



# Ontario Archaeological Society

# Arch Notes

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The Seed-Barker site, a Huron village from AD 1500–1550, from the air.

Photo courtesy TRCA

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# Ontario Archaeological Society

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### ... editor's note

Many of our executive are on a trip to China to see the sights and so we have no president's message this issue. Life does, however, go on.

If you read the story by Holly about last year's membership survey, you'll see that some of your good ideas have already been incorporated into the articles and production of Arch Notes. Holly did a great job bringing all that information to us and the Board is looking at your comments closely.

I'll be looking into sending this newsletter to some of you as a PDF. The advantage of saving the OAS money must be weighed against the possible disadvantage of the copying of the newsletter for non-members and the trouble to keep two membership lists (print and e-mail). On the other hand, you would get all the pictures in colour!

If you have any comments or suggestions about that, let me know. Now, I have to find a lime for my G&T here. See you in August.

**Andy Schoenhofer**  
archnotes@sympatico.ca

## From the OAS office...

At times, I never thought I'd be able to say it, but here goes—we have a new Ontario Heritage Act. Way back in ye olden days (the early '90s) when I was on the OAS board, I was part of the Minister's Advisory Committee on New Heritage Legislation for several years to make sure the archaeological community was being heard. Back then, I used up all my vacation days from work to attend two, full-day MAC meetings twice a month as a volunteer. It was a sacrifice, but one I found worthwhile because of the importance of the subject and how passionate I was about it. The fact that it went nowhere after all our hard work was discouraging, to say the least. But now, it has all paid off.

After many starts, Bill 60 died a quick death several times over the years when the House rose. This was a roller coaster ride for the heritage community, who had worked so long for so many years to get this Bill through. It was continuously shuffled to the bottom of piles that had health care, education, and other issues deemed more important on top of it. In 2005, it finally came to the top of the pile.

Bill 60, officially the "Ontario Heritage Amendment Act, 2005" was debated for over two hours on April 18 and was passed 77 to 6 the next day. About 50 people from the heritage community were in the gallery, a fact which some of the MPPs commented on. It received royal assent on April 28 at 5 p.m., meaning it is now law.

Our work here is not done! Input is being sought by the Ministry on the proposed regulations for Bill 60. A series of consul-

tation sessions are going on during May (and beyond) and the OAS will be involved (of course). Dialogue between the government and stakeholders will be essential to ensure implementation takes place through the development of effective regulations and guidelines. Specifically for the OAS and its members, the key area is "Enhanced provisions to conserve archaeological resources", which includes:

- enhancing provincial powers to ensure conservation of archaeological resources by increasing fines to a maximum of \$1 million for illegal alteration of sites or removal of artifacts

- enabling the province to inspect archaeological fieldwork and sites and provide public access to certain archaeological information collected under the legislation.

If you would like to read the Hansard transcriptions of the debate in the House, you can click onto the Ontario Legislature site at <http://www.ontla.on.ca/index.htm> and find Bill 60. Normally one reads Hansard to cure insomnia, but this one is actually quite an interesting read in parts!

How did your MPP vote? Let them know what you think! There were 77 for the Bill, and the opposed votes came from the following six Conservative MPPs: Tim Hudak (a former Minister of Culture!), Jim Flaherty (former Native Affairs minister, '99 to '01), Ernie Hardeman (representing the riding of Oxford, not far from our active London chapter), Jerry Ouellette, Norm Sterling (another former Native Affairs minister, 2003) and John Yakabuski (who,

along with Sterling, is from the eastern Ontario area where the 2005 Symposium will be, near Ottawa—another active chapter!). A big "merci" to Madeleine Meilleur, who has boldly gone where no Culture minister has gone before. From the government's press release, she says: "This is a historic moment for heritage in Ontario. For too many years, our heritage resources have been left vulnerable. With this new legislation, we have the will and the way to ensure that our heritage survives and thrives for the benefit of present and future generations of Ontarians." No doubt, archaeological resources are better protected with this new act.

Heritage legislation has been a hard sell when Ontarians have been preoccupied with issues such as health care and schools. It's true—those things touch us everyday. Ontarians are envied around the world for our health care and good schools, although at times we have (legitimate) gripes. The system is far from perfect. It's time that heritage became part of our daily life, as health care and education are—wouldn't it be great if Ontario were known for its fantastic heritage preservation! Heritage is who we are, what defines us and connects us all. You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been, as the saying goes. We all have a responsibility to protect and promote our heritage and not think of it as a "frill" in today's busy world.

There is still work to do, but for now let's celebrate.

**Lise Ferguson**  
**Executive Director**

## OHF awards Garrad for lifetime achievement

On Friday May 20, 2005, Mayor Ellen Anderson of the Town of the Blue Mountains presented Charles Garrad with a Certificate of Lifetime Achievement, sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The award is "in appreciation of a lifetime of volunteer work to identify, preserve, protect and promote our province's rich heritage."

Charlie received the award in a public ceremony at the Craigleith Community Centre, the former historic Craigleith school building which he helped preserve in 1968. A number of OAS members were in attendance, including Ron Williamson, Peter Storck, Martin Cooper, Norma Knowlton, Mike and Chris Kirby, and Ella Garrad.

Both Anderson and Peter Tollefsen, director of development services, spoke on behalf of the town. The text of Tollefsen's speech follows:

"Charles Garrad is very deserving of this award for many reasons. I am going to talk about his planning work in this area. Charles was the driving force with the development of the Craigleith Heritage Master Plan. Started in 1998, it will be finished this fall.

"But I am happy to say that thanks to Charles many of the principles have found their way into the

Town's New Official Plan. One of the goals of the plan is now 'To protect, preserve, conserve and enhance the highly scenic, natural, cultural and heritage amenities of the Town in a sustainable manner recognizing their importance to residents and visitors to the area.'

"It also talks about 'a recreational/cultural heritage resource park in the vicinity of the Craigleith Community Centre and the Craigleith Depot shall be encouraged as a major focal point.'

"It is the intent of the plan to encourage the preservation of cultural heritage features and to preserve known archaeological sites (especially native burial sites).

"So thanks to Charles things are already happening with the restoration of the Craigleith Depot Train Station, as well as development of trail network systems throughout the Craigleith areas; thanks to the hard work of many people here. We are also seeing land being set aside for new development applications, such as Blue Mountain Resorts, Home Farms, and the Trails Head Gold and Residents project.

"Congratulation Charles! You are well deserving of this reward!"



Ellen Anderson and Charles Garrad. Photo by Ella Garrad

## Advertising rates

An ad in *Arch Notes* reaches **hundreds** of readers each month. And many readers keep looking at their copies for **years!**

### Per issue:

Full page (9"x6.5"): \$150

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Quarter page (4.5"x3.25"): \$70

Business card (2"x3"): \$50

Get a **25% discount** if you prepay for an entire year!

Advertised items or services must be of interest to the archaeological or heritage community.

