May 1972

EXECUTIVE

President: Dr. H. Savage,
97 Glenview Ave.,
Toronto 310, Ont.

Vice-President: Mr. V. Konrad

Past-President: J. V. Wright

Recording Secretary: Mrs. M. Kapches.

Acting-Treasurer: Mrs. B. Gummow,
121 Sheppard Ave.,
Pickering, Ont.

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. M. Press,
Apt. 1510, 95 High Park Av.
Toronto 165, Ont.

The next issue of ARCH NOTES will be June 1972 (72-5)

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Page 2: President's Page
3: Ottawa News
4: From The Editor
   Announcement of General Meeting for MAY
5: Announcement of Spring Dig for JUNE
   ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Summer Salvage Project 1972
8: Radiocarbon Dating: Friend or Foe?
10: The Hind Site
11: E.S.A.F. 39th Annual Meeting - Call for papers
   Executive Announcement re:- Treasurer.
12: "Public Archaeology"- a new book.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Editor - ARCH NOTES
Mr. J. Reid,
66 Roe Ave.,
Toronto 320, Ontario.

Editor - ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY
Dr. W. M. Hurley,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Toronto.

LIBRARIAN: Mrs. B. Gummow,
121 Sheppard Ave.,
Pickering, Ontario.
Since the March issue of ARCH NOTES, Two projects have been given much attention by various members of your Executive and Committees.

The views and comments of O.A.S. members concerning the proposed Board of Ontario Archaeology and the position of Ontario Archaeologist, were requested in the March ARCH NOTES. The duties and functions of the Board and the Provincial Archaeologist were to include collection of data re all Ontario archaeological sites, and to supervise and control excavation of sites by a permit system. The few written and oral answers received were unanimous in their support of such plans in principle; the useful role of non-professional individuals, deeply interested in archaeology, and of the O. A. S. were discussed in some replies.

A committee, under the Chairmanship of Frank Mee, has been holding meetings at one - two week intervals and is now formulating a short statement of its view, for forwarding to the Minister of Public Records and Archives of Ontario in May. This statement of views will be followed by a brief containing more specific recommendations. Discussion of the statement and its more comprehensive brief, at one of the O.A.S. meetings this year is planned.

The other major O.A.S. project has been the formulation of a proposal by a committee under the Chairmanship of Victor Konrad to the Archaeological Survey of Canada, Ottawa for support of the excavation, by the O.A.S., on a salvage basis, of four Pickering Township sites, which will be destroyed by construction of the proposed airport there and of adjacent communities. An excavation season of eighteen weeks, with two salaried field directors - members of the Society - on each site, and with as much assistance as possible by other O.A.S. members on week ends, evenings and other available times, is planned. A successful excavation of these sites will only be made possible by considerable co-operation from the membership.

More details must await the acceptance of the O.A.S. proposal in whole or in part by the Archaeological Survey of Canada. When accepted, Marti Latta, as Archaeological Supervisor of the project, will then be able to supply more information about the sites and their excavation.

See you at the opening dig of the season.

Howard Savage.
The following items have been abstracted from ARCHAIC NOTES.

Visit by the President of the OAS

Dr. Howard Savage, President, Ontario Archaeological Society, attended the March 17 meeting of the Ottawa Chapter and brought greetings from members in other regions.

Dr. Savage reported on the various activities of the Society, commented on the Society's publications, and discussed with the chapter members the proposed Board of Ontario Archaeology and the appointment of a Provincial Archaeologist. Members of the Ottawa Chapter expressed their great appreciation of the visit by Dr. Savage and his offer on behalf of the OAS membership at large to assist the Ottawa Chapter.

Cultural Chronology of Pelee National Park


In 1968 when a paved road and parking lot were planned for Point Pelee National Park it was decided to make an archaeological survey of the area involved, for the purpose of salvaging and the provision of material for an interpretive display for the park.

Point Pelee is a flat marshy sandy point projecting south from the north shore of Lake Erie. It is the southermost land mass in Canada and falls within the Carolinian biotic province with a unique flora and fauna. Both western and eastern shorelines have beautiful sand beaches six miles in length, tapering to the southern tip, and being on a migratory bird route as well, one can understand the attraction to modern visitors as well as prehistoric peoples.

