Nov.
7
AND
8
Registration information and further details will be released closer to the date of the symposium. See Page 9.

OAS News
3. President’s Message
4. Draft Agenda for the 2020 ABM
3. 2020 ABM Proxy Form

9. 2020 Symposium Update
Articles
6. Engineering Drawings and Stage 1 Background Studies
10. Remembering Joanne Thomas (Part 2)

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Ontario Archaeological Society

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The Ontario Archaeological Society gratefully acknowledges funding from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture through the Provincial Heritage Organization Operating Grant Program.
I hope this message finds everyone safe. It is six months since the shutdown began and while this has been a trying time, it has also been a truly remarkable one as well. Over the past few months, the response to the pandemic has pushed us to a virtual world and required us to adapt to it very quickly. From my perspective, the archaeological community has met those challenges and used them to find ways of collaborating in new and creative ways, but also more frequently than in recent years.

In the late spring and early summer, the OAS presented a series of talks for young professionals which provided a glimpse from emerging and established professionals into the various aspects of commercial archaeology. The OAS social media has been filled with online and virtual events that allow us to expand our knowledge of the history of women in Ontario archaeology in the province through the posts by Dr. Mima Kapches, to hear about success stories with the return of Indigenous cultural heritage and Ancestors, and to learn about Black and Indigenous perspectives on archaeology.

We are now beginning the fall season when OAS chapters begin to have their monthly speaker’s nights and with these being virtual, the opportunity for members across the OAS to learn about what is going on in other regions of the province.

I had another archaeologist ask me once where I got my knowledge of Ontario archaeology. In my head the response was “where everyone else does of course – books and journals.” But I have reflected upon that question since and know that the answer is more nuanced with many facets. Included among them is that mentorship has played a pivotal role. It was not only academic archaeologists who provided that mentorship. Mentors included many in CRM archaeology, avocational archaeologists and descendant community representatives.

One of the most important sources of knowledge about the cultural history of Ontario, but also the archaeology of Ontario, is the literature – pages of chapter news letters like *Kewa*, the articles in the provincial newsletter *Arch Notes* and the more substantive papers in *Ontario Archaeology*. It also comes from the series of monographs – again the local with the Museum of Ontario Archaeology series and the London Chapter monographs, to the monographs published by the Ontario government and those of the National Museum. But, almost as important are the chapter meetings where young want-to-be archaeologists can listen to someone like Dr. Ellis’ well scripted overview of the investigation of a Paleo site – sprinkled with stories, working ideas and thoughts not yet fully formed and polished for broader public consumption. There is always an opportunity for questions after each talk and share ideas and be inspired. In small ways, each talk is an opportunity to be mentored.

I have been privileged in my career to have several opportunities that pushed me to want to learn more about the archaeology of our province. As an undergraduate at the University of Western Ontario, I was privileged to learn from many Ontario archaeologists in the department, but also those at the now Museum of Ontario Archaeology. For example, in my fourth year I had two reading courses arranged by Dr. William Finlayson with James V. Wright and James Pendergast. As an aside, the first day I met Jim Wright was in the library of the Museum. I had great respect for him and saw him as a giant of Ontario archaeology at the time. The boardroom table was set up in the library at the time and he was sitting in a chair when I arrived. As he stood up, he towered over me and I thought, also a literal giant!

But I digress. While not mentors, it was a tremendous privilege to get to talk to both men once a week for a semester and learn about their work, theories and perspectives – to hear what they thought unscripted by the pages of a journal or monograph. They inspired me to learn more through their passion for the past even though I had questions about some of their ideas.

I was privileged to work in government. When I joined the ministry, I had very little knowledge of eastern Ontario; I still don’t, but I do have a greater appreciation! I would say that was not uncommon for those studying in southwestern Ontario. But reading the reports on the archaeology being done in a commercial context in that region gave me the opportunity to learn more about it. Most archaeologists do not have the time, opportunity or inclination to read the reports produced by other archaeologists unless a licence report dictates it and then it is only a skim to glean what is needed. Reading those reports provided an opportunity to broaden my perspective, but talking with those working in eastern Ontario like Nick Adams was equally as valuable.

