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OAS Ottawa Chapter members hard at work at the Basin Depot Archaeological Project, including Michel Gaudet, Denise Bourgeois, and Heather Stronach

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have always believed that people should participate in volunteer societies from which they draw significant benefit. In my particular case, being curator of Ontario archaeology at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, I always felt a duty to one day roll up my sleeves and do my bit. I spent several years on the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS and in doing so, I learned more about the inner workings of the society and some of its needs.

Four years ago when Dena Doroszenko called me up, I felt it was time for me to step up and play a positive part. My institution provided me with the funding that was essential to allow me to attend the four quarterly meetings of the board in Toronto as well as the annual symposium. Without such financial support, I could not have been able to participate and the OAS could not have afforded to defray the costs. This fact alone is a serious impediment to the active participation on the OAS Board of Directors of members from well outside of the GTA. While couches and buses could replace hotels and trains, significant resources are nonetheless required and the current OAS budget does not easily allow for this.

After three years, this is my 18th and final message as the

President of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Archaeological Society. I would like to take a few lines to review some of the accomplishments that have taken place during that time as well as some of the unfinished, and in some cases, yet to be started work that I thought should have been part of what I had been able to accomplish. Think of this as listening in to my 'OAS confession'.

A very significant amount of change has occurred over the past three years in the area of the OAS website. It was revamped, redesigned and refocused as a vehicle for extending the reach of the Board and the OAS. For the first time, the OAS is speaking to the general public in French as well as in English. For once, the very significant francophone population of Ontario is being met halfway as far as sharing Ontario's ancient history is concerned. There is still more to do, but the direction is set.

The use of PayPal has greatly

facilitated membership sign-up and renewal. A Facebook group aimed specifically at students has consistently increased the number of future archaeologists interested in news from the OAS and should provided the critical new members of tomorrow.

Our prized journal, OA, is now an online resource spreading accessible and timely information about Ontario's past to whomever is mildly interested around the globe. A brand-new Ontario Archaeology Theses Database (thanks for Jennifer Birch and Jim Keron) promises to increase awareness among the academic community of pertinent, in-depth studies that have been carried out under the cloak of academia [see information in this issue – Ed.]. Never has the reach of the OAS been as great and as immediate.

Over the last three years the Board has also gone over some pretty rough and difficult patches; we changed both our Treasurer and Executive

Director, more or less at the same time. These are the two most critical positions on the Board, with all due respect to my colleagues there. We now have in place two excellent individuals (our ED Lorie Harris and Treasurer Jim Keron)



OAS President Jean-Luc Pilon interacting with visitors to opening of the exhibition 'First Peoples of Canada', Hanover, Germany.

who are just finishing their first year in their respective positions. As such, they can now foresee events and circumstances which will require their specific attention rather than be surprised by them. They can also modify procedures to better suit their work styles and preferences. These are long-term positions (the Treasurer is a volunteer while the Executive Director is a paid part-time position) and as such the outlook for the next several years, as far as Board functioning goes, looks excellent.

Three years ago, I had identified advocacy as a critical area for the OAS – as a way for us to be collectively relevant. I believe this year's consultation process on the Draft Standards and Guidelines (thanks to Neal Ferris and Ron Bernard) provided us with some serious momentum in this direction.

My real satisfaction with these and many other significant board achievements is to have been part of the group that saw them through. They place the OAS on a solid and sound footing.

And what of the future? Are we ready to coast along now? Everyone would disagree with such complacency, including myself. At the same time, the new Board of Directors which will constitute itself next January must have free rein to set its own directions. Still, with a perspective acquired over the past three years as the OAS President, I would like to offer some thoughts to contemplate when setting those new goals.

First off, there is a detailed Strategic Plan which already sets out some significant and measurable milestones for the next three years. It will need updating. Among the many, many projects and activities which it envisages, I would encourage the new Board to keep its sights on a couple of possibilities. The first revolves around the early history of Ontario, in particular, the first recorded travels in what is today Ontario. In 1613, Samuel de Champlain travelled up the

Ottawa River as far as the Pembroke area. While he did not achieve his goal of reaching the land of the Huron until two years later, he did at that time provide us with our first descriptions, brief as they may have been, of parts of Ontario and some of its people. Of course, two years later, in 1615, he reached Huronia and overwintered there, providing us with a rich and textured description of people, lifestyles and places.

Archaeology is very well placed to provide touchstones that would allow reflection and contemplation about the significance of these 400th anniversaries for all Ontarians, including First Nations.

While the stage upon which these events unfolded are far removed from the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, they are no less important for the history of Ontario. Any commemoration of the 400th anniversaries of Champlain in Ontario would be competing with well-planned commemorations of the war of 1812. Still, I feel that the OAS should seriously investigate partnerships and funding opportunities, and take a lead role in planning a full range of activities surrounding the 1613-1615 travels of Champlain in Ontario. In this way, the OAS could reach out to First Nations communities, franco-phone communities, the archaeological community and broader historical and heritage communities, and foster a much needed exchange and appreciation of each other and our contributions to understanding the past. Such commemorations could be a very unifying opportunity.

It seems a platitude to affirm this, but heritage tourism is an important and growing component of summer-time activities in Ontario. There are museums, restored buildings, reconstructed villages and streetscapes, murals, historic plaques, re-enactments, etc. Many of these have archaeological dimensions or components. In the province of Québec, for 10 years now, there has been a non-profit organization known

as Archéo-Québec (<http://www.archeoquebec.com/e-0101.html>) which has been promoting, for mutual benefit, tourism opportunities relating to archaeology, whether it be the possibility of taking part in an archaeological excavation, or visiting an archaeological site or a museum/interpretive center. What has been critical is the 'network' that is created where one venue actively promotes all of the others.