The vegetation is marsh alternating with savannah. The latter dry sandy areas posed a technical problem during excavation when temperatures soared to the 90-100 mark. Barrow walls quickly crumbled, and features and profiles rapidly disappeared after exposure, requiring constant spray in to enable records to be made.

Although Point Pelee is thought to be 7000-10,000 years old, no radiocarbon dates were obtained earlier than 600 A.D. Earlier material undoubtedly had been there but likely has been washed into the lake due to shifting shorelines.

Several sites were found which generally fall into three distinct occupations. The oldest period, dating 600-750 A.D. had ceramics of the coil type, with out-flaring lips and cord wrapped stick motifs. Decorations always extended up over the lip into the interior. Fabric impressions and punctates were common but castellations only occasional. The vessels were small, averaging about 18" in height. This early material had a similarity to Princess Point ceramics from the Hamilton area and material from sites on the south shore of Lake Erie. Triangular, Levanna-type...
projectile points were common. End scrapers were rare, however graving implements associated with a well-developed wood-working complex are present. Bone tools are generally scarce, but fish spine perforators common.

The middle period dating 800-900 A.D. produced larger coiled pots with vertical rims and cord wrapped paddle decoration up to the lip but not on the interiors. Fabric impressed techniques were absent and punctates rare. The material seemed related to that found in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. Corner-notched Jack's Reef type points and stemmed drills were plentiful and net sinkers were very frequent. Post molds of several houses were located in this occupation zone.

The third period dating 1000-1100 A.D. was characterized by considerably larger ceramic vessels with plain necks and well developed out-flaring rims resembling early Glen Meyer material. Rims are exclusively stamped decorated with smoothed over cord wrapped paddle technique as the major body treatment. Necks are incised or stamped-decorated.

Judging by the faunal analysis, nesting birds, fish and mammals were abundant and likely easily obtainable in the area. The overall impression was that Point Pelee had been used as a resource area by transient groups on a seasonal basis over many years.

(Our thanks to Dr. Keenlyside, and to Dr. Robertson for the preparation of the above summary. ED.).

---0---0---0---0---

Your editor has taken note of numerous suggestions, resulting from last month's questionnaire, that we start a new section in ARCH NOTES to be concerned with answers to archaeological questions. If you have any question about any phase of archaeology, please send them in, and we will try to obtain answers. The prospect of a regular feature of this type is exciting and offers all sorts of possibilities.

To start things off, we have, for the "Ottawa Valley Archeology Society", a question or two, about an article in the Star Weekly Canadian Panorama of April 8, 1972.

Who dated the skull? The N.R.C. is mentioned? Could we have some information to publish in ARCH NOTES? Also, is Mr. M. Vermetti a member of the O.A.S. yet?

---0---0---0---0---

This Month's General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17 at 8:00 pm. in the Archaeological Laboratory, Rm 561A, Sidney Smith Hall, University of Toronto, 100 St. George St., (between Harbord & College Sts.), Toronto 181, Ontario.

Our speaker of this meeting will be Mr. Donald MacLeod, Parks Dept., Dept. of Lands & Forests of Ontario. His topic will be "Archaic Cultural Relations in Newfoundland and Labrador."
The following reports are from Mrs. Marti Lattea, who is our program convener and also the Archaeological Supervisor for this summer's proposed salvage project. I hope that all our society will make an effort to support the spring dig, and the project. This is the first time the O.A.S. has undertaken such a project. So let's give it all the support we can.

The June Meeting of the O.A.S., as in years past, will be our annual Spring Dig. It will take place on Saturday, June 17 (unless it is raining or has been raining for more than one day previously; if that happens, the Gala Event will be postponed till the following Saturday, June 24). The exact details will be announced at the May meeting, and for those unfortunate who will also miss Don MacLeod's interesting talk, the first issue of the Summer Salvage Project Bulletin will be coming out next month with all necessary directions and instructions. Everybody come - it's no fun without lots of people, and what better way to get to know the new faces that have appeared at the back of the room last year?