I also had the opportunity to speak with so many of the archaeologists, like Charlie Garrad, across the province who had and continue to make valuable contributions – again those small opportunities for mentorship. So many of them with a passion and commitment.

I have also been privileged to work for employers in CRM who want to be mentors, to share their knowledge with me and others. They openly shared their knowledge of Ontario archaeology and their expertise in the methods used in commercial archaeology. It is informed by the experiences of hundreds of assessments which can not be taught. Their experiences were formed from a different perspective, a time when there was a close collaboration between academic, government and commercial archaeology. As the separation has widened over time there have been shifts in the focus of commercial archaeology, but understanding this history is equally as valuable in the development of knowledge of the past. Often, this mentorship takes the form of stories, and the yet-to-be-told history of Ontario archaeology.

I have been privileged to interact with and learn from numerous Indigenous community representatives, each willing to share their knowledge if we are willing to listen and share reciprocally our own knowledge.

I am privileged. We are all privileged to
be part of a community that has a great history of mentorship. My story is not unique – many of us can tell stories of those who have taken the time to be a mentor, even in a small way. Mentorship is not only the words we speak or the actions we take. It can be the inspiration we provide by sharing our passion.

The virtual world of the pandemic has provided opportunities to connect the new generation of Ontario archaeologists with mentors and those willing to share their stories in new ways. But it has also provided us with the opportunity to share our passion with a wider and more diverse audiences and we should embrace the opportunity. The Museum of Ontario Archaeology’s series by Neal Ferris is one example of how that can be achieved. Virtual chapter meetings is another.

Embracing the opportunities is a good step. It needs to be met by a willingness to listen, a willingness to accept and contextualize the archaeology that was done in the past and find the value in it, and, an openness to being mentored and a desire to mentor the next generation of archaeologists. These things often come from being inspired, so let’s share our stories in new and creative ways and be that inspiration to discover the passion for past. Too often we hesitate to share our stories waiting for them to be polished ready for the spotlight in the pages of a journal or monograph. But those that are shared as stories, that are a work in progress without the edges trimmed with precision, with facts thoroughly checked and soundly reasoned, are often those that help us the most to learn and grow.

Stay safe and healthy.

Jim Sherratt
President

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE
2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, November 7, 2020
at 5 p.m.
Via Zoom

1. President’s opening remarks
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
   a. Matters arising from these minutes
3. President’s report
4. Treasurer’s report
   a. Financial statement
   b. Appointment of auditors
5. Constitutional Amendments (if any)
6. Election of Directors; Appointments
7. Next Symposia
9. Other business
10. Motions of thanks
11. Adjournment
Proxy Form

I _____________________________, a member in good standing of the Society, hereby exercise my right of proxy by identifying:

☐ ______________________________, a voting member in good standing, or

☐ the President of the Board of Directors

As my proxy to attend, act, and vote on my behalf at the Annual Business Meeting of members to be held on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.

1 Regarding agenda items in the Notice of Meeting for which I have full knowledge and understanding - circle one of – For, Against, Abstain, At Proxy’s Discretion

2 Regarding amendments from the floor regarding agenda items in the Notice of Meeting -circle one of – For, Against, Abstain, At Proxy’s Discretion

3 Regarding items that arise in Other Business -circle one of – For, Against, Abstain, At Proxy’s Discretion

Optional

I wish to present the following amendment to Agenda Item No _____ which I wish my proxy holder to propose:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Further, I wish to register the following limitations to the exercise of my proxy with respect to any Agenda Item or amendments thereto;
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Signature _________________________  Date _____________________
Name____________________________

Please ensure delivery to the OAS Office, 1444 Queen St. E, Toronto on or before Thursday, Nov. 1, 2020
Postal Address: OAS, PO Box 62066, Victoria Terrace Post Office, Toronto ON M4A 2W1
By Jeff Seibert and Denise McGuire, Regional Archaeologists, MTO

