

Strata

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Bill Fox, Tom Mohr, Jamie Hunter Chasing Chert in Huronia

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Huronian Chert Chase *by Tom Mohr*

Early November was marked by another Chert Chase conducted by POAS Chapter V.P. Bill Fox, with Tom Mohr accompanying him. This time out though, the hunters included ...well...Jamie Hunter - Huronia Chapter Vice President, Director of the Huronia Museum, and our guide for the day. The quarry? Actually, there were five of them, all located in the classic Huronia area between Waubaushene and Penetanguishene.

In a previous outing to Balsam Lake's Grand Island, our sought-after toolstone was located in seams of Ordovician limestone (see Strata Six for details). Our marching orders on this chilly November morning presented a different strategy. Stated Bill, "We will be wandering the exposed faces of these quarries looking for chert pebbles in an effort to obtain reference collection hand specimens of "Huronian chert" from the lower member of the Gull River Formation, and to develop a general understanding of the geographic distribution and density of these secondary deposits."

So, we began examining what our pal Lisa Sonnenburg would likely call 'glacial puke'. Did I mention that hunting season had recently opened and that every site we visited was enhanced by the sound of gunfire? At the first occurrence, Bill strode to the edge of a cliff, where far below a couple of hunters were sighting-in their weapons. "Hey, we're up here!" he shouted while waving to gain their attention. That he received yet another volley in response, we found moderately disconcerting. "They have high-powered rifles" Bill comforted us. "The bullets are hypersonic so if you hear it, it's not the one that hits you."

As the accompanying picture of Jamie confirms, the typical scale of these quarrying operations is massive! The majority of the limestone cobbles occur as well-delineated strata in a sand matrix, located close to the surface. However, this could prove to be many tens of metres up a straight slope, leaving us generally restricted to inspecting that which erosion and gravity had placed at our feet. So it was, at our first stop near Waubaushene, and there, amidst a great deal of 'almost-chert', Tom discovered a walnut-sized nodule of the 'good stuff' eroded out of a banded limestone rock. Though, by Bill's reckoning, we likely examined some 100,000 rocks in total, it was this initial discovery that proved to provide the best sample.

A brisk day of walking and clambering about, poking at cobbles, and a certain amount of bashing rocks Fred Flintstone-style, produced little chert. We weren't skunked though. Still, the apparent paucity of native toolstone did speak to the degree of availability of this important resource to the First Nations who depended upon it. It also helps to explain why chert served as a significant trade item, as shown by the presence of exotics on many sites, and indicative of ancient trading patterns. Negative evidence is still evidence.

We eagerly await more such adventures come spring, though with vain hope that mosquitoes and blackflies can be as easily waved off as moose hunters.



Peterborough Chapter Annual Report 2012 by Tom Mohr

This, our second season, saw a change in the Board as founding President Mike Stringer handed over the reins in order to concentrate his efforts upon a teaching degree. At our December 2011 AGM (and member Pot luck dinner), Director Tom Mohr was elected Chapter President, with Bill Fox taking on the responsibilities of V.P. Dirk Verhulst retained his role as Secretary, and Harry Johnson as Treasurer. Julie Kapyrka serves as a Director, as does Mike Stringer...though from his current teaching post in Mexico. In the time since last year's conference in Ottawa, most of the Chapter's efforts continued in establishing ourselves as a presence in our particular 'watershed'. Our most effective avenue remains the monthly speakers series, which is open to the public and free of charge. Peterborough's St. Paul's Presbyterian Church has become our home for these events, thanks to the kind assistance of Sheryl Smith.

