A number of participants to the recent OAS Symposium in Midland took advantage of a tour to important archaeological sites in the area. This one was led by Alicia Hawkins (far right).
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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president@ontarioarchaeology.org

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presidentelect@ontarioarchaeology.org

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treasurer@ontarioarchaeology.org

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avocational@ontarioarchaeology.org

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chapters@ontarioarchaeology.org

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students@ontarioarchaeology.org

Executive Director
Lorie Harris
PO Box 62066
Victoria Terrace Post Office
Toronto, Ontario M4A 2W1
Phone/fax: 416-406-5959
execdirector@ontarioarchaeology.org

(Please note that all OAS email addresses have changed from .on.ca to .org)

APPOINTMENTS

Editor, Ontario Archaeology
Chris Ellis
oaeditor@ontarioarchaeology.org

Editors, Arch Notes
Sheryl Smith & Carole Stimmell
aneditor@ontarioarchaeology.org

Editor, Website
Jean-Luc Pilon
jLucpilon@hotmail.com

First Nations Liaison
TBA

Symposium Liaison:
Sheryl Smith
symposium@ontarioarchaeology.org

Moderator – Ontario Archaeological Society
Listserve (OAS-L)
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/OAS-L/
Vito Vaccarelli

Contact Information
PO Box 62066
Victoria Terrace Post Office
Toronto, Ontario M4A 2W1
(416) 406-5959
oasociety@ontarioarchaeology.org
www.ontarioarchaeology.org

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President’s Message

On Ethics

Founded over 60 years ago as an avocational interest group by University of Toronto Professor J. Norman Emerson and his devotees, the Ontario Archaeological Society grew and matured through the second half of the 20th century, a period when rapid advances in science were increasingly met with critical scrutiny by both scientists and society at large.

The poster child for this conflict between scientific knowledge and societal values is no doubt Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the wartime head of the Los Alamos Laboratory which developed the first atomic bomb. A social activist even before joining the Manhattan Project, Dr. Oppenheimer was a founding member of the World Academy of Art and Science, an organization which still seeks to “address global issues related to the social consequences and policy implications of knowledge” (worldacademy.org). His attention to such concerns should be a model for anyone engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, for although the consequences may be orders of magnitude smaller than those attributed to the work of Dr. Oppenheimer and his colleagues, no scientific endeavour is consequence neutral.

Following the logo and below our name in the header of the OAS web site is a tag line which reads “Encouraging the Ethical Practice of Archaeology.” If you are like me, you’ve probably seen that line dozens of times and thought to yourself—if you’ve thought about it at all—yup, that’s what we do. It’s a core value. We want archaeology to be done ethically, and we encourage that whenever possible. But what exactly does that mean? What constitutes the ethical practice of archaeology?

That’s one of the funny things about ethics. We all have a moral compass that tells us individually what is ethical and what is not, but those compasses are not stamped out in a factory somewhere. While ours are very similar to those of our neighbours, and typically point in the same general direction, each one is unique. We all build them from scratch beginning in childhood, and we continue to tinker with them throughout our lives.

You can find clear evidence for this right there on the OAS web site. If you examine Article 2 – Aims of the Society and Article 10 – Code of Ethics of the OAS Constitution, you will find notions such as promoting and advancing archaeology as an academic discipline and the concomitant exchange of idea within and beyond the academy, as well as discouraging untrained excavation of archaeological sites and trade in archaeological materials. You will find no reference in the constitution to archaeology as it relates to heritage, either First Nations or Euro-Canadian, nor to any obligations to descendant communities arising from the archaeological enterprise.