E-mail [archnotes@sympatico.ca](mailto:archnotes@sympatico.ca) for format info. Submission deadlines are on the back page.

# Letter to the editor

I read with interest Jamie McDougall's article in your last issue of Arch Notes. Publicizing the existence of such an important artifact is indeed a major contribution to the archaeological community.

I am in agreement with Mr. McDougall's assessment of the reworked nature of the slate gorget fragment, but I do not believe that a relatively recent Muncey origin need be postulated for the incised patterns. The author mentions "artistic representations from the prehistoric and historic time periods" (p. 9), but provides no references for the "prehistoric" period. There are a number of precontact Neutral artifacts from southwestern Ontario displaying thunderbird motifs (Fox 2004: 293-294 and Figures 15.10, 15.13). Stylistically, the closest in form to the Appin gorget is engraved on a drilled slate fragment from a village site in the Otter Creek drainage (Anderson 1903: 83, Figure 55).

There is no doubt that the gorget design references the widespread upper and lower world cosmology documented among Great Lakes Native groups, similar to 19th century medicine bag motifs; however, given the design elements and style of the Appin gorget engravings, I feel that it most likely represents the

work of a 15th century Neutral artist/religious practitioner.

## References

- Anderson, R.T.  
1903 Malahide, Yarmouth and Bayham Townships. Annual Archaeological Report for Ontario for 1902: 79-92. Toronto.
- Fox, W.A.  
2004 Horned Panthers and Erie Associates. A Passion for the Past: Papers in Honour of James F. Pendergast. Edited by J.V. Wright and J-L. Pilon. Mercury Series, Archaeology Paper 164: 283-304. Canadian Museum of Civilization. Gatineau.

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## Storck's Paleo-Indian search is a worthwhile journey

**Journey to the Ice Age: Discovering an Ancient World**

UBC Press. 2004

356 Pages

\$39.95 Hardcover

### Review by Alastair Jolly

Even after having the opportunity to attend Dr. Peter Storck's lectures several times and twice reading his book, "Journey to the Ice Age: Discovering an Ancient World," I have remained transfixed by his skill as a storyteller as he deftly manages to weave his personal experiences as an archaeologist with scientific theory and discourse regarding the nature of Paleo-Indians and life during Ice Age Ontario. If Storck had not had a successful career in archaeology, I'm sure he would

have made a lucrative livelihood as a novelist. From the opening paragraph of the book, which offers a vivid account of a lone archaeologist on the path to discovery, to the closing epilogue that relates the tale of an ancient artisan attempting to craft his first fluted point, Storck enthralls the reader with a writing style that is both poignant and amusing, while capturing the adventurous spirit of archaeology.

Storck, the Senior Curator Emeritus for the Department of Anthropology at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), honed his writing skills in several articles for the archaeological newsletter published by the ROM. The book contains 13 of these articles, stretching from 1970 to 1996. The ROM publication was intended for the general public and, while providing accounts of the commencement of field projects, endings were frequently left to technical reports writ-



ten in the esoteric language often found within scholarly journals. As Storck notes, this volume provides those endings and he writes in a clear and succinct manner intended for a wide audience. This may be the most important aspect of the book and this volume is a welcome addition, considering the paucity of archaeological publications that are accessible to the general public. Storck rewards his readers with a dry wit and his autobiographical anecdotes are often quite funny. His account of the many golf balls that inexplicably appear in remote fields will have a ring of familiarity for those acquainted with pedestrian survey, and the account of the climax of his search for the enigmatic "white chert favoured by Paleo-Indians actually caused me to laugh out loud!

The opening chapter of the book is appropriately titled "Beginnings". Storck combines the enigma of New World settlement with his bewilderment in embarking on a career fresh out of graduate school. This is a formula that sets the tone for the remainder of the book as Storck recounts the discoveries of each field season, and how these added to the limited knowledge of Ontario's first inhabitants and fueled subsequent research design—all narrated from a reflexive and personal perspective.

The book goes on to describe the discoveries of the Banting, Hussey and Fisher sites, the Fisher site being one of the most productive Paleo-Indian sites in Ontario with a total of 94 points recovered in a single season! The site also offered tantalizing evidence for fishing as part of the Gainey peoples' subsistence strategy. Searching for evidence for caribou as part of the Paleo-Indian diet is another of Storck's quests, which was so richly rewarded when faunal material was recovered from a firepit at the Udora site. We also get an account of Storck's brief relationship with the controversial Sheguiandah site, which enticed Storck

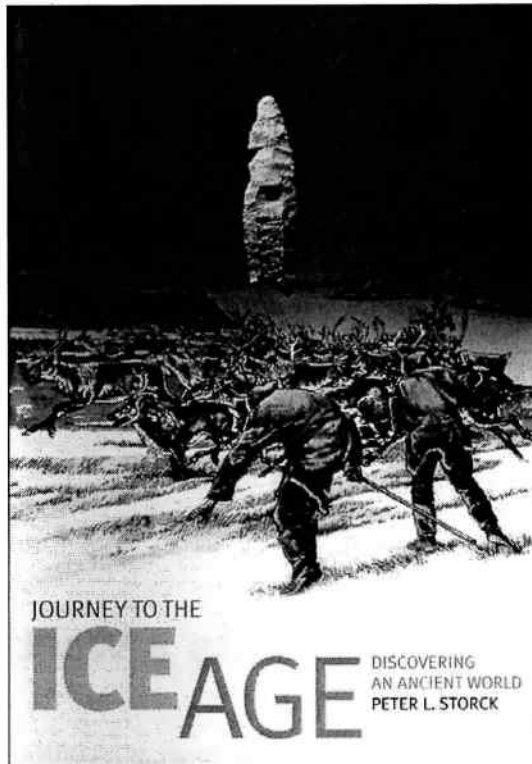
since the beginning of his career until he was offered the opportunity to excavate in 1991. He rounds out the book by sharing his experiences at the Red Wing site, which was excavated in 1996 and is awaiting further analysis.

As Storck narrates his personal journey, the reader is also treated to a "behind-the-scenes" look at archaeological projects. This ranges from the trials and tribulations that come with requesting funding to the delicate diplomacy that surrounds repatriation issues. Storck also remembers creating the now defunct ROM Ontario Prehistory Gallery and includes the elegant sketches of hands involved in flintknapping and other activities that were incorporated in the gallery. The logistics of organizing an excavation and the long road to publishing are deconstructed with Storck's sardonic sense of humor.

Finally, Storck rounds out the book with a delightful appendix that offers directions and maps keyed to the narrative and invites the reader to follow the elusive trail of the Paleo-Indians. Starting in Alliston and concluding in Killarney Park, readers can take their own journey back to the ice age in just a weekend.

"Journey to the Ice Age" is a wonderful book that supplies a unique perspective on Ontario's ancient history. Storck humanizes his tale by providing an autobiographical account of his personal journey, peppered with both triumph and disappointment. This is a thoughtful and insightful volume that will entertain and appeal to anyone with an interest in the history of Ontario and a much welcomed addition to any library.

