Toronto celebrates its heritage with a new art installation in advance of the Pan Am and Para Pan Am Games. The sculpture was constructed at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Sumach Street in Toronto near the Athletes’ Village. For more views, see page 9. (Photo by Mima Kapches)

**OAS News**

3. President’s Message
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10. OAS Awards - Now Open

**Articles**

5. Lab Notes: Archaeobotanical Activities 2014

Visit us on the Web at www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca
Ontario Archaeological Society

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President’s Message

On Community

The Ontario Archaeological Society represents a diverse community of individuals who share a core set of values regarding the archaeology of our province. And while archaeology seems to enjoy a broad public appeal, less than five in 100,000 residents of Ontario currently belong to the OAS. I would argue that this presents both a challenge and an opportunity, as I am confident that a strategic recruitment effort could easily double or triple our membership without too much difficulty.

One approach, which is featured in our current strategic plan and is being actively pursued by the Executive Board (e.g. rebirth of Grand River Chapter), is to target underserved municipalities for chapter development. For example, the entire Greater Toronto Area is currently served by one, centrally located chapter. As a result, the per capita OAS membership rate of this region is closer to one in 100,000, or about 1/5th of the provincial average. This leaves four of the province’s most populous municipalities (Mississauga, Brampton, Markham, and Vaughan), comprising more than 1.8 million residents, without a local OAS chapter.

The same is true of large metropolitan areas such as St. Catharines-Niagara, Oshawa-Whitby, Sudbury, and Kingston which collectively have a population of over 1 million. Taken together, these eight underserviced municipalities represent roughly one-quarter of the population of Ontario and thus a terrific opportunity for expansion of our membership. As we consider how best to extend our recruitment efforts into these areas, we will be paying close attention to the catchment areas of our current chapters in an effort to avoid overlaps.

Of course, for those of us who already belong to more than one chapter, this may simply expand our range of OAS opportunities!

Within our community we have two principle constituencies, avocational and professional archaeologists. Within the professional ranks we have academics, museum staff, and individuals engaged in archaeological/cultural/heritage resource management (CRM), both public and private sector. The avocational members are similarly diverse, with a broad range of interests, experience, and expertise.

Indeed, the distinction between avocational and professional archaeologists has always been rather fuzzy within the OAS, as many of the former do work of such a high calibre that the question of whether or not they get paid to do it is beside the point. Also, many members wear multiple hats, for example working primarily in the CRM field but also volunteering in the academic or museum sectors. Similarly, students pursuing careers in the field tend to be transitional between the avocational and professional ranks.

Nevertheless, it is worth keeping these core constituencies in mind because the effectiveness of our society depends on the health of each component and the fruitful integration and interaction of them all; the small Ontario archaeological community cannot afford to be Balkanized into competing sectors. Naturally, and sadly, there is a tendency for this to happen, since we tend to be most focussed on what immediately affects us and not the larger picture. So, to paraphrase a famous saying, let’s not mistake the edge of our rut for the horizon.

Here are some observations that I hope prove useful in this regard.

The avocational sector is clearly the one with the best growth potential. Students represent some of the ‘low hanging fruit’ here, so we have been increasing our recruitment efforts in their direction with excellent results to date. Public outreach efforts, through traditional methods such as Archaeology Day open houses as well as new media, continue to bring in new members at an encouraging rate. More of a challenge, though, has been member retention, in part due to the erosion of fieldwork opportunities that I touched on in the last edition of Arch Notes. This is where some creative thinking will be required in order to expand the range of hands-on activities that we can reasonably engage in, keeping in mind that we are all volunteers and as such have limited capacity to run such activities except in a collaborative fashion.

While challenging, this has always been the case, and we have an extraordinary record of accomplishments to look back on.

So, I am confident that we have both the experience and opportunities necessary to succeed. Sharing of ideas between chapters and members will be very helpful in this regard, and new tools (web forums, for example) for doing so are already available on our new web site.

The professional sector has remained an area of significant growth over the past decade as the CRM industry has continued to expand and evolve. Like any developing endeavor, though, it has experienced its share of growing pains, including strained relations between the Association of Professional Archaeologists (APA) and the OAS in recent years. Given that the 2012 membership survey conducted by Meagan Brooks suggested that close to half of our members self-identify as CRM archaeologists, this is clearly a relationship that warrants improvement.