In their wisdom, however, the authors of our current constitution included in the Code of Ethics a reference to an appendix to the constitution, the Statement of Ethical Principles. This document, which can also be found on our web site, lists an additional 10 ethical principles, including several which specifically address appropriate ways to engage with First Nations in archaeological matters. Over time this Statement of Ethical Principles will undoubtedly continue to be improved and refined by the on-going discourse that defines and maintains our values. A fine contribution to this discourse can be found in this very issue of Arch Notes in the article contributed by my presidential successor, Paul Racher, entitled ‘Colonialism, Socrates and the Narcissism of Minor Differences’ (page ?)

I have seen pretty clear evidence of a shift in the archaeological discourse over the last 35 years, particularly at our annual symposia. A year ago I celebrated the outstanding efforts of the Peterborough Chapter in hosting a week-long festival of archaeology leading up to the symposium. I noted that this would be a pretty hard act to follow, but expressed my confidence in the Huronia Chapter team heading up the 2015 symposium. Not only was my confidence well founded, but once again we have seen a symposium committee achieve outstanding levels of performance in areas including organization, fund-raising, public outreach, attendance, and program quality. Congratulations to all involved!

What especially struck me about this symposium, though, was the extent to which engagement and dialogue with First Nations has so thoroughly woven itself into the fabric of our annual meeting. This bodes well for our on-going efforts to expand our discourse in this arena and to understand the implications of archaeological inquiry from the perspective of all members of our diverse Canadian society.

This message completes the dozen that I have had the privilege of sharing with you in Arch Notes over my term as president of the OAS. In closing, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Executive Board members that I have had the privilege of working with over the last three years, especially Lorie Harris (Executive Director) and the Officers of the Society with whom I have had the closest working relationship, including Sheryl Smith (Vice-President), Jim Montgomery and Debbie Steiss (Treasurers), and Neal Ferris (Past President). I very much look forward to continuing to serve on the Executive Board as Past President next year and supporting incoming President, Paul Racher, and his entire Executive Board team.

In addition to following through on some of the initiatives started during my term, I’m also looking forward to serving as program co-chair (with Gary Warrick) for the 2016 OAS symposium being hosted in...
Kitchener-Waterloo by the Grand River Chapter. Under the leadership of organizing committee chair Christopher Watts, and with the assistance of Bonnie Glencross (finance), Chris Dalton (local facilities), and many other as-yet untapped helpers, we look forward to hosting you for a ‘Grand’ time next November 4 to 6, so mark your calendars now!

Rob MacDonald
President

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**PETUN ARTIFACT REPOSITORY HAS CLOSED**

By Charles Garrad

The privately-sponsored facility maintained for several decades at 461 Ontario St., Collingwood, as the headquarters for all local Petun archaeological research has now closed. Annual field schools were operated from this location for The Ontario Archaeological Society in conjunction with the Petun Research Institute until the year 2000.

The building’s primary purpose was to house the artifacts recovered from the Petun area by the O.A.S., the Petun Research Institute, and various donors. A number of students, several now well-placed academics, accessed the artifacts and facilities during their research.

In 2014, following the Canadian Museum of History, Mercury series summary publication of my Petun research (*Petun to Wyandot The Ontario Petun from the Sixteenth Century*), Archaeological Services Inc. initiated processing of the artefact collection with the support of OAS summer student funding, pending final arrangements for its curation.

For details, and access to the research records of the Petun Research Institute, contact Charles Garrad in Toronto at (416)223-2752, <charles.garrad@sympatico.ca>.
2015 OAS Award Winners: Annual Symposium

In keeping with tradition, the 2015 OAS awards were presented during the annual symposium banquet on Saturday October 17th. It was wonderful to see so many members, family and friends attend this great event. Since the papers and events continued through Sunday, the two student awards were confirmed and presented after the symposium. Without further ado, we would like to acknowledge all of the recipients, and also announce the winners of the 2015 Student Poster and Student Paper Awards.

Mitsuyoshi Yabe, winner of the 2015 OAS Student Poster Award

The Student Poster Award goes to Mitsuyoshi Yabe for an amazing poster that incorporated exciting digital applications to the public interpretation of archaeological sites, entitled Public Awareness of Prevailing Website and 3D Virtual Dimensionalization of Fort Frontenac on the Basis of Archaeological Documentations.