As Regional Archaeologists at MTO, we review consultant archaeological reports to ensure that the assessment recommendations both properly protect any extant archaeological sites or areas of archaeological potential and do not recommend any unnecessary work. The first one of these tasks is self-explanatory – under the Ontario Heritage Act and the Environmental Assessment Act (the legislative framework which triggers most archaeological work undertaken by MTO) it is the responsibility of the Ministry to ensure that archaeological sites or areas of potential are not impacted without being properly assessed by a licensed archaeologist, and if archaeological sites are present to ensure that the threat to the site(s) is mitigated either through excavation or avoidance and protection.

The second objective, avoiding unnecessary work, is a bit more esoteric in that there are parcels of land that might superficially appear to have archaeological potential based on available mapping, aerial imagery and the criteria laid out in the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (S & Gs) (MHSTCI 2011) but if/when supporting documentation (ie engineering drawings) are consulted, it becomes evident that the parcel(s) are deeply and extensively disturbed and potential is removed.

Every year, many Stage 1 archaeological background studies are initiated by MTO as part of a project’s preliminary design process. These studies typically represent a length of corridor where highway improvements are being planned, an interchange is proposed or rehabilitated, or in some cases an entirely new corridor is being designed. These studies often span portions of multiple properties and the existing highway right of way (ROW).

Stage 1 studies tend to be initiated early in preliminary design or even in the planning stages of a project, and therefore many properties outside the ROW might or might not yet belong to the Ministry and permission to enter often has not been granted. This circumstance makes on-site inspection of a property in the early part of the design phase next to impossible for portions of the study area,
and impractical as part of the Stage 1. Therefore, Stage 1 corridor studies (including interchange rehabilitations / reconfigurations) rely very heavily on mapping and aerial imagery to assess potential, which often does not reveal previous land disturbance where it has been remediated to look undisturbed.

This obscurity presents a number of potential problems for the proponent, the principal one being that properties or portions of the existing ROW which appear to have archaeological potential based on aerial imagery or mapping can be demonstrated to be disturbed when more closely examined. These ‘false positives’ can often be demonstrated to be disturbed under section 1.3.2 of the S & Gs (MHSTCI 2011: 18-19) with additional information (for example through a property inspection or supporting documentation) and thereby could be determined not to have potential if the proper information was requested or made available when the Stage 1 assessment was being conducted.

These ‘false positives’ are doubly problematic because once a report is entered into the Archaeological Registry the proponent is bound by the recommendations in the report, including places where archaeological potential is reported as being present but where the area in question has been clearly disturbed upon site inspection. This happens regularly on large corridor projects. Study areas which are determined to have potential in Stage 1 are often determined when Stage 2 is initiated to have been deeply and extensively disturbed.

Examples include potential being falsely identified in areas that were previously cut and or filled in, extensively graded and re-landscaped, and in two particularly egregious examples, a location where a large structural culvert was installed in the 1980s and another where a large drainage chamber leading into an adjacent waterway had been installed in the 1960s, but the property was restored and replanted with native species, and is now designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area. All of these activities obliterate any archaeological sites or resources that might have been present before they were built, and clearly fulfil the aforementioned section of the S & Gs that outline the ‘removal’ of archaeological potential (i.e. disturbance (MHSTCI 2011: 18-19).

These ‘false positives’ might not seem like a particularly big problem considering that an unidentified disturbance often does not represent a large portion of the overall corridor, and under the S & Gs, assessment areas determined to be disturbed via visual assessment in Stage 2 require significantly less work than is required under a ‘normal’ Stage 2 (MHSTCI 2011: 38).