Promotion is more than a pamphlet placed with so many others at a tourist stand. It involves an annual publicity blitz with well-known personalities and advertising campaigns. Thus, there is a strongly reinforced message being sent out. Visitors are shown to the next place of interest rather than being left on their own to stumble across it. The measured benefits over the past 10 years have been exponential. I believe Ontario has the heritage resources that could easily benefit from the creation of such a network. Partnerships with government ministries would be critical to establishing directions and possibilities, as would the building of relations with Archéo-Québec. By any estimate, the advantages to Ontario archaeology are obvious and the potential impact on regional tourism within Ontario can only be guessed at. But if the example from Québec is any indication, it is at the very least worth investigating in a serious fashion.

I have enjoyed the opportunity of contributing to the OAS. In doing so I have come to know many of the ardent hearts of Ontario archaeology and this will remain with me as the most valuable of memories. There have been a great many memorable discussions around the Board table, unforgettable Stimmell meals and Red Rocket breaks. I wish to thank all of my Board colleagues as well as the legion of others who, in one way or another, make the OAS the vibrant and dynamic organization that it is.

Jean-Luc Pilon
OAS, President

A YEAR END MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My first year! It has been a privilege to serve the OAS in the capacity of Executive Director, and it was an exciting year that unfolded. The year began at the end of 2008 which marked a time of training by Henry Van Lieshout (past OAS Treasurer), who introduced me to the various administrative duties of the OAS office. As the year continued Henry played a vital role. Thank you Henry for your mentorship.

January and February were busy months with the OAS receiving the 2008 Funding Grant for Provincial Heritage Organizations (PHO) and our 2009 membership renewal season beginning. I am pleased to report the OAS office was successful in processing new and renewal memberships. The number of new and renewing members remained constant. We are grateful to OAS members for your continued support, involvement and dedication to the society. Special acknowledgement and thank you goes to our generous committed donors for

supporting the goals of the OAS, and to the many OAS volunteers for their hours of dedication.

Highlights began in February with attending the annual Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards held on February 20th at Queen's Park. On behalf of the OAS, congratulations were extended to OAS Members Stewart Leslie and Martha Kidd, who received lifetime achievement awards.

In March, along with OAS Board Members, Neal Ferris and Jennifer Birch, I attended the information session with the Ministry of Culture, on the Status of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. The meeting was informative and both parties agreed the OAS would take a lead role in reviewing the draft guidelines, spearheaded by Neal Ferris and Ron Bernard.

I am pleased to report a variety of administrative goals were also accomplished. The annual Provincial



PHOTO CREDIT: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

The OAS exhibit at Queen's Park is part of the Community Exhibit Program at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and runs until March 2010.

Heritage Organizations (PHO) funding grant was submitted in July 2009 and is now under review. Administrative and technical challenges were also successfully overcome. We have finally resolved technical difficulties with the OAS office equipment and related services. A 20% discount was applied to the OAS Bell Internet plan for the next year. Problems with mail delivery to our Queen Street address were also corrected. From November 2008 until April 2009 mail was being returned to sender, re-directed to the OAS post office box, or sometimes delivered to the Queen Street address. Canada Post employees were instrumental in working together to resolve our incoming mail issues. With these technical difficulties out of the way, our efficiency level will improve and we will be able to better serve the Membership.

OAS office records were also indexed during the past year with the assistance of three volunteers. Special thank you to Yvonne Mascarenas, Chris MacDonald and Lucie Houle; your contributions were significant. Over the next year Jim Keron (OAS Treasurer) and I will be working on maintaining the efficient record keeping practices previously implemented. Outgoing President Jean-Luc Pilon and I will continue to collaborate on implementing and updating new information for the website.

Throughout the year on-going administrative support was also provided to the OAS Chapters. The Toronto Chapter has assumed the role of mailing *Arch Notes* to the OAS Members and we are working on re-establishing a working relationship. Compensation to the Chapter will assist in their fundraising initiatives. Thank you to Sunrise Printing for the many years of printing and mailing Arch Notes.

A working relationship was also established with Ebsco, Swets, etc. (agencies who issue payments on

behalf of their clients for publication subscriptions) to improve the yearly membership renewal process and publication claims. This only applies to the Institutional Members.

Communications with OAS Members and the general public were daily occurrences for the OAS office. Key inquiries included local field school opportunities (volunteering/employment), contact information for archaeologists working in specific regions, or OAS Merchandise. The OAS office will operate with the same hours in 2010: Tuesday to Thursday 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Early June saw the beginning of another new venue for the OAS. Approval was received to participate in the Community Exhibit Program at the Ontario Legislature in Queen's Park. The participation in this program involved coordinating an OAS exhibit to promote the work of the Society. Jean-Luc Pilon spearheaded the coordination of this exhibit which is now showcased in one of the large display cases located in the west wing of Queen's Park. The exhibit opened October 1, 2009 and will run until the last week of March 2010. Thank you to the following for loaning artifacts to the OAS: Dena Dorenzenko (Ontario Heritage Trust), Marti Latta and the University of Toronto, Ron Williamson (Archaeological Services Inc.), Meghan Burchell and Jennifer Birch (McMaster University), and Holly Martelle (Martelle Timmins and Associates).

In reflection, this year has been both successful and interesting and I am looking forward to another productive year. It has been a pleasure working together with the Board of Directors and I want to say thank you to the OAS Members for your continued support.

Lorie Harris
OAS Executive Director

Gordon & Margaret Watson Bursary – Update

The Gordon & Margaret Watson Bursary was set up by the Ottawa Chapter OAS, in partnership with Trent University, to honour the couple's memory as contributors to Ontario archaeology. To date the balance in the account has received over \$2,000, and will permit the presentation of five awards to needy students studying Canadian archaeology or anthropology at Trent over the next few years. We thank those who have already contributed.