This great work captured our imagination by presenting a 3D restoration based on archaeological data, giving virtual tours and also superimposing the 3D rendering through hand-held devices onto 2D historic mapping (http://mxy3663.wix.com/fortfrontenac).

Mariane Gaudreau won the 2015 OAS Student Paper Award

The recipient of the Student Paper Award is Mariane Gaudreau and her paper, entitled Ethnicity and Cultural Affiliation from Huron-Wendat and Anthropological Perspectives, was a wonderfully presented paper that took a multidisciplinary approach to gaining insight and better understanding of how ethnicity and cultural affiliation are identified. Keep up the great work and good luck with your research!

Members of the OAS for over 50 years, Stan Wortner (l) and Charlie Garrad (r) are congratulated by OAS President Rob MacDonald
Honourable mentions in the Student Awards category also go out to Katelyn Mather for her poster Recent Archaeological Investigations into the Carrying Place Trail, and Ramsay Macfie for his paper Interpreting Anomalous Feature Clusters and Fire-cracked Rock at the Davidson Site in Southwestern Ontario.

This year we acknowledge and send our gratitude out to several 25 year members, including Donald Badone, Aubrey Cannon, Kulli Milles, Dr. Joel Whitton, Joyce Wright, and four 50+ year members, Dr. Jerome Cybulski, Charlie Garrad, and Stanley and Clara Wortner. Congratulations to you all on reaching these significant milestones, and thank you for your continued support of the OAS!

The Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management was presented to CEO Brian Denney on behalf of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

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The Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management was presented to CEO Brian Denney on behalf of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and CEO Brian Denney attended to accept the award. The TRCA has been practicing and promoting the conservation of cultural heritage for over half a century, including identification, excavation and protection of hundreds of archaeological sites. These efforts have helped to elevate the importance of archaeology as part of our broader collective cultural heritage. Congratulations to the hard working archaeologists, staff and volunteers of the TRCA!

This year we have two very deserving recipients of the Killarney Award for Outstanding Service. The OAS has benefited from the hard work and good humour of Ellen Blaubergs in many ways over her 35 year membership. Ellen has served on the Board of Directors, has worked as the Executive Director, and in recent years has contributed time and effort into organizing the silent auction at the annual symposium. It is with pleasure that we also honour Norma Knowlton for her active service to the OAS for over 40 years. In addition to her on-site work, Norma has held various positions within the OAS, including President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Programme Convenor of the Toronto Chapter. Norma has played an integral role in the success of the OAS over the years. Thank you to both Ellen and Norma for all that you’ve done and continue to do, your dedication and support is an inspiration to us all!

This year, the Ottawa Chapter selected Dirk Verhulst as the recipient of the Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology award. Dirk serves as Secretary and newsletter editor for the Peterborough Chapter, and is dedicated to public education and outreach in Ontario archaeology. In planning for the 2014 Symposium, Dirk forged strong partnerships with local museums,
schools, and cultural groups and the resulting ‘Archaeology Week’ was a resounding success. Congratulations and thank you Dirk!

The inaugural recipient of J.V. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award is the much deserving Dr. Jean-Luc Pilon. It has been said by friends and colleagues alike that Jean-Luc lives and breathes Canada’s long history in a way that deserves our admiration and recognition. In addition to his role as Curator of Central Archaeology at the Canadian Museum of History, he has also been involved with the Canadian Archaeological Association, the Ontario Archaeological Society (including as President) and the Ottawa Chapter. His meaningful contributions as a speaker and in print are seen at the national, provincial and local level. Dr. Jean-Luc Pilon’s life work has consistently been of the highest standard. He has made, and continues to make, exceptional contributions to development and discovery within archaeology – here in Ontario and beyond. His example has undoubtedly been an inspiration to many within the archaeology community. This award is one of the highest honours the OAS can bestow on a professional archaeologist. Thank you Jean-Luc for all that you continue to do, and many congratulations!