We were able to host a great range of fascinating speakers this past year:

- Mr. Rudy Fecteau, *"An Illustrated Archaeobotany of Ontario"*;
- Tom Mohr & Sheryl Smith, *"The Search for Gandatsetiagon: Chasing Gandy"*;
- Neal Ferris, *"A Late Woodland Archaeological Borderland"*;
- Amy Barron *"Adventures of a Female Archaeologist in the Middle East"*;
- Mike Stringer *"Think Like an Archaeologist"*;
- Paul Healy *"Mayan Archaeology and the 2012 Apocalypse"*;
- Catherine Mathias *"Archaeological Conservation and 17th Century Costume Artifacts from Ferryland, Newfoundland"* and
- Brian Ross *"Parks Canada's National Parks and Native Sites Programme: 20 Years on the Trent Severn Waterway"*

We thank all those who made the trek to Peterborough to share their knowledge with us, as well as those chapter members and the general public who attended the lectures. In addition, we'd like to express our appreciation to the City of Peterborough for financial support of this important outreach program.

Chapter Secretary Dirk Verhulst produced three issues of our excellent newsletter Strata, this season featuring the ongoing biography and archaeological ruminations of VP Bill Fox. At this point, our total membership stands at 33. Though we were unable to fix a date for a member field trip this season, we have tentative plans for two this coming Spring. We reprised our presence at the Victoria County Historical Society's heritage showcase – *Honouring the Past* – held in the Lindsay Armoury of the City of Kawartha Lakes. Advocacy letters were written to two regional school boards after word came down that a history teacher was looking for local archaeological sites to excavate (without benefit of license) for a history class outing. Environment Minister Peter Kent also received a complaint about the recent closing of Parks Canada's essential "Material Culture Research Section", in the Government's latest round of cuts. This winter's project is to fine-tune our website and develop it as a tool for the general public to educate themselves about



archaeology in general, and our Chapter's role as representatives of its ethical practice.

Finally, Bill, Dirk and Tom had the opportunity to brave poison ivy and 'soakers' in a successful hunt for the elusive Grand Island chert deposits. All that and a boat ride on a fine summer's day...we eagerly anticipate returning next season for further investigation. Thanks to all for a great second year for the Peterborough Chapter, OAS.

Early Years in Ontario Archaeology *by Bill Fox*

Foreword

Before launching into the next chapter, I should clarify that my "lost year" (1971-72) was not unproductive. The U of T Fall field school in 1971 provided valuable additional community pattern information on the DeWaele village, and a group of U of T graduate students and friends continued to respond with me to public reports of archaeological discoveries in southwestern Ontario. These volunteers included Ian Kenyon and his father, Sue Whittle, Barry Newton, Marie Lemon, Jamie Hunter, Scott Horvath, and "avocationals" like Roger Bellamy, Stewart Leslie, and Don Hurst. My early years had taught me the importance of non-professional contributors to regional archaeology, through connections with individuals such as Frank Ridley, Charlie Garrad, Clyde Kennedy, and even Charlie Wray in New York State.

Speaking of our neighbours to the south, I also spent the month of June in 1972 with Dr. Marian White, excavating on the Klinko site (pre-contact Cayuga village) near Trumansburg, NY. She had lured me to that incredibly boring site with promises of regional survey responsibilities, resulting from several unsuccessful attempts to locate a village north of Klinko. As it turned out, Marian only honored (U.S. spelling) that promise after Hurricane Agnes turned upstate New York into a national disaster area. But I got even with her by locating an earthwork defended village site north of Klinko in 45 minutes and presenting her with a soggy unlabelled bag of ceramics and lithics from a farm house garden (I had been doing my Parker and Beauchamp "homework" during the long, lonely evenings!).

I should also credit Charles Garrad with introducing me to the Borden archaeological site documentation system, which resulted in the registration and assignment of Borden numbers for over 150 University of Toronto, McMaster University, and avocational sites by the end of 1972, following a 15 month exchange of letters with Margaret Stott (Archivist of the Archaeology Division, National Museum of Man). After considerable effort, we were able to rectify a number of conflicting registrations between museum and U of T records from the 1960's. In those days, the National Museum of Man (present Canadian Museum of History) was responsible for managing the Borden system across Canada.



