OAS Executive Director Lorie Harris and Director Alistair Jolly man the OAS membership table at the recent Symposium held at the University of Waterloo on Sept. 16-18.

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The Ontario Archaeological Society gratefully acknowledges funding from the Ministry of Culture through the Provincial Heritage Organization Operating Grant Program.
I have just returned from the annual symposium held at the University of Waterloo and organized by Drs. Robert Park and Robert MacDonald. The meetings were held in the Environmental Information Technology building on the U of W campus where symposium attendees could also take in the building’s modest but well appointed geological museum.

In addition to stimulating papers and discussions and several opportunities to renew acquaintances, we were privileged to be allowed to sit in on a conference by Heather Pringle, a celebrated science writer specializing in reporting archaeology discoveries. She provided us with wonderful accounts of her work and most importantly gave out some valuable tips on getting our discoveries into popular media.

After the delicious banquet on Saturday evening, we were treated to a viewing of the ‘work in progress’ film on the Don Jail burials, starring Ron Williamson. While there is clearly more work to be done on the editing of the film, seeing this captivating archaeological documentary gave us a better appreciation of the amount of work involved in arriving at a final product. Moreover, we can see how such productions extend the range of our work to a whole new audience; a message quite in keeping with the symposium’s theme of ‘Expanding the Audience’.

On Strike!

This lunch hour (October 19), I attended a smudging ceremony performed by Stephen Augustine, the curator of Atlantic Canada ethnology and an hereditary chief of the Mi’kmaq Nation. The purpose was to provide moral support and spiritual strength to more than 400 employees of the Canadian Museum of Civilization who have been on strike since the end of September.

As I write, the two sides are not even talking to each other. Each tends to blame the other for the impasse. Deep chasms are being dug which will take years to fill in. At the same time, I worry about how this undermines the public perception of museums and the critically important work we do in learning about Canada’s human history, in disseminating information about that past and in providing Canadians and international visitors with a more accurate picture of this land’s history.

There have been so many examples of upset visitors refusing to patiently be delayed for five or 10 minutes while the reasons of the strike are explained to them. There have been many examples of invective and abuse being hurled at strikers and of picketers being hit by cars. Press coverage has been oddly very uneven, making me question the values of some media who apparently chose not to provide any coverage of
this work stoppage or of the reasons behind it all. And finally, now that our prime minister has seemingly redeemed himself in front of the cultural community with his singing of a Beatles song at the National Arts Centre, is the public now prepared to accept less than the best of their national cultural institutions? As taxpayers, you should be concerned. As people who value your country’s heritage, you should be concerned. And if you think this is an isolated occurrence, you should look around at the museum and culture communities.

**Patagonia and Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac**

You may recall that last December I spent nearly three weeks in Chile in order to learn more about the Patagonian/Fuegian landscape and to study archaeological and ethnographic collections housed in that country (ArchNotes 14(1)). In continuing this study, with the expected result being an exhibition presenting both extremities of the American continent, I recently travelled to Paris and London in order to examine pertinent collections at the Musée du Quai Branly and the British Museum. While these were my ‘targeted’ visits, I also ranged widely to other museums in these cities in order to see how archaeological materials are presented and to learn from other institutions (at the end of just about each day I was away, my legs screamed with the mileage I’d added to them!).

One of the museums I visited was the Musée des antiquités nationales at Saint-Germain-en-Laye located in the western suburbs of Paris. This museum occupies a 14th century château used at various times by the kings of France. The galleries follow a chronological sequence and draw upon spectacular collections from across France. Still, by some standards, the amount of information made available is what might be considered less than abundant. Is this an oversight or does it suggest that most French visitors arrive with a surprising level of knowledge about the ancient history of their country? This same tendency towards minimalist text panels was also seen at the Musée départemental de préhistoire de l’Île de France at Nemours-St.Pierre, where their rich collections serve as backdrops for interpreters who share their knowledge of the past with visitors.

