

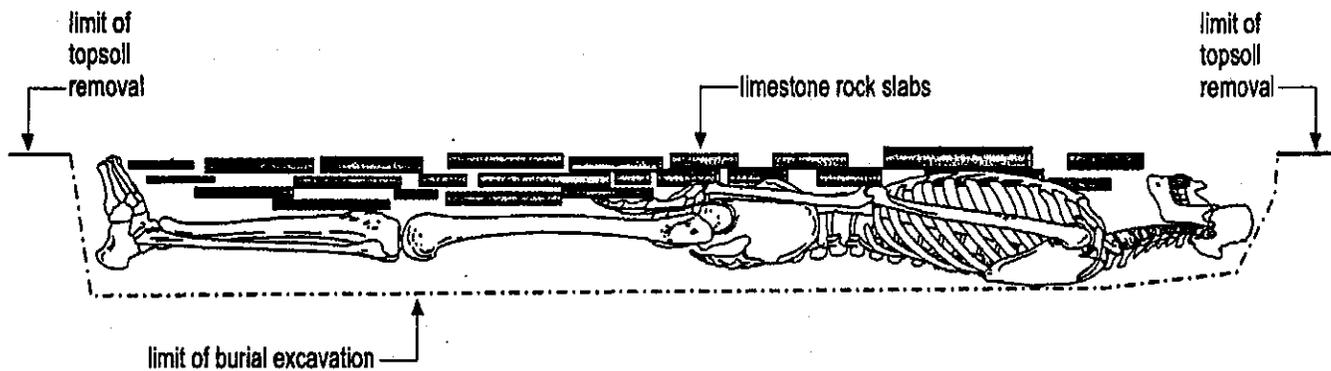


# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

New Series Volume 3, Issue 3

May / June 1998



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Alexander von Gernet

### Editor, *Arch Notes*

Frank Dieterman



Please send *Arch Notes* contributions to:

#### OAS

126 Willowdale Ave  
North York ON M2N 4Y2

Email, disks & graphics may be sent to:

Editor, *Arch Notes*  
5-3061 Sir John's Homestead  
Mississauga ON L5L 3H9

Phone & fax (call first): 905 608-0331  
Email: fdieterm@chass.utoronto.ca

## Editor's note

Wow! - three articles, a farewell column, and new and returning advertisers - *Arch Notes* is a fat 22 pages this issue! Many thanks to the folks at Mayer Heritage for submitting two (!) research articles on recent excavations (of which the Princess Point site data is dear to my heart - and thesis) and to Lawrence Jackson for site data extending the known distribution of Hi-Lo Palaeo-Indian occupation.

I would like to add my farewells to Ellen Blaubergs as she departs the OAS Executive Director's position to take up life north of Hwy. 7. Good luck Ellen, and now that you have the time, we'll be looking forward to numerous historic archaeology articles from you!

As some of us head out to the field for the summer's season, and with this weather the field season started well over a month ago, and others look forward to relaxing in air-conditioned bliss, keep *Arch Notes* in mind. Remember to pass along new data, site summaries, survey results - we all need to keep abreast of our archaeological community's research results and what better way to do that than with a short (or long) update in *Arch Notes*.

Me? I'm off to the Grand River,  
Frank Dieterman

**Addendum:** The following email was received in response to the *Arch Notes* 3(2): "In regard to your Editor's Notes in the [last] issue of *Arch Notes*, just to let you know that The Library at the ROM also has a complete set of *Arch Notes* from 1962 onward. Our Library is open to the public, and thereby receives wide use beyond staff and students. I think the Metro Reference Library also receives *Arch Notes*.

Sharon Hick, ROM librarian and OAS member!"

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# OAS News

Greetings from Bolton. I recently read that Thomas Jefferson is credited with conducting the first archaeological excavation in North America, digging a trench through a mound on and adjacent to his property in Virginia. There is no truth to the rumour that John A. Macdonald committed the first act of archaeology in Canada when he dug for change in his pocket to buy beer in a bar in Bolton.

**Gordon Watson**, holder of the OAS's Emerson medal, was in the news recently (Ottawa Citizen, April 26) for **donating some 20,000 artifacts from 38 archaeological sites to the Canadian Museum of Civilization**. His contribution to archaeology in this province, is, of course, much larger than that. I think that the writer of the article made an apt remark about the role of avocationalists in Ontario when he stated that "calling Mr. Watson an amateur archaeologist is somewhat misleading".

Another OAS member, Director **Lise Ferguson**, has also been in the news, or rather, has been keeping an important archaeological concern in the news. The Old Mill, built during the 1790s and designated as a heritage site, has had its ruins, a unique and inspiring sight in Etobicoke, threatened by a plan to build a hotel on the sight in such a manner that seems to make light of the heritage designation.

You may have noticed in the last edition of *Arch Notes* that we are hiring a new Executive Director to replace **Ellen Blauger**s who is leaving to live in Orillia. I know that I speak for all of the Boards of Directors for the last three years when I say that we are appreciative of her great work through some trying times. She certainly made my job a lot easier, enabling me not to look like an idiot when I was one, helping me to learn the ropes of my position while she was learning the ropes of hers. And when the next OAS Financial statement is published, check out how little we paid for getting so much in return. Thanks Ellen!

Thanks also go to **Charles Garrad** for most ably representing the society in the promotion of the preservation of two key Petun sites in the Craigleith heritage ridge, as part of a proposed public heritage park. If the sites are preserved so that they can be slowly and carefully excavated in a public archaeology program over a number of years, with the eventual development of a reconstructed Petun village, it will be through Charlie's noble efforts.

*John Steckley* ✓

## *Some parting words and thoughts*

After two years of serving The Ontario Archaeological Society as its only paid employee and Executive Director, I have elected to pursue other opportunities in Simcoe County. My term was brief but filled with challenge and new learning experiences. I am grateful to President John Steckley and members of the 1996-1998 Board of Directors (Michael Kirby, Lise Ferguson, Jeff Bursey, Henry van Lieshout, Suzanne Gero, Marcus Sanderson, Bob Mayer, Caroline Theriault and Vito Vaccarelli) for their support, encouragement and assistance. I am also grateful for the assistance of several volunteers, without whom, the long and late hours would have

---

## Welcome new OAS Members (April-May 1998)

- Laura Cocuzzi, Woodbridge
- Sylvia Davis, Toronto
- Jean Gibbins, Toronto
- Jennifer Johansson Family, Etobicoke
- Kelly McCann, Ottawa
- Rodney Ross, Smithville
- Sandy Stevens, Toronto
- Nicole Tasikas, Toronto

## New Life Members

- Ellen Blauger, Orillia
-

been even longer and later. Charles and Ella Garrad deserve special mention. They were always available at a moment's notice, for just about anything.

Charles' knowledge of the Society is unfathomable. His perspectives and wisdom on so many issues benefitted me and ultimately, the OAS membership. The staffs at the ROM, Dept. Of Anthropology, MCzCR, OHF and ASI provided good advice, support and frequent assistance, as did members of the Ontario Heritage Alliance. You know who you are. Thank you all!

One of the best programs available for high school students is co-operative education, an experiential mode of learning that integrates study and classroom theory with on-the-job experience. The OAS office is an enormous beneficiary of this program. At the end of May 1998, a total of 330 volunteer hours were logged by three students (1996-1998): Mark Fillery, Anna Srithirath and Terry Patrick. It is wonderful to know that all have chosen to pursue post secondary education in disciplines related to archaeology.