Thrust into Reality: Bill gets a job

The first response to my queries concerning potential employment consisted of a copy of Don MacLeod's August 9, 1972 archaeological progress report to Ministry of Natural Resources Historic Research Coordinator, Robert Bowes, signed with the quip "To my old buddy Foxy with warmest regards and hopes for a big future in the pizza business – the author"! However, these were boom times in the Parks Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources, as 28 (mostly student) archaeologists had been hired to work that summer out of ten District offices scattered across the entire Province, and I received an offer of a three month position in September, based out of Thunder Bay. All I had to do was complete an archaeological survey of 24,400 hectares of rugged boreal forest (in the middle of the moose rutting season, as it turned out), known as Sibley Provincial Park (now Sleeping Giant Provincial Park). Needless to say, I was only partially successful, even given a statistically valid random survey unit strategy and the assistance of several volunteers – Dave Simmonds and Liz Kowalczewski! Looking back on my monthly progress reports, I have to laugh at the naivety of a student employee using a Peanuts cartoon as a cover motif! My bureaucratic innocence also extended to sitting on the corner of a lonely elder employee's desk in the MNR regional office and regaling him with stories of my field experiences. It was only some time later that I learned that this individual was the Regional Director! He must have been at least mildly amused, as I was offered a three-month extension and then several six month contracts. It was also during this period of bureaucratic exploration that I noticed that the Geology Division had a "Regional Geologist". This seemed reasonable to me and so, I began to sign myself "Regional Archaeologist" – it seemed to stick, as I was offered a 12-month contract and a variety of new responsibilities!

These were dynamic times, as the Historical Sites Branch of the Division of Parks launched into a frenetic Province-wide program of heritage studies, involving historical research, archaeological surveys and, ultimately, built heritage recording. Field surveys inventorying the archaeological resources of individual provincial parks provided information not only for enlightened development planning, but also for interpretive programming at these sites. There was a concerted effort at public outreach. It was at this time that a multi-year Provincial systems plan exercise was launched, culminating in the publication of *A Topical Organization of Ontario History* in 1975. By 1974, the branch had made the case for a regional program of archaeology. Ultimately, there would be eight regional offices in Ministry of Natural Resources facilities across Ontario. Phil Wright was based first in London for southwestern Ontario, and then in Ottawa for eastern Ontario, Roberta O'Brien worked out of Toronto in the south central region, Bill Ross worked in Dorset, Thor Conway in the Sault, John Pollock in Cochrane, and Paddy Reid and Grace Rajnovich in Kenora. The latter regional office was not immediately sanctioned by our Branch Director in Toronto; but after two years, I had tired of commuting between Thunder Bay and Kenora for meetings and was aware of the resource management demands

entailed in a region stretching from Wawa in the east to the Manitoba border! I was able to hire Paddy and Grace on a three-month contract in September of 1974 to survey Sandbar Provincial Park near Ignace, with the advice that they establish a working relationship with the Parks Director of the Northwestern Region in Kenora, and the rest, as they say, “is history”. Paddy and Grace established one of the stellar programs in Shield archaeology, setting standards for excavation techniques and furthering rock art research internationally. All this activity did not go unnoticed by the academic community. In fact it was only months after my arrival in Thunder Bay that I was invited to a party hosted by Ken Dawson of Lakehead University. After several drinks, I was confronted and asked what I thought I was doing, arriving in the north “like a tornado”! After all, northwestern Ontario had been the comfortable domain of only three players – Ken, Jim, and Walter. The growing friction with the “establishment” even led to attempted lawsuits, and is reflected in Don MacLeod’s attempt to reach out to the university and museum community in his 1975 Canadian Archaeological Association paper.

Personally, it was a wonderful time, working out of Thunder Bay with “20 something” energetic professionals like Jim Mountain (historian) and George Tracy (geomorphologist) in a beautiful Canadian Shield environment. The latter associate shared an amusing assignment with me, when we were sent to Pointe de Meuron in suburban Thunder Bay to investigate the proposed site of a multi-million dollar reconstruction of “Old Fort William”. Surveying the proposed location, George and I picked flood debris from branches over a meter above ground level, and noted that Lord Selkirk had wisely established the 1816 Swiss mercenary encampment on the higher terrace of the point. Our report to the project manager was ignored and the first (and most destructive) flooding of Fort William Historical Park occurred a few years later in 1977. Jim Mountain was researching topics relating to First Nations history along the Rainy River (post-WW 1 “consolidation” of reserve lands) and at Grassy Narrows (witness to Minamata disease); as well as, the Neys German officer prisoner of war camp (or the “summer camp” for Rommel’s officers!) – producing reports which were not particularly well received by certain Provincial or Federal government departments.