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SUMMER SALVAGE PROJECT 1972

The project really began when Dr. J. N. Emerson pointed out to the March meeting that the proposed New International Airport to be located in Pickering township would mean that several interesting archaeological sites would doubtless be destroyed. With this thought, President Howard Savage and Dr. Emerson called a special committee meeting to discuss the problems, and as a result, a proposal was drafted which was then submitted to Dr. Roscoe Wilment, Head, Salvage Section, Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Canada, outlining the problems and asking whether the Survey would support a salvage program for the O.A.S. The response was both fast and favourable, and we are now getting into the planning stage of a salvage program for Markham and Pickering Townships.

The proposal listed four sites as being of primary importance and greatest potential value for excavation. In addition, some fourteen sites were listed as threatened, but all were either better known, in worse condition, or in some other manner seemed less immediately important.

The Short Site, in Bowmanville, was excavated by the O.A.S. in 1961 (Donaldson 1962) and has been described by several persons since (Purdy 1968; Wright 1968; Bridges 1972). It is one of the rare Multi-component sites which have contributed so much to our understanding of Ontario Prehistory (Cf. the Frnnek Bay Site (Ridley 1954)). Mr. Paul Bridges, of Bowmanville, has recently done an extensive surface collection, and reports material from Archaic, Middle Woodland/Point Peninsula II, Princess Point, Late Woodland/Pickering and Black Creek, and historic Mississauga, Colonial and modern occupations! Even though the site has
received some attention, it certainly offers more insights into the cultural developments in the southern Ontario region, and especially the Rough drainage. Mr. Bridges has informed us that construction has already begun on a marian and boat dock in the mouth of Barber's Creek, which runs along the south side of the site, and probably one more year will see the entire site destroyed. Here is an unequalled chance for O.A.S. members to see material from many different stages of Ontario prehistory in one place! What more could any Archaeological Society ask?

The Draper Site was excavated by the O.A.S. in 1953 and reported by Bill Donaldson (1962). The site lies inside the Cedarwood Development area which surrounds the new airport. It is also doomed within a year or two, unless the airport construction is discarded. A collection of material from the Draper Site was analyzed by Mr. Peter Ramsden in his very interesting, though unfortunately, as yet unpublished, M.A. thesis for the University of Calgary. Mr. Ramsden, a past Vice-President of the O.A.S., has kindly offered to advise and occasionally supervise some of the salvage excavation at the Draper Site. His analysis indicated that it is a Black Creek phase, Iroquoian occupation, and he suggests that both midden stratification and house patterns may remain for excavation and interpretation.

The Boys Site was described by Mr. Frank Ridley (1958) and used by J. V. Wright (1966: 49) to define the Pickering Branch of the Early Ontario Iroquois. This is a period which is not completely understood in southern Ontario, despite the extensive reports of the excavations at the Miller Site (Kenyon 1969) and Bennett Site (Wright 1970). Bone remains were plentiful, suggesting that this site may provide much-needed information on the ecology of this period and this area.

The Milroy site was the object of the O.A.S. Spring Dig in May 1954, under the direction of Dr. J. N. Emerson and Mr. Bill Donaldson. (Wright 1960, 1962; Donaldson 1962). Wright has described it as part of the Middleport substage of the Middle Ontario Iroquois. Since this substage is known primarily from sites in extreme southwestern Ontario, especially the Middleport Site (Wintemberg 1948), information from the Milroy Site will fill a number of information gaps in our understanding of Iroquois development in the Toronto region. Once again, residence patterns are largely unknown or unavailable, and these are a major goal of the excavation.

By coincidence, the four sites selected for salvage represent the three stages of Iroquoian prehistory in Ontario plus a complete sequence of nearly all the cultural developments in the areas. Crews are already at work; they were hired by the O.A.S. executive, giving preference to O.A.S. members and persons of previous experience. They will maintain full-time excavation through the summer, ending around September 1, 1972. All O.A.S. members, friends and fellows are cordially invited to drop in any time to supervise, see the collections, and particularly to participate. We ask only that you bring your own trowel and lunch, to make planning a little easier.
We also plan to circulate an irregular publication giving details on how to reach sites, when to go (we may not be able to keep all four going all summer), and what has been accomplished so far. We want this to be an ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY project - not a university project, or a museum project - and that means we NEED membership support! Please plan to spend at least two days with us, at the site of your choice! (Come four times and you can see all four sites!!) (Come and spend your vacation - we'll try to arrange places where enthusiasts can camp! No need to phone ahead - you're always welcome and always expected!!)