These arguments aside, when archaeological work is triggered unnecessarily there can be significant delays to project timelines considering the time required to bring on a consultant to conduct the archaeological work, write up the results in a technical report, and submit the findings first to MTO and then to MHSTCI. This can become a significant problem, especially when planned schedules become more constrained on projects where the contracted delivery models are increasingly tied to shorter timelines and faster final delivery. In one example from MTO, a portion of a ROW was assessed and determined by a consultant to have archaeological potential and the report was entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. Later, when the rehabilitation of a structural culvert was initiated in the same section of the ROW, it became apparent that the area directly over top of the culvert had been recommended for Stage 2 assessment based on a desktop survey using Google Earth imagery and despite the obvious fact that the project area had been disturbed by the initial construction of the culvert. Because the Stage 1 report recommending Stage 2 assessment in this location was entered into the Archaeological Report Registry, field work was required to confirm disturbance (Seibert 2019) thereby adding a considerable amount of time to the schedule to allow for fieldwork and report write up for what should have been a simple rehabilitation job.

In the attempt to prevent this from happening frequently, one method that has emerged recently at MTO, through a process of trial and error, is the use of legacy engineering drawings to demonstrate where land has been deeply and extensively disturbed by past activities such as grading, construction of sub surface features that have been concealed through landscape remediation (e.g. structural culverts), cutting and or filling (e.g. embankments) and abandoned portions of the right of way, any of which might not be immediately apparent through aerial photography, Google Earth imagery or current mapping. MTO maintains an internal archive of legacy drawings which show the extent of previous disturbance (through grading diagrams, structural drawings, etc). Utilizing this resource over the past number of years has allowed MTO archaeologists, working in collaboration with MTO project managers / engineers, and consultant archaeologists to eliminate unnecessary archaeological work on disturbed parcels and shorten timelines for the archaeological ‘clearance’ of project areas.

This approach recently was recently employed to great positive effect in the stage 1/2 studies of the Freeman Interchange (where Highway 403, the QEW, and 407 ETR meet) (see Yahn [2018] and Wood [2019]). The Stage 1 recommendations as initially formulated required extensive Stage 2 assessment, based on the desktop and windshield surveys that were conducted. This determination was understandable considering the information that the consultant had available to them, but it was apparent on reviewing the report that Stage 2 work was being recommended for areas that were almost certainly graded in the past. Through a discussion with the MTO project manager (engineer), it was decided that it would be advantageous to provide legacy engineering drawings (in this case illustrating grading limits) to illustrate where archaeological potential had been eliminated.

The amount of Stage 2 work which was required was reduced considerably after the grading drawings were provided to the consultant. Subsequently, this analysis was refined by Wood (2019) who was able to further reduce the areas that required archaeological field work when a design refinement looked like it might necessitate additional Stage 1 and part of
the Stage 2 work.

By identifying additional areas within the new larger study area that did not have archaeological potential when assessed with legacy design drawings, this had the dual effect of reducing the amount of Stage 2 work required and streamlining the assessment process.

While these examples draw primarily from MTO projects, it is worth noting that there are many other proponents and/or landowners who could provide similar useful information for consultant archaeologists conducting Stage 1 assessment, particularly where existing pieces of infrastructure exist. For existing sewer lines, pipelines, hydro transmission lines, rail corridors, etc., it is worth inquiring to determine if legacy drawings exist and can illustrate areas that have been previously disturbed. In one of our experiences prior to working at MTO, a municipal proponent provided documentation showing that a considerable portion of a proposed industrial park had been stripped of topsoil in past, thereby eliminating potential and drastically reducing the amount of Stage 2 required (Seibert 2016).

REFERENCES

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)


Seibert, J

2016 STAGE 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of Augusta Industrial Park (Lots 16 and 15, Concession 1, in the Historic Township of Augusta, currently in Leeds and Grenville County, Ontario). Report on file with MHSTCI.

2018 STAGE 2 assessment of 2 culverts adjacent to the QEW at Victoria Ave, Town of Lincoln, Niagara Region Report on file with MHSTCI.

Wood, L

2019 Stage1-2 Archaeological Assessment QEW and Highway 403 Freeman Interchange–Preliminary Design Study and Class Environmental Assess-
Paper proposals/abstracts deadline Oct. 1:

If your paper fits within one of the described sessions as posted on the web page, please send your abstract directly to the session organizer. If your paper does not fit within one of the described sessions, send your abstract to oas-symposium@ontarioarchaeology.org.