During the early ‘70’s, I was able to hire staff like Peter Engelbert, Barry Newton and Brian Wolf to survey the Boundary Waters and Kaministikwia fur trade routes by canoe, supported by the MNR “air force”. Then students David Arthurs, Mike Yarborough, Ron McFee and Albert Hunter were hired for the Manitou Mounds survey, further west along the Rainy River. We all owed much to the Provincial pilots and crews who worked at the Thunder Bay Seaplane Base, providing safe access to many remote sites for our survey and excavation crews. Numerous provincial parks were surveyed; in addition to proposed cottage lot subdivision sites, pits and quarries, etc. Time was also available to pursue research, resulting in the definition of the Paleoindian Lakehead Complex. I was even able to convince my Thunder Bay manager to purchase and protect portions of the Cummins Paleoindian quarry site in the City of Thunder Bay, and obtain the support of the Kenora office to purchase a



substantial private property containing numerous Laurel and Blackduck burial mounds to the west of the famous Long Sault mound on the Rainy River.

The latter project introduced me to the political realities of working with First Nations. Deciding that we should hire a student crew from the Manitou Rapids Reserve for the newly acquired Provincial property survey in 1973, I approached the Band Council and was duly provided with an opportunity to interview prospective crewmembers on the reserve (figure 1). It was not until the end of this first Manitou Mounds field season that I was informed by a savvy Willie Wilson that I had hired the sons and daughters of the recently deposed Band Council.



Figure 1 Manitou Mounds Survey

Luckily, the “powers that be” had a sense of humour! These Provincial lands, plus the Federal “Mound Reserve” to the east, were eventually developed by Parks Canada as the Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, operated by the Band. Several memorable examples of “Native humour” occurred during the Albany River survey in 1974, courtesy of First Nations summer students who canoed down the river with Barry Newton, Peter Engelbert and Jim Mountain. While awaiting their flight out from Marten Falls Reserve, the group was confronted by Band Council members in black leather jackets and mirror shades. The band were in the middle of a government protest, and as they roared towards the dock in their motorized canoes, Barry turned to the crew and exclaimed “What are we going to do?!” - to which one student replied “What you mean ‘we’ white man?!”

Going out on archaeological surveys with a rifle and/or fishing rod – how could life get any better? It was not unusual to return home from a Fall field trip with a grouse or two and a fresh-caught walleye. And working with avocational archaeologists such as Hugh Cummins, Shan Walshe (famed Quetico naturalist and moose hunting partner), Mike McLeod, Hugh Bailey and Keith Dalgetty, only made it better. I was even given the opportunity to join a “voyageur crew” paddling a Montreal canoe for the Queen’s visit to Old Fort William in 1973 (I still retain the hand-carved paddle and certificate signed by Premier Davis)! Much survey was accomplished solo – by trailering a boat to a launch site or being dropped off for the day by a floatplane.



Figure 2 Ministry of Natural Resources Otter

While the peace and beauty of the landscape and thrill of discovery were soothing to the soul, there was always a little anxiety at the end of a day, as I waited, listening for the sound of an approaching aircraft! (figure 2) Other work was done with able assistants, such as the Knife Lake and Lake Esnagami surveys with Peter Engelbert. The former located massive siltstone quarries alluded to by David Thompson in his eighteenth century writings.

