of the highest standard, who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology and who has earned acclaim for excellence and achievement. It is the highest honour the Society can bestow. The award has not been handed out in a decade and we are eager to reinstitute this honour.

The Ian and Tim Kenyon Memorial Award is awarded to non-professional archaeologists who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology, and who has earned acclaim for excellence and

achievement. Next to the J. Norman Emerson award, it is the highest recognition that the Society can bestow.

The Heritage Preservation Award is given in recognition of a significant voluntary contribution to heritage preservation within the Province of Ontario within a year prior to the announcement of the award. It may be awarded to an individual or to an organization.

Individuals, groups and organizations are all eligible for the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award. This award recognises excellence in the promotion of public interest in the study of archaeology through the use of displays, workshops, training, site tours, and/or the development of educational programmes and materials. Past winners have also been recognised for fostering awareness of cultural resources and heritage preservation and efforts to advance the ethical practice of archaeology.

Nominations for all awards should be submitted to the Director of Membership Services, Alistair Jolly ([alistairjolly@hotmail.com](mailto:alistairjolly@hotmail.com)) by August 1, 2009.

# ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENTS MAKE IROQUOIAN POTS SPEAK

By Dr. Kostalena Michelaki  
Dept. of Anthropology  
McMaster University

In the last five years, in a class with the uninspired title of 'Ceramic Analysis', I have been teaching undergraduate students at McMaster University how to read technological and social information out of ceramic sherds.

We start by learning about raw materials: the different kinds of clays and their properties, the interaction of clay with water and fire, the properties

of common minerals, such as quartz, feldspars and calcite. We watch ethnographic videos. In some women make pots, building them by coils from the bottom up; in others women collect the clays, but men make the pots, starting from the rim and working downwards.

Armed with some ideas of possible raw materials, forming and finishing techniques students are then given a prepared clay paste and are asked to make a pot (preferably one that would look similar to common Iroquoian forms, a challenge few of us ever

manage to meet) (Figure 1). They are asked to observe their gestures and the evidence they leave on the malleable clay. The idea is that when we look at actual archaeological ceramics, when they see the evidence, they will be able to recognize the gesture that created it.

Having now experienced the effort, knowledge and skill required in making a pot, students are ready to approach archaeological material. As a class we focus on the Hamilton site (AiHa-5), a late historic Neutral town in West Flamborough Township excavated by Dr. W.C. Noble, Dr. H. Devereux and Paul Lennox between 1970 and 1976.

The material is kept at the Anthropology

Department at McMaster University, along with Lennox's publication of his finds.

For our class, the most intriguing result of course is the unusual amount of shell tempered ceramics at the Hamilton site and Lennox's conclusion that it suggests the presence of captives. This interpretation becomes our hypothesis. We set out to test whether our analysis of the complete ceramic operational sequence (raw material collection and preparation, forming, finishing, firing and use) supports the presence of two separate groups, or whether a different interpretation might be more appropriate (could it be that the shell tempered pots, for example, had a different function than the remaining, grit-tempered ones?)

Each student is given a box of 40 sherds (including both grit and shell tempered rims, shoulders and bodies). First they focus on the raw materials. They learn how to recognize grit (quartz, feldspar, muscovite, biotite etc) and shell in sherds and how to record their size, shape, amount and orientation. They then learn how to perform very basic descriptive statistics to discover patterns in their observations. Finally, they produce a report that pushes them to think beyond pottery alone: Did the potters at the Hamilton site have access to many different kinds of clays? Did they use all the clays to which they had access or did they target specific ones? Where could the shell in their pots be coming from? Is there water near the site? Could it be the left over shell from bead making? Is there evidence in the site for bead making?

Some of these questions cannot be answered based on the information available to our class. This is why we visit the X-Ray Diffraction and the



Figure 1: A student making a pot.



**Figure 2: Students presenting the results of their analysis of the firing methods used by the Hamilton potters.**

Scanning Electron Microscopy labs at the Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research and the Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis lab at the McMaster Nuclear Reactor. There students hear about the different archaeometric techniques available to archaeologists and how they could provide them with useful information.

The next step is to consider the forming and finishing of the pots. Again, students focus first on recognizing the signs of coil making and paddle and anvil, but then, having recorded the relevant information, they start to ask the main question: Are the grit tempered pots formed and finished in ways that are significantly different from those used in the manufacture of shell tempered pots? Similarly, the process is repeated as students focus on the firing and the use of the Hamilton pots.

Having a sample of 40, however, rarely allows for the recognition of interesting patterns. Once students have gone through all the steps of the

ceramic operational sequence, we pool everyone's data together. Since the class has usually 10-15 students, we end up with a sample of 400-600 sherds.