Registration:

The registration will not open until relatively close to the symposium date, to allow for registrants to examine the program and register for all sessions they are interested in. Zoom links will then be sent to registrants to grant access to sessions. The OAS will announce the opening of registration on our social media and through an email to our contacts.

Payment:

This year’s fee structure will be “pay-what-you-can” in recognition of the fact that some members of our community are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. We ask that all participants register through the registration page, whether paying or not. We encourage attendance from all.

Sessions:

The sessions for this symposium will be held on the weekend of Nov. 7-8. Session formats may differ slightly from previous years, and we encourage session organizers to take advantage of our particular circumstance to experiment with different formats. The sessions will be held over Zoom. In some cases, materials may be pre-circulated to registrants. In other cases, talks may be pre-recorded. Please see individual session descriptions on our website for particulars of the intended format.

Workshops:

We hope to offer a full slate of workshops on topics that members of our community have expressed an interest in. We anticipate that these will be 1-2 hours in duration and will be held on weekday evenings during the week of Nov. 2-5. The workshops will be held via Zoom.

The Usual Stuff:

Are you wondering about the Awards Ceremony, the Photo Contest, and (last but not least) the Annual Business Meeting? Don’t worry! We will be holding all of these and they will be scheduled so as not to conflict with other activities. Submit your photo entries to oas-symposium@ontarioarchaeology.org!

New Ideas:

We are embracing this new format because it offers us an opportunity to make our symposium more accessible to interested parties from across the province (and beyond). We also hope that it will provide us with a chance to consider different ways of presenting and sharing research.
Due to space, we were not able to include all the remembrances of Joanne Thomas in the January/June issue.

By Josh Dent

I first met Joanne during a work placement for the Applied Archaeology program at Western University in 2011. At that time, Land and Resources operated out of the Eco-Centre on 4th Line. My job was to catalog over 10 years of archaeological reports Six Nations had received and stored in the Eco-Centre’s attic. Joanne – friendly, patient and accommodating, was quick to listen to suggestions and happy to share stories about particular projects or her work in general. Joanne being who she was, the end of the placement was not the end of the relationship: a valuable lesson for me and for any archaeologist. This was no doubt the reason she was thought of as a friend, colleague and mentor to many in the discipline regardless of their station or background.

Through her passion for archaeology and her drive to realize her community’s heritage objectives including the repatriation of Haudenosaunee Ancestors, Joanne maintained a larger-than-life presence in Southwestern Ontario. The programs and policies that she developed, including helping to build the Six Nations monitoring system into what it is today, are integral templates to community engagement across the province. She will be missed - her genuine hugs and rueful chuckles especially – but her many legacies and our many memories will ensure her presence continues to be felt in Ontario archaeology long into the future.

By Margaret Ann and Rudy Fecteau

We first met Joanne when Rudy was invited to participate in a monitor/liaison training session at the Eco-Centre on Six Nations. She was so warm and welcoming which made us feel comfortable. She liked what Rudy had to share about palaeo-botany and beaded a Bolo-tie depicting ears of corn which he wears whenever he speaks on the topic. It makes him feel connected both to Joanne and to the First Nation community.

We spent time over the years chatting and laughing with her at lacrosse matches, pow-wows, her office and Ontario Archaeological Society symposia. She put in much effort trying to bridge the gap between archaeologists and First Nations groups. We will all miss her and must keep trying to continue the important work that she started.

Joanne Thomas
by Jeff Seibert

While I didn’t know Joanne as long as many in our community did and I wasn’t as close to her as many people were, I was deeply saddened when I learned of her passing, and already miss her kindness, knowledge and insight.

I first met Joanne through Rose Miller at an Ontario Archaeological Society symposium (I believe it was in 2013, but the conferences have started to blend together) and was immediately struck by her friendliness and good humour.

When I began working for the Ministry of Transportation in 2014, my professional involvement with Joanne increased considerably, as she was the primary point of contact between MTO and Six Nations Elected Council for archaeological work being conducted as part of the EA process, and she was also involved in broader meetings regarding the Crown’s Duty to Consult.