Initially, it had been hoped that with contributions of over \$6000, and matching funds from the Ontario Trust for Student

Support Fund, there could be a permanently endowed bursary. That amount could still be reached with your help. This is your chance to support young archaeologists into the future, and we ask you to consider a contribution at this time.

To do so, please consult our web site, www.ottawaoas.ca. All donations will receive a tax receipt through Trent University. Thank you for giving the matter your generous consideration.

Glenna Roberts
President, Ottawa Chapter, OAS.

THE AAREL SITE CAMBOOSE SHANTY, ALGONQUIN PARK



Fig. 1: Camboose shanty

**By Rory MacKay,
Broadaxe and Anvil Enterprises**

In September 2008, the foundation of an 1871 camboose shanty of the type used by lumbermen cutting the big pine was located within Algonquin Park. Dimensions of 10 metres by 12.7 metres are indicated. In October 2008, excavation was carried out on the SE quadrant of the central fireplace, about which cooking and living activities occurred for about 50 men from September to April, for perhaps two or three years.

Also investigated in 2009 were a foundation mound and perimeter ditch, a pit almost a metre deep near the

fireplace, and the NW quadrant of the fireplace. A stable for horses has not yet been located.

The discovery of log beams holding back the sand of the fireplace was anticipated, but the presence of a very hard mortar-like mixture of fragmented bone, wood ash, and sand over much of the NW quadrant of the fireplace mound was not. Some of the layer's consistency may be the result of sand grains melted to glass beneath the fire. Also, a historical document from 1834 suggests that reddish sand, wood ash and water provided an acceptable substitute for lime mortar.

Artifacts found associated with the fireplace have included a metal tea

bowl, clay pipe fragments, and metal strapping and cut nails, likely from packing crates, suggesting that just about any kind of wood was burned. It is thought that the sand for the fireplace mound and foundation walls was obtained from the deep pit and the perimeter trenches.

While many will have the impression that all historic sites in Algonquin Park have long been protected, textual and word of mouth evidence suggests that many if not most camboose shanty remains have been 'pot hunted' for bottles by passing canoeists and forestry workers alike over the years. The apparently intact stratigraphy within the camboose fireplace of this



Fig.2: Foundation mounds

site suggests it may have escaped such interference.

However, the site also demonstrates that the oft stated belief that sites left untouched by the trowel are thus perpetual is a false statement. The expansion of roots of a large spruce tree growing on the mound have already shifted the position of rocks making up the fire enclosure, and will cause even more positional shift when the tree eventually topples. The edge of the

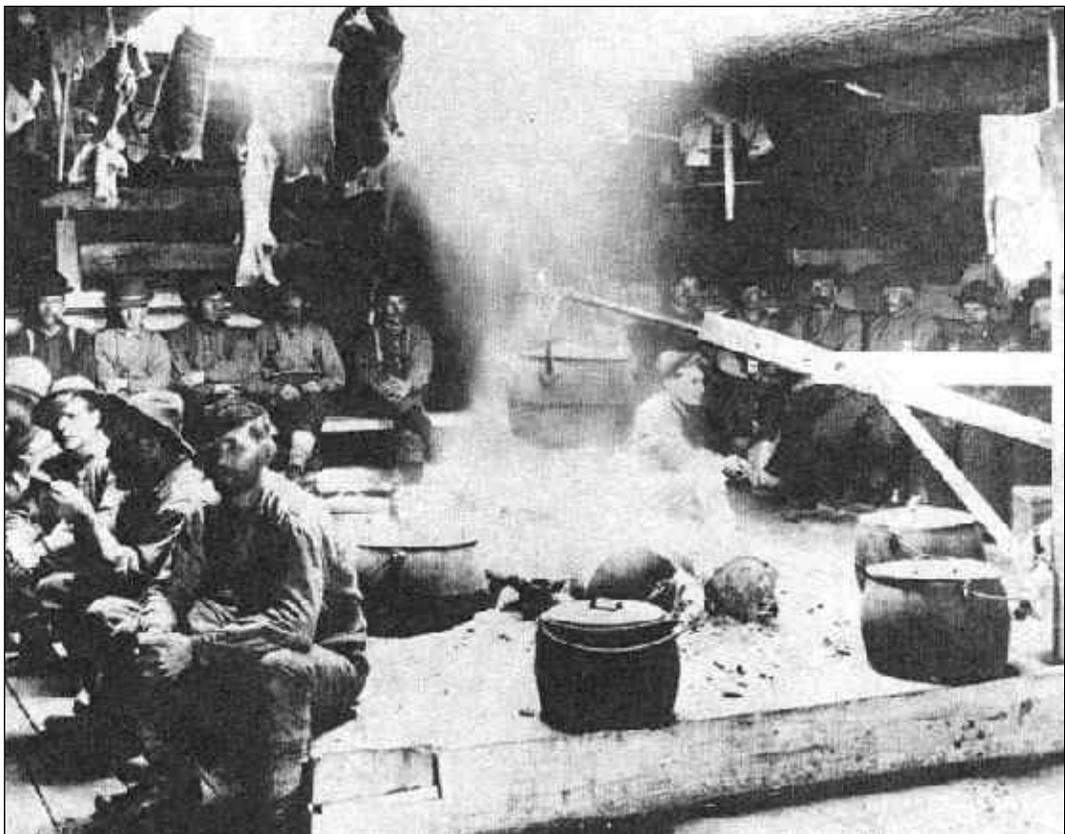


Fig.3: Camboose fireplace



Fig.4: SE quadrant of camboose. Archaeologists see stratigraphy; non-archaeologists see a face

western foundation mound is very close to a river meander, which will eventually erode the site completely. Additional

excavation of this site is proposed.