One of the Society's strengths is its consistent, quality publications, both regular and occasional. In an effort to bridge the gap between our newsletter and scholarly, referred journal, Nick Adams has developed an on-line, popular magazine - *OntArchMag*; it is appended to our web-page and provides brief, interesting highlights of archaeological research, artifact studies, etc. Archaeologists of all ilks

The President and Board of Directors of  
The Ontario Archaeological Society gratefully  
acknowledge **Dortec Industries,**  
**A Division of Magna International**  
for donating a new Pentium 166 computer.

Our sincere appreciation is also extended to  
**Associated Heritage Publishing**  
for the provision and installation of  
new software programs, and training.

should contribute to the magazine, just as we do to *OA*, *Arch Notes* and Chapter newsletters.

The Board of Directors and all Chapters must continue to agitate for a new Ontario Heritage Act. We've let this incredibly important issue slip to the back burner again, after the usual letter to the new Minister reminding her that it is important to all Ontarians. The proposed destruction of provincial land registry documents by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations needs continual attention as does the preservation of various archaeological sites threatened across of the province. I urge those Board members who are the Society's representatives at meetings and who write great letters, to keep the membership informed about these issues and others, through regular pieces in *Arch Notes*. I also urge Board members to continue to participate in the Ontario Heritage Alliance. A continued strong lobby is absolutely necessary to further the mission of this Society and heritage conservation in general. Our own mission, to preserve, promote, investigate, record and publish an archaeological record of Ontario was adapted nearly 50 years ago by our founders. It is especially relevant during this current era of enormous political, social and economic upheaval, and rapid change.

What a pleasure it has been to learn from our members who are at the leading edge of archaeological thought and discovery in Ontario. How wonderful to receive notices from chapters about their latest book, public outreach programs, workshops, fund raising ventures, web pages, etc. We have strong voices and supporters in our London, Ottawa, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Hamilton, Grand River /Waterloo and Toronto Chapters. They are all on the front line when archaeological issues in their constituencies arise. Be vigilant and communicate!

The financial challenges faced by the OAS as it moves into the new millennium are enormous. The era of hand-outs from traditional funding sources has virtually come to an end. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada recently ceased to fund our premiere refereed journal, *Ontario*

*Archaeology.* The Society must continue to strive in earnest towards self-sufficiency. New fund raising partnerships are a good start in this direction, but the dollars coming in must increase. This message has been made loud and clear over the past three years, especially by our only remaining government funding source, The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. It has reset its funding evaluation criteria for provincial heritage organizations. We are now evaluated on public involvement/participation (are we reaching out to members, volunteers and the public?), partnerships (are we joining forces with other groups to realize common goals?), program effectiveness/responsiveness (are OAS programs consistent with the Provincial Heritage Organization Support Program objectives and our own needs?), financial accountability (are we on a stable financial footing?), and functional viability (are we sustainable in the long term?). The Society has continued to make great strides in addressing these five areas. Recently, the Board of Directors and Executive Director logged 100 hours to prepare our support grant application to MCzCR. One of the reasons for this large time-commitment is that the Society and its Chapters have achieved many objectives in the areas noted above. Simply stated, our achievements are plentiful, some large, some small, but always significant.

Another constant challenge is how to retain our current members and attract new ones. Most calls to the OAS office are requests for information on where one can volunteer on an archaeological site. Our Passport-to-the-Past program used to provide numerous annual opportunities. This program is virtually obsolete and needs some re-thinking. If we cannot provide that new member with their first taste of archaeological field work, how can we expect their support, letters to MPs, newspaper editors, etc. advocating conservation and preservation? As I vacate my chair at the Board table, I am heartened by the recent formation of an OAS task force which will tackle the issue of professionalism in archaeology; I am also pleased about the reestablishment of ties between the OAS and the APA (Association of Professional Archaeologists). With the majority of

Canadian archaeological work conducted by cultural resource managers, will there ever be a place again for the average member of the public inspired by last evening's presentation on The Learning Channel? I remind the task force committee and CRM archaeologists that it is the public on whose behalf our work is conducted.

I recently became a Life Member of the Ontario Archaeological Society, not because of advantageous fees but to demonstrate commitment to an organization whose goals are realistic and vital, and whose achievements are numerous - trite sentiments, perhaps, but having served on the absolute front line, sincere and heartfelt. Farewell!

*Ellen Blaubergs ✓*

#### *Update on Ontario Archaeology*

OA 63 (1997) will be mailed to members by May 30, 1998. OA 64 (1997), a special volume in honour of the late Ian Kenyon, guest-edited by Neal Ferris, should be available by late summer. OA 65 /66 (1998) will be a double volume on the Parsons Site.

#### *1998 OAS Symposium*

**Archaeologists and First Nations:  
Bridges from the Past to a Better Tomorrow  
October 16-18, 1998  
Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford ON**

A call for papers was included with the last *Arch Notes*. Deadline for paper abstracts is June 30<sup>th</sup>. A preliminary program and registration information will be included with the July/August *Arch Notes*.

#### *Returned Mail:*

Andrew Schoenhofer was in Kitchener.  
Remi Farvaque was in Waterloo. ✓

# Ministry news

The following list consists of the type of licence, name of licensee, licence number and site location for licences issued during the month of April, 1998. All licences are for the Province of Ontario unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the Archaeological Licence Office, Cultural Programs Branch, 2nd floor, Toronto. Tel: (416) 314-7123, Fax: (416) 314-7175.

## Consulting:

- Gordon C. Dibb, York North Archaeological Services 98-057 • Dean Knight, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. 98-036 • Heather Henderson, Historic Horizon Inc. 98-062 (Province of Ontario Historic; Southern Ontario Prehistoric; Northern Ontario Stages 1 and 2 Prehistoric)
- Leslie J. Amundson, Stanley Consulting Group Ltd. 98-063 (Northern Ontario) • Isobel L. Ball 98-064 • Andrew Hinshelwood 98-065 • Rita Griffin-Short, RGS Archaeological Services 98-049 • Ronald F. Williamson, Archaeological Services Inc. 98-014 • Jeffrey A. Burse 98-060 (Southern Ontario)

## Consulting (Stages 1-3 only):

- Alison Ariss, Ariss Consulting 98-066 (Southern Ontario)

## Conservation:

- Lawrence Jackson 98-058 (Southern Ontario)
- William D. Finlayson 98-017 • Heather R. Broadbent 98-067 (Town of Caledon)

## Survey and Test Excavation:

- William D. Finlayson 98-018 (Crawford Lake Area - within 40 km) • William D. Finlayson 98-019 (Duffin and Petticoat Creek) • James Keron 98-059 (Westminster and North Dorchester Townships, Middlesex County)

## Underwater:

- Robert Lighthart 98-028 (St. Lawrence River, Rockport, Ontario - GPS N 44-22.616, W 75-55.820) • Kent Gardner 98-051 (Georgian Bay, North Channel, Badgeley Island West to St. Joseph's Island, including McGregor Bay and Bay of Islands)



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**HARRY LERNER** BSc, Dipl. Hons.  
1059 Riverside Drive  
London, Ontario N6H 2T4  
tel: 519-473-3010  
email: [hlerner@gtm.net](mailto:hlerner@gtm.net)  
www: <http://users.gtm.net/hlerner/arohtml.htm>

**COMPUTER BASED  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAPPING  
AND DIGITIZING**

# The ORRA site (AgHb-158): a Princess Point Complex camp, City of Brantford, County of Brant, Ontario

*Brent Wimmer and Robert G. Mayer*

## Introduction

As a condition of development approval under Sections 2(b) and 50(4a) of the Planning Act RSO 1990, two previous archaeological assessment reports (Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. 1992 and 1997) documented the results of the Stage 1 background research, Stage 2 general survey and Stage 3 investigations of seven pre-contact Aboriginal sites on the proposed draft plan of subdivision 29T-92002 in City of Brantford, County of Brant, Ontario (Figure 1). After a review of those reports, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation (OMCzCR) recommended Stage 4 mitigative excavations on four of these sites if avoidance strategies could not be adopted (Ferris 1997). The results of the mitigative excavation on one of the four sites are described below. Named after the current land-owner/developer, the ORRA site is registered as AgHb-158 in the provincial and federal archaeological site databases.