One of the more dramatic projects occurred at Prairie Portage, situated on the Quetico Provincial Park boundary waters. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had been tasked with repairs to the adjacent dam and required a bypass channel on Canadian soil. Given the richness of the archaeological record in the area, we undertook a survey of the proposed channel route during the Fall of 1974. Test pitting defined the perimeter of an Archaic period site (DaJu-8), which was to be

avoided during next Spring's construction. The perimeter was flagged with yellow tape during a May 15th site visit involving MNR Parks and engineering staff and representatives from Superior National Forest; however, during our subsequent salvage excavation of the adjacent Prairie Portage site later that month, Peter Engelbert was asked to review construction activities (figure 3) and returned to report that the channel and dam excavations had directly impacted the Archaic period site – bifaces were hanging out of the bypass cut!



Figure 3 Daju-8 Destruction in Quetico Provincial

Incredulous, I asked what had happened, and was informed that the U.S. engineers had felt that their revised dam site and bypass channel route was more efficient! That was enough. Yelling at the crew, I ordered the machine operator back onto the barge and back home to Minnesota, and then radioed the Thunder Bay office to inform the Regional Director (expecting an “international incident”). Mercifully, he took the information calmly and in subsequent negotiations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was directed to backfill their excavations and return to the originally designated site. Sadly, this did nothing to mitigate the resource damage; but, hopefully, it served as a lesson to the engineers! Over the following days of our excavation project, they expressed their displeasure by announcing “five minutes to blast” and wandering back to the construction site. We would then take up positions behind trees, as rock fragments ripped through the forest – one large piece actually landed in the middle of our two-meter square – so much for international relations!

Based on my fieldwork alone, over 60 new sites were registered during this four year period. But, changes were in the wind. The new Ministry of Culture and Recreation was established in 1974, and the Provincial archaeology program was transferred out of the Ministry of Natural Resources (much to their annoyance!). The Ontario Heritage Act was also announced at this time, leading to a tremendous change in the practice of archaeology in Ontario, as a result of licensing requirements under Part VI of the Act. Robert Bowes informs me that the initial staffing plan for the new Ministry was an archaeological unit consisting of a secretary and two archaeologists based in Toronto to support the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the new licensing program! Subsequent negotiations resulted in an increase to Heritage Branch staffing from 7 to 37 permanent positions, and consolidation of the regional archaeology program. Given the simmering establishment resentment over the Provincial program, I can't help but think that those academic archaeologists who had been pushing for the creation of Provincial heritage legislation since the sixties must have been less than thrilled when administration of the new act became the responsibility of the Minister of Culture and Recreation!

My transfer to the new Ministry may have had a personal benefit. While flying north from Nakina to Esnagami Lake in 1975, I was amazed to see not a tree standing from horizon to horizon! Flattened birch trees were strewn across the landscape and little lakes were ringed with brown shallows due to sedimentation from eroding shores. Returning to the Thunder Bay MNR office following the field work, I visited the Timber Division and requested to see the cutting licence. Kimberly-Clark had been licensed to cut the entire area from north of Nakina to the Albany River, with only one condition – “horizon cutting” around Esnagami Lake (so that visitors to Bud Golder's wilderness lodge could see forest while out fishing)! Incensed, I called the Globe and Mail and a reporter arrived in Thunder Bay and duly produced a news article concerning the travesty, much to the displeasure of timber managers at MNR. I was shunned for a time and have always wondered if the transfer saved my job!

Funding reductions in 1976 required that the Heritage Branch close two offices – Cochrane and Dorset; so Don MacLeod convened a meeting of regional archaeologists to develop a strategy. Phil Wright wished to move to Ottawa, so John Pollock was offered London. John was not interested in southwestern Ontario (being a Northern boy from Swastika); so, rather than lose John to the program, I agreed (with regrets) to move to London, opening the Thunder Bay position for him. It was not until plans were finalized for my move that John announced that he had accepted a position with the Province of Alberta! Bill Ross then moved from Dorset to Thunder Bay, to run the North Central region program from 1976 to 2002.