Thanks to excavators Roger Lupton

(RL=Aarel) and Tom Ballantine, and to Ontario Parks for permission to excavate as personal research.

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY THESES DATABASE: A NEW OAS ONLINE RESOURCE

Over the past few months, Jim Keron and Jennifer Birch have been compiling a listing of MA theses and PhD dissertations on various aspects of the archaeology of Ontario. Our Internet Service Provider, Pictographics in Sault Ste-Marie, has created a searchable online database and these data have been input and updated as new entries are compiled. The online resource can be accessed via the main OAS website: <http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/publications/thesis-search.php>.

The Ontario Archaeology Theses Database is a resource for OAS members and the general public who wish to obtain details about the work produced by graduate students on the subject of Ontario archaeology, a category of research that is often unavailable in traditional web and library searches.

We now have a comprehensive listing of theses and dissertations from many of Canada's major universities

and are working to add past and recent graduate theses on a continuing basis.

Each entry contains: the author's name, thesis title, date of completion, degree awarded, academic institution and thesis supervisor(s). All of these fields are searchable by keyword. At present there are abstracts and full text available only for some theses, but we hope to make all abstracts available over time, as well as links to the online documents, where applicable.

This project is, by its very nature, ongoing. If you or any friends and colleagues pursued graduate studies on the archaeology of Ontario, please take a few minutes to explore the database and ensure that your thesis and/or those of others you may be aware of are included. If not, please send us an email at students@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca which includes the information listed above (author, title, etc.) so that we can add it to the database.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS COME TO THEIR SENSES

Looking beyond visual archaeological evidence

By William A. Allen

Elder William Commanda peered down through the magnifying glass at the close-up photograph that I had taken at a pictograph site in Algonquin Park. The image showed an upright, long-eared figure with a thick stubby tail and I wondered what the motif might be. There was a long silence as Elder Commanda slowly slid the tripod with the magnifying glass over different parts of the image lying on the table (Allen 2008).

I waited. Then he started to speak, "It's such a beautiful ...", and his voice paused. My heart quickened. Was this the moment when I would find out about the motif in the pictograph? After the pause he continued, "Yes, it's such a beautiful ... colour."

Now I wasn't expecting a comment about colour. I thought I would be hearing about the shape and the meaning of the shape. "Yes, such a beautiful colour," he continued, "It's the colour of a fox. There must be a fox here somewhere." I sat beside him in silence. He was looking for a fox

within the texture of the rock on which the pictograph had been painted.

After several minutes Elder Commanda raised his head and smiled. He looked at me directly and tapped the table with his finger signaling me to look through the magnifying glass. I did so and, much to my surprise, there within the image was the most perfectly proportioned outline of a fox head.

Then it was Elder Commanda's turn to ask questions. "As you approached this site, what animal shapes were in the rock of the cliff? What angle was the pictograph facing? What was the shape of the

horizon on the far shore directly opposite the pictograph? What place nearby could a person stop to look at the pictograph and meditate? What cracks and bumps in the rock were in the immediate vicinity of the pictograph? What shapes were the shadows that crossed the pictograph? What was between this pictograph and the second one about 50 metres away? Did the sound of water lapping against the cliff remind you of anything?"

I quickly realized that, despite my careful measurement and documentation of the pictograph, I had not collected the full scope of physical information about the landscape



Bill Allen listens as Elder Commanda inspects a photograph with a magnifying glass.

around the pictograph and the details of the sounds, texture, colour, shadows and reflected light at the surface on which the pictograph was located (Allen et al 2008).

Elder Commanda was interested in the broader landscape and in the Masinaigan (Baraga 1880:224), the surface upon which the marks constituting the pictograph had been painted. In modern times the word Masinaigan refers to a paper, book, letter or ledger of debts. Bark can be used as a Masinaigan, as it was with traditional Aboriginal maps and scrolls. But the Masinaigan that interested Elder Commanda was a more enduring kind, the rock surface itself. He smiled gently, "You can tell me more after you visit that sacred place again."

Increasingly, archaeologists are becoming aware that there could be problems in making quick interpretations before considering all the sensory information available at an archaeological site. The field of sensory archaeology alerts us that "archaeological interpretation has traditionally been dominated by visual descriptions, thus effectively marginalizing the senses of smell, taste, hearing, and touch as unmeasurable ways of engaging with the world. This has led to a silent, odorless, disembodied, and senseless past. Recent work, however, has explored alternative ways to make sense of past societies, investigating soundscapes, olfactory and haptic analyses, and somatic memory, as well as other less tangible visual qualities such as shimmer and color" (SIU 2009).

The world leader in the development of this thinking is the Center for Archaeological Investigations at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois (also known as SIU). In March 2010, SIU will host the first international meeting for archaeologists engaged in multisensory approaches to the past. The conference, 'Making Senses of the Past: Toward a Sensory Archaeology', under the leadership of Dr. Jo Day, is bound to lead to wide ranging discussion about dynamic sensory aspects of archaeological sites and their landscape contexts.

One day we may look back and realize that still photography and sketches are too static to record the full range of archaeological evidence. Modern digital media and the mass media may lead us in new directions in our recording of sites, their artifacts, their landscapes and the analysis of context. Those who engage in sensory archaeology may be better equipped for meaningful dialogue with people like Elder Commanda (Commanda und.).

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NEWS AND NOTES

Charlie Garrad passes along a note that a plaque honouring the history of the Petun Nation was installed on November 2nd, 2009 at the Craigleith Heritage Depot, the first such commemoration anywhere.