## Work Plan

The following work plan was approved the OMCzCR before implementation. Fieldwork involved the mechanical removal of ploughzone topsoil to the entire extent of the 1992 and 1997 surface artifact limits, shovel-shining the surface of the subsoil in order to cleanly expose any subsurface cultural features, and hand-excavation of the cultural features found. Hand-excavated soil from subsurface cultural features was screened through a six mm (1/4 inch) wire mesh in order to maximize the potential for recovery of artifacts. All soil excavated from features was collected for subsequent processing by water flotation.

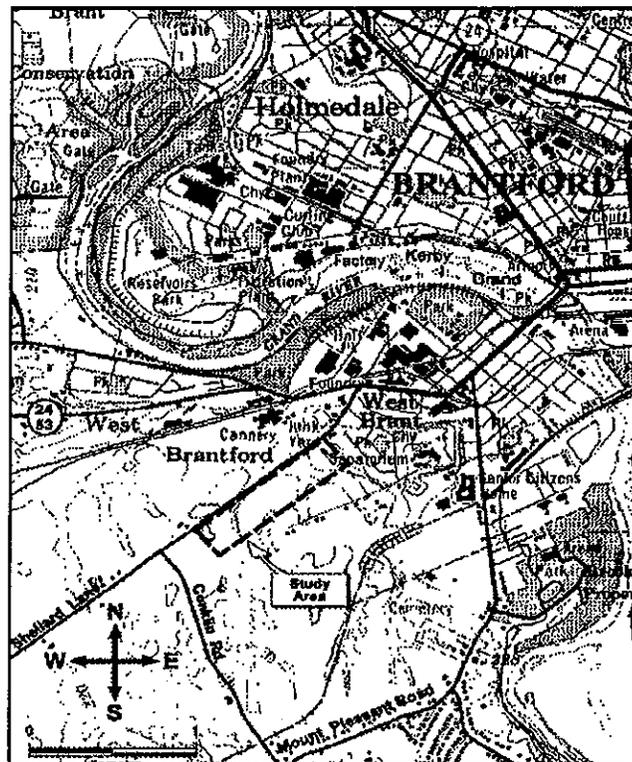


Figure 1. Location of the ORRA site (AgHb-158)

## Results

### *Summary of Previous Assessments (Stages 1 to 3)*

Discovered by Ilse Kramer, a local artifact collector, the ORRA site was officially recorded first during the 1991 survey of the Ministry of Government Services (MGS) property immediately to the south when six pre-contact Aboriginal artifacts were found including four pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus, a utilized flake and a projectile point of undetermined type (Mayer, Poulton and Associates 1991:14). The 1992 assessment found 23 pieces of

Table 1. Artifacts from the mitigative excavation of the ORRA site (AgHb-158)

Provenience	Artifact Type	Frequency	Comments
Monitoring	biface lateral edge	1	Onondaga chert
	utilized blade	1	Onondaga chert
Feature 1	detritus	4	Onondaga chert, 2 utilized (?)
	rim sherd	4	Princess Point type decoration
	body sherd	15	cross-mend with rims (?)
	sandstone	1	
Feature 2	fired clay	15	
	calcined bone	9	bird (?)
	rim sherd	1	Princess Point type decoration
	body sherd	4	cord-wrapped stick decoration
Feature 3	fired clay	5	
	calcined bone	5	
Feature 4	drill	1	reworked projectile (?)
	detritus	2	Onondaga chert
Feature 5	body sherd	3	not decorated
	calcined bone	5	tiny fragments
	fired clay	4	
Post Mould 1	burnt soil	0	sterile of cultural material
TOTAL	body sherd	2	not decorated
		82	

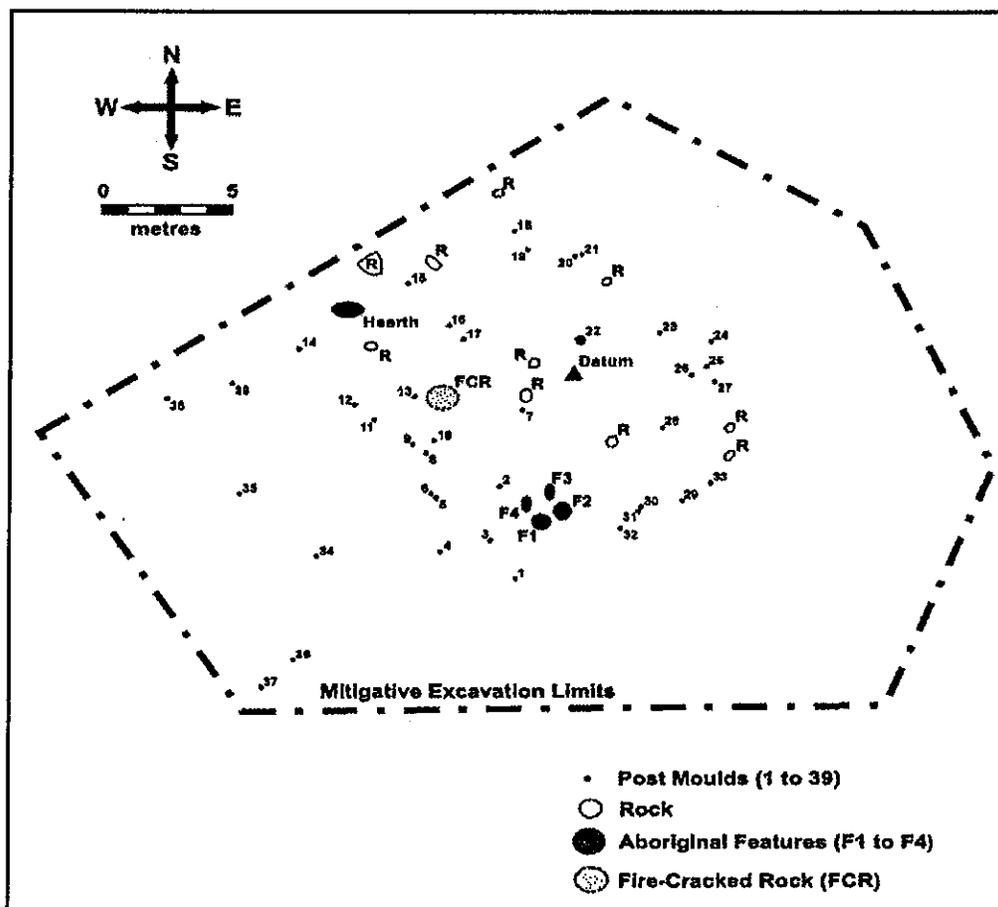


Figure 2. ORRA site (AgHb-158) Stage 4 mitigative excavation results

Onondaga chert chipping detritus thinly scattered over a 15 by 26 metre area – none were observed to be in clusters (Mayer Heritage Consultants 1992:6). Two of the six test units (each one metre square) excavated in 1992 were sterile of cultural material while the remaining four contained a total of 31 artifacts including 21 pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus, two pre-contact Aboriginal ceramic vessel sherds and eight machine-cut nails.