The J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal was awarded with our great thanks to Dr. Conrad Heidenreich. While pursuing an academic and professional career primarily in historical geography, Conrad is also an avocational archaeologist and joined the OAS in 1954. Conrad has also conducted vast research on Samuel de Champlain’s history, life, explorations and cartographic work – this award seems all the more fitting in the 400th anniversary year of Champlain’s 1615 expedition. For over 40 years, Conrad has remained active in Ontario archaeology, carrying out cartographic, ecological and historical research alongside archaeological work. His many books and papers written over his career admirably demonstrate his invaluable contributions to a more nuanced understanding of prehistory and
history this region, including First Nations-European interactions. By embracing a multi-disciplinary approach Conrad has inspired others, has had important impact on archaeological perspectives, and has added depth to the overall interpretation, research and record of Ontario archaeology. This medal is the highest honour the OAS can bestow on a non-professional archaeologist. Many congratulations Dr. Conrad Heidenreich!

Thank you to the Board, and in particular Executive Director Lorie Harris, Vice-President Sheryl Smith, and symposium organizer Alicia Hawkins, for their assistance with the 2015 award nominations and ceremony. To all presenters, thank you for making it a great evening at the banquet: Dana Millson, John Raynor, André Miller, Sheryl Smith and Rob MacDonald. Thank you to everyone who helped me to judge the student posters (Meagan Brooks, Wai Hadlari, Caitlin Gilbert) and student papers (Sheryl Smith, Dana Millson, Nicole Brandon). It would not have been a success without you all!

Congratulations again to all of our award winners! I wonder who will be nominated next year…?

Abby Flower
Director of Member Services

President Rob MacDonald presents Dr. Conrad Heidenreich with the OAS’ highest honour for non-professional archaeologists, the J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal, for his body of multi-disciplinary research combining historical geography and archaeology to better understand Ontario’s past. He joins other Emerson Award winners (from below left) Rudy Fecteau, Jim Keron, Stan Wortner, Bill Fox and Charlie Garrad
By P.J. Racher

I’ve been thinking a good deal lately about the issue of justification as it relates to archaeology. In 2014, I attended the Sally Weaver guest lecture at the University of Waterloo in which Gary Warrick argued that purging Colonialism from the archaeological enterprise might require us to re-think our emphasis on primary research (i.e. excavation).

At the 2015 OAS symposium in Molland, there was an excellent session on ‘Culture without Context’ and the problems posed by looters and detectorists. This issue tends to get me pretty ‘fired up’ since I am convinced that the notion First Nations cultural properties can be carted away ‘for fun’ or ‘as a hobby’ is a by-product of our colonial outlook. Just as we undervalue the people, so too we treat their cultural and historical legacy as a ‘nothing’ to be depleted or destroyed for idle curiosity or to satisfy a collecting impulse.

There is a ‘but’ to this line of thinking however, and it comes from two sources. The first might make some squirm (it certainly makes me do so all the time) but I come from a philosophical tradition that says it is inappropriate for us to judge others. There is always a tension between this part of me and my inner progressive who is perpetually upset about First Nations rights, women’s issues, politics, the environment and so on. It’s one of those sad ironies, but sometimes I think we progressives are every bit as good at shrill, manufactured umbrage as our counterparts on the right side of the political spectrum.

The other ‘stone in my shoe’ comes from Freud’s discussion of what he called the narcissism of minor differences – the idea that similar communities tend to exaggerate the things that distinguish them from one another to reinforce their separate identities. In the more politically-unstable parts of the world, in most of the world’s religions, and throughout university anthropology departments everywhere, these minor differences have been grounds for war, persecution and discord that have, in some cases, lasted for centuries. The loudest and most destructive debates have often been over the most minor of things (see for example the one ‘iota’ of difference that nearly split the Catholic Church before the Council of Nicea in AD 325).