Preliminary steps are underway between executive-level representatives from both organizations in an effort to establish a more constructive and mutually supportive relationship, and this seems especially urgent in light of internal struggles currently occurring within the APA. It is my belief that the limited ability of the OAS to lobby on behalf of the CRM industry—constrained as we are by the rules governing charities and our privileged status as a Provincial Heritage Organization—neces-

May/June 2015
sities some sort of symbiotic relationship in the interest of promoting and sustaining sound archaeological practice.

One possible template for such a relationship can be found in the United States, where the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) has cultivated affiliation with four supporting societies (SAA, SHA, AAA, AIA\(^1\)). Since there appear to be many more CRM archaeologists who are members of the OAS than there are members of the APA, responsibility to our own members alone would dictate a need for progressive action.

The fragile health of the academic sector is no less worrying to me, as these are the scholars that we look to for intellectual leadership, professional guidance, new ideas, and the training of the up-and-coming generations of Ontario archaeologists. As someone peripherally involved in this sector, I have started compiling data in order to understand the sector better and to be able to share this information with relevant decision-makers. Although somewhat preliminary, the data collected so far suggest that, unless steps are taken to encourage renewal, the academic sector may lose ‘critical mass’ within a few years. For example, at the seven universities where I have identified faculty whose primary or significant subject of study is Ontario archaeology, I have identified four full professors, seven associate professors, four assistant professors, and sixteen adjunct professors. Of the tenured faculty, roughly half are approaching retirement age. In this situation, even the loss of a small number of individuals through retirement could be quite devastating unless the positions are filled with Ontario-focussed successors—and as we have seen in recent years, there is never a guarantee of that in academia. This seems especially ironic to me given the development of the CRM sector over the last two decades and the accumulation of internationally superior archaeological datasets available for study.

I hope to share more detailed insights into the status of the academic sector in a future message, together with some ideas about how to support renewal. In the meantime, I welcome your thoughts on the matter.

As indicated above, there are both challenges and opportunities when it comes to sustaining our community. I hope that giving some visibility to both will help us set and prioritize goals and identify and execute the tasks necessary to achieve them. A powerful addition to our tool kit is our exciting new web site, which is now fully operational. Containing all the content of the old web site, together with exciting new features, I encourage you to spend some time exploring all that it has to offer. Additional features are already in development, many designed to encourage better integration among and between chapters. In concert with our other new media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube), we have never been better equipped to face our challenges and seize our opportunities.

Rob MacDonald
President

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ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

42nd ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

The Silent Auction is a popular event during the OAS Symposium and a great way to raise money for the Society. To ensure the success of our one and only annual fundraiser, we need your help!

Please consider donating new or gently used items such as archaeology and history books, services, jewelry, antiques, crafts, tools, gift certificates, gift baskets, etc. This is also a great opportunity for businesses to showcase their products and services. All donations will be acknowledged on silent auction donor boards during the symposium and in the program package. You will also receive much personal gratitude from your silent auction organizing committee!

Last year, several OAS chapters assembled and donated unique one-of-a-kind gift baskets with items that showcased their chapter and regions. These were a big hit with our bidders and we hope that more chapters will participate this year!

Silent auction donation items are now being accepted for the OAS 2015 Symposium. Please contact Ellen Blaubergs at eblaubergs@rogers.com by October 13 and include the following information: donor name and contact info, description of item(s) to be donated, value of donation, minimum/starting bid (if you like).

Please also indicate if you are bringing the donation to the symposium, giving it to someone to bring, or would like to send/courier it. We’ll provide an address if you prefer this last method.

Thank you for your support!
by Rudy Fecteau

This year marks the 40th anniversary of my archaeobotanical research and eighth year of producing ‘Lab Notes’, a summary of my work inside and outside the lab. 2014 was another adventurous one. Throughout the year I was involved with a wide variety of archaeobotanical projects that included analyzing assemblages of plant remains from both pre-contact and 19th century Euro-Canadian sites.