The 1997 Stage 3 investigation recovered 10 pieces of a light coloured Onondaga chert chipping detritus and a single piece of Haldimand/Ancaster chert chipping detritus within an approximate 15 by 15 metre area (Mayer Heritage Consultants 1997:4). The surface material did not extend onto the MGS property immediately to the south.

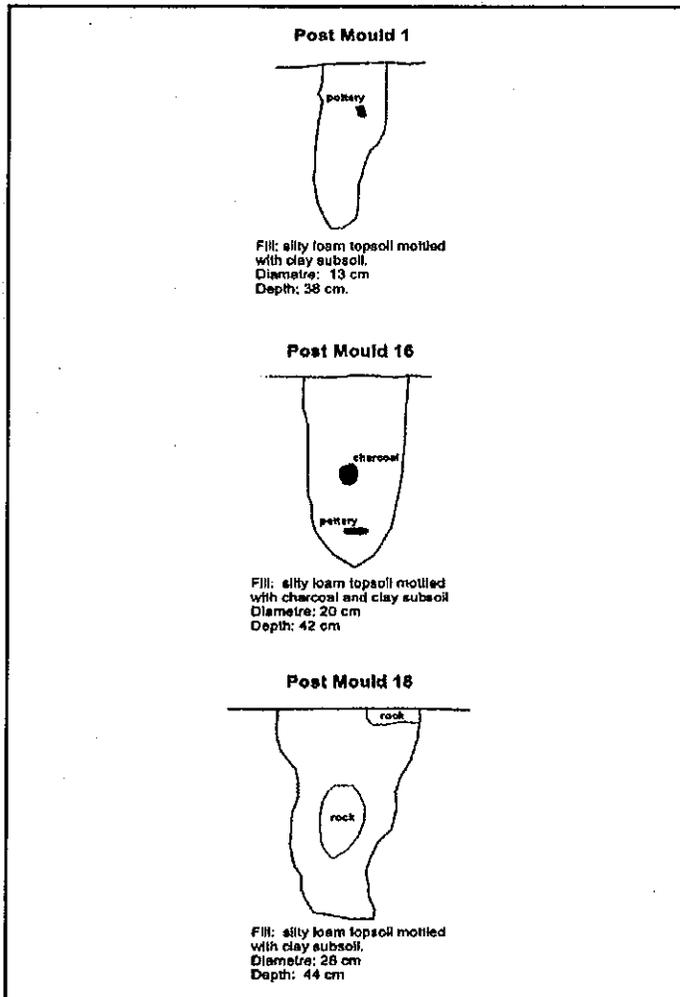


Figure 3. Profiles of post moulds 1, 16 and 18

#### Stage 4 Mitigative Excavation

The ploughzone topsoil from a 45 by 50 metre area was mechanically removed down approximately 35 cm to the interface with the subsoil (Figure 2). As described below, Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian post moulds were found along with five Aboriginal features, ceramic vessel sherds and lithic artifacts (Table 1). All post moulds and features were mapped and excavated by hand.

#### Post Moulds:

Of the 40 dark circular stains found, four are definitely pre-contact Aboriginal post moulds (Numbers 1, 16, 33 and 39) while the remaining 36 are questionable as to their cultural status (Table 2). Many of the questionable posts may be the tap roots of good-sized trees that extended up to 44 centimetres into the compact clay subsoil. David Smith (pers. com. 1998), however, has indicated that the post moulds on the Princess Point sites he has excavated tend to be leached out or rather shallow like some of the ones thought to be non-cultural on the ORRA site.

Posts 1 and 16 had straight sides with rounded bottoms, and both contained a single ceramic sherd (Figure 3). Post 33 was angled while Post 39 was straight sided with a rounded bottom. Using these definite post moulds as well as some of the questionable ones, the possible outline of a rectangular structure approximately 10 by 15 metres in size can be discerned (Figure 2). The pit and hearth features are along the interior of the southwest and northwest wall segments.

A number of rocks of substantial size lay scattered within the clay subsoil. Only those greater than 25 cm in diameter were mapped. These rocks were in an advanced stage of decomposition and some appeared to have been heat treated. The rocks were coarse grained sandstone and at one time must have been part of a creek bed. Some of the “non-cultural” stains were among or in close proximity to these rocks.

Table 2. Post moulds from the ORRA site (AgHb-158)

Post #	Type	Width (cm)	Depth (cm)	Comments
1	cultural	13	38	contained pottery
2	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
3	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
4	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
5	non-cultural	---	---	shallow
6	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
7	possibly cultural	17	20	had irregularly shaped bottom
8	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
9	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
10	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
11	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
12	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
13	non-cultural ?	---	---	shallow
14	non-cultural ?	19	39	possible tree root
15	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
16	cultural	18	39	contained pottery
17	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
18	non-cultural ?	14	44	possible tree root
19	non-cultural ?	18	25	possible tree root
20	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
21	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
22	cultural	---	---	historic or support post
23	non-cultural ?	---	---	possible tree root
24	non-cultural ?	19	37	possible tree root
25	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
26	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
27	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
28	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
29	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
30	non-cultural ?	---	---	voided
31	possibly cultural	17	28	---
32	non-cultural ?	16	23	---
33	cultural	10	12	angled in profile
34	non-cultural ?	15	33	---
35	non-cultural ?	17	29	voided
36	possibly cultural	15	36	---
37	non-cultural ?	10	22	voided
38	possibly cultural	11	36	---
39	cultural	5	33	---

#### Cultural Features:

Four cultural features were found clustered within a two metre square area. Three of the features (Features 1, 2 and 4) were shallow basin shaped refuse pits ranging from 7 to 15 cm deep and contained decorated Late Woodland period ceramic vessel sherds. Feature 5 was a hearth situated 10 metres from the pit cluster. Planviews and profiles of the features are provided in Figure 4.

Feature 1 is a circular basin-shaped pit 40 cm in diameter and 15 cm deep. It contained four rim sherds and fifteen body sherds from a single Princess Point ceramic vessel, plus nine small fragments of calcined bone, fifteen lumps of fired clay, a piece of sandstone and some charcoal.

Feature 2 is a circular basin-shaped pit 40 cm in diameter and 10 cm deep. It contained a rim sherd and four body sherds from a single Princess Point

ceramic vessel, plus five small fragments of calcined bone, five lumps of fired clay and some charcoal.

Feature 3 is an irregular shaped stain located among the cluster of Aboriginal pits. Although it may have been an Aboriginal pit, it was identified as a tree stain. Nonetheless, a triangular drill made of Selkirk chert and two pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus were recovered from it. The base of the drill is similar to Princess Point bifacial triangular points and the artifact could have been subsequently re-worked into a drill. Because Onondaga chert is generally the chert found on Princess Point Complex sites in the lower Grand River, finding a formal tool like the drill made of Selkirk chert is a significant change from the norm. The drill is 5.1 cm long, 2.2 cm wide and 0.6 cm thick.

Feature 4 is a oval basin-shaped pit 35 cm long by 25 cm wide with a depth of 7 cm. It contained three ceramic body sherds, five small fragments of burnt mammal bone, four lumps of fired clay and small amounts of charcoal.