The class is then split in groups. One group is responsible for a presentation of the Hamilton site: where is it; how big is it; how many houses and middens were found in it; what artifacts in what quantities were excavated etc. Another group undertakes the examination of the 600 sherds in terms of the raw material recipes the Hamilton potters had used. Another group considers each recipe in terms of forming and finishing methods. Another group focuses on firing (Figure 2) and another one on use. Finally, the last group develops a set of expectations of what the operational sequence would look like if potters of different ethnic groups had made the pots, versus if the pots had been made by the same potters, but for different functions.

In a communal class exercise the Hamilton ceramic operational seque-

nces are defined, as examined by each year's class, and are compared to our expectations.

It is very satisfying to see the excitement with which students get involved with the Hamilton site and Ontario archaeology as they put together their final posters. They look through the collections to find the best examples of sherds for their purposes; they look at the stone and bone tools to see if they can tell what might have been used in pot making; they want to look at the beads; they talk about looking for native clays and trying to make a few pots one more time.

All the groups present their posters on the last day of class in an open-to-the-public session. Fellow undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty come by and give the students a chance to spread their knowledge and enthusiasm.

For my students, and myself Ontario archaeology is one of the most fascinating subject areas one can be involved in.

# REMEMBRANCES OF BILL NOBLE

**W**e were saddened to hear of the recent passing of William C. Noble, who taught at McMaster University his entire career. A few former students and colleagues have put together some thoughts about Bill and his impact on archaeology in Canada, in Ontario, and on us. This is not a formal compilation of his body of work but a series of personal stories. Our thoughts go out to his extended family at this time....

## From Mima Kapches:

May 23rd was a beautiful spring day, the aroma of lilacs and flowering bushes in the air, and fresh mown green grass. We arrived at a small white clapboard church with a tall spire and church bells ringing. The bells drowned out the sounds of highways bounding this settler Anglican church. We gathered to pay respects and bury our colleague and friend William C Noble.

Family, friends and archaeologist colleagues filled the tiny austere church where was sat on creaky wooden pews, old and well-worn through a century of use. The service was joyful, full of song and we all raised our humble voices to the challenge. The minister had overseen the service for Bill's son Gordon and Bill's father. The land for the cemetery and the church was from the Noble family.

How many of us will rest with our ancestors? Most of us will be with strangers. We followed the minister outside for committal where a small granite receptacle was placed into the ground as we all stood around in silent thought of personal memories of a colleague and a friend. God speed.

## From Sheryl Smith:

Bill Noble was the only archaeology professor at Mac when I arrived there in 1970. He was a newly minted PhD at that

point (U of Calgary, 1968), the first Canadian to graduate with a PhD in Archaeology (as opposed to Anthropology) from a Canadian university. As we got to know him over the next four years, the Class of '74 learned how proud he was to be able to say that. Bill had passion for his teaching and was always thoroughly prepared for lectures. His second year



**Bill Noble working at Walker Site in 1973.**  
Photo credit: Paul Lennox

World Archaeology class took three hours and he dictated exactly four pages of detailed notes per hour! You could always count on a cramped hand after those classes.

Bill tried hard to instill in us not just a love of archaeology through fall field schools and the like, he also stressed the history of archaeology in Canada. One year he invited R.S. "Scotty" MacNeish to visit and lecture; this proved to be a magical experience, to meet a mythical figure in the discipline, as lowly undergrads. Bill sometimes said "my mentor, Scotty MacNeish", and I think he always hoped that his students would want to say that about him someday. I know he was proud of all of us, and what we have accomplished.

## From Milt Wright:

When I reflect upon time spent with Bill Noble, during 72-77 in my undergraduate and graduate student days at McMaster, the lasting impression is of Bill 'in the field'. He relished the opportunity to introduce new students to field work, both to affirm his strongly held belief that field work was both essential to the

development of the discipline and that it was also a critical contribution to one's character development. Bill revelled in relating field stories – the glory days – admittedly somewhat embellished and invariably coloured by personal observations, but they were his way of contributing to an oral tradition of the development of the discipline in Canada – the information rarely available in any publication.

In addition to stories, Bill was a fountainhead of 'dirty ditties' – those songs conjured around campfires wherein most of us could usually remember the first few stanzas but then would suffer from memory fade; Bill rarely faded. One year, Bill devoted an entire sabbatical to mastering the Hohner accordion – we saw the future before us and it was loud... but ultimately it was worth it just to see Bill wearing an ear to ear grin as he struck up yet another tune for the chorusing hordes.

So for me, it will be Bill's reverence for and celebration of fieldwork in all its dimensions that has left the lasting impression. I expect if one listens carefully, one may still hear a Hohner resounding above the cornfields on quiet and sultry summer evenings in Brant County. Thanks Bill – it was a slice.