Who wants to belong to an Archaeological Society without doing some archaeology???? By working together, we can advance the state of Ontario prehistory, AND build a stronger Ontario Archaeological Society.

REFERENCES

Bridges, Paul

Donaldson, William S.
1962 Archaeological research in the Rouge. Ontario Archaeology No. 5, Toronto.

Kenyon, Walter

Purdy, Wayne
1968 "On the Short Site: A Preliminary Report (Woodland Phase)."

Ridley, Frank
1958 The Boys and Barrie Sites. Ontario Archaeology No. 4. Toronto.

Wintemberg, W. J.

Wright, J. V.
And now, with all appropriate apologies, we present the "After-Dinner Talk" from the December 1971 Banquet. (Better Late Than Never?)

**RADIOCARBON DATING: FRIEND OR FOE?**

"For a good many years, I have served in a clerical capacity in connection with radiocarbon dating, and during this period have listened to many complaints from archaeologists dissatisfied with their results: "Such-and-such a lab is no good"; "You must have mixed my samples up", etc. Now, some of these complaints are probably legitimate. Undoubtedly, some laboratories are better than others, and certainly errors in cataloguing can occur anywhere along the line.

"Far more often, however, disappointment seems to arise from basic misconceptions about the technique and what it can do for the archaeologist. Primarily, these have to do with the limitations of the method itself and with a misunderstanding of what is being dated.

"Too often, archaeologists appear to forget that the radiocarbon dating method is a rather dull-edged tool. They tend to use the date given by the lab and to ignore the counting and other errors, which usually amount to a hundred years or more. This generally makes it useless to run samples from historic period sites. If trade goods or other evidence indicate that a site dates from approximately A.D. 1700, there is little point in having a radiocarbon date extending from 1600 to 1800. The archaeologist already knows more than can be gained from this dating method.

"Within a site, archaeologists sometimes try to date units too closely. I recall one case of a village excavation in which a sample was submitted from every house structure. Since it was a single component site, I was puzzled, until I finally realized that the archaeologist hoped to arrange the houses in terms of their order of construction. When we realize that these houses were probably built within a few years of each other, we recognize that such an attempt is fruitless. The same is often done with stratigraphic units which represent a relatively short time span. In such a case, it is too much to hope that one or more dates will not be out of line. Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the thinking involved in the above samples is that even if the base dates do appear satisfactory, this is no guarantee that they are actually so.

"The other major problem cited is that of what is actually being dated, in other words, the association of the sample with the cultural material. Dr. Arthur Jelinek, University of Arizona, once remarked that the radiocarbon technique is an excellent method for determining the level of radioactivity in the sample. But only rarely do we care about the sample itself: we are trying to date a prehistoric event. And relating the sample to prehistoric events is a job for the archaeologist, not the physicist or laboratory technician.

"As an example, I recall an archaeologist who complained bitterly about the results on a series of samples. In the hope of determining the cause of the discrepancy between the estimates and the results, I checked the reports on the sites involved to try to find the significance of each sample. I learned that the sites had been excavated prior to the development of the radiocarbon method. The samples all derived from pits excavated subsequently, and could not
be shown to have any relationship to the archaeological material recovered originally. It was not surprising that the results were unsatisfactory.

"It was at this point that I began to accumulate a file of carbon samples together with data on their associations, graded on a scale extending from 'excellent' to 'no association demonstrated'. The result, as I might have expected, was a neat bell-shaped curve from one extreme to the other, with most cases falling in the 'fair association' category.

"The criteria for these groupings can be briefly outlined. The best example of an 'excellent' association is bone from a human burial. The sample gives the date of death of the individual, which is exactly what is required. Other examples could be cited in which the date of death of the sample itself is the information desired.