Feature 5 is a oval shaped hearth 50 cm wide by 75 cm long with a remaining depth of 10 cm. Remnants of hearth characterized by reddish soil burnt into the blocky clay subsoil. Faint traces of smearing of burnt soil in the clayey silt soil covering the hearth. A small sparse scatter of fire-cracked rock but with no associated burnt soil was found approximately three metres from the hearth.

#### Ceramic Sherds:

The ceramic sherds greatly resemble those described and illustrated by Fox (1990:175-176) from the Middleport Site (Figure 5). They have cord-wrapped stick decoration. The rims are decorated on the interior, exterior and lip. Two of the rims from Feature 1 have exterior punctates with no corresponding interior bosses.

#### Lithic Material:

During the shovel shining of the subsoil, a small amount of lithic material was recovered including the edge of a biface made of dark grey Onondaga

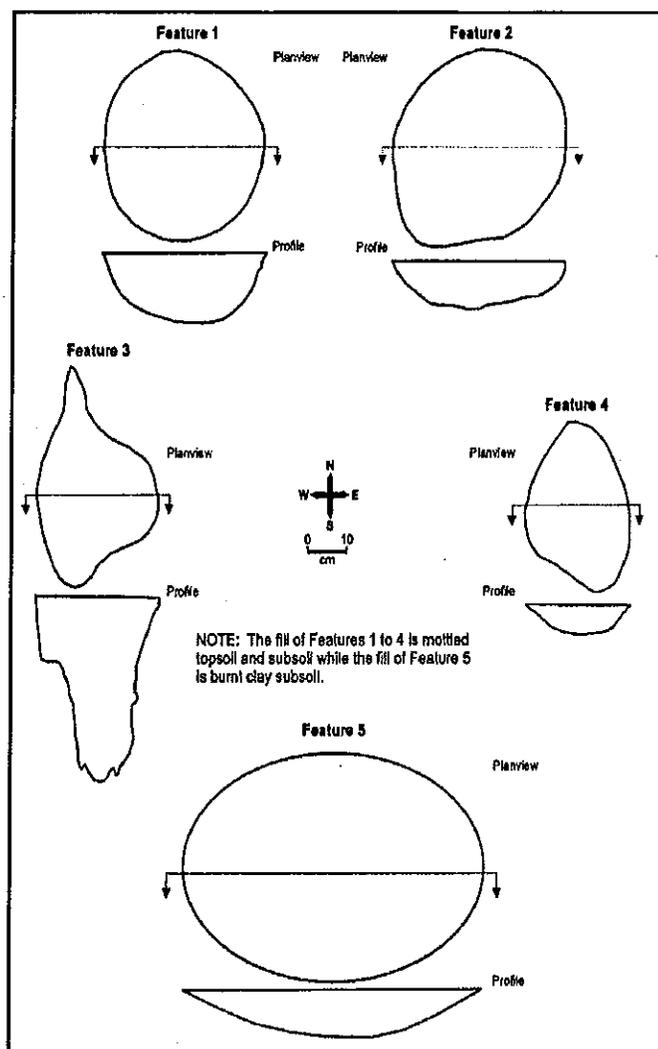


Figure 4. Planviews and profiles of features

chert, a utilized blade fragment made of a lighter coloured Onondaga chert, and four pieces of chipping detritus of which three are light Onondaga chert and one is Selkirk chert (Figure 5).

### **Interpretations And Conclusions**

The Stage 4 mitigative excavation uncovered the archaeological remains of a Princess Point campsite from the early Late Woodland period. Originally, this campsite was probably situated along the edge of a tree-lined creek during warmer months and may have had some sort of temporary structure that would have required low maintenance. The presence of two different chert types (e.g., Onondaga and Haldimand) suggests that the site was possibly

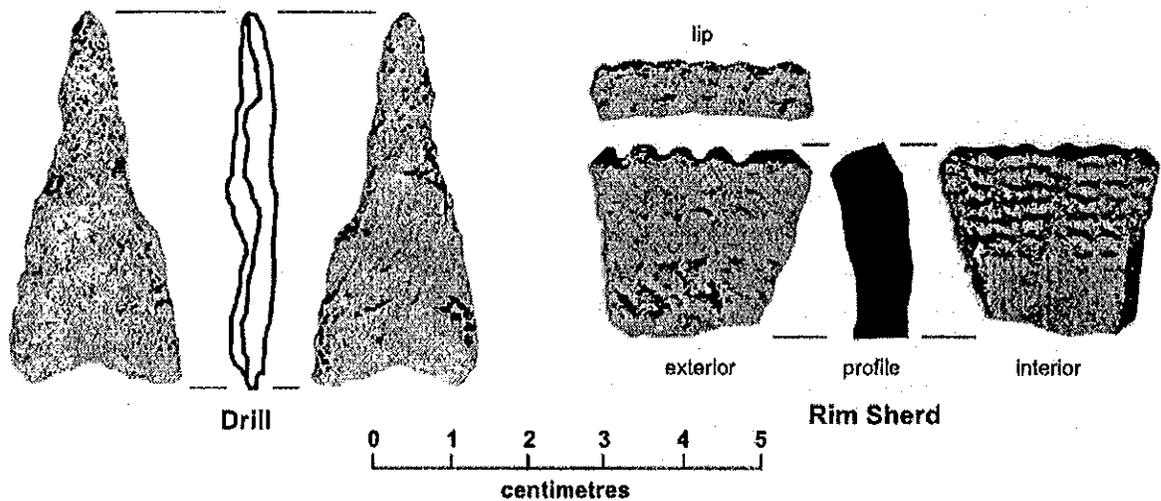


Figure 5. Selected diagnostic artifacts - Stage 4 excavations

occupied on more than one occasion. The contents of the three refuse pits suggests that these features may have originally been "cooking pits" due to the presence of ceramic vessel sherds, fired clay, calcined bone and charcoal. However, only one of the 21 body sherds recovered shows evidence of intense heating (blackening).

Water flotation of the soil samples from the sub-surface cultural features found, and analysis of the ceramic sherds recovered is to be prepared by Dr. David Smith, at the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto at Erindale. A separate article will be prepared when this research is completed.

### Acknowledgements

The following individuals and agencies are gratefully acknowledged for facilitating the fieldwork and preparation of this report. Barry Gray, Dave Pincombe, Frank Albanese, Marilyn Cornies-Milne, John Critchley, Arnie Feast, Lisa Lansink, John Mavin and Rhonda Mayer conducted the 1992 Stage 2 general survey and the Stage 3 test excavation investigation. Arthur Figura, Janet Kreda, Brian Lindsay and Helen Sluis comprised the crew during the 1997 Stage 4 mitigative excavation. Angelo Puglisi, of the ORRA Corporation, provided logistical support for the mechanical removal of the ploughzone topsoil. J.H. Cohoon Engineering Limited relocated the site

using archive notes from their 1992 engineering survey. Neal Ferris, Heritage Planner/Regional Archaeologist, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, facilitated the development by suggesting the mitigation strategy employed. David G. Smith, of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto at Erindale, confirmed that the identification of the Princess Point ceramics and will be preparing a report on the water flotation of the soil samples.

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# Osteological analysis of an Early Woodland burial: Mo Pierce site (AnHq-20), South Bay Marina Complex, Township of Pelee, Essex County, Ontario

*Megan Cook, Robert G. Mayer, Jim Wilson*

## Introduction

The Mo Pierce site (AnHq-20) is on the South Bay Marina Joint Venture property near the south end of Pelee Island, Ontario (Figure 1). The site originates from the Early Woodland period (circa 1000 to 400 B.C.) (Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. 1995, 1996a, 1996b, and 1997). A human cranial fragment and a canine tooth were uncovered in a subsurface cultural pit feature during a Stage 4 mitigative excavation in June 1996 as part of the development approval process for a municipal official plan amendment.