Joanne always brought a combination of careful, sober thought and good humour to these meetings – she wanted things done carefully, properly and respectfully but while often serious was not heavy handed with the discussions. It often struck me that, on difficult or potentially sticky projects that we worked on, Joanne was interested in finding solutions that worked for everyone whenever possible – her community, the Ministry and the consultant archaeologist doing the work. This didn’t mean that Joanne was a pushover, indeed, quite the opposite, but she was collaborative and able to find common ground where others may not see it.

It was also very apparent that she had a very deep understanding of the archaeological process and the discipline more broadly and a wealth of archaeological knowledge. She had considerable experience “behind the desk” reviewing archaeological reports and working with consultant archaeologists on report recommendations, but she also understood field archaeology having worked in the field herself. My discussions with her regarding archaeology were always engaging and interesting, and it was clear that she didn’t just know the subject matter but that she really cared about it. She was generous with her knowledge and experience too; I learned an immense amount talking with her about projects and learned even more when we got off track and discussed other related topics.

Joanne’s passing represents a profound loss to the archaeological community. Her insight, wisdom and good humour will be missed. She was a strong and capable advocate for her community and her ancestors. But on a more immediate and personal level, many of us lost a friend.

By Neal Ferris

I remember Joanne as fiercely committed to her community, her job, and caring for the Ancestors and their archaeology.

I remember Joanne as fiercely refusing to accept an opinion or outcome she knew was wrong.

I remember Joanne as fiercely sure of what was needed of all of us to get there, and fiercely tolerant of those she encountered, like me, that naively or stupidly took longer to get there.

I remember Joanne as fiercely supportive of friends, colleagues, and those who shared her vision and worked to achieve similar goals.

I remember Joanne as fiercely funny, delivering the punchline to a story that was both devastatingly hilarious and a poignant observation on life at the same time.

I remember Joanne as fiercely passionate about her Nation, her heritage, her responsibilities to the Ancestors, and most of all about her family.

I remember Joanne fiercely.

By Jacquie Fisher

Where to begin? How to describe the person and influence that Joanne has been on my life as an archaeologist? Joanne has been such a quiet presence, but a known presence, where I always assumed that she would be around: to guide, to consult, to chat, to laugh with, someone always there. I met Joanne years ago when she came to visit a site with Barbara Harris. That occasion concerned the final resting place of two Ancestors, and it struck me then how much responsibility both Barbara and Joanne had in taking care of their Ancestors.

Over the years, we would talk over the phone, meet up on site, and bump into each other at conferences. We would catch up and discuss a wide range of topics. I always found Joanne to be such an easy person to talk to, and will deeply miss our time together.

Her wry sense of humour was a delight.

Joanne always carried herself with grace, and a sense of calm – even when her truck had been stolen! I remember at a conference when a presenter showed an inappropriate image. I had been sitting immediately behind Rose Miller and Joanne at the time. The audience sucked in their breath, and Joanne and Rose were obviously upset, but quietly discussed the issue. After the session, they made a bee line to that speaker and took him to task. Note to berate or shame, but to educate.

I will miss Joanne, and her quiet but forthright manner, and especially her humour. We and our communities have suffered a great loss by her passing.

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning’s hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

(Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep
By Mary Elizabeth Fryes)
The **Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.**

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Vice President: Chris Watts
Treasurer: Bonnie Glencross
Secretary: TBA
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month Sept.-April
Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology building (PAS) 1241 (First Floor), University of Waterloo (South Campus)
Website: [https://sites.google.com/site/grandriveroas/home](https://sites.google.com/site/grandriveroas/home)

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Phone: (866) 243-7028
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30, Sept. to May, Fieldcote Museum, 64 Sulphur Springs Road, Ancaster
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**Membership**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Without OA / With OA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
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* Effective 2017, the print version of Arch Notes will cost $20 per year to mail. Those receiving the email version of Arch Notes pay the lower fee.

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Contributor Deadlines:
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