The on-line article and colour photo in the Blue Mountains Courier Herald can be accessed at:

<http://www.bluemountainscourierherald.com/courierherald/article/148883>

OAS CHAPTERS' CORNER



OAS Ottawa Chapter's 'Return to Homeland Committee'

CURIOSITY MADE IT WORTH THE WAIT

By Rory MacKay,
Return to Basin Depot Committee,
OAS Ottawa Chapter

Well, it may have taken 13 and a half years, and there certainly was no pot of gold (although we did have a rainbow), but the Ottawa Chapter of

the Ontario Archaeological Society finally got to the bottom of a fruitful test pit from May of 1996.

The occasion was the long awaited 'Return to Basin Depot', organized by chapter members over the past year and held in partnership with The Friends of Bonnechere Parks. Basin Depot was an important stopping

place and supply depot for lumber companies on the Bonnechere River in current Algonquin Park from as early as 1847 to at least 1914. The lumbering industry of the Ottawa Valley is a high ranking category in the Topical Organization of Ontario History.

Previous archaeological investiga-

tions, carried out in 1996 under Chris J. -Andersen and in 1998, 1999 and 2000 under Tom Ballantine, had centred on the remains of a boarding house where countless loggers had stayed overnight while on their way to the logging camps of the area. The Roche house, named after the most recent family of caretakers, yielded a multitude of domestic artifacts such as broken plates and bottles, clay pipe pieces, and thousands of shards of window glass.

The focus of our work from October 1 to 9, 2009 fell on two areas of the site much less likely to produce evidence of domestic life: the blacksmith shop area, in which one unit was partially excavated in September 1996 around a shovel test from five months earlier, and an area of possible foundation mounds at the west end of the site, where a storehouse had been indicated on an 1890 survey map.

The weather forecast for the week was for rain every day but with some optimism and the much appreciated assistance of superintendent Paul Smith and his able staff from Bonnechere Provincial Park, two porta-potties, three picnic tables, and two shelters (provided by the Friends of Murphy's Point Park) for our Field Lab were set up in advance of our permitted start date of October 1.

Now at this point one might be asking how it was that personnel from Bonnechere Provincial Park were assisting us with archaeological work in Algonquin Park? Some years ago an enlightened decision was made whereby archaeological investigations along the Bonnechere River would be carried out on a watershed basis, rather than from a park to park to park viewpoint. Thus, at night after a day working in Algonquin, we were the grateful recipients of use of the Bonnechere Park staff house facilities (including showers). Artifacts recovered in

Algonquin remain 'theirs', but the entire collection of artifacts along the river upstream from Round Lake is stored at Bonnechere Park's Davenport Centre.

In the days prior to commencement of excavations, grids were laid out in the two areas of interest, under direction of archaeologist Ken Swayze.

These were not only for shovel testing and excavation purposes, but also for investigation using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). One of our chapter members, a doctoral candidate in Geography and Classics at the University of Ottawa, was able to provide access to such equipment and it was decided to see if it could shed any light on what we might expect in the ground. The results were indeterminate, but it was an interesting start to the week, and much appreciated. Any illusions that GPR can function well in areas of dense undergrowth, and thus dispense of the need for in-the-ground archaeology, were dispelled.

It wasn't quite a Le Man's running start, with a "Ladies and gentlemen, start up your shovels" at break of day on October 1, but it wasn't very long before our whole 'Chronology Crew' was engaged in shovel testing around the alleged storehouse mound. After only a few shovels-full, the first artifacts began to turn up: buckles and clips associated with horse harness. Once it was established that there was something there to be found, part of the crew walked the 210 metres along the baseline to the adjacent one-metre units laid out across the incompletely excavated and then back-filled unit in the blacksmith shop area.

If one simply compares the number of units opened at each end of the baseline, the blacksmith shop crew might appear to be slackers, as they only opened three units over an eight day period. However, when one considers that it took a complete half

day to re-excavate down to the plastic laid where excavation ceased in 1996, and then factor in that each unit was excavated to approximately 90 cm through a complex jumbled structure of debris, they really accomplished a great deal.

Although we had asked for extra money to run a public archaeology activity, we were unsuccessful in obtaining those additional funds. However, public involvement is a cornerstone in each of the partners' philosophies, so we planned on one anyway. Fortunately, through the generosity of the Algonquin Forestry Authority and The Friends of Algonquin Park, in equal parts, our costs for hiring an archaeologist had been met. Some additional financial donations and fund-raising on the part of the Ottawa Chapter provided for portable toilets and extras for Archaeology Day, held on the third day of the dig.

Displays about the history of Basin Depot and our previous work were set up under one shelter. Two other shelters provided by Coleman Canada (they donated three) were used for displays by the Algonquin Forestry Authority and Ontario Parks, each outlining their respective efforts to protect cultural heritage resources. The Friends of Bonnechere Parks also set up a display.

Once the first of many tours was underway, those organizing the day could return to excavating, secure in the knowledge that each group leader was well equipped with maps, both current and historical, and a well-prepared script outlining the history of the site and our work on it in years past.

Despite rain showers in the surrounding vicinity (but luckily not at the site during the tour period), and competition with a local artists' tour, we had more than 65 visitors to our relatively remote location 22 kilometers up the gravel road from County Road 58. Supervision

requirements and park concerns prohibited a hands-on approach at this public event, but with close access to the excavations, access to the archaeologists for answers to questions, and an opportunity to handle some of the artifacts, there were no complaints from our visitors. Even some 'Algonquin North' Ontario Parks staff stopped to see our work.

At the end of the day we left the site earlier than usual to get changed and presentable, for once again we joined with The Friends of Bonnechere Parks in an after-dig meal, in the Davenport Centre. Paul Smith, current superintendent of Bonnechere Park, introduced his predecessor, Jim Fraser, who in turn introduced the recipient of the 2009 Friends of Bonnechere Parks Directors' Award, archaeologist Ken Swayze.