Because these skeletal remains indicated the presence of a burial in an unapproved aboriginal peoples' cemetery, excavation of the feature was halted immediately. The Cemeteries Act, RSO 1990 defines an unapproved peoples' cemetery as, "land set aside with the apparent intention of interring therein, in accordance with cultural affinities, human remains and containing remains identified as those of persons who were one of the aboriginal peoples of Canada." Notification of the burial was sent to the Walpole Island First Nation, the Delaware Nation, the Caldwell First Nation, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation (OMCzCR).

Pursuant to Section 14 of Regulation 133/92 of The Cemeteries Act, a site disposition agreement was approved on September 30th, 1996 between the Walpole Island First Nation and the registered owners of the property. This agreement permitted

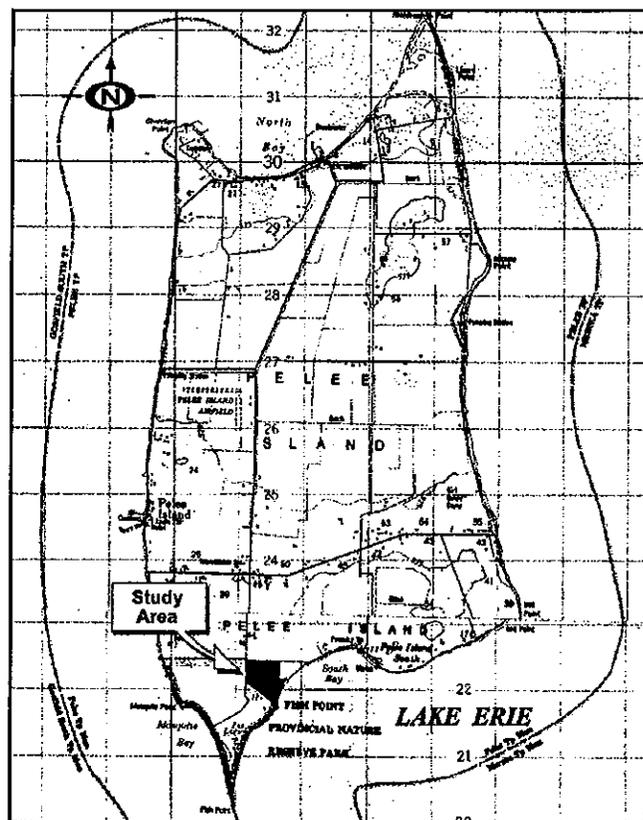


Figure 1. Location of the study area

the disinterment and reinterment of the burial. Using standard hand-excavation methods, disinterment took place on May 21st, 1997. The skeletal material was analyzed using non-destructive observation and in situ measurements in order to obtain as much information as possible about the cultural affiliation, age sex, and pathologies of the individual. The remains are to be re-interred on Pelee Island a short distance from where they were found.

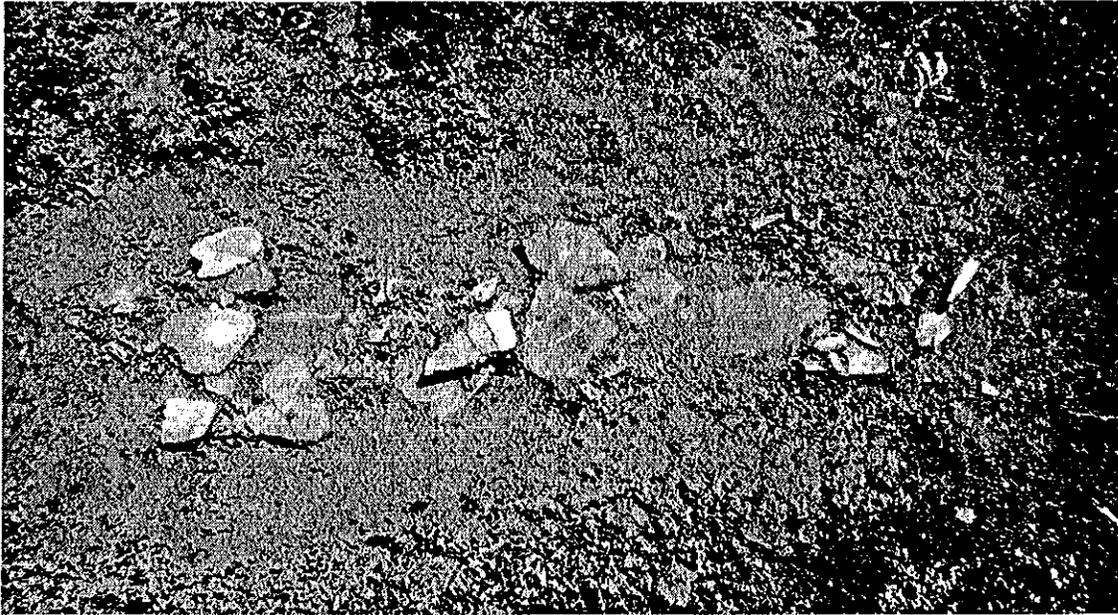


Figure 2. Rock slabs covering the burial feature (facing east)

### Excavation Methods

The burial feature, as exposed in the undisturbed subsoil, was 196 cm long, 45 cm wide and 11 cm deep. It would have been originally covered by at least 30 cm of ploughzone topsoil. A single primary extended supine burial with a south (head) to north (feet) orientation was found in the feature. With the exception of the cranium and feet areas, two to three layers of limestone rock slabs were laid on top of the feature (Figures 2 and 3). The largest slab was 18 cm long. The head and feet were slightly elevated compared to the rest of the burial, and sustained considerable damage from ploughing. Most of the bones from the cranium and feet were missing. The remaining bones were fragmented and broken.

Excavation of the burial was difficult because the soil was wet and some parts of the burial were encased in clay. The limestone slabs were carefully removed so that the bones did not sustain any damage. Long bones were measured in situ because they were susceptible to breaking on removal from the ground.

The burial was excavated in three levels. Immediately beneath the limestone slabs, Level 1 contained fragments of scapula, rib, cranium, metatarsals and

tarsals (i.e., calcaneus and talus). After the removal of more limestone slabs, Level 2 contained the maxilla and mandible with most of the teeth present. At least 25 fragments of cranium with a mean measurement of 3 by 5 cm were uncovered as well as occipital fragments. The upper and lower incisors and the canines were found lying near the cranial pieces. The remaining portions of scapular, ribs and clavicles were also found in this level. A piece of the temporal bone containing the right mastoid and petrous portion was recovered. The mastoid process was very gracile indicative of a female. The proximal left and right humeri plus the distal tibias were visible at this level.

The skeleton remains were fully exposed in Level 3. The left arm was by the side of the body while the lower right arm and hand was over the right hip. Phalanges and metacarpals were found over the sacral area. The left trapzoid, trapezium and pisiform bones were also recovered. The ribs and vertebral bodies were fragile and broke upon removal from the surrounding clay while the atlas and axis (C1 and C2) vertebral bones were well preserved and remained intact. The pelvis and sacrum were well

embedded in the clay type soil. The pubic symphysis was too badly damaged to be used in an estimation of the age-at-death. Enough of the pelvis remained intact, however, to assess the width of the sciatic notch as a marker for the determination of sex.