*(At his May talk at the Toronto chapter, Dr. Storck said he is thinking of writing some more books, one of which may be fiction. He also noted this book is only \$28 at Indigo or Amazon books online – Ed.)*



The cover of Dr. Storck's book.

## Digs on the Web and on the Shield

The following list has been compiled by the OAS office. The OAS does not take responsibility for the content or suitability of events—this is an information service provided for members.

If you know of other events or archaeology-related happenings, please send them to the OAS office for consideration at [oasociety@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasociety@bellnet.ca)

[www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)—Parks Canada website. Some national parks or national historic sites may offer volunteer opportunities. Click “Learning Experiences” or other sections of specific sites to find out if they offer volunteer opportunities.

[www.archaeologyfieldwork.com](http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com)—a US-based website of fieldwork listings throughout the world.

[www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org)—Archaeological Institute of America. Click “fieldwork”. They have four or five Canadian opportunities listed.

[www.adventuresinarchaeology.com](http://www.adventuresinarchaeology.com)—various for-fee programs in Ontario.

[www.yorku.ca/kdenning/fieldwork2005.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/kdenning/fieldwork2005.htm)—Website of an anthropology professor, with volunteer and job postings.

[www.archeodroit.net/anthro/Texts/school.html](http://www.archeodroit.net/anthro/Texts/school.html)—a site from France that has Canadian and world-wide postings of volunteer opportunities and field schools.

[www.greenvol.com/arkeo](http://www.greenvol.com/arkeo)—to order a printed world guide to archaeological and heritage volunteering.

[www.carf.info/education/canyoudigit.php](http://www.carf.info/education/canyoudigit.php)—**Can You Dig It?**, at the Kingston Archaeology Centre. Sessions are designed for all ages from 8 years and up and are packed full of hands-on activities related to history & archaeology. Each session consists of a five day program. You must be pre-registered and attend all workshops to participate in fieldwork. Adult workshops and field time to be determined based on demand. Call CARF at (613) 542-3483.

### Archaeology field school in North Bay

In the summer of 2003 the North Bay Area Museum took on a Archaeology Field School project. Under the direction of Dr. Dave Slattery of Horizon Archaeology, the week long program was a chance for archaeology enthusiasts to participate in an actual archaeological dig. Taking place at Sunset Park, a small park in North Bay, a number of artifacts were uncovered including what appeared to be an amulet



Andrew Palangio, left, and Jordon Anger uncovering rock art drawings at the 2003 North Bay Area Museum's field school.

Photo courtesy NBAM

with a small cross.

In 2004, the Museum conducted another one-week excavation, this time along the banks of the Lavase River. The 2005 season will continue this work by further excavation of a small camp site at the mouth river of the Lavase River and Cook Creek. Additional work will explore a late 19th to early 20th century homestead nearby.

Participants will be involved in all aspects of archaeological work. Aside from gaining an historical understanding of the area, they will also learn what factors influenced our decision to excavate at this location. As well, each person will excavate part of the site, learn the process for the recording and drawing of the results and play a significant role in the interpretation of what is uncovered.

The one week program costs \$200 (+GST). Contact the Museum at (705) 476-2323 or by e-mail at [educaiont@heritagenorthbay.com](mailto:educaiont@heritagenorthbay.com)

## Second Call For Papers:

### The Ontario Archaeological Society 2005 Symposium

# Partners to the Past: Making Connections in the Ottawa River Valley

**November 3, 4, 5, 2005**  
**Petawawa, Ontario**

The 2005 OAS Symposium will be hosted by the Ottawa Chapter, Friends of Bonnechere Park, and the Town of Petawawa at the Petawawa Civic Centre. We will have access to the facilities and modern accommodations at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2005. The Base museum and archives are being refurbished for the centenary, and this spectacular location in the Ottawa River valley will be a unique venue for the OAS.

The programme will feature sessions revolving around the theme of partnerships and promoting interest in the archaeological past. Examples of partnerships can include those between archaeologists, Aboriginal peoples, museums or communities. There will also be an overview of the Ottawa valley's archaeological heritage, and contributed papers

from our membership. A book room, tours, the banquet, and OAS annual meetings will all be part of the mix.

The Programme Chair requests proposals for sessions and workshops, and abstracts for presentations and posters. Presentations will be limited to a maximum of 20 minutes. Please indicate your A/V requirements with your abstract.

Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words.

#### **Address:**

OAS 2005 Symposium Programme  
Jim Molnar, Programme Chair  
Parks Canada  
25 Eddy Street (25-5-Y)  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5  
E-mail: [jim.molnar@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jim.molnar@pc.gc.ca)

Deadline for session proposals:  
**June 30, 2005**

Deadline for abstracts:  
**July 31, 2005**



# Champlain, Cartier, Carnac and caves: highlights of one week in France

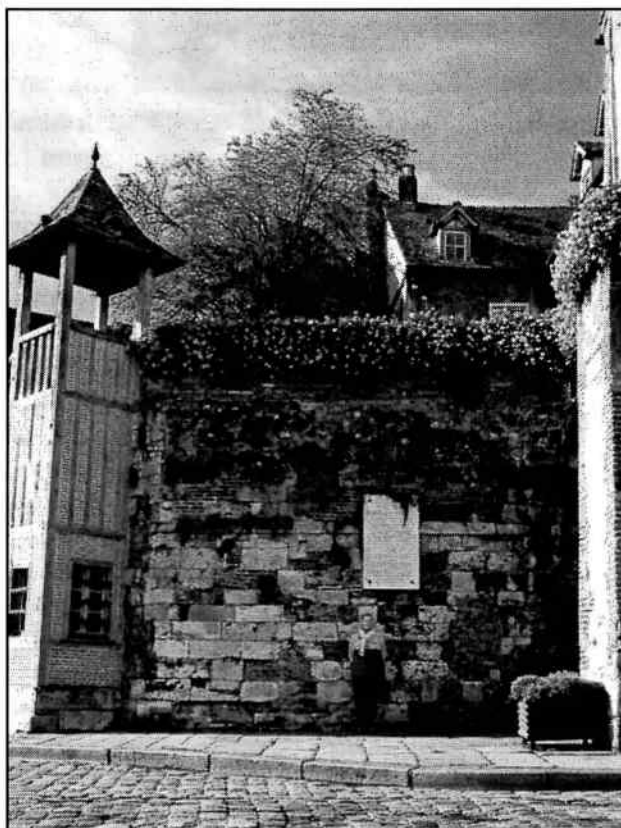
By Mima Kapches

In October of 2004 my husband, Chris, and I visited France for a week. We decided to rent a car and drive around Normandy, Brittany, and end up in the Dordogne near Bordeaux. For those of you familiar with the geography of France you'll realize that we had set ourselves quite a driving marathon, one that would eventually cover several thousand kilometers. To assist in the planning of our trip we made Samuel Champlain our organizing principle. We would visit ports Champlain had embarked from and also find his birthplace. We also planned to see several archaeological and historic sites along the way; all of this was accomplished and more. This was a fairly esoteric trip but certainly one that the readers of Arch Notes could identify with. I thought that a brief description of some of the highlights would be useful if any of you are planning a similar trip.