So, what did we find? Unfortunately, our carefully drawn wall profiles and the condition and location of artifacts suggest that at some time, a deep hole was dug within the former walls of the blacksmith shop, and into that hole all manner of debris was dumped and burned. Later, perhaps many years later, it would appear that the area was bulldozed or scraped, producing a fairly extensive debris field, shallow in some places and quite deep in others.

Almost all of the finds through

shovel-testing within this area were metallic, although what may be a few fragments of a tea cup were also found. It was not surprising to find pieces of metal of various lengths and cross-section, pieces of cut chain, short-shank nails with broad heads (possibly used to fasten leather on a bellows) or even tin cans. All but the latter might be expected to accumulate on a blacksmith's floor. Even a broken pair of blacksmith's tongs was no surprise. However, a broad-axe in fairly good condition, a tiny drawknife, and a carpenter's hold-down all suggested that that some woodworking had been done in the blacksmith shop, perhaps in aid of repairing logging sleighs or the like.

Among the items that came from the excavated units in the blacksmith shop were a spade and damaged scythe, many nails and other scrap iron items, slag or clinker, melted glass, sheet metal, and some stove parts. In one of the units there was evidence of a rectangular post buried upright in gravel, beginning some distance below the surface. It was back-filled with coal dust and anvil-scale, suggesting it had been installed within a shop already being used, perhaps as a leg for a work bench. Thin disks of metal, presumably punched from bar-stock suggest that two men worked at the anvil at times, as their diameter suggests a punch size too wieldy for

one man to handle.

With about 20 excavators and shovel testers, mostly from the OAS, coming and going over a 10 day period, we accumulated over 900 hours of volunteer work, not counting planning time, and with artifact processing yet to come. We provided a self-generated, hands-on, archaeological research experience for our members, added to the existing knowledge the Park has about Basin Depot, provided a public Archaeology Day for the local residents whose heritage we were studying, and we had a good time! We hope that one day we may be permitted to add to the information available about our previous work at the Virtual Museum of Canada website "Land of the Spirits". My thanks are extended to the committee of organizers and all participants.

Oh yes – we had an interesting opportunity to see ourselves through another person's eyes, specifically a writer who wanted to prepare a brief article on archaeology of logging in Algonquin Park. Since we are "the only show in town" on that topic, or at least have been for the past 15 years, we invited him along. He spent three days with us, and will be submitting his article to *Archaeology Magazine*. We aren't sure what he will write, but we suspect at the very least he will describe us as "a very curious group."

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

ArchNotes is soliciting brief news reports and summaries about field work seasons from archaeologists around the province and beyond.

If you would like to submit brief (250 - 300 word) summaries of your recent fieldwork, we will publish them in future issues 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**

President's Report for 2009, Given at the Annual Business Meeting October 16-18 Waterloo

This past year has seen a great many very significant undertakings by the Board of Directors of the OAS. These have all been geared towards acting upon directions that we elaborated in a strategic plan that we put before you at last year's annual business meeting. Among other things, as a result of comments received at that time, the plan was restructured so as to meet a more broadly held notion of strategic plans. But the essence remains the same; the strategic plan, our strategic plan, is a blueprint to what we realistically believe to be achievable results within a reasonable time frame. If you would like an electronic copy of the strategic plan, please contact Lorie Harris who would be please to provide you with one.

New Executive Director and New Treasurer

Of course, last year at this time, you were first introduced to our new Executive Director, Lorie Harris. Over the course of the past year many of you have had the opportunity of contacting Lorie either through email, over the phone or in person. If you have, then you have had the chance to learn first hand what a competent and capable ED she is. Lorie is a very important asset to the OAS and I personally thank her for all of her very hard work over the past year. It has not been easy to come into the OAS and learn the ropes. We are an organization with more than 55 years of idiosyncrasies built in! The past year has been a very steep learning curve in a great many ways, with all kinds of challenges along the way, from the very complex members' database to simple things like getting the mail delivered properly. You would all be amazed at how great a challenge these things were.

As well as a new Executive Director, we had a new Treasurer in the person of Jim Keron. Together, these two positions are the heart of the

operational side of the OAS. Jim has had to rapidly discover the functioning of the financial systems that Henry van Lieshout had established, assimilating a lot of what Henry had developed and put in place over a 15 year period, but in a matter of weeks. Together with Lorie, the OAS is greatly in their debt.

New Arch Notes Editor

Another new face was Sheryl Smith, who took on the editorship of our newsletter, *Arch Notes*, valiantly seconded by Carole Stimmell, who has continued to do the practical work of formatting and page layout. One of the greatest challenges with all of the OAS publications is finding enough content for a substantial issue. With our journal, *Ontario Archaeology* (OA), the lack of articles has resulted in our publication date being 'out of sync' with the actual year the journal is printed. This is a major headache especially for our institutional subscribers. Similarly, *Arch Notes* publishes six times per year and the difficulties with finding sufficient content can result in publication delays and upset members. Which would you prefer, a late but adequate *Arch Notes* or a thin one that is delivered on time? Personally I am in favour of delayed but substantial publication. So if you have some ideas for *Arch Notes* content, please do not hesitate to contact Sheryl and discuss it with her. The newsletter can only be what the members want it to be.

Digital OA

A very significant milestone was reached last winter when the last of the OA articles were digitally captured and converted to the PDF format. Hopefully you have all been on the OA page and found the article search feature. In itself, this is not that new. For a couple of years

now, you have been able to search through the journal's abstracts using keywords. But now, you can search through the titles, abstracts and author's names and actually access the article itself in PDF format. The available series begins at the beginning of OA. In fact, it begins with the very first publications of the OAS in 1954! We have continued the online access to within five years of the current year, i.e. at the moment you can access PDFs of article published as recently as 2004, and soon 2005.