## Analysis

### Stature

Long bone measurements taken in the field are summarized in Table 1. Using the formula for long bones developed by Trotter and Gleser (1958), the stature of this individual was calculated to be 140 cm (i.e., approximately 4 feet and 11 inches).

Table 1: Summary of long bone measurements

Bone	Right side (cm)	Left side (cm)
Femur	46	45
Tibia	32	30
Humerus	10 (shaft only)	31.5
Radius	15	15
Ulna	8 (shaft only)	10 (shaft only)

### Age-at-Death Estimate

Because all the bones were fused and there was no evidence of any remaining epiphyseal scarring, the individual is thought to be an adult over 25 years of

age. Age-related osteoarthritis was not found in any of the bones and no dental attrition or caries were present in the teeth. The 3rd molars are fully erupted and little wear is present on the occlusal surfaces. Comparing these conditions with the dental wear patterns described by Bothwell (1965) and Lovejoy (1985), the estimated age-at-death of the individual is between 25 and 30 years old.

### Sex Determination

Very few markers were present for the determination of the sex of the individual due to the preservation of the remains. However, the very gracile mastoid process of the temporal bone and the wide sciatic notch are indicative of a female.

### Pathologies

No gross pathologies were observed in any of the bones. There was no age related osteoarthritic changes, any evidence of trauma, any epiphyseal scars or unfused bone.

### Dentition

Because teeth are durable, they are consequently very valuable for determining age-at-death and health status. They are also helpful in assessing cultural affinities. All the teeth with the exception of a 3rd molar were found. Most were in their respect-

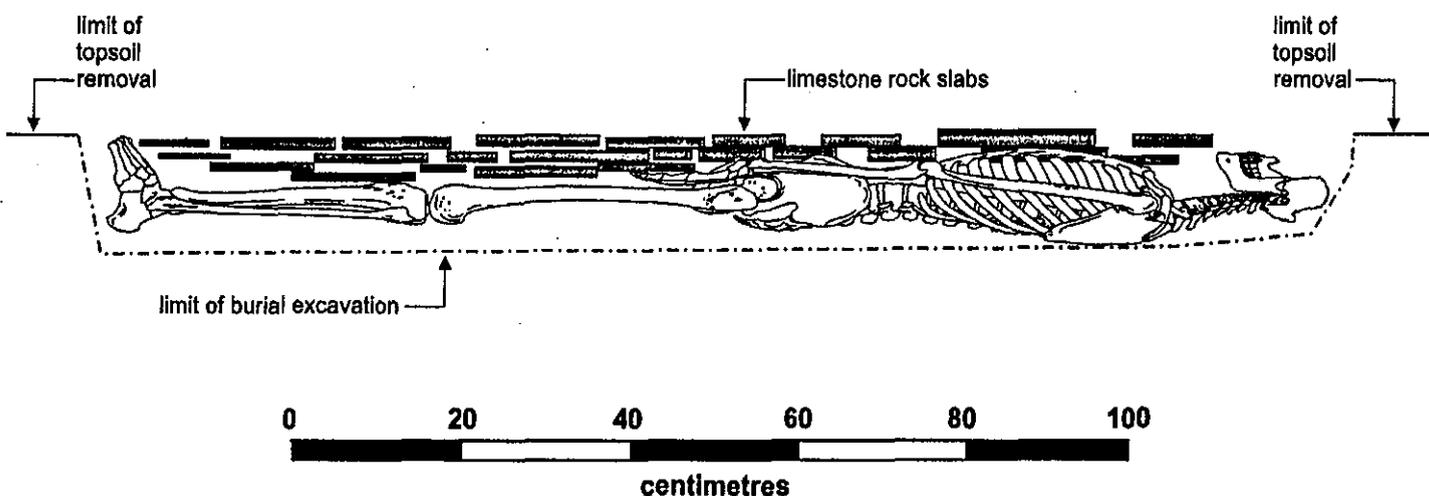


Figure 3. Stylized profile of burial (facing east)

ive sockets in the mandible and maxilla. The upper incisors are shovel-shaped, indicative of North American aboriginal ancestry. It has been found that a high percentage of Native Americans possess this trait and this has been used as a marker for identifying Native burials (Bass 1984).

All the teeth are worn down with fairly extensive wear on the 1st molars and little wear on the 3rd molars. The alveolar bone is healthy, and dental caries, hypoplasia or periodontal disease processes are not present. The dentition also indicates that the diet of this individual was low in carbohydrates. Bothwell and Lovejoy's age classifications of wear were used to estimate the age-at-death of the individual.

### Summary And Conclusions

The isolated interment at the Mo Pierce site provides an interesting and useful addition to our understanding of Early Woodland mortuary patterns in southwestern Ontario. The single broken Meadowood projectile point found to the right of the cranium, was the only mortuary offering found in association with the pit feature. The limestone slabs had been removed by ploughing in this area, making it difficult to determine if the projectile had been originally above or below the limestone. While there are no other reported instances of Early Woodland rock-covered burials features in Ontario, five such features are reported from the Early Woodland Pointe-du-Buisson 5 site just south of Montreal (Clermont and Chapdelaine 1982:153). Unlike the Pelee Island burial, the Pointe-du-Buisson burial pits contained multiple cremated interments. A quick survey of the southern part of Pelee Island indicates that limestone slabs were probably obtained from the lakeshore approximately one kilometre to the southeast of the burial feature.

According to Ritchie (1955), Early Woodland burials indicate a sequence of mortuary procedures with the primary burial being above ground in a type of charnel house. The secondary burials are characterized by having stone crematories and bundle burials con-

taining offerings of stone tools and ornaments. After cremation the remains are buried with red ochre, usually in deep pits. There is also evidence of the ceremonial use of fire. Examples of these practices are the crematories of the Muskalonge Lake and Red Lake sites in the United States (Ritchie 1955). At present, however, the bulk of the data concerning Early Woodland burials in Ontario comes from the Bruce Boyd (Spence *et al* 1978) and Liahn II (Williamson 1980) cemeteries near Long Point and Lake St. Clair, respectively. Both of these cemeteries have a series of burial features containing multiple and single interments.

At the Bruce Boyd site, 20 individuals relating to the Early Woodland component were recovered from 17 pit features. The most common form of burial was secondary interment and, "in several instances the cranium, mandible and some of the cervical vertebrae were placed in the grave as an articulated unit apart from the rest of the body" (Spence and Fox 1986:23). Five of the 20 individuals had been cremated (Spence *et al* 1990:132-133). The bulk of the offerings at the Bruce Boyd site had been placed in two large pits that did not contain human remains. Most individual burial features did contain some grave offerings, although they were not extensive, and there were individuals, both male and female, who had none (Spence *et al* 1978:40-41). Red ochre was present in eight of the burial features.

At the Liahn II site there was less evidence for cremation, with only one burnt cranial fragment recovered. Sixteen individuals were recovered from 13 pit features. Not all of the burials features contained grave goods, and the possibility exists they may not all relate to the Early Woodland period. Both secondary and primary interments were present, with the primary burials being in the flexed position. The use of red ochre was common, and only burials with red ochre possessed other grave offerings (Williamson 1980).

Gradual population growth, and the concomitant infilling of the landscape towards the end of the Archaic period is believed to have led to increased

competition for subsistence resources. Spence (1986) has suggested that emergence of true cemeteries during the Terminal Archaic and Early Woodland periods (1100 to 450 B.C.) can be related to an attempt on the part of bands to make a symbolic claim to a specific territory and the resources within it.