Out of province analyses included a short report on a small sample of plant material from a Late Woodland site in northwestern Ohio; examined for Glenwood Boatman, an independent researcher; and nine twig samples from an environmental site in southwest Edmonton for Dr. Alwynne Beaudoin, Palaeo-environmentalist at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton. This newsletter summarizes my activities from January to December 2014.

During the year I examined archaeobotanical material from 23 sites in Ontario. Analyses were comprised of contracts from eight Ontario CRM companies. This included sites in Brant, York, Durham, Ontario, Peel, Waterloo, Leeds/Grenville, Middlesex, Haldimand and Ottawa/Carleton counties. The ages of the sites discussed range from Late Archaic to 19th Century Euro-Canadian sites (Figure 1).

Public education this year took place in several locations (Figure 2). These included museums, classes (elementary, college, university), the Mississauga Gathering, the CAA, and the Thousand Island Chapter of NYSAA.

This year I had the pleasure of introducing various elementary school classes at Lloyd S. King School on New Credit to one aspect of archaeology. They were able to look at a number of archaeobotanical display boards and through a microscope at archaeological material. I also spoke to the general audience at the new Community Centre.

In mid-March I spoke at our local museum in Dundas, introducing the audience to floral materials recovered from historic sites across Canada.

The following week I spoke to Dr. Neha Gupta’s class at the

Figure 1. Number of Ontario site reports by county — 2014
Figure 2. Locations of presentations in 2014.

Orillia campus of Lakehead University. The students had the opportunity to learn how archaeobotany assists with interpreting past lifeways. The final aspect of the workshop was actually identifying carbonized plant remains from floral material recovered from the Allen Tract site in Simcoe County.

In May I presented a joint paper along with Dr. Tim Abel at the 47th Annual CAA. The paper discussed the archaeology and archaeobotanical remains from this early 16th century fortified St. Lawrence site in Jefferson County, NY.

Interestingly tobacco was present in large quantities, the largest amount to date in New York State.

I also set up a mini-lab and display area to showcase Ontario archaeobotany at Sunday’s public archaeology day.

In June I gave a three hour presentation at the Allen Tract Field School. Students were introduced to archaeobotanical research and how it assists archaeologists in understanding past lifeways. They had the opportunity to look at both macro and micro-botanical plant remains.

Tim Abel, Jefferson County College invited me to speak to the local chapter of the NYSAA about plant research in Ontario and what I had identified from the St. Lawrence site in Jefferson County, NY.

Over the two days I was able to show many classes the study of archaeological plant remains and its importance in under-
Circles of Interaction: The Wendat and Their Neighbours in the Time of Champlain

The Huronia chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society is pleased to host the annual OAS symposium jointly with the Eastern States Archaeological Federation and the Huron Wendat Nation from Oct. 16 to 18, 2015 in Midland, Ontario.

The conference will be at the Midland Best Western Highland Inn: [http://bestwestern-midland.com/](http://bestwestern-midland.com/). To obtain the conference rate please call to make your reservation and explain that you are with the Ontario Archaeological Society symposium: 1 800 461 4265 or 705 526 9307.

We welcome papers and posters on all aspects of Ontario’s archaeological past and that of surrounding regions. On the 400th anniversary of Champlain’s arrival in Huronia, we particularly want to highlight the Wendat past in the region, and interactions with the first French explorers and missionaries.

There are a very small number of spaces left for presentations, but we encourage the submission of abstracts for posters. Presentations are twenty minutes in length. Abstracts for individual presentations and posters should be less than 300 words and these should also be emailed to Alicia Hawkins ([ahawkins@laurentian.ca](mailto:ahawkins@laurentian.ca)). The deadline for presentation abstracts is June 30, 2015. We have extended the deadline for abstracts for posters until July 31, 2015.

We look forward to seeing you in Midland!
PAN AM ART WORK
COMMENORATES ASPECTS
OF TORONTO’S HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

(Right) Representation of an Iroquoian village and an antler hair comb, based on evidence of Seneca occupations found in the Toronto area in the 17th century.