Epilogue

Once more, I must emphasize that these are simply selected reminiscences concerning events unfolding around me. As you can sense, much has been omitted and a truly province-wide review of activities during this seminal period of



the Provincial archaeological program would be a very large undertaking, indeed! Unfortunately, several of the main players have already passed – C.S. “Paddy” Reid in 2006 and Phillip Wright in 2010. A sense of the diverse activities and research, which characterized this early period, can be gleaned from a review of the MNR Historical Sites Branch and subsequent MCR Historical Planning and Research Branch Archaeological Research Report Series and the more limited distribution Data Box Research Manuscript Series. Despite an occasionally rocky relationship, I must acknowledge that none of this would have been possible without the initial impetus of Don MacLeod, Senior Archaeologist and Supervisor of Research, and Robert Bowes, Historical Sites Branch Director in Toronto. Thanks also to MNR managers Al Baxter, Ron Balkwill, Don Fawcett, and Gene Murphy for their support of our archaeological endeavours. Finally, my thanks to Robert Bowes, Peter Engelbert and Jim Mountain for “proofing” my narrative – as always, all errors are the sole responsibility off the writer!

Countdown to the Mayan ‘Apocalypse’

By Dirk Verhulst

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, an overflow crowd gathered at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church to the response of Dr. Paul Healy, from Trent University’s Department of Anthropology, to one of the pressing questions of our day:

Will the world come to an end on Dec.21, 2012?

His answer: don’t quit your day job just yet!

During the last few months, as the date allegedly identified in ancient Mayan texts as the apocalypse draws closer and closer, some people have apparently done just that. Others have been busy building emergency shelters and stocking their shelves with canned goods.

What prompted such a worldwide fascination with the prognostications of the ancient Mayan calendar?

To address this issue, the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS, invited Dr. Healy to speak to us. The meeting was advertised in the local media. It took place 88 days before the big event; and, judging from the attendance, reflected widespread interest in the community.

Dr. Healy is a recognized authority on Mayan archaeology with over 35 years of experience in the field and the university classroom. During his long career as an archaeologist he has researched and conducted excavations throughout Central America, especially in Belize.

It was only about a year and half ago, however, that he started getting questions about these alleged Mayan predictions. Since then he has been asked for his thoughts on the issue and has given numerous interviews about the topic.

Intrigued about the sources of these inquiries he decided to investigate. To his amazement he learned that there are over 1500 books in print on this subject.

“Much to my wife’s disappointment,” he noted, “none have been written by me.”

Although he described the phenomenon as “telling us much more about contemporary western beliefs rather than those of the ancient Mayan”, he told members of the audience that it has become a social phenomenon that academics can’t ignore.

Following his own advice, Dr. Healy has traced the current “pseudo archaeology” back to several serious researchers beginning with Ernst Forseman who, in the 1890’s deciphered the Mayan calendar.

Forseman calculated Aug.11, 3114 BCE as the starting point for the Mayan calendar. He also identified a reference to Dec. 21, 2012 on one of the Mayan stellae and speculated that this date could refer to a possible ‘end of the world’ prediction.

In 1912, Sylvanus Morely, repeated Forseman’s comments and claimed that the last page of the Dresdan Codex included an “end of the world prophecy.”

Dr. Michael Coe in his best selling book on the ancient Maya published in 1966 speculated that the date likely marked the end of the 13th Baktun (a period of 400 hundred years on the Mayan calendar.

In 1968, the year Mexico hosted the Olympics, Coe repeated his ‘speculations’ in a joking manner before a huge audience, identifying Dec.24 2011 as the date for the big event.

Since these early speculations by reputable scholars and other popular commentators have taken up the cause, including Eric Von Daniken, who cited Coe as one of the sources for his infamously bizarre interpretation of the date as marking the return of the extra terrestrials that he claimed had settled the earth millennia ago.

“So what do we have?” Dr. Healy asked the audience after this overview.

The archaeological evidence all comes down to two carved stone monuments, he said, one in Mexico, the other in Gautemala.

Neither of them, however, specifically mentions the end of the world, he cautioned, although they do refer to Dec.21, 2012 as the end of the 13th Baktun, a significant event in Mayan cosmology.

There’s a lesson here for all archaeologists, Dr. Healy concluded: “Be careful what you say and put in print”.