"A 'good' date is not this precise, but represents a fairly close range. Charcoal from a hearth in a house represents a fire built at some point during the time the house was occupied (in fact, probably near the end of the occupation). The chances are that the range of counting error is greater than the time that the house was occupied, so the date is a good estimate of the time of occupation.

"A sample from the middle of a stratigraphic unit would represent a 'fair' association. The length of time represented by the unit may be unknown, but the sample date must fall somewhere within this period, which has a distinct upper and lower boundary.

"A 'poor' association is often open-ended. The stratigraphic unit may extend to the surface, with the possibility of intrusion of recent material. Or there may be evidence of significant cultural change within the unit, and we are not sure which stage is represented by the sample. Under such circumstances, it is questionable whether a sample should be run.

"'No association demonstrated' means just that. There is no valid reason to believe that the sample has anything to do with the cultural material it is supposed to date. The best example I know involves several possible Early Man projectile points found in a sand dune some feet away from a hearth which yielded a charcoal sample. The points were estimated to be as much as 20,000 years old. The carbon sample gave a date of A.D. 1550. The submitter's comment not only confessed the complete absence of any association between the points and the radiocarbon sample, but also admitted that their identification as Paleo-Indian was also questionable. There is no point in dating samples of this kind.

"The main points are not to ask more of the radiocarbon dating method than it can deliver, and to be sure of a relatively tight association before submitting a sample. Further, when an apparently unsatisfactory result is obtained, it is wise to take a second look at the archaeological data. Not infrequently, the original estimate turns out to be incorrect, especially when based on scanty comparative data, as is often necessary in new areas of research. And a revised estimate may ultimately make more sense in terms of relative chronology than the original one."

Roscoe Wilmeth,  
Head, Salvage Section,  
Archaeological Survey of Canada.

Thank you, Dr. Wilmeth.
The following is a summary of the talk presented at the March meeting.

"The Hind Site (AdHk-1) is located within the boundaries of Mosa Twp., Middlesex Co., Ontario. A sandy knoll, rising sharply from an undulating series of similarly composed byt lesser elevated sand ridges is the focal point of our excavations. The Thames river flowing on its downstream direction begins to oxbow within 400' of the site and has during the formative period of carving out the water channel, created a large flood plain on the southern adjacent farm and parkland.

"During the spring of 1968, Mr. Hind located a grave (burial #1), news of which brought us to the location, and with his co-operation and assistance were shown the area of his recent discovery. Observed were scattered fragments of calcined and unburned bone, representing other burials and recovered from the surface were copper beads, galena nodules, bits of red ochre and green clay.

"Excavations began with the establishing of a datum point and a datum line across the micle of the cemetary. A concerted effort of salvage and excavation of the plow disturbed and wind eroded units arrested information and material almost certain to be lost within a very short time. To date, 50 five-foot units have been completed, with a possible 50 more to be tested. Special attention has been given to soil features, rodent and tree disturbance. Of interest, was "E" zone horizon, tongueing, penetrating through several of the grave shafts.

"Nine cremation deposits (secondary re-burials) and at least 14 in-flesh burials have been recorded. Approximate count of individuals represented could be at least 30, and almost certainly, scattered surface material belongs to features yet to be analysed. No evidence of habitation area or pottery samples have been noted or recovered, although samples of "site debris" are to be found in the adjoining fields.

"Non-perishable mortuary goods were included with most of the graves. Distribution as to quantity and variety fluctuate greatly with individual burials and features, with an "in-death" status readily apparent. Magico-religious and utilitarian articles are well represented. Ritualistic-mysticism indicators include 2 modified bear skull (possible suggested use as face masks), 2 "bird stones" (discovered and recorded in-situ) and worked metacarpal and metatarsal bone of white-tailed deer. Utilitarian items include a wide range of chert point forms, chert blades and drills, awl-like tools, sand-stone abraders, beaver teeth, socketed antler tine points and fire-making kits. The current uniqueness of the Hind Site to Ontario and Great Lakes area prehistory may be attributed to the excellent state of preservation of both bone and shell, along with a greatly expanded trait list of material.

