



# Association of Professional Archaeologists

Working to Promote Professionalism in Ontario Archaeology

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### APA Occasional Paper Series

Dr. Scott Hamilton, Editor for the APA Occasional Papers in Archaeology Series, invites contributions from APA members and is seeking contributions for upcoming APA Occasional Papers. Guidelines for contributors will be coming out soon.

The APA encourages its members to share your work with colleagues in news snippets (Twitter or Facebook), in small articles (Newsletter), or in full versions (Occasional Paper Series). Contact us at [members@apaontario.ca](mailto:members@apaontario.ca) with your short pieces or directly to [shamilto@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:shamilto@lakeheadu.ca) to inquire about the format for the Occasional Papers.

Current and past issues in APA's Occasional Papers Series are available for download at <http://apaontario.ca/research>.

## President's Message

I would first like to thank all of the APA Executive for their work over the past year and for helping to revitalize the organization. We have instituted a number of fellowship and bursary programs over the past two years and are working to improve delivery of services. We will shortly be announcing a series of archaeobotanical workshops to take place this winter. This month we are beginning the shift to increased service, formalizing the position of Administrative Secretary for the first time.

Over the winter months, the APA web page will be redesigned. With a recent influx of field director and First Nation liaison members, we will also be expanding our Travel Grant program so that more individuals can have financial assistance to attend conferences in 2020. This award will also be opened up to Professional Members. Watch our newsletter and web page for announcements of award dates. 2020 will also hopefully see publication of APA Occasional Paper in Archaeology No. 4 which will be sent free to all members and the continued twice yearly publication of our Newsletter. Additional APA Workshops are planned for 2020. If APA members have particular types of workshops they would like to see please contact our Administrative Secretary, Cathy Crinnion. We wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year 2020.

- Laurie Jackson

## APA's Job Bank and *DigConnect*

The warmer temperatures are coming and many employers will be looking ahead to their hiring needs for the spring.

APA is willing to help make connections between employers and employees by circulating available positions to our members via *DigConnect*, or posting job ads and resumes in the Job Bank.

**Employers** - to advertise the positions you have available just email the details to [members@ontario.ca](mailto:members@ontario.ca); and don't forget to check out resumes that have been provided by fellow APA members who are available to work on the Job Bank tab in the Members' Only section of the website

**Employees** - to be kept in the loop about positions coming available, log on to [apaontario.ca](http://apaontario.ca) and go to 'View Profile', then select the box that asks if you want to be informed via *DigConnect*. Also, feel free to send in a .pdf of your current resume to [members@ontario.ca](mailto:members@ontario.ca) where it will be posted for other members to see on the Job Bank tab.

**Members helping members with job opportunities,  
experience, and mentorship!**

# White's Island Mink Site (BbGm-43), Rice Lake Training and Field Work 2019

Curve Lake First Nation continued its successful archaeological liaison training program on Rice Lake in 2019. Curve Lake First Nation's Consultation Department designed and implemented another successful year of this program in partnership with Northeastern Archaeological Associates (NAA). Training consisted of two components, two weeks of classroom training on a variety of archaeological and First Nation subjects and two weeks of intensive excavation at a minimally disturbed Middle Woodland period site on Rice Lake, Ontario. This program included both Indigenous and Western academic knowledge bases.