This substantial effort, made possible through unexpended PHO funds from 2008, now permit the wonderful archive of Ontario's ancient past that is OA to be accessed from anywhere around the world. Ontario archaeology is now truly of the digital age.

New Look to the OAS Website

In keeping with a significant new offering to web visitors, we also had Pictographics, our internet service provider, create a new look for the website. We think it is more modern and cleaner. Hopefully you do as well. Now, for those really curious and observant 'techies' out there, I hope you have noticed that many of the illustrations on the website are actually linked to a page that presents information on different Ontario archaeological sites. To date, they happen to be mine, but I encourage you to review your slide collections and propose a similar photo documentary of an archaeological site or collection. It would be a good way to reach out and share this valuable information.

Queen's Park OAS Exhibition

A big project that spanned the summer was the conception, elaboration and installation of an OAS display at Queen's Park. Last spring Lorie Harris learned more about the community displays that line some of the hallways at the legislature at Queen's Park. Her proposal was accepted, and together Lorie and I developed some basic concepts and key messages for the case that measures 6x2x4 feet. It's a wonderful space in which to tell people about the OAS, what it does, and especially about Ontario's ancient and diverse history.

The 16 artifacts which grace the display case were all provided by OAS members. We would like to thank Ron Williamson and Archaeological Services Inc., Holly Martelle and Peter Timmins of

Timmins and Martelle, Inc., Dena Doroszenko and the Ontario Heritage Trust, Marti Latta and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, Jennifer Birch and Meghan Burchell of the Department of Anthropology at McMaster University. Many thanks. We think we have achieved a balance within the severe limitations of the space and word count. But go ahead and judge for yourselves. The display is in the West corridor of the Queen's Park legislative building until March 2010.

Assessing the Draft Standards and Guidelines

A very significant file that has taken up a lot of attention by the OAS as a whole has been the release of the *2009 Draft Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*, along with the companion *Draft Technical Bulletins, Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology* and *Draft Technical Bulletin: Forest Operations on Crown Land*. Last March, the Ministry of Culture asked the OAS and the Association of Professional Archaeologists (APA) to provide feedback from their respective memberships about the new framework for consulting archaeology in Ontario. In an effort to advance a common community-based viewpoint, the OAS and the APA combined forces to hold a series of regional workshops to pore over, comment on and propose improvements to these critical documents.

In addition, the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, a long-time corporate OAS member, undertook to review, comment upon and solicit the opinions of other Aboriginal communities on the all important Technical Bulletin on Aboriginal Consultation.

At present these processes are not yet complete and we cannot anticipate the final results. Nor can we predict the impact that any of our comments will have on the final documents and thus on the future of consulting archaeology in Ontario. However, OAS members will have had an opportunity of expressing themselves on these key documents. I therefore would like to acknowledge the leadership role that Neal Ferris and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn (Chief Kirby Whiteduck, Aimee Bailey and Ron Bernard in particular) have played in soliciting and collating opinions and comments from as wide a constituency as the membership of the OAS. I also applaud the APA's readiness to work with the OAS in trying to find a mechanism to see this

valuable consultation through.

It's Been a Great Three Years

Lastly, at the beginning of this year I indicated that this would be my last year as OAS president. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the members of the Board of Directors, past and present, as well as the *OA* and *Arch Notes* editorial teams for their very hard work on your behalf. I always looked forward to travelling to Toronto in order to listen to and take part in some very often quite animated and always stimulating discussions. I also very much appreciated opportunities to meet and interact with OAS members.

But most of all, while I would be the first to acknowledge that I did not accomplish all that I naively set out to do (see my first President's message (*Arch Notes* 12(1)) to refresh your memory about just what that was supposed to be), I nonetheless look back with great pride at some

of our collective accomplishments and I look forward to one final year on the Board and the undoubtedly interesting and challenging projects that we will take on.

These are only some of the larger projects that the Board has been working on. There are many, many more and the details of those can be found in the reports of the various Board members and Editors. I encourage you to read over their reports. Collectively this represents a lot of effort on your behalf. By finding out more of what is done within the OAS you will come to appreciate that a membership in the OAS is more than receiving copies of *OA* and *Arch Notes* and attending the Annual Symposium, it is contributing to the development of resources and tools which further our goals as a society and help improve the outlook for Ontario's past.

Jean-Luc Pilon, Ph.D.
President, OAS

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 – 2011

GOALS & PREAMBLE:

The goals of the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) are clearly enunciated in its Constitution:

1. To bring together individuals interested in the practice, promotion and advancement of archaeology, particularly in the Province of Ontario.

2. To encourage and assist every effort, both individual and collective, which may tend to foster, elevate and advance archaeology in the fields of learning and culture, and to develop new sources of progress whenever and wherever possible.

3. To seek proper means to discourage indiscriminate investigation and digging by

untrained or unqualified persons, and thereby advance the ethics of archaeology.

4. To facilitate exchange of ideas, co-operation and networking among those interested in archaeology and to foster friendship among members of other, similar, Societies thereby promoting a better understanding of its objectives.

5. To publish archaeological findings and site reports.

6. To stimulate the interest of the general public in archaeology.

Thus, any strategic plan must refer its proposed activities to these six overarching aims. This document outlines the objectives the Board of Directors of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. has identified for 2009 through 2011. The

following categories and objectives are not necessarily presented in order of priority. They are intended to be general guidelines to shape the Society's directives in the upcoming years.