(Left) A tribute to escaped slave Thornton Blackburn, who with his wife Lucie, established Toronto’s first cab company. Their home is nearby and the site was excavated by the Archaeological Resource Centre under the Board of Education in 1985.

Photos and text by Mima Kapches
The OAS has a robust awards program that acknowledges the achievements of its members in the preservation, documentation and presentation of the material culture and broader knowledge uncovered from Ontario’s archaeological record.

Awards are available for student, non-professional, and professional archaeologists in recognition of their accomplishments and contributions in promoting further understanding and appreciation of Ontario’s past. These awards are presented annually at the OAS Symposium.

The following award categories are now open for nominations:

**J. Norman Emerson Silver Medal**
Awarded to an outstanding Ontario non-professional archaeologist whose life’s work has been consistently of the highest standard.

**J.V. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award**
Awarded to an outstanding Ontario professional archaeologist whose life’s work has been consistently of the highest standard.

**Ian Kenyon Memorial Award**
Awarded to a professional archaeologist who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology.

**Tim Kenyon Memorial Award**
Awarded to a non-professional archaeologist who has made an exceptional contribution to the development of Ontario archaeology.

**Heritage Conservation Award**
Given in recognition of a significant voluntary contribution to heritage preservation within the Province of Ontario.

**Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award**
Given in recognition of excellence in the promotion of public interest in the study of archaeology through the use of displays, workshops, training, site tours and/or the development of educational program and materials.

**Killarney Award for Outstanding Service**
Given in recognition of the continuing long-term support and active participation of OAS members.

**Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management**
Given to either an individual or a group in order to recognize contributions and accomplishments in the field of cultural resource management.

**Award for Excellence in Publishing**
Given to an individual, group or firm in order to recognize contributions and accomplishments in publishing works dealing with the field of North Eastern Archaeology.

**OAS Student Paper-Poster Award**
Awarded annually to a student in or recently graduated from a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree program at a post-secondary institution, and who was the primary author on a paper or poster presented at the OAS Symposium. The 2015 symposium will be held in Midland from October 16-18, so start up those papers and posters!

**How to Nominate and Apply:**
For more details about these awards and to download a nomination form, please visit: http://ontarioarchaeology.org/awards. Complete award applications must be received by the board no later than July 1, 2015.

In addition to these awards, The Valerie Sonstenes Student Research Fund provides small grants to assist students in undertaking new research to advance our knowledge of Ontario’s archaeological record. This fund is open to Honours, Masters, PhD or postdoctoral level projects.

For more information about this research fund, please contact Abbey Flower, the Director of Member Services at: membser-vices@ontarioarchaeology.org.

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**Why We Need Your Email Addresses**

By Debbie Steiss, Treasurer

We are missing current email addresses for a number of members. If you have not added or updated your email address in your membership profile on the new OAS website, please take a moment to log on to http://www.ontarioarchaeology.org and review your contact details for missing or out of date entries (emails have also been returned as undeliverable due to inactive/incorrect addresses).

For those with Family memberships, consider adding a separate email address for the family member so they may receive communications individually.

Mailing address should also be verified for those members subscribed to Ontario Archaeology to prevent returned mailings.

Keeping your contact information current helps the OAS stay in touch with members and ensures delivery of membership news, Arch Notes and OA. Your personal information will be kept in strictest confidence and is never shared with outside organizations.

Thank you.
MSc ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NORTH

Discover a New World

A new programme from the University of Aberdeen investigating the material culture and heritage of the far northern hemisphere with an emphasis on colonisation and culture contact, lifeways and world-views.

www.abdn.ac.uk/archaeology
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Vice President: Jacqueline Fisher
Treasurer: Ruth Macdougall
Events Co-ordinator: Meagan Brooks
E-mail: hamiltonOAS@hwcn.org
Web: http://hamilton.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30, Sept. to May, Fieldcote Museum, 64 Sulphur Springs Road, Ancaster
Membership: Individual $20, Family $25, Student $12

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President: Tom Mohr
Treasurer: Harry Johnson
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Editors: Bill Gibson & Allie Kamaroski
Web: peterborough.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca.
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Phone: (519) 473-1360 Fax (519) 473-1363
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Web: http://toronto.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca
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