In the centre of the historic château is a large open courtyard with a chapel tucked into one corner. Then it caught my eye. You’ve all seen them, the characteristically-shaped blue with gold lettering Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario commemorative plaques. This one reminded visitors, in both English and French that Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac, was born in the château in 1622 and that he eventually came to New France where, among many other things, he established a settlement at the mouth of the Cataraqui River where today stands the city of Kingston. This is where Kingston, Ontario, Canada actually started.
It was quite an unexpected moment, a truly “out of country” experience where an odd concoction of ethnic and national prides was mixed with a strange sense of nostalgia. There I was in the land of my now so-distant ancestors and this plaque reminded me of how Canadian I was rather than French. I stood alone for the longest time inside the chapel, trying to hear the distant echoes of the priest baptising the newborn Louis, of the delicate trickle of water from the child’s forehead falling into the stone basin below. And while the walls were cold and silent, they bore faint traces of paint and hinted at better days as well as the hopes and dreams that would one day set out for new lands.

In many respects, this is what heritage is about; reminders of the roads travelled and a sense of how we got here. We now live in an age where we have to ‘manage’ heritage, as if it can be compartmentalized and controlled. In spite of what politicians and bureaucrats may think, they do not have their hands on the tiller of our patrimony. That role and privilege belongs to all of us. As people keen to learn from the past, as consultants, academics, avocationals or merely individuals interested and passionate about archaeology, we all have an equal voice in determining how that legacy is shaped for our children’s children. It can be argued that the voice of the OAS is a voice for the past. But it can also be advanced that we speak for those yet to be born.

Jean-Luc Pilon
OAS, President
SHORT NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Our colleague and friend, Bill Engelbrecht, President and Editor of the New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) has shared its latest newsletter with us. It is available online from the NYSAA by going to its website and clicking on the Publications Page. The URL is http://nysaweb.bfn.org/

ANOTHER PASSING - WILLIAM EDWARD RENISON

Friends were saddened to hear in early September of the death of Bill Renison, a life charter member of the OAS.

Bill was well known to the Toronto Chapter and was a veteran of World War II. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Fred and died at home on August 28, 2009. His funeral was held in Toronto on September 2nd and interment took place at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Donations in his memory to the charity of your choice would be an appropriate remembrance.

A PLEA FROM THE EDITORS

With the end of summer (and the close of some field seasons!) we are soliciting brief news reports and summaries from archaeologists around the province and beyond.

If you would like to submit brief (250 - 300 word) summaries of your recent fieldwork we will attempt to collate them all into a ‘Fall Field Review’ for publication in the November-December issue of Arch Notes.

So whether you were in a trench on a highway assessment, conducting a field school, or pursuing your passion for British Columbia’s (or Tunisia’s) past, send us a line and a picture to: aneditor@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

Thanks and happy writing!

Sheryl Smith and Carole Stimmell

BOOK REVIEW

THE ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE TRACKS OF THE METRO

by Charles Garrad

Although Copenhagen in Denmark is well served by surface electric trains, planning started in 1994 for the Metro. Two new lines will extend over 21 km with 22 stations partly underground through the city and to Copenhagen Airport with high-speed, totally automated trains. Planning allowed for two years of heritage conservation archaeology which started in 1996, the largest Heritage Conservation Project yet undertaken in Denmark, possible of all Europe.

The book, The Archaeology in the Tracks of the Metro, documents the history and pre-history of the City of Copenhagen along the Metro lines revised to include the data revealed by this massive archaeological project.

The Kobenhavns Bymuseet, the Copenhagen City Museum, is the archaeological authority responsible for all heritage conservation in the City. The Museum’s staff of 250 currently includes 10 staff archaeologists. An additional 55 archaeologists were hired on for the Metro project, plus a support staff of some 29 analysts, architects, artists, conservators, laboratory and thermo-luminescence specialists, photographers, zoologists, and others.

Copenhagen is unique in that it was documented from its very beginnings as the estate of Bishop Absalon in the 1100s. Changes through time were extensive as the city and population grew, the sea level rose, the need for fortifications changed, fires and warfare occurred, canals were filled in, buildings were demolished and reconstructed and various kings reshaped the city. The archaeologists were confident that the documentation, which even included a letter from Pope Urban III dated 1186, was extensive enough that they could predict what would be found where, and at what depth. This worked reasonably well but there were some surprises.

The archaeology revealed that there had been communities of hunters, fishermen and farmers within the present city bounds before documentation as far back as 6,000 years, including an 11th century Viking Age farm where beer was brewed. The piers of a bridge built in 1651-1656 and believed totally demolished in 1874 were found buried intact. Remains of old buildings were found buried and in good condition. Artifacts were generally very well preserved. One bone dated to 1020 A.D. An ornately curved walking-stick handle was dated to the 11th century Viking Age.