Every guidebook that I have about France says if you visit in the summer expect crowds of people everywhere. I can only emphasize that if you contemplate a visit to France plan it for the spring or the fall. If you must go in the summer, be well organized in advance. We arrived the morning of October 15. We

had no crowds, never needed hotel reservations, and generally there was little to no traffic on the roads, so our travelling experience was marvelous. In fact, we were able to cover great distances because we had no traffic congestion.

Our first Champlain stop was



Mima before the Champlain plaque in Honfleur, France.  
Photo by Chris Kapches

in the town of Honfleur at the mouth of the Seine River. Honfleur is easily accessible and well signed off the highway. There's lots of parking after you drive through the town, past the old harbour. Park the car and walk through the town. The archi-

ecture is amazing. It's a well-preserved 15th, 16th and 17th century town, and is still an active fishing port where the drawbridge lets in the fishing boats when they return. The *vieux bassin*, the old harbour, is still present and it's very picturesque. Its entrance is guarded by the 16th century harbourmaster's building, which has a plaque and a bust commemorating Champlain. You can't miss it. Champlain embarked from Honfleur in 1603 and again in 1608. He also departed from Le Havre, which is on the other side of the Seine, but we didn't visit that port. We made a point of stopping at Honfleur because we knew there was a plaque.

Our next explorer plaque was a surprise, and it was in Mont St. Michel. This is an absolute must-see UNESCO World heritage site. If you plan in advance you can reserve a room at one of the inns right in the town. Check on the Web. If you stay in town you get to park at one of the reserved spots by the entrance to the fortress, not in the fields with the sheep some 1 km distant. In the evening when all the crowds have left it would be quite magical to walk to one of the many restaurants for dinner. This will definitely be on my list to do the next time I'm in the area. The plaque



Cartier's home outside St. Malo, France.

Photo by Mima Kapches

we found commemorated Jacques Cartier being given a directive by Francois I on May 8, 1532 to explore the rivers of Canada. It was located on the wall beside the still-active lower church, not the abbey.

Cartier had been born in nearby St. Malo in 1491 and died in there in 1557. On the way to St.

Malo we discovered Cartier's home: Limoelou. This is on the outskirts of the town and is well signed. The farmhouse is maintained by the Macdonald Stewart Foundation of Montreal and is now a museum. It is not open on Sundays, which was when we were there. Although we drove through the town of St. Malo we did not

stop to walk about the ramparts. It was Sunday and was very crowded, but this is a spectacular walled port city which does deserve at least one day for exploration.

From Normandy we drove across Brittany to the town of Vannes. We stayed in Vannes because it was close to Carnac, the world's most spectacular concentration of standing stones. These stones are called menhirs and those of you who are Asterix and Obelix readers will be very familiar with them.

At Carnac there are more than 3,000 menhirs. These Neolithic stones were erected between 4,500 and 1,800 B.C. and were used during religious and ceremonial activities. The stones are in rows, row after row, called alignments. Some of these rows are as long as 15 km. Most are protected by fences and inaccessible, but some fields are open and you can walk among them. There is an excellent museum in the town which highlights the menhir fields. There are



Menhirs, or standing stones, at Carnac.

Photo by Mima Kapches

also barrows and dolmens which had burials in them. These were explored in the 1800s.

From Carnac we headed south to find Brouage, Champlain's birthplace. We stayed one night along the way. The next day we had lunch in La Rochelle and then headed towards Brouage late in the day. Brouage is some 30 km south of La Rochelle and it's not easy to find. It's not well marked on the map so we got lost. It's a pristine 16th century fortress with a resident population of only a couple of hundred people.

When Champlain was born in 1570 it was surrounded by salt flats and was an important salt producer. Today the ocean has receded and the town is landlocked, but the loss of the salt business has protected the town and preserved it for several hundreds of years. If you are interested in 16th century French forts, this town is a must-see. Champlain's home doesn't exist anymore, but in its place Canada and France

have constructed a museum called Maison Champlain. This was not finished when we were in Brouage, so we were not able to visit it. Instead, the exhibition about Champlain was still in the town's church, which is across the street from Champlain square where the Ontario Heritage Foundation has placed a plaque. Visiting Brouage was a highlight of the trip for me.

From Brouage we headed to Bordeaux and on to the Dordogne. This part of France is renowned for its medieval cities such as St. Emilion, Sarlat, Domme, La Roque and Rocamadour. All of them are worth visiting. We stayed in the town of Les Eyzies de Tayac in the small auberge across the street from the new National Museum of Prehistory. We visited the museum, which is well-worth seeing. This town is known for its distinctive cliffs stained with thousands of years of smoke from

nificance. The walls of the cave were painted with images of hunters and animals some 15,000–13,000 years B.C. The original cave was closed to the public in 1963 when it was discovered that the carbon dioxide from visitors' breathing was causing algae to grow on the paintings. Lascaux II is an exact replica of the main cavern of paintings and it's well worth visiting. Tours are offered in French and English and are given in the summer, but keep in mind crowds will be a factor. As we walked out of Lascaux II a



The entrance to Lascaux II.

Photo by Mima Kapches

camp fires. Overlooking the town is a statue of a Cro-Magnon man to commemorate the first Cro-Magnon remains found at Les Eyzies in 1868.

Using Les Eyzies as our base we went off to see the site of Laugerie Basse and Lascaux II. Lascaux was discovered by four teenage boys on September 12, 1940. Very quickly French archaeologists who visited the site realized its sig-

French fighter jet zoomed over the cave entrance, an abrupt reminder of the progress of time.

When we returned the rental car to the airport in Paris we had clocked nearly 3,000 km. This was not a trip for the faint hearted! For those of you planning a similar trip try to take more time so you can explore more. The next time we go to France that's exactly what we intend to do.





## Call for nominations to the OAS board

The OAS Nominations and Elections Committee chair, Dena Doroszenko, announces that nominations for next year's board are now open.

As well, she needs some people on the committee itself!

You can nominate any member of the OAS to the Board until the end of the annual business meeting, which has lately been at the end of Saturday's lectures at the fall symposium. Elections are held immediately afterward by members present and the new board gets to work on OAS business for the following year.

A list of the current board is on the inside front cover of Arch Notes. Contact:

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# 2004 membership survey

by Holy Martelle

Here are some of the comments the OAS received as a result of the membership survey sent out with last year's membership renewals. Of the 500 or so surveys sent out, about 90 members took the time to fill it out, which turns out to be about on par for mail-in survey response. Comments quoted in paragraphs are from responses.