He finished his talk with an example of one positive effect all this frenzied speculation about the end of the world has had on archaeology. According to Dr. Healy, it has a created a “huge new audience for the accomplishments of a remarkable civilization.” He cited the success of the spectacular Mayan exhibit currently on display in the Toronto Museum as a recent example.

But that doesn’t mean you can’t celebrate Dec.22. But remember, it only marks the beginning of the next Baktun.

Happy 14th Baktun everyone.



Archaeological Discoveries in Ferryland, Newfoundland

By Dirk Verhulst

In her presentation to the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS on October 23, Dr. Catherine Mathias spoke about the archaeological conservation work she has been doing during the last 23 years. In particular, she discussed her findings at Ferryland, Newfoundland.

Her listeners were particularly fascinated to learn about all the things that could be found in a 17th century privy including: fragments of wheelbarrows, glass, tools, ceramics, a wax seal and, of particular interest to her, remnants of 17th century costumes.

“Toxic fecal material,” she noted, “inhibits microbial attack and keeps the fibres in tact

The site of Ferryland includes material culture from the early 1600’s to the present day; during that time it was, at various times, occupied by English, French and Dutch settlers.

“In terms of evidence of colonization,” she concluded, “Ferryland is a significant site.”



I'd like to thank the following organizations for their generosity in donating to the O.A.S. Silent Auction. Please keep them in mind as contributors to the Chapter when planning an excursion or purchasing local product and services. Tom Mohr



**Mississaugas of Curve Lake First Nations Cultural Centre ~
Whetung Ojibwa Centre (Curve Lake) ~
Kawartha Country Wines (Buckhorn) ~
Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee ~ Pat's Preserves (Little Britain) ~ Pickering Township Historical Society ~ Youngtown Rock & Roll Museum (Omemee) ~ Burke's Honey (Omemee) ~ Olde Gaol Museum (Lindsay) ~
City of Kawartha Lakes**

Brian Ross Parks Canada Archaeological Sites

By Dirk Verhulst

On October 23, Mr. Brian Ross, recently retired archaeologist with Parks Canada, treated the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS to a fascinating tour of some of the major archaeological sites along the Trent-Severn System.

He began with Haley Falls at Lock 17 just north of Campbellford, the oldest Parks Canada site in Ontario and the one with longest continual occupation. Because so many of the artifacts were at risk from flooding, erosion and looting, Mr. Ross explained, a whole section of the site was excavated between 1996-2004.

“Over 10,000 flakes from all stages of axe production were found there,” he said. “Although the context is horrible,” he added, “it was the longest and perhaps the only axe production site in the area.”

Next was the McFarlane Site at Lock 7 near Glen Ross, probably a portage site. Because cottages are now situated on land leased from Parks Canada, it has never been fully mapped. Evidence, however, Mr. Ross explained, has been found of Archaic Period tools and Initial Woodland pottery.

Between locks 8 and 9 is the Percy Boom site, which was discovered by archaeologists from Trent University in 1968 told his audience. It includes, according to Mr. Ross, what may be “one of the last intact burial mounds in Southern Ontario.”

Finally Mr. Ross spoke about the Polly Crow site, named after a native girl who may be buried there. It is located on an island just south of Lock 27 at Young’s Point. References to this burial can be found in the writings of Samuel Strickland and Catherine Parr Trail, who took ownership of the site “to protect the remains” of the young woman.

All of these sites, Mr. Ross reminded his audience, are at increased risk because of recent cutbacks. Although assurances have been made that the sites will continue to be monitored, they are clearly at risk.

“Will any of the proposed mitigation happen? I don’t know,” Mr. Ross concluded.



Coming Events

**Dec. 7 6:00 p.m. Annual General Mtg.
And Pot Luck dinner**

**Jan. 22 Amy Barron “Agatha Christie,
Archaeology, and Alzheimer’s**

Other plans (details TBA)

**Grant Karcich “Archaeology and History
Of Scucog Carrying Place**

**Eric Hanson “Peterborough’s
Archaeological Plan”**

Spring Field Trips