The archaeology was most intense for two stations situated where there had formerly been gates in the city’s defences. One station required the excavation of 2,000 sq. metres of soil plus additional work to divert pipes and utilities. The book testifies not only to the efficiency with which the archaeology was conducted, but to the extent that modern Danish popular culture recognises the value and importance of such work.

The Archaeology in the tracks of the Metro; The Orestad Development Corporation and Copenhagen City Museum; 2002; 80 pages, illustrations, maps and photographs (ca. $35).
Noting that next year will be the 40th anniversary (1970 – 2010) of the publication by Kenneth E. and Martha A. Kidd of their influential work, A classification system for glass beads for the use of field archaeologists, I would like to make a few comments arising from my personal use of the Kidd and Kidd classification system.

It is only right to make special mention of this groundbreaking work on the classification of northeastern North American trade glass beads. While it was not the first attempt at finding a means to classify glass beads (cf. Beck 1928) – nor was it the last (cf. Karklins 1985) – it set the ball in motion towards a more unified effort at classifying glass beads found on archaeological digs across northeastern North America, more specially southern Ontario, and one that could be taken into the field.

The classification scheme, developed by Martha, addresses several key issues for the establishment of a systematic and unified manner in which to code glass beads. These categories include colour (reds, blues, greens, whites, etc), size (extra small, small, medium, large, extra large; see publication for dimensions), shape (circular, round, oval, tubular) and manufacturing technique (drawn or wound).

The drawn beads are divided into four classes: Class I and III are beads of tubular form, while Class II and IV are rounded. These are further classified to include Class I and II as ‘simple’ (or monochromatic) beads and Class III and IV as ‘compound’ (or polychromatic) beads (Figure 1).

On the other hand, the wound beads are divided into three classes: the simple monochromatic (WI), complex monochromatic (WII) and simple and/or complex polychromatic (WIII) beads (Figure 2).

On the whole, the system was created from a manufacturing point-of-view, due to the extensive research done with the Venetian glassworkers of Murano (pers. comm. M. Kidd).

The study was produced through the extensive examination of all available (private and public) glass bead collections in northeastern North America at the time; the collection is presently housed at the Ste. Marie I site.

Figure 1: The tube bead chart (Kidd and Kidd 1970: 50).
museum. It therefore goes without saying that the collections excavated since the publication of the manuscript have made the beads noted and illustrated in this publication but a mere overview of the potential varieties of beads recovered on archaeological sites across northeastern North America, but at the same time, this classification scheme has also helped in the expansion our knowledge of the potential varieties of glass beads produced during early colonial times.

The purpose of this publication was never to create an absolute system but rather one meant to be flexible to expansion, allowing for the integration of new material (pers. comm. M. Kidd). Unfortunately, while individuals have noted additional types, there is no way to account for the number of new bead shapes, sizes and/or colours found since the publication of the system. These variances or new beads tend to appear in publications as asterisked bead types, signalling a similarity to a specific bead type but distinct from it (i.e. Ila*). To allow a unified expansion of the system, a sort of central registry of all glass beads recovered would have to be instituted using the most comprehensive classification system to date – the Kidd and Kidd system – operated through an (potentially) online database and accessible to archaeologists worldwide.

What have proven to be the most useful from this publication have been the colour illustrations of the glass beads made available for quick reference. Two downfalls of this highly practical reference guide are the great variability with which the human eye classifies colours depending on such things as lighting (or sheer whim of choice!), and shape distinction, e.g. ‘round’ from ‘circular’.

When one considers colour identification, several issues arise. There is always the likelihood of colours having changed from the original for various reasons, amongst them from the beads being in the ground, and changing due to the acidity of some soils, as well as through contact with air after several centuries being hidden away. There is also concern that the colour images from the publication have faded in colour, and will continue to fade over time. As noted by Huey (1983: 86), “colors were sometimes difficult to define or assign, especially with the blue beads ... varieties Ila31 and Ila36 through Ila56.”