### The society's role in public archaeology

- More advocacy work should be done for the conservation and protection of archaeological sites in concert with land trusts and non-governmental conservation organizations (e.g., Ontario Nature).
- The OAS should liaison with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Niagara Escarpment Commission and similar organizations.

### A strong voice?

Opinion was mixed on this one. Many felt we were a strong voice and were doing a good job of advocacy and raising public awareness. Others saw us to be a strong voice but only for Southern Ontario. We were often seen as the "default" voice because no other organizations were taking on this role. Some members thought we are doing alright but not enough and that we should become even more vocal as the pace of development increases. Others thought that no government or organization group provided a good voice.

Because our organization is "dominated by professionals" (and professionals have busy lives) one member thought that a stronger avocational presence could benefit advocacy at the local level. The OAS has "been eclipsed by business archaeologists who have forgotten the society's historical role."

Suggestions for improvement were:

- voice concerns in the media
- extend advocacy concerns to local level (not just provincial)
- advocate conservation and proper curation of existing artifact collections
- press for stronger CRM, heritage management and advocacy rules
- more advertising and partnerships across disciplines

### Public archaeology and awareness

Some thought we could do better:

- The OAS should do more to promote archaeological heritage and to offer education and outreach programs to the general public.
- Current programs should extend into rural settings.

### a) Geographic focus

Many living outside of Toronto feel that the OAS is too focused on the



GTA. Northern people feel that they are being ignored and that there is little the OAS is doing to help people learn about archaeology in this area.

#### **b) Membership and funding**

Membership continues to be a concern for our members. Some would like to see the organization engage in major fundraising campaigns so that funds can be used to develop and maintain better programs (even archaeological research). Perhaps the organization should “move away from government grants and secure more private sector partnerships.”

#### **c) Activities**

We received several good comments about Archaeology Day. Some members would like to see a return of the summer bus trips. These bring together members from different chapters in a social and educational setting that builds loyalty and interest (but they should be affordable!).

Many members, particularly avocational and those involved in the organization for general interest, would like to see more opportunities for excavation or at least, notices of where they might be able to get involved with a project. The OAS “should get active in archaeology again—and also work on cataloguing artifacts, writing up excavations.”

#### **d) Awards**

We received one very pointed comment regarding the recognition of volunteers and board members. It reads “A 50 year old organization should be doing a lot more to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of its long serving members. Yes, there are 25 year pins, but some special certificates or recognition should be handed out more regularly to symposium organizers, special speakers, outgoing board members, donors, etc. Make a fuss and they might just do it again.”

#### **e) Miscellaneous**

- The OAS should have a separate voice and fax line.
- The OAS is too narrow in its scope.
- We should pay more attention to the web site.

#### **What they liked**

Most of the members were in support of our main ventures (e.g., education, advocacy, symposium,

journal and so on). There was a strong sense of support for many recent efforts to get us back on track with membership and administration. Hiring Lise was mentioned several times in this section. There was also a note or two of support for dropping the Richmond Hill venue. The executive was applauded for their quick responses to questions. What is the OAS doing right? “Everything. How you do it on a shoestring budget is a tribute to the decency and grit of your staff and members.”

### **Chapter-related issues**

#### **Membership**

One of the major criticisms of the chapters was that membership fees were taken but no newsletters were received. This was the case for several members of the Niagara on the Lake and Windsor chapters.

Some members thought it was good that the OAS was checking the membership status of chapter executives.

#### **Chapter Assistance**

Many requested that chapters get more assistance from the OAS parent body. This could include:

- providing a list of speakers the chapters can call upon
- encouraging chapters to host guest lectures on topics outside of Ontario

#### **Chapter Locations**

There was a request for more chapters in other parts of the province. Ruth MacDougall would like to see a chapter in Grey/Bruce.

#### **Communication**

Many members would like to see better communication about what each chapter is doing. Email is the preferred option since mail is slow (particularly to the USA).

### **Comments on publications & symposium**

#### **Ontario Archaeology**

Most members were very happy with the journal, although some general interest and avocational members found it too detailed. Many would like to see more “data” for the non-professional. Some would like to get this on CD. One member suggested we investigate the reinstatement of SSHRC funding.

The biggest criticism of the journal is that it is behind. Delays in OA are causing professionals to not renew their memberships.

### Special Publications

There were few comments on special publications generally. Many people didn't know what these were. Others thought these should be published more often and should be used to publish CRM reports and update old publications. A suggestion was made to initiate a series of popular booklets supplying overviews on various aspects of Ontario archaeology (prehistoric, historic, marine, etc.). These could be circulated to libraries, museums, parks, etc.

### Arch Notes

The general consensus is that the publication should contain more archaeological (and academic) information (more content) and that there is perhaps too much emphasis on internal business and administrative matters. There is also some who are interested in receiving their Arch Notes via e-mail in PDF format. The following have also been suggested:

- more emphasis on Northern Ontario
- reports on "how I spent my summer" (non-academic reports/stories)
- general interest stories

- a donation form on the back cover
- letter to the editor section
- more thoughtful editorials
- book reviews (not just in OA)
- profiles of archaeologists

An idea to circulate free copies to libraries was raised (we're preaching to the converted). One person requested a courtesy "notice of acceptance" for news and articles submitted. Some members liked the smaller format of previous Arch Notes or would like to see a new look, perhaps something more professional like OMA and OHS newsletters.

### Symposium

There is a general divide between those who liked the last symposium and those who would like a more condensed format. There were suggestions for more First Nations topics, poster sessions, a forum for avocational activities ("hands on" identification and "show and tell" workshops).

- When will the symposium be in Toronto?
- The public should be invited.
- Drop the banquet, it's too expensive and poor value.

We'd like to thank everyone who responded. The Board discussed the results at the April board meeting and many of the items have been acted on already.

## The 'dirt' on the TRCA's archaeology program

by **Bob Bugar and Cathy Crinnion**

The archaeological community has long recognized that the unique riverine association of conservation lands provides an unlimited potential for archaeological resources. Recognizing the heritage value of the archaeological resources on its lands, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), working with the province, prepared an archaeological master plan that documented archaeological sites and made recommendations for the proper management of these resources. As a result, in 1988, TRCA adopted the Archaeological Heritage Strategy as an integrated component of the Greenspace plan for the Greater Toronto region. The intent of this program is to present a balanced and integrated program of inventory, management and interpretation for archaeological heritage resources.

The resulting Archaeological Heritage Resource Management Program (AHRMP) is composed of two main components: education and resource management.

### Education

The TRCA has a strong role to play in informing the public of the importance of managing the cultural resources found in the environment. To that end, the Boyd archaeological field school (high school credit course), and the York University/TRCA archaeological field school (university credit course) are designed to disseminate this knowledge to various levels of students.