How much of my outrage over collectors comes from my shrill inner progressive who is eager to judge them and set myself above them? How much comes from the need to establish some distance between what the archaeological community does and what they do? I’m not defending detectorists and collectors – but I have seen valuable information come from those communities, just as I have seen horrible, thoughtless and destructive work occasionally done by people who call themselves archaeologists. I have met collectors who were eager to share their results and I have met archaeologists who hoarded theirs; sometimes to the end of their days. The ‘nuclear’ argument here is that many of the greats in the history of our community occupied a very blurry space between avocational archaeologist and collector.

Whenever I find myself looking for guidance in difficult conundrums – situations where I can hold two contradictory ideas to be true at the same time, Socrates (through his biographer Plato) never lets me down.

One of my favorite stories to illustrate this is found in the Dialogue known as Laches. It details a conversation between Laches and Nicias, who were Athenian generals, and Socrates. In it, Socrates challenges the generals, both of whom were demonstrably ‘courageous’ themselves, to clearly define the virtue of ‘courage’ – at least as it is distinguished from foolish stubbornness, bravado and the more ridiculous forms of fearlessness. Over the course of the dialogue, it becomes apparent that none of them can do it, Socrates included. The discussion closes with Socrates jokingly suggesting that all of them should perhaps go back to school to learn what courage means.

By the same token, what is the difference between archaeology and collecting? Or rather, how do we formulate a basic idea that we know to be true (i.e. that archaeology is more virtuous than collecting) in a clear, concise, and rigorously-defensible manner?

The other night I drifted off to sleep after an evening of scary kids’ movies, nachos, and far too much candy. If you want lucid dreams, forget ayahuasca. M&Ms do the trick just as well – and with a slightly reduced chance of brain damage. In my dream, I found myself in one of Plato’s dialogues. In it, Socrates challenged me to distinguish what I do (with the archaeological past of First Nations peoples) from stealing. The conversation went something like this:

Me: What I do is different because I am a government-accredited and licensed expert. Archaeological remains belong to the People of Ontario and they, through the Crown, have decided that I am worthy to investigate them on behalf of the people.

Socrates: Does ‘the people’ include the descendants of the First Nations whose archaeological past you explore?

Me: To a certain extent. Jurisdictionally, they are Federal but the Province considers them stakeholders.

Socrates: Stakeholders? If you left a tool in your yard and, after some time, found it in the hands of your neighbour, would you be a stakeholder in the decision-making process for what ought to
happen to it next?

Me: **Silence**
What I do is different because I take my results and use them to add to knowledge.

Socrates: That has no bearing on whether the objects of your study have been stolen or not. Plenty of looted objects have done that. Think of the Elgin Marbles. Does that somehow justify their having been taken in the first place? Furthermore, have not some of these collectors added more to knowledge (whatever that is) than you could ever hope to?

Me: **Silence**
I am trying to recover a past that has been lost, in some cases even to the heirs of that legacy.

Socrates: Objectively-speaking, how much of it has been lost? How do you measure that? Does that fact that you do not know how to mix lime plaster, weave flax, or write in Latin mean that you are a cultural orphan? Furthermore, did the people whose past you are trying to help recover ask you to do this? How is it virtue to force such ‘help’ on them?

Me: **Silence**

Just before I woke up, he turned to me and said, “You’re going to have to come up with an answer. If you don’t have one, or worse, if you think the question is stupid, you will be given a failing grade.”

It sounds weird, but he looked more like Gary Warrick as our conversation went on.

Warrick: Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.

Me: **Silence**
It was so big and I'm sure I left it around here

I was just walking in the forest trying to find Ste. Marie and I tripped over this stupid cane someone left lying about

They really supersize their drinks in Midland

Until next year in Kitchener/Waterloo