While I would agree with this comment, I would simply state that it is rather difficult to classify the exact colour of all the blue/turquoise beads (Ila31 through to Ila56) and that at times the glass bead colour simply does not appear on the guide (Figure 3). The cause for this discrepancy may lie in the inability of the glassworker to produce the exact same glass, colour varying from batch to batch although it is the same type of bead manufactured at the one (or across several)
To a large extent, in my experience, the IVa1 versus IVa2 beads are also very difficult to classify (Huey had troubles with the IVa11 and IVa13 varieties) (Figure 4).

In my case, and for others with whom I have spoken, the trouble lies in what Kidd and Kidd meant by a black core (IVa1) versus transparent core (IVa2). Under quick inspection, IVa2 beads are easily classified as IVa1 because the core appears black, but once brought up to the light, the black core is usually transparent (IVa2). Over time, it has become clear that IVa1 beads are very difficult to ascertain and the actual existence of these remains debatable, miniscule beads tending to be the only beads which illustrate a black core against a background light (although this make simply be due to the inability of the light to filter though such a small area).

As regards the shape, the problem is that some of the beads (in my experience, often with the lighter blue shades/turquoise beads) have a tendency to be too stout to be classified as ‘round’ but not thin enough to be classified as ‘circular’, a similar problem also arising on beads that may be small ‘tubular’ or ‘oval’ beads but with the ends ground off.

Lastly, what I find interesting to note is that despite the relative ease of accessibility of this publication – it is available in most major North American university libraries – long after its publication, a number of publications continue to lament the need for a systematic glass bead classification system. This is particularly surprising given that the 1982 conference on glass beads in Rochester, New York (edition edited by C. Hayes III, 1983) used the Kidd and Kidd classification system!

Nevertheless, at this time I would like to thank Kenneth E. and Martha A. Kidd for their great contribution to Canadian (or even northeastern North American!) archaeology. The study of glass beads within eastern Canada...
would be far from as standardized as it is today had it not been for their adequately comprehensive system of classification. In the 21st century, a standardized method of classification helps further our understanding of chemical composition studies; the field of glass bead study in which I have undertaken to work further that started by Ian and Thomas Kenyon (and many others) in the mid- to late-1990s. Overall, this standardized categorization of bead assemblages helps follow/find potential trade networks both in a North American (depositional) and European (provenance) context. It has also helped in the development of Glass Bead Periods (GBP) (i.e. Kenyon and Kenyon 1983; Fitzgerald 1983, 1990) which have help date archaeological sites through their glass bead assemblages.

As such, the system continues to standardize our understanding of the economy and expansion of colonials at a time when all we have to base our knowledge on is the often faulty understanding of trade and alliance relations amongst native nations (an issue I am particularly interested in!) by the Jesuit Relations.

Acknowledgements

I thank Mr. Charles Garrad (Petun Research Institute) for the encouragement and the continuous feedback at the various stages of writing this piece. Dr. Caroline Jackson (The University of Sheffield, UK) supervised all my work, and Martha A. Kidd provided her blessing and feedback to this article. Lastly, the Overseas Research Scholarship (The University of Sheffield, UK), and Les fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture, are thanked for funding my current PhD research.

References Cited


Navigating Ontario Archaeology Today: A Graduate Student’s Perspective

by Lindsay Foreman, PhD Candidate
Department of Anthropology
University of Western Ontario

As I near the completion of my PhD degree in Anthropology (with a specialization in Archaeological Sciences) at the University of Western Ontario, I have been reviewing the decisions I made to reach this stage in my life. I began my undergraduate career in the fall of 1998 and have been continuously enrolled in a programme of study at an academic institution ever since. Little did I know when I began my coursework at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, that I would still be “in school” eleven years later! During this period of time I have learned a lot about past human groups, especially those of the Great Lakes region (my area of study), but I have also learned a lot about myself – my strengths and weaknesses as a researcher, writer, collaborator, and teacher. Now, as I prepare for a full-time career in Ontario archaeology, I am faced with a number of new decisions and challenges. Of primary concern is the sector of archaeology to pursue: academic, government, or consultant.

Unfortunately, this is not the best time to be entering the workforce. Given the current economic climate, all of the sectors of Ontario archaeology have been making necessary budget cuts and the number of positions available has been reduced. How long will this “hiring freeze” last and how many others will be affected by it? How can we best prepare our students for a competitive work environment?