Now in its 29th year, the Boyd archaeological field school is a residential summer credit course for high school students sponsored by the York Region district school board, in co-operation with the Royal Ontario

Museum and the TRCA. Until recently, the main site for the program was the Seed-Barker site, a 16th-century Iroquoian village on the Humber River in Vaughan. Since 1975, more than one million artifacts have been found by students on the Seed-Barker site, and portions of 19 longhouses have been excavated by hand and thoroughly documented. Artifacts from the external middens at Seed-Barker (also known as the Seed site) were excavated during the 1950s by University of Toronto students under Dr. Norman Emerson. It was Roland Orr, in 1895, who recognized the classic environmental features that led him to

this Iroquoian village—the river with its associated floodplains for crops, the easily-defensible plateau, and the nearby forests for wood and food resources—and the farmer at the time had indeed been finding Iroquoian artifacts when cultivating the plateau.

During the field school, the students receive an introduction to archaeological theory, archaeological excavation fieldwork, artifact analysis experience, the study of pre-Contact Aboriginal cultures, an analysis of the environment of the culture, and hands-on experience with flintknapping and other arts and skills. Guest instructors often include Peter Storck, Curator Emeritus with the Royal Ontario Museum, Conrad Heidenreich, Professor Emeritus with York University, Shelley Saunders, professor with McMaster University, John Hodson, Aboriginal Liaison with Brock University, and many other talented experts in fields relating to archaeology and the studies of past peoples in Ontario. Directors of the course have included Bryan Snow, David Johnson, Mima Kapches and, since 1983, Bob Burgar.

During the past 15 years, other field courses have been offered through York University (1989–2005), Trent University (1994) and the OAS (1994). Most of these excavations were at the Seed-Barker site, but others were at other Iroquoian sites on TRCA lands, including the Boyd site (also on the Humber in Vaughan) and the Esox site (on the Humber in Richmond Hill).



Bob Burgar at the Seed-Barker site, showing how to take measurements to draw feature profiles.  
Photo courtesy York/TRCA field school Web site

Since the early 1990s, the TRCA Archaeology Unit has also worked closely to share local historical information and an appreciation for past peoples with residents, politicians, municipal staff and the private sector through watershed committees for the Duffins and Carruthers Creeks, the Rouge River, the Don River, the Humber River, and the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks in the greater Toronto area. These watershed committees have brought together many voices to develop strategies for improving and celebrating the environmental and cultural heritage goals in these areas. As an extension of this process, the TRCA was instrumental in successfully nominating Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River, primarily based upon its linked history with the Carrying Place Trail, several clusters of Iroquoian villages, the Historic period Seneca village of Teiaiaagon, and the river's association with early French and English traders, explorers and missionaries.

### Resource Management

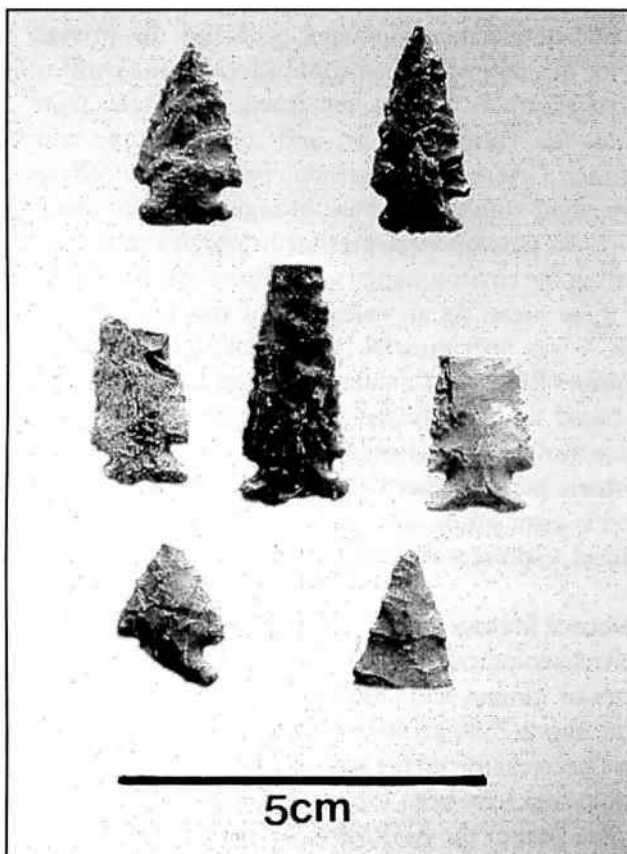
Archaeological sites on TRCA lands span 11,000 years of human habitation of southern Ontario. To date, about 2500 acres (1000 ha) of TRCA property have been examined for archaeological sites and close to 300 sites have been located and registered.

The goal of the AHRMP is to manage the archaeological resources found on TRCA lands with respect to legislative requirements and approved technical



practices. Ongoing programs will identify new resources and recommend appropriate management of the resource, with avoidance and protection as a goal, and complete excavation and documentation as a last resort only.

To support identifying new resources, the Rouge Park has provided funding for the Archaeology Unit to survey farm fields near the Rouge River that have been transferred from the Ontario Realty Corporation to the TRCA/Rouge Park. During the 2002 to 2004 field seasons, more than 1000 acres were surveyed, resulting in the discovery and registration of some 200 new sites. Many of these were simply isolated surface finds, but others ranged from small to large habitation sites. It is important for us to know the locations and basic characteristics of the small sites, in particular, since they are difficult to find on the landscape. We still have much to learn about these short-term occupations, which were often specialized for hunting, fishing and resource extraction. More of the results from these surveys will appear in an upcoming issue of Arch Notes. The following are



Points recovered from the Tegis site.

Photo courtesy TRCA

some examples of excavation projects.

#### **Tegis Site (AkGv-118)**

The Tegis site was first identified in 1991 during an archaeological survey of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's proposed Highway 407 right-of-way on land owned by TRCA. The Archaeological Unit dug the site during September 1991 and June—July 1992 prior to construction.

The site is a single-component, late summer/early fall hunting and hide-processing encampment on the west bank of the West Humber River. The site was likely occupied for a short duration by two family groups living in two shelters.

The site tool kit included 871 artifacts. While these artifacts are similar in many respects to most Archaic assemblages, the collection does exhibit cultural continuity with the earlier Paleo-Indian period. Use-wear analysis by Dr. John Tomenchuk of several proposed woodworking tools, and the identification of their use on bitternut hickory and jack pine, likewise supports an Early Archaic temporal association.

Although several lines of evidence point to a later Early Archaic cultural affiliation (ca. 6500 to 6000 BC) for the Tegis site, this association is as yet unclear. The site represents a previously undefined assemblage and associated diagnostic projectile point which serves to identify a new cultural component for the Archaic in southern Ontario.

#### **Iax Site (AkGs-19)**

In 1997, the Town of Ajax requested an easement through TRCA land south of Bayly Road and west of Westney Road along the Duffins Creek in order to construct a sanitary sewer. Before construction, the Archaeological Unit located several archaeological sites including the Iax site on the land.

