

# Strata



## Heritage Week in Peterborough

Peterborough was the site for the launch of this year's Ontario Heritage Week celebrations. The honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture, opened the event in the Great Hall at Trent University. Chapter members were well represented at various events during the week.

Sheryl Smith was one of the key organizers of the week long presentations and activities. Morgan Tamplin, manned an OAS display at Trent University during the opening day. Julie Kapyrka organized a very special event, featuring Doug Williams a Mississauga Anishinaabe Elder from the Curve Lake First Nation.

Chapter president, Michael Stringer, manned the display at Lansdowne Place. Many interested members of the public stopped to chat with him, including a reporter from The Examiner who interviewed him and wrote an excellent article on the founding of our chapter. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and participated.

## Curve Lake Elder, Doug Williams, Addresses Peterborough Chapter



*Julie Kapyrka, Doug Williams, Dirk Verhulst, Tom Mohr, Harry Johnson Gordon Dibb in Ernie and Florence Benedict Gathering Place, Trent U.*

As part of Heritage Week celebrations, chapter director, Julie Kapyrka, invited Doug Williams to give a presentation on the history of his people in this part of the province. Members of the public were also invited.

Mr. Williams began by telling us some stories about his great grandfather whose English name was William Taylor, a

member of the Pike clan. Mr. Williams explained that his family has had a long history in this area. He reminded us that his people were very mobile and it was nothing for them to paddle to what is now Toronto in less than a day.

Mr. Williams provided some fascinating insights into the early history of the Anishinaabe people. To illustrate the length of their presence in this area he told a story ancient

about a conflict between the spirit of winter, and Nanabush, the trickster. It is said, he explained, that an argument developed between them about who was stronger. The conflict, according to the legend, led to what we now know as the ice age.

Nanabush, as a result of his actions, was not very popular with the Anishinaabe people who were very cold and hungry. In desperation they pleaded with the spirit of summer to help them get back to their homelands. An agreement was finally reached between the spirits to split the year into seasons and warmth returned to the frozen land.

Mr. Williams went on to tell some of the more recent stories of the Anishinaabe people. They included accounts of pre-contact relationships among the various peoples who lived in this part of the province; stories of their early contacts with explorers such as Champlain and Brule, and experiences with the white settlers; up to more recent historical events such as the many treaties that were reached and eventually broken.

Mr. Williams answered questions from the audience to finish a memorable evening.

## **Building Relationships with First Nations: “It’s the right thing to do”** by Julie Kapyrka

Building relationships of trust and mutual respect with First Nations peoples and communities has not always been a primary consideration for archaeologists in Ontario. Historically, this relationship has been defined by “those who study” and “those who are studied.” As a result, archaeologists have set themselves up as having an exclusive stewardship over the past by controlling the archaeological record which consists mostly of the material culture of First Nations peoples. This imbalance has served to create suspicion, mistrust and distance between archaeologists and the First Peoples of Ontario, and understandably so. This reality is poised to undergo some profound changes in this province as new standards and guidelines for consulting archaeologists were issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and made policy on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Included in these new Standards and Guidelines is a Technical Bulletin entitled *Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology*. This document outlines that archaeologists *must* engage Aboriginal communities at Stage 3 of an archaeological excavation that is indicative of First Nations heritage. Although this initiative is a positive step forward regarding consultation between archaeologists and First Nations communities, it is only *encouraged* to engage with Aboriginal communities at Stage 1 and 2 and is characterized as constituting “wise practice.” However, to engage in “wise practice”, consideration of what constitutes “ethical practice” seems a more logical place to start.

Ethically speaking, the excavation, analysis, and storing of the material culture of First Nations peoples should inherently be a process that occurs with the full participation and consent of the descendants of the peoples who created it. Archaeologists in Ontario must remember whose heritage they are handling and how their practice affects First Nations peoples in the here and now. The building of positive and trusting relationships is integral to this understanding. Rather than being forced to comply with “engagement” with First Nations communities at a given stage in an excavation, archaeologists are urged to begin this process even before field work is undertaken.