Sadly, gone are the days of the well-rounded archaeologist. These individuals, with training in the analysis and identification of each type of material culture data, who were veterans in the field and the lab, have all retired. With the advancements in technology and analysis that have occurred during the past few decades, researchers have become increasingly specialized, focusing on a single material culture data type.

This specialization occurred at the same time as a boom in cultural resource management (CRM) archaeology in Ontario. An abundance of sites have been recorded and excavated since the 1970s, and the government has been attempting to implement excavation and artifact analysis standards to maintain consistency in field and laboratory methods. The first set of technical guidelines was introduced in 1993 and remains the provincial standard (Ferris 2009). New standards and guidelines have been in the works since the mid-1990s, with a first draft released in 2006, and the most recent draft released in June 2009 with full implementation targeted for January 2010 (Ferris 2009). Ontario Ministry of Culture archaeologists, consultant archaeologists, Native Canadian communities, and developers have all been involved in the writing and review of these standards. The first several years of implementation will require continued cooperation and learning for all parties until all the bugs are worked out.

At the present time, Ontario’s academic institutions are not providing their archaeology and anthropology graduates with the skill sets required by our now CRM-dominated field. Our American colleagues have recognized and been trying to remedy this situation across the border since the early 1990s (Blanton 1995, Schuldenrein 1995) and it has only been in the past few years that we have begun to follow suit.

Survey, excavation, and laboratory skills are beneficial to any archaeological career, be it in the academic, government, or consulting sectors. Despite differences in faculty size and teaching resources, Ontario’s post-secondary institutions need to find the balance between theory, methodology, and practical course requirements in both their undergraduate and graduate programs. Although costly, anthropology departments should strive to increase the variety and number of hands-on field and laboratory methods archaeology classes and thesis projects offered. It is the only way to best prepare students for employment in Ontario archaeology today. One such applied MA archaeology programme at the University of Western Ontario was introduced in September 2009.

Given the recent funding cutbacks to post-secondary institutions, many anthropology and archaeology departments are looking for ways of generating revenue via consulting services and artifact analysis. This is the perfect opportunity to provide students with field and laboratory experience that will make them more competitive candidates in the workforce and allow them to “hit the ground running.” As such, the next generation of Ontario archaeologists should possess the skills required to conduct the ever-increasing number of archaeological assessments resulting from our province’s continued urban sprawl. Students will also be able to explore different research specialties to develop a broad methodological background applicable to CRM work and hone in on the one that he/she most enjoys for possible graduate study.

As for myself, I am still considering my employment options. I have training in both human and faunal osteological analysis resulting from several years of hands-on experience examining prehistoric collections of both types.

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from Ontario. I have shared my skills with fellow undergraduate and graduate students over the years and find teaching extremely rewarding. I would be very fortunate and happy to find employment as a lecturer or professor at a post-secondary institution or as a research associate at a museum.

Although limited, I also have experience as a field technician and a field supervisor in the consulting sector. My academic background has provided me with the skills to perform Stage 1 research and write final reports for the employer/contractor and the Ontario Ministry of Culture. However, I feel that I could greatly improve on my field survey techniques, especially given the increasing importance and use of GPS, Total Station, and Magnetometry equipment, and GIS software.

Further, I need to gain more experience managing and motivating field and lab technicians, writing and submitting job quotes to potential employers/contractors, and operating a successful business (i.e. public relations, accounting, marketing, advertising). These skills are especially important if I decide to start my own business as an osteological analyst, an opportunity made possible by the new Draft Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2009).

As of January 2010, it will be mandatory for consultant archaeologists to provide detailed information on the faunal assemblages excavated during Stage 4 mitigation. As outlined in Table 6.3, consultants will be required to “Provide counts, by excavation context, identified to the lowest identifiable taxon” and identify “heat-altered specimens” (Ontario Ministry of Culture 2009:59). This table also outlines additional “Optional” data to be collected, including: element identification, bone modifications or cut marks, species seasonality and range, and Minimum Number of Individual (MNI) or Minimum Number of Element (MNE) estimates. These requirements are much more detailed than the counts of Bone and Antler Fragments (BAF) that were previously summarized in Stage 4 reports and require specialist knowledge, knowledge that I possess. It is anticipated that I will be able to earn and/or supplement my income by analyzing faunal assemblages for one or more consulting companies based in southern Ontario.