The site is interpreted as a single-component spring/summer transient camp. Although the site has not been completely excavated, the artifact distribution suggests a brief occupation by a single family, perhaps living in a temporary structure or tent. The site's strategic location would allow its inhabitants to gather and exploit seasonally available resources. If the faunal material found at the site is reflective of the game processed at the site, an argument can be made that mammals, which could not be identified from the finds, may have been the preferred source of fauna-based protein.



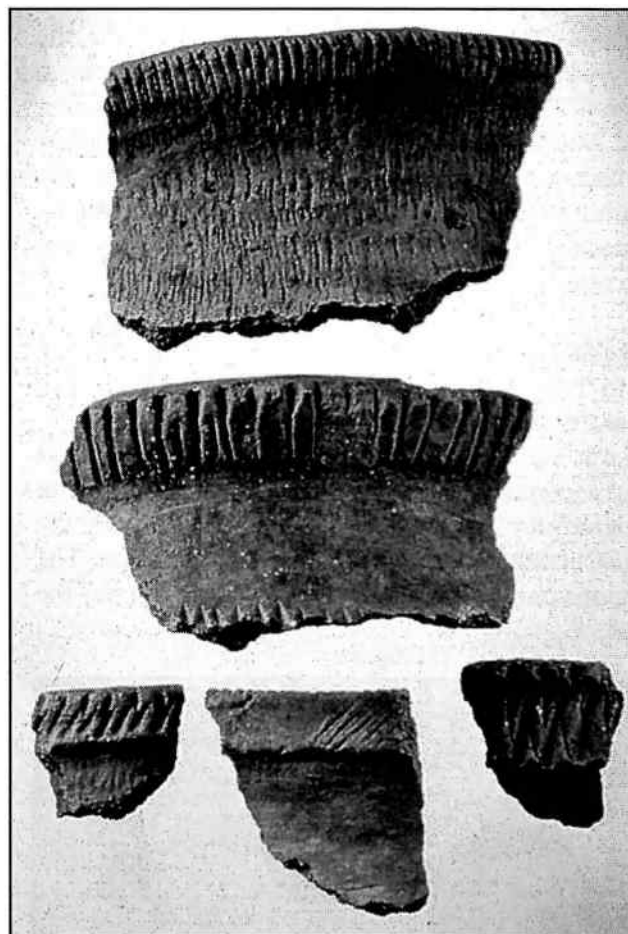
The Iax toolkit includes 2623 artifacts and is well-represented by bifacial and unifacial tools. This suggests that the complete sequence of game processing (skinning, quartering and butchering) was conducted at the site. Several diagnostic artifacts were recovered at the Iax site. In general, this projectile point assemblage appears very similar to that reported for the Kipp Island phase in New York State ca. AD 500–700.

#### Duffins Marsh sites: 2004

In a location very close to the sites excavated in 1997 at the Duffins Marsh, such as the Iax site on the north side of the marsh complex, a new proposal came to TRCA for a sewer line easement on the east (City of Pickering) side of the marsh. Since the Duffins Creek and Marsh was like a grocery store for Aboriginal peoples during the millennia prior to Contact, it was likely that several sites were likely to be found within the long, narrow easement. In fact, six campsites and a number of isolated finds were discovered and were in need of excavation, including the Reid (AkGs-30), Ted (AkGs-31), Lea (AkGs-32), Ray (AkGs-33), Aldo (AkGs-34) and the Missio (AkGs-36) sites (named in honour of current and past principals of the Boyd field school).

Preliminary artifact and settlement pattern analyses from these six sites show this general area was inhabited repeatedly by groups from at least as early as the Late Archaic period, until at least the Iroquoian period. Each of these small sites seems to be composed of multiple occupations of a very short-term nature, as shown by distinct clusterings of hearths and pit features at each. The Reid site had clusters with Late Archaic to Middle Woodland projectile points and Late Woodland ceramics. Early Woodland points and/or ceramic body sherds were recovered from the Ted and Aldo sites. The ceramics from Ray were Saugeen-like in construction and design, and may be associated with the Middle Woodland phase at Reid. There were no diagnostic artifacts among the aceramic assemblages at Lea and Missio.

The Reid site contained a particularly interesting set of subsoil features. Large, semi-circular trenches containing Iroquoian ceramics were found in the southernmost cluster. The trenches very likely represent buried wall elements from a semi-subterranean structure clad with bark or hides. No hearth features were found inside. Detailed analyses are pending on this intriguing site which is only 25 m uphill from the



Rim sherds recovered from the Seed-Barker site.

Photo courtesy TRCA

current waterline of the marsh lagoon. Like the other clusters of camps known in this area, Reid is currently interpreted as a seasonal encampment where the people based their fishing, hunting and gathering activities.

#### Esox Site (AlGu-99)

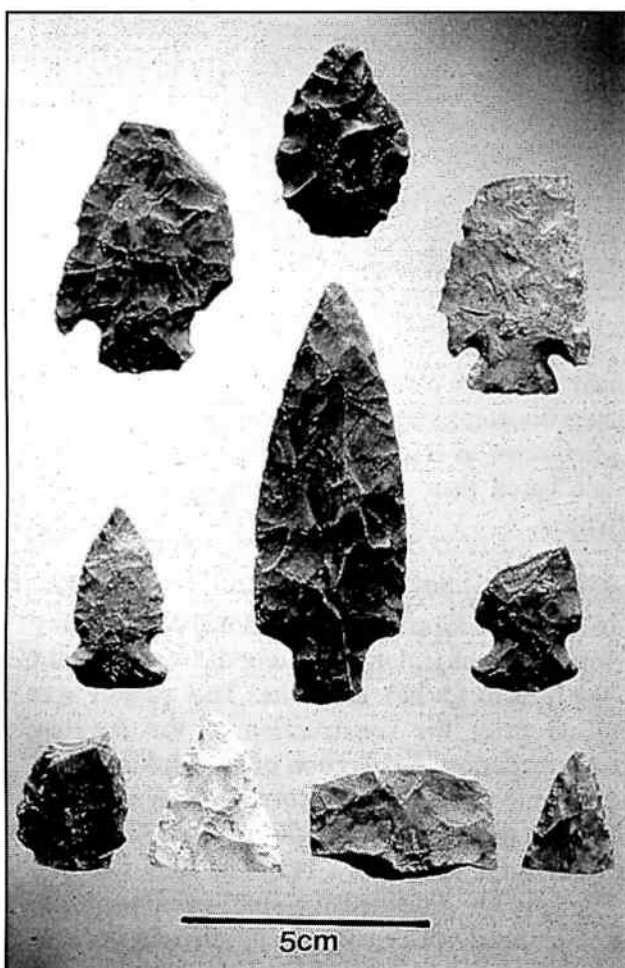
In 1998, working with the Regional Municipality of York, the Archaeology Unit dug the western third of the 7 acre (3 ha) Esox site. This project was required prior the construction of the Bayview Avenue extension. A collection of 2496 lithic, faunal and ceramic artifacts were recovered. They were distributed in three low-density clusters with sizes ranging from 7 m x 11 m, 9 m x 14 m and 10 m x 15 m.