Spence suggests that individuals who died at an inconvenient or impractical distance from the band cemetery would receive primary burial at the location of their death. At a later date, these individuals would have been re-interred at the band cemetery when the groups' seasonal round brought them back to that part of their territory. If this is the case, then the burial at the Mo Pierce site may be an example of an individual who died well away from the band's cemetery, and for unknown reasons was not exhumed for later reburial at the band's cemetery. It is possible that the precise location of her interment was forgotten, or that it simply proved impractical to return to collect her remains for inclusion in the group cemetery. Given the location of her burial on Pelee Island, this is not an unlikely scenario. Alternatively it could be argued that her placement under a layer of limestone slabs suggests a certain amount of permanence, and that there was no intention that she be re-interred at a later date in a larger group cemetery.

Isolated burials dating to the Terminal Archaic period have been reported in southwestern Ontario and adjacent regions (Spence *et al* 1990). Stothers and Abel (1993:79) suggest that they, "may represent individuals who whose remains were not returned to larger social centres for interment in local or regional cemeteries for various reasons, possibly relating to feasibility. Likewise, these individuals may have been denied access to these larger centers of integration on the basis of social status".

### Acknowledgments

Special thanks are extended to the Walpole Island First Nation, and to Dean Jacobs, Executive Director of NIN DA WAAB JIG, for providing permission to

disinter and analyse this burial. The assistance of Rick Budhwa, Jeffery Charno, Nicole Cook, Arthur Figura, Lorelyn Giese and Paul O'Neal in conducting the field and office work is gratefully acknowledged. It is hoped that this unusual burial will add to the understanding of and appreciation for the cultural lifeways of Aboriginal people.

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## A Hi-Lo point from Ancaster, Ontario

*Lawrence Jackson*

A small and heavily reworked Hi-Lo point of Haldimand chert was excavated at the Meadowbrook South site (AhHa-22) in 1995. Recovered from a deep test unit in an erosional gully, this specimen was 54 cm below ground surface in an area of scattered Late Palaeo-Indian and Early Archaic materials. There were no cultural features in association. This specimen broadens the range and known diversity of the Hi-Lo type.

The Meadowbrook South Hi-Lo point is quite thick with a plano-convex cross-section and extremely sinuous lateral edges due to resharpening. The tip is blunted, edges are heavily worn in places, and

basal ears are rounded or blunted. This specimen shows moderate basal concavity and is off-center or canted to the right. Basal thinning is by several irregular and deep flakes on the convex face and by small and short retouch flakes on the flat face of the point.

There is a high degree of polish on the basal ears, a known Hi-Lo trait. Finally, as a further indication of probable use as a multi-purpose tool, small bilateral notches are present - 8.4 mm above the base on the 'left' side and 7.4 mm above the basal ear on the 'right' side.

The Meadowbrook South Hi-Lo point appears to fit the notched Hi-Lo subtype recently described by Ellis (n.d.).

**Table 1: Hi-Lo point measurements**

Length	29.1 mm
Width	19.4 mm
Thickness	8.1 mm
Basal width	14.3 mm
Weight	4.45 g

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# Idea Exchange

This letter was received by the OAS office. Can anyone assist?

"In 1968, an article by William Noble titled "'Vision Pits', Cairns and Petroglyphs at Rock Lake, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario" appeared in your journal. It is one of the few articles I know of which has focused on this little-studied area of archaeology, and I'm wondering if anyone in Canada has done any follow-up research, such as locating and writing about additional sites? Here in the East we have examples of what are called 'prayer seats', which are low, semi-circular walled enclosures that generally face in the direction of an impressive natural feature, such as a large boulder, hill or cliff. Some investigators believe they were constructed as part of the vision quest ritual, and may be related to 'vision pits'. Do you know if similar features have been found in Ontario. Thanks in advance."

Sincerely,

Norman E. Muller, Conservator  
The Art Museum - Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey 08544-1018  
Phone (609) 258-3788; Fax (609) 258-5949 ✓

As a personal favour (or flavour?) to Ellen B., who insisted (my choice of word) that, as a parting salvo, *Arch Notes* feature the following from Harper's Magazine, January 1998 - so from the bureau of Ellen:

## *One Shrew, Tamed*

"Human Digestive Effects on a Micromammalian Skeleton", a study by Peter W. Stahl and Brian D. Crandall, in issue number 22 of the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. The study was conducted to help archaeologists determine whether bone specimens found in the field had been ingested by ancient humans. Stahl is a professor of anthropology at Binghamton University; Crandall, his undergraduate assistant at the time of the study, is the "adult human male" mentioned below.

Our study involved the consumption of a skinned, eviscerated, and segmented insectivore by an adult human male. Northern short-tailed shrews (*Blarina brevicauda*) were procured. An adult male shrew was measured, then skinned and eviscerated. The carcass was lightly boiled for two minutes, then swallowed without mastication in three portions: head, hind- and forelimb; body and tail. The period of gentle boiling did not cause any further loss or dissociation of tissues. In an attempt to establish control parameters for fecal collection, marker foods of corn and sesame seeds were ingested several hours before and after the experimental meal.

Fecal matter was collected for the following three days. Each feces was stirred in a pan of warm water until completely disintegrated. This solution was then decanted through a quadruple-layered cheesecloth mesh. Sieved contents were rinsed with a dilute detergent solution and examined with a hand lens for bone remains. Selected specimens were subsequently coated with gold and mounted on Cambridge studs for viewing. ✓

Thank you, Ellen!

# Miscellanea

- ✓ **News announcement: artifact collections delivered to the OMCzCR and MTO for long term storage** - In April 1998, **Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc.** delivered for long term storage to the OMCzCR the artifact collections recovered over the past 12 years from 128 consulting projects in 15 counties. These collections represent approximately 358 registered archaeological sites and 51 isolated non-diagnostic findspots. In addition, the artifact collections from ten of the registered sites along the Highway 407 right-of-way within the Regional Municipalities Halton, Peel and York have been delivered to the MTO. To obtain a master list of the sites, interested researchers should contact Mayer Heritage Consultants Inc. Tel: (519) 472-8100, Fax: (519) 472-1661, Email: MayerHeritage@compuserve.com
- ✓ **The European Journal of Archaeology** is a new academic journal from SAGE Publications to be published three times a year (April, August & December). For information contact Jonathan Carter, Journals Marketing Manager, SAGE Publications, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, UK. Fax: +44 (0)171-374 8741. Email: jonathan.carter@sagepub.co.uk
- ✓ **Chapter Newsletter Articles:** The *Ottawa Archaeologist* (April 1998, Vol.25, No. 2) has "**Mamateek, Winter Wigwams and Clay**" by **David J.A. Croft**. This article provides a brief summary of Beothuk homes which were unusually well documented by Europeans in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Croft hopes to stimulate some interest in winter aboriginal sites. The latest *KEWA* (March 1998, 98-3) features "**The Archaeological Investigations of Victoria Park, City of London, Ontario**" by **D.R. Poulton and C.F. Dodd**. The results of a multi-year study of Victoria Park, in London are described. A wealth of remains relating to the infantry barracks established by the British following the Rebellion of 1837, receive fulsome treatment in this first *KEWA* article devoted to historic archaeology since Kenyon's 1995 rural house abandonment piece.
- ✓ New publications from Altamira Press. Email: order@sagepub.com, Web: <http://www.altamirapress.com>  
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