There are currently a ‘handful’ of faunal specialists and even fewer floral specialists working in Ontario. Clearly, we need to encourage our students to pursue training in ecofact analysis to fill this knowledge void. Although many undergraduate programs offer a zooarchaeology course, very few offer a similar archaeobotany course, or even include archaeobotany as a section in a more general methods course.

Both zooarchaeology and archaeobotany require years of hands-on training to obtain a working level of proficiency. There is a big learning curve, and the analyst is continually adding to it throughout his/her career, however, this training will be delayed if students are not exposed to ecofact analysis in their undergraduate programs. We must remedy this situation in our methods courses and give students the opportunity to examine faunal and floral remains in their undergraduate thesis projects if we want to produce more marketable students and ultimately zooarchaeologists and archaeobotanists with specialist knowledge of the Great Lakes region.

With my graduation drawing nearer, I must carefully consider my employment options as an Ontario archaeologist. Clearly I can find, and feel that I have the necessary background to, work in all sectors: academic, government, and consulting. However, I am concerned that it will take several years in the workforce before I am earning an income that reflects my 11 years of post-secondary education. Tenure-track and research associate positions are few and far between, but hopefully more openings will be available as the Baby Boomers continue to retire. Regional archaeologist positions for Ontario government agencies and cities, towns, and municipalities are available on a limited basis. At this point, I think the consulting sector offers me the most job security.

Whether I can obtain a position as a specialist analyst/principal investigator at an existing CRM firm in Ontario, or start my own business as an osteological consultant, I will be able to find immediate employment on my terms. I should be able to supplement this income with sessional teaching positions at one of the many post-secondary institutions in southern Ontario. I am looking favourably toward my entrance into the full-time workforce and am confident in the skill set I have to offer future employers.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Neal Ferris for valuable comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

References


As archaeologists and supporters of cultural heritage protection, we have ethical and moral responsibilities to the descendants of the peoples who left that heritage behind. For some of us, government or institutional policies help define the ways in which we interact with, or should interact with, First Nations and Métis peoples in Ontario. Others, though, may not be sure about how to go about developing good working relations with Aboriginal communities, or may have had less than positive experiences in attempting to work with them. Some communities, such as the Algonquins of Pikwākanagàn, have established protocols for dealing with archaeological matters, and have made it clear how they wish to be approached.

Parks Canada has set, as one of its corporate goals, that each national park in the country will have an ‘Aboriginal Advisory Relationship’ with surrounding communities by 2013. One example of an advisory group that works well is here in Ontario, at Georgian Bay Islands National Park. In fact, this “Cultural Advisory Committee” (now renamed as the Cultural Advisory Circle or CAC) has been in existence for some time and recently celebrated its 10th anniversary (Figure 1). Several OAS members belong to the CAC including Bill Allen, Brian Ross, and myself.

The following two short documents summarize the Terms of Reference and Best Practices for the Cultural Advisory Circle and are presented here in the interest of sharing with OAS members. Further information can be obtained by speaking with any of us and contact may be made through the OAS office or the Editors of Arch Notes.

By Sheryl Smith
Aboriginal Affairs Advisor, Ontario Service Centre, Parks Canada

Figure 1: Members and guests of the Cultural Advisory Circle gathered recently at Simcoe Muskoka YMCA Camp Kitchikewana on Beausoleil Island in Georgian Bay Islands National Park to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Circle.

GEORGIAN BAY ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK
CULTURAL ADVISORY CIRCLE
TERMS OF REFERENCE

September/October 2009
Purpose
The purpose of the Cultural Advisory Circle is to provide advice and recommendations to park staff on park development and Aboriginal issues. The members will act in an advisory capacity in reviewing recommendations and/or proposals brought forward by park staff. The Cultural Advisory Circle will provide guidance on cultural integrity to the staff working on the development of these projects. Two way sharing is the basis for the group, with the expertise of the Circle sharing with the expertise of Parks Canada through the promotion of learning and a listening environment. Working with the circle, the park provides assistance and support in protecting sacred places both within and outside the park, as issues arise from time to time.

Committee Membership:
Membership is open to representatives from Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation (politically known as the Chippewa Tri-Council), Moose Deer Point First Nation, Wasauksing First Nation, Wahta Mohawk First Nation, the Georgian Bay Métis Council, and local Friendship centers such as the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre, the Mnjikaning Fish Weirs National Historic Site of Canada and the Simcoe Muskoka YMCA Camp Kitchikewana.