"That the Indians using the Hind Site as their cemetary had shared traits with other reported stations in the Great Lakes area is certain, Since "Glacial Kame-Red Ochre-Old Copper" are terms appearing in print and are used to describe overlapping burial customs and practices, difficulty is encountered immediately in attempting to place this site into a convenient cultural or sequence placement. Further research and exploration of known, related burial locations, all within the Thames River drainage scheme may assist in expanding an all too limited knowledge of the Late Archaic-Early Woodland period,"
particularly in view of the elusive nature of the sites themselves. A scarcity revealed by the fact that when the burials are discovered, destruction of the site is usually already in progress.

"In conducting the Hind Site excavations, a number of O.A.S. members have willingly volunteered their time and services, sometimes working under very adverse weather conditions. From the Society's membership come persons, cooperating in a manner necessary, in order to save this site for the data available before destruction would have lost it for all time."

S. Wortner.

Thank you, Stan.

We have received word that preliminary arrangements are in progress for the 39th Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, November 10-12, William Penn Memorial Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Program Chairman has called for papers and suggestions in two major areas - "Movie-making and Archaeology" and "Archaeology and the Future". More details are available from your ARCH NOTES Editor, or from

Ira F. Smith, III, Field Archaeologist,
William Penn Memorial Museum,
E S A F Program Chairman.
Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pa., 17108, U. S. A.

NOTICE
At the May 4/72 Executive Meeting, Dr. Savage, accepted the resignation of Miss M. J. Warnes from the position of Treasurer. Miss Warnes is in hospital, and feels incapable of carrying on as Treasurer. We wish Miss Warnes a speedy recovery and hope she will continue her association with the Society.
To fill the gap until a new treasurer can be constitutionally elected, the Executive moved to appoint Mrs. B. Gummow as acting-treasurer for the interim. Until further action can be taken, Mrs. Gummow will handle the Society's financial affairs, including accepting new and renewed memberships.

PLEASE ADDRESS ANY CORRESPONDENCE OF THIS NATURE TO MRS. GUMMOW AT
Public Archeology
By Charles R. McGimsey III
Arkansas Archeological Survey
University of Arkansas Museum
Fayetteville, Arkansas
A Volume of SEMINAR PRESS STUDIES IN ARCHEOLOGY

March 1972, 282 pp., $9.50

Every time an archeological site is destroyed—whatever the reason—a part of our heritage is lost forever. McGimsey’s book, based on fifteen years of experience working with the University of Arkansas Museum and the Arkansas Archeological Survey, shows how private citizens and archeologists can—indeed, must—work together to preserve our archeological sites. His book demonstrates basic techniques for establishing public support for archaeological programs and for getting legislation passed to protect the endangered sites.

The author discusses and cites examples of pertinent local, state, and federal legislation and describes in detail the public and financial support, administrative arrangements, and legislative basis for archeology in each of the 50 states, as well as the federal agencies involved. He then outlines plans for designing state programs of archeological research and preservation, illustrating them with techniques and principles that have made Arkansas’ program of archeological research one of the best publicly-supported programs in the country. Examples of the better state laws and all important federal legislation and regulations are quoted in full.

Professional and amateur archeologists, concerned legislators, conservationists and all citizens who want to help preserve our past will find this an invaluable handbook and reference source.

CONTENTS:
ARCHEOLOGY AND THE PUBLIC
A Challenge
The Practice of Archeology:
A Principle and Some Problems

THE STATE-SUPPORTED ARCHEOLOGICAL PROGRAM
Designing a State Program
Designing a State Antiquities Act
One Example—Arkansas

A SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT
State Support of Archeological Research and Development
Administrative Organization
Regulatory Legislation
Federal Support of Archeological Research and Development

THE STATUS OF STATE SUPPORT FOR ARCHEOLOGY IN EACH STATE
(in which the laws are listed for each state)

EXAMPLES OF ARCHEOLOGICAL LEGISLATION
Examples of State and Local Archeological legislation
Principal Federal Legislation Affecting Archeological Preservation

To: SEMINAR PRESS
111 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003

Yes, please send __ copies of “Public Archeology,” by
Dr. Charles R. McGimsey, III, @ $9.50 each, as soon as it is published, to:

NAME

NAME

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

CITY ___________________________ STATE _______ ZIP CODE ____________

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
Send payment with order and use postage and handling