## From Margaret Bertulli:

The qualities I valued in Bill Noble were his dedication to archaeology, to doing work of the highest quality and his care and concern for his students.

Our seminars and student gatherings were one of the high points of my undergraduate days. When meeting in later years at CAA conferences, he was always genuinely interested to learn how his former students were pursuing their careers. I am very sad to hear about Bill's death and offer my condolences to his family.

**From Gary Warrick:**

Dr. Bill Noble was a mentor to many students at McMaster University and a number of his students hold prominent positions in the archaeological community across Canada. Bill lived and breathed archaeology and was in his element in the field. Bill taught all

of his students two fundamental 'laws' of archaeology: work hard and play hard and don't lose sight of the people behind the potsherds. I have carried these laws in my back pocket next to my trowel for my entire career.

My fondest memories of Bill are from the sweltering summer of 1978 at the Finger site. Bill had basically handed me the Finger site excavation for my MA thesis. The site is a late 16th-early 17th century Neutral village situated at the back corner of a sandy loam cornfield. Bill had come out for a day to help out. The heat was oppressive and we had not tested a hillside midden on the banks of the creek. Bill grabbed a shovel and strode

off into the woods. An hour or so later, Bill walked out into the cornfield carrying a paper bag filled with artifacts which included fragments of a glass trade bead, the only one discovered that summer. Bill simply followed his archaeological nose. To prevent the sweat from stinging his eyes, Bill had tied a kerchief around his head pirate style. We retired to our tent camp (those McMaster Stormhaven tents) and after a couple of cold ones and a BBQ supper, we gathered around the campfire and listened to Bill telling stories and playing his squeezebox late into the evening. This is how I will remember Bill Noble.

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## Geraldine M. Shepherd

### November 16, 1932 to February 3, 2009

by Marjorie Clarkson

**G**erry Shepherd was a woman of many interests, many travels and many friends ... she pursued, enjoyed and reveled in these with great zest.

I met Gerry at my place of work (which happened to be Canada's National Ballet School) 34 years ago, and we soon discovered that, besides dance, we were both fascinated by history, archaeology and travel. Gerry soon shared her wonderful slides of Greece with me, and encouraged me on my travels to ancient sites. She then introduced me to the Ontario Archaeological Society, where we enjoyed evening lectures, summer and winter socials and a widening circle of fellow seekers.

Over the years, Gerry traveled widely, firstly with her parents, Sir Gerald and Lady Militza Shepherd, then with various individual friends, and sometimes with groups, including an OAS trip to the Yucatan.

Gerry inspired other people also, encouraging them to join her in her ongoing quest for knowledge, and the enjoyment of nature and the outdoors. Along this route she attended courses and meetings, and participated in activities with the Royal Ontario Museum, the Toronto Field Naturalists, the Canadian Society of Dowsers,

and the Ontario Archaeological Society (of which she was a Life member).

Also a supporter of the arts, Gerry often attended performances and open houses at the National Ballet of Canada, and at Canada's National Ballet School ... both

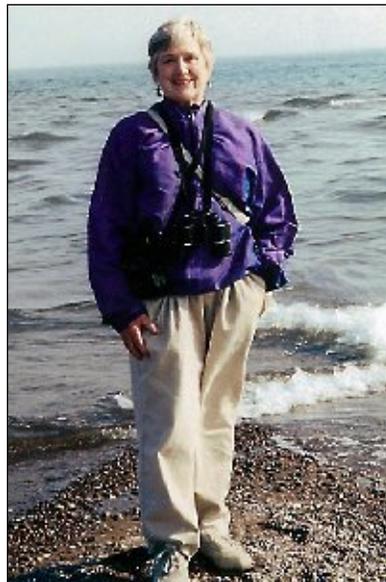
organizations being close to her heart, as Gerry had taken ballet lessons in Toronto as a young woman, and had danced professionally at several of the CNE Grandstand shows of the 1950's.

Gerry was a proud Canadian, gaining her citizenship in 1959, and celebrating the anniversaries enthusiastically. She believed that citizenship came with responsibilities, so she followed her vision, supporting favored politicians, while chiding and offering pithy suggestions to those that failed to please her.

For the past 20 years Gerry had been a freelance writer producing intelligent and insightful columns on various environmental issues, for several publications, but especially for *Vitality Magazine*, and its predecessor, *Common Ground Magazine*.

Gerry had been valiantly battling cancer for a few years, and passed away at Mount Sinai Hospital on February 3rd after a brief stay.

Thank you Gerry for sharing your travels, passions, knowledge and wit with so many of us.





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