• Elders
• Aboriginal Community Members
• Interested resource people
• Aboriginal Organization representatives
• Parks Canada representatives from various fields

Operational Guidelines:
The Cultural Advisory Circle will meet generally all day on a quarterly basis. If required the Circle will meet more often, and occasionally meetings will extend longer than a day.
Funding will be provided by Parks Canada for limited travel expenses and light meals for participants.
The Circle will make decisions through consensus.
Respect for Aboriginal culture will be reflected at all meetings.
Park staff will provide background information where decisions and problem solving are required prior to the meetings.
As required, guests will be invited to attend to contribute to the agenda items.

CULTURAL ADVISORY CIRCLE
BEST PRACTICES 101

With input from the Cultural Advisory Circle members, we have recognized the following pillars:

Begin to meet with Aboriginal community members before there is a problem; reiterating the words of a Field Unit Superintendent in Parks Canada, when he speaks about the ‘Healing Broken Connections Project’ at Kluane National Park and Reserve, “Start before starting.” Beginning before you have to deal with tough issues has been a huge benefit to this committee, having been created not in conflict but in the interest of working together on a common project.

Each meeting begins with an opening; a smudging ceremony and words to help us focus on the task at hand, usually conducted by an Elder. In Anishinaabe culture, this requires the offering of tobacco to ask an Elder to perform this role and this is done each and every time we meet.

Round table introductions: Each member/guest/staff has the opportunity to greet the group and cite any highlights since we last met.

The foundation of the Circle is relationship development first; time spent together is an investment.
The agenda items are fluid; it is more important to have spontaneous story telling and traditional knowledge shared on a subject than sticking to the schedule.

Dialoguing with Elders sometimes means that there are pauses and silent interludes and requires patience from the group/listeners.
Each meeting ends with a round table opportunity to offer any feedback or thoughts, share information about upcoming community events or thank individuals for their contribution. Each person has the opportunity to share last words on the day.
Meetings are based on the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabeg: Honesty, Bravery, Love, Humility, Wisdom, Respect and Truth.
At the Closing, an Elder completes the meeting with words of thanks for our day and accomplishments achieved.
There must be benefit to the members of the committee, not merely gain for the park as a result of the committee.

There is an effort to invite all park staff members to the meetings, over time, so that they have attended at least once. Many staff have expressed that Cultural Advisory Circle meetings provide valuable learning opportunities and cross cultural experiences.
Guests will be invited to contribute to discussion items on the agenda.
Laughter is a key ingredient to success!
Other Suggestions:

Beverages and food must be offered and available from the time members arrive until they leave for three reasons:

1) they may have traveled a long distance to the meeting,
2) they may be diabetic and require intervals of food to maintain health, and 3) offering food is culturally appropriate.

Where possible offer traditional seasonal foods.
Where possible hire an Aboriginal caterer.

First Annual OAS Student Poster

The Ontario Archaeological Society's Student Poster Award was presented for the first time at this year's annual Symposium in Waterloo. The winners were Lori D’Ortenzio and Christine Saly from McMaster University, for their poster entitled Promoting Archaeology through Cultural Resource Management and Museums: Case Studies from Ontario, British Columbia and Great Britain. In order to explore the potential for increasing the exposure of archaeology within Ontario the authors conducted a comparative analysis of case studies from Ontario, British Columbia and Great Britain to identify the similarities and differences between government structures and expenditures on archaeology, the limitations of access placed on CRM firms and the types of outreach programs utilized by selected museums. Their results suggest that partnerships between museums, the local community and established organizations could expand educational objectives and promote an increased awareness of Ontario archaeology. The winning poster can be viewed on the OAS website at: http://ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/includes/2009StudentPosterWinner.pdf

Other student contributed posters included Archaeological Field School at the Nursery Site (AhGx-8), Royal Botanical Gardens by Tiffany D’Angelo, Courtney Hartwick, Erin Holborn, Stephanie Marshall and Ananta Sawh, McMaster University and Investigating Variation in Burial Practices at Two Neutral sites, 1630-1650 AD by William Lucas.
The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

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September/October 2009

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