First Nations peoples know who they are, where they have been, and are connected to their pasts through the land. In many cases, certain community members have in depth knowledge about the historical movement of their peoples across traditional territories and know where potential archaeological sites may exist. Establishing good relationships with First Nations peoples would only enhance and inform archaeological practice in this province. The onus is upon Ontario archaeologists to begin this process actively in order that their practice becomes ethically sound and morally just.

First Nations are very interested in the history of their peoples and cultures and have much to contribute to the understanding of their pasts with the wider mainstream audience. As archaeologists in Ontario must now seek engagement with Aboriginal communities at a certain stage in their work, would it not make more sense to begin this process prior to arriving at that point? It seems that establishing a relationship with First Nations communities well before reaching stage 3 of an excavation would enable this process to unfold timely and positively. Archaeologists should be initiating strategies for positive relationship building with First Nations people not because it has now become policy but as a dedicated colleague once told me: “because it is the right thing to do.”



*Julie Kapyrka is a founding member of the Peterborough Chapter. She has recently completed her PhD in Indigenous Studies at Trent.*

### Recently Honoured Archaeologist Addresses Peterborough Chapter

Archaeologist Bill Fox, the most recent winner of the OAS's J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal, spoke at the December meeting of the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS). The meeting was held Wednesday evening, December 8th, in the Guild Room of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Fox discussed the archaeological evidence for long distance interaction among southern Ontario native peoples, and will review current evidence related specifically to the Ontario Iroquois. "I hope to remind current practitioners that others have come before," Mr. Fox stated. "What is new," he added, "is that we now have evidence for individual travel and trade over long distances in the archaeological record."



*Chapter member and board director, Tom Mohr, invites readers to identify the above objects. If you can help, let Tom know at [mohr@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:mohr@utsc.utoronto.ca)*

### Mark this date on your calendars!

On March 22, 2011, Janice Teichroeb, the President of the Toronto Chapter of the OAS, and a staff archaeologist with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority will be speaking about her work at the West Burleigh Bay Site.

Janice is a great proponent of public archaeology and no stranger to this area. Another graduate of Trent U., she remembers attending the Ontario field school at West Burleigh Bay for four seasons.

"As an undergrad I hated rocks with a passion," she recalls. "There's a reason they call it Stony Lake. But I returned for the next three years as a volunteer and as a field assistant to research the Archaic lithic component for my M.A. It turns out that the rocks became my passion."

Janice's talk will focus on her experiences at the site and an abridged geological history of the area and how it contributed to the site. She will also tell us about her hunt for the source of the tools stone used to make 'fuglies.'

Janice's presentation will take place in the Guild Room of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (entrance off Water St.). This event is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

## Reminders!!!

March 22 7:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Presbyterian  
Church, Water St. Ptbo.  
Janice Teichroeb on the  
West Burleigh Bay Site

April 26 7:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Presbyterian  
Church, Water St. Ptbo.  
Jeff Delorme on the Rice  
Lake excavations

May 31 7:00 p.m.  
Friendship Centre  
George St. Peterborough  
Michael White Workshop in  
Native Drum Making

### The Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society Application for Membership

Name	
Address	
City	
Postal Code	
Phone	
Email	

To be a member of the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS, it is also necessary to be a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. The Peterborough chapter will collect the OAS fees (see below) or you may consult [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca) for membership information.

Fees collected are from date signed until the end of 2011

Membership Type	Fee	Amount
Peterborough Chapter - Individual	\$12	
Peterborough Chapter - Family	\$15	
Peterborough Chapter - Full Time Student (** proof required)	\$8	
<b>Peterborough Chapter - Donation ***</b>		
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Individual	\$36	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Individual with OA	\$48	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Family	\$40	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Family with OA	\$52	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Full Time Student (** proof required)	\$25	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Full Time Student (** proof required) with OA	\$34	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. - Donation ***		
	Total	

\*\* Photocopy of student card is acceptable proof.

\*\*\* Donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt mailed directly from the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. Please make sure address information is correct.

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS.

Send form and cheque to Treasurer:

Harry Johnson, 2 Testa Road, Apt 205, Uxbridge ON L9P 1L9, 905-852-5097,

[hjohnson@powergate.ca](mailto:hjohnson@powergate.ca)