A. MEMBERSHIP

In keeping with the first aim, namely membership, the OAS is one of the largest archaeological societies in Canada and brings together a significant number of like-minded individuals with common perspectives and goals vis-à-vis archaeology. We must strive to provide our existing members with good reasons to remain members and we must also seek out ways to encourage others who share our aims to join the Society.

Specific objectives regarding membership for the next three years:

- i) Provide members with useful and timely communications
- ii) Serve as an information hub for members seeking field and laboratory volunteer opportunities.

B. MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

With respect to increasing the profile of the Society, we propose to:

- i) develop multi-year memberships
- ii) develop an English and French *Ontario Archaeology* (OA) marketing brochure
- iii) explore adding information on the OAS to Wikipedia
- iv) explore creating a network of Archaeological Heritage interested peoples, places, etc. to create a greater mutual awareness; start by creating a comprehensive list of such people and places; seek possible funding from Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism
- v) coordinate with OAS chapters to create an Archaeology Week or Archaeology Month that could be recognized by the provincial government
- vi) create marketing and promotional tools, including a portable display
- vii) develop a higher public profile through the creation and strategic distribution of publicity items such as brochures.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

All six aims of the OAS hinge upon the use of appropriate and effective means of communication. It is of no use to have a wonderful educational tool if it sits unused on a shelf. Further, with today's rapidly evolving communication technologies, we must strive to adapt our communication methods to our members whose demographics are constantly changing. In addition to offering better communications tools, what follows will also enhance the value of OAS membership for existing members and hopefully help attract new members as well.

1. OAS WEBSITE

- i) appoint a Web Editor who can develop and present content to further the aims of the Society in the same way that the editors of *Arch Notes* (AN) and *Ontario Archaeology* (OA)
- ii) create a Members' Only section on the website
- iii) make the OAS website bilingual: French-English
- iv) deliver past OA articles electronically through the website
- v) create an online AN index database
- vi) archive electronic AN in the Members' Only section
- vii) create an OAS activities page which lists the activities of all the chapters as well as the provincial organization
- viii) create an advertising policy for the webpage
- ix) create an online 'Showcasing Ontario Archaeology' page allowing personalized presentations of sites and artifacts
- x) create a Links page to resources (such as the Canadian Archaeological Radiocarbon Database), places that present archaeology (museum, interpretation centres) and activities (field schools), thereby create an archaeological network and hub
- xi) update the current Summary of Ontario Archaeology that is currently on the website
- xii) consider presenting an annual listing of new theses dealing with various aspects of *Ontario Archaeology*
- xiii) create an Avocational section on the website – that could include such information as who to contact, what being an avocational requires, list of potential mentors etc.

2. ARCH NOTES (AN)

- i) Strive to achieve more timely publication of the newsletter
- ii) Have board members take on a more active role in encouraging submissions to AN
- iii) Publish six issues of AN every year.

3. ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY (OA)

- i) bring OA publication year up to date by 2010
- ii) publish two issues within each of the next three years.

4. MONOGRAPHS IN ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY

- i) develop a policy for publishing monographs (digital and paper).

5. THESES SERIES

- i) develop an online Thesis Publication Series
- ii) examine criteria, opportunities for using National Library servers.

D. ADVOCACY

With respect to advocacy, we propose to do the following:

- i) create a French and English information brochure about archaeology in Ontario, along the lines of that recently produced by the Ottawa Chapter
- ii) develop a media relations policy and structure
- iii) develop a network of regional media contacts (i.e., OAS members who can speak to the media on occasion)
- iv) develop the means of promoting interesting archaeology to the media
- v) establish links with the Ministry of Culture to develop a strategy to bring municipal planning in line with the Heritage Act and Planning Act
- vi) get a list of municipal planners
- vii) get a list of Municipal Heritage Advisory Panels (formerly LACACs)
- viii) get a list of local resource people
- ix) form Ministry packages of information for planners and if necessary develop summaries of the essential information required by planners

- x) establish contacts with development groups
- xi) develop and finalize an Advocacy Policy
- xii) reconstitute the Aboriginal Liaison committee and work towards establishing relations with Aboriginal people
- xiii) create links with archaeology programmes (field and classroom-based) and provide speakers to make the OAS known to these groups.

E. EDUCATION

With respect to educating the public regarding archaeology in Ontario, we propose to do the following:

- i) develop curriculum packages for the online Edu-Kits
- ii) contact Ontario teacher organizations to create an awareness and use of the online education tool
- iii) transfer FTP capabilities to the Director of Education and Outreach.

F. SYMPOSIUM

- i) explore and develop partnerships and plans to host/participate in 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's travels in Ontario (OHS, Champlain Society, etc. funding)
- ii) explore and develop partnerships and plans to participate in the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812
- iii) update symposium guidelines to support things like assigning symposium liaison report to the board about organization progress – set up a checklist for the liaison person re: bookings, program, etc.

G. OTHER

- i) carry out a Board review that will consider how to provide smoother transitions and more overlap of Board members in order to avoid catastrophic resignations
- ii) continue to update and revise policy manual
- iii) reconsider and revise the OAS code of ethics.



The
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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:

aneditor@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

or

Arch Notes editor

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November/December 2009

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Membership: Individual \$11, Family \$28

Hurononia
chapter

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Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Henry
Mail: P.O. Box 82, Station Main, Midland, ON L4R 4P4
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month Sept. to May at
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Membership: Individual \$15, Family \$18

London
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Ottawa
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Membership: Individual \$20, Family \$25, Student \$12

Thunder Bay
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Toronto
chapter

President: Sylvia Teaves
Vice President: Janice Teichroeb
Treasurer: Norma Knowlton
Secretary: Annie Gould
PROFILE Editor: Mima Kapches
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Membership: Individual \$12, Family \$14

Windsor
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