The Esox site is defined as a multi-component site with two firmly placed, culturally discrete occupations. Diagnostic projectile points show the site was used during the Paleo-Indian, Early Archaic, Late Archaic, Middle Woodland and Middle Iroquoian

periods, 8000 BC to AD 1300. The area of the site excavated in 1998 appears to have been a large drop zone from a la minute activities by the Paleo-Indian and Middle Woodland occupiers of the site. Many artifacts were likely dropped in this zone as individuals moved from their dwellings to nearby Lake Wilcox to acquire or prepare food. It is possible that the three discrete clusters represent distinct occupations.

### Lake St. George Wetland complex

In 1998, the Regional Municipality of York proposed the creation of a wetland on land within the Lake St. George Forest and Wildlife Area. This project was a component of an environmental mitigative program for TRCA lands potentially affected by the construction of the Bayview Avenue Extension. The Region contracted the Archaeology Unit to survey the land.



Archaic points recovered from the Esox site.

Photo courtesy TRCA

During the field investigation, 51 separate artifacts were located during field walking. Of these, 47 were restricted to four separate archaeological sites.

The Region agreed that the four sites were worthy of preservation and modified the wetland construction program to ensure their protection. None were excavated, but they were all registered with the Ministry of Culture and remain intact.

### Stong House

During October 1997, the Archaeological Unit was at Black Creek Pioneer Village, a 56 acre (22 ha) replica of a 19th century crossroads settlement. A strip of land adjacent to the Stong family's second house was to be disturbed by a proposed facility improvement project. This house was built in the 19th century by Daniel Stong, a Pennsylvania German settler and has been designated a historic structure.

The Unit dug 24 excavation units and recovered 3147 artifacts ranging in age from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries. The artifacts represent a wide range of items that might typically be associated with residential occupations of the later Euro-Canadian historic period, including ceramic plate fragments, metal eating utensils, bone handles from tooth brushes, buttons, and other glass and metal objects.

The investigation revealed a previously unknown semi-subterranean cistern located adjacent to the Stong house. Limited excavation of the cistern recovered a small sample of diverse artifacts which show the material found in the cistern may have come from a previously existing dump elsewhere on the Stong property. While the inherent archaeological value of these artifacts is limited, their interpretive value is not as they do provide a very nice glimpse of the types of items found and used in households during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

After the archaeological investigation, the Village agreed to alter the proposed construction project to avoid any further disturbance to the archaeological site surrounding the historic building.

### Hall Site (ALGw-68)

The Regional Municipalities of York (King Township) and Peel (Town of Caledon) constructed a new townline road along an unopened road allowance that bypasses the town of Bolton on its eastern edge in 2003–2004. The TRCA agreed to

transfer a small portion of land in order to assist with this project on the condition that a known historic cabin site within the zone of disturbance would be excavated before construction.

These excavations confirmed the presence of four discrete cultural areas, including the cabin interior, Feature 1, Feature 2 and a stone-lined well. The footprint of the cabin, delineated by unmortared and uncut foundation stones found in situ, covered an area that would approximate the size of an early settler's cabin (i.e., 16'x20', 18'x20' or even as large as 20'x20'). There was no evidence of a full basement although a depression in the soil filled with organic matter, Feature 1, may well have acted as a fairly shallow root cellar for food storage. A relatively dense concentration of artifacts to the rear of the cabin, Feature 2, appears to represent an external collection of domestic refuse. The general scarcity of construction materials found in and around the cabin was expected, given that the cabin was dismantled at some point during its derelict phase, circa 1921–1940, and the materials removed to be burnt, deposited or re-used elsewhere (Ian Dalton, pers. comm. 2003). Those construction materials that have remained on site seem to represent much of the field-stone foundations, some of the wooden beams and floorboards, possible chimney bricks, and small fragments of mortar and plaster. A large volume of plaster fragments scattered throughout the site indicate that this structure contained plaster-coated interior walls. Some of the fragments retained traces of a monochromatic blue paint, reflecting the mid-19th century taste for paint over plaster.

Nearly 30,000 artifacts were recovered from the Hall site, representing the entire period of occupation at this cabin from the mid-19th century onward, including earthenware, stoneware, porcelain and other ceramics, wine and patent medicine bottles, clay pipes, cutlery and other domestic and farm-related metal objects, buttons, and some faunal remains. The occupation of the cabin is estimated from the 1850s to the 1910s, given the archival records and the artifactual analysis. According to the 1860 Tremaine map of York County, James B. Hall owned the lot and the sole structure stood near its western margin to the south of the Humber River in the location now known as the Hall site. Mr. Ian Dalton, whose father obtained the lot in the late 1910s, has provided a copy of a photograph that was

taken by his father circa 1925 showing the derelict cabin standing. Mr. Dalton (pers. comm. 2003) has also provided information that, by the time he was a young boy and remembers the area in the mid-to-late 1930s, only the cabin foundations remained at the site. The seasonal occupancy of the cabin is so far undetermined; it may have served as a long-term seasonal non-winter residence.

Other items recovered on-site during the excavations—such as Bank of Upper Canada tokens, tea spoons, ivory or bone handled knives and forks, English manufactured china and earthenware, glass oil-lamps, an ornate straight razor, ink pots, glass buttons, domino game pieces and ball clay pipe fragments—indicate that this home was occupied by a middle class family or families of comfortable means. Most of the items recovered from the excavation fall within the 1840–1910 period, although several of them may be more closely dated to the middle period of occupancy for this home. These include, for example, the 1857 bank token; pottery fragments with the plumes of the Prince of Wales and a button decorated with a Windsor castle motif probably date to the time of the visit of Prince Edward (then the Prince of Wales) to Canada West in 1860; fragments of preserving or canning jars bearing patent dates from the late 1860s; and lamps which appear to have been adapted to the use of kerosene or burning fluid, rather than sperm oil, which became popular after the mid-century.

In addition to the historic structures and artifacts, several chert flakes and two formal chert tools were recovered during the excavations. One of the larger flakes was worked or utilized. While the presence of a biface and a projectile point might suggest curation activities by the Historic period occupants of the cabin, the presence and characteristics of the chert flakes strongly suggests that late-stage tool manufacture occurred at this location. Although the timing of this activity may not be able to be confirmed, it is very likely that, given the close proximity to the Humber River, this location was visited by at least one pre-Contact Aboriginal group or individual. No Aboriginal subsoil features, however, were encountered. It is probable that, if any hearth or storage pit features did exist at one time, they would have been disturbed by the Historic period activities that nearly completely altered the subsoil characteristics in this location.



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Contributor deadlines:

January 15  
March 15  
May 15  
July 15  
September 15  
November 15

Send articles to: [archnotes@sympatico.ca](mailto:archnotes@sympatico.ca)

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