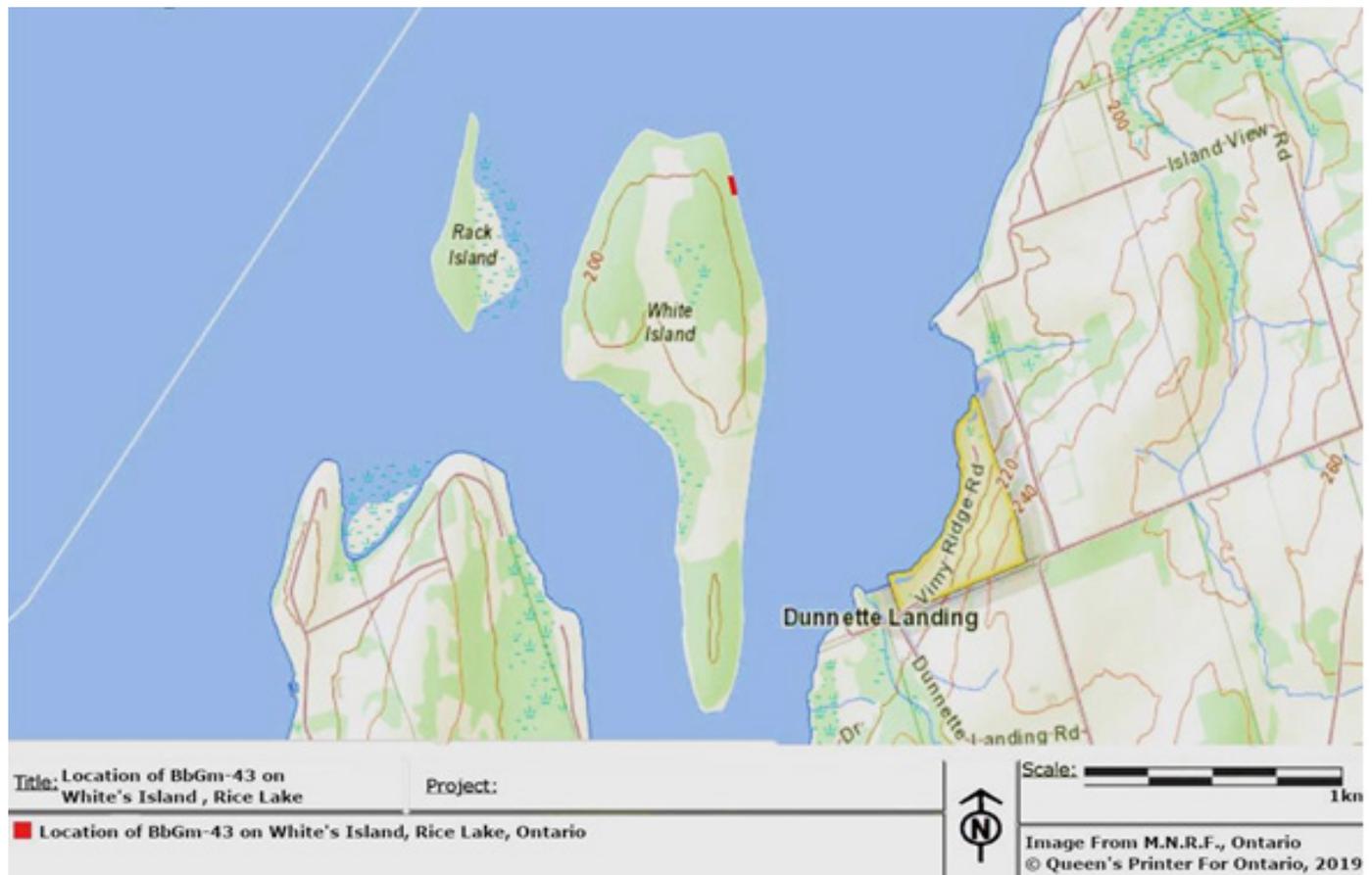


Figure 1: White's Island Mink Site, BbGm-43 Tested in 2018 and 2019.

The 2019 program consisted of one week of in-class instruction by both Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers and Trent university professors, followed by two weeks of in field training by NAA's licensed archaeologists, and finally one more week of in-class instruction. The program was initiated not only due to the need for Indigenous archaeological liaisons to participate in archaeological assessments on treaty and traditional territory but also by the need for educated, informed, and qualified liaisons to effectively and meaningfully engage with the cultural resource management sector in Ontario.



Figure 2: Curve Lake liaison trainee Curtis McCue demonstrates persistence excavating oak roots without harming the tree. Rice Lake in background.

The objectives of the Heritage and Archaeological Liaison Training Program were: 1) To offer archaeological training in both theory and practice to members of Curve Lake First Nation; 2) To offer spiritual and cultural teachings and guidance regarding protocols governing the relationship to material heritage (artifacts), sacred sites and burials; 3) To offer technical archaeological field training through in-field on site excavations; 4) To reconnect Indigenous youth and adults to their cultural heritage; 5) To create a self-sustainable managed team of First Nations archaeological monitors/liaisons to engage with

the archaeological community; 6) To facilitate the transference of First Nations artifact collections to First Nations communities; 7) To support the development of cultural heritage repositories in First Nations communities; and 8) To foster positive relationship building between archaeologists and First Nations communities.

The main goals of the Heritage and Archaeological Liaison Training Program 2019 are to create a professionally managed team of Curve Lake First Nation archaeological monitors/liaisons to engage with the archaeological industry in Ontario and to support and facilitate the return and repatriation of Indigenous heritage and culture to First Nations communities.

N o r t h e a s t e r n Archaeological Associates was able to provide an exciting opportunity for the students in the program through offering the in-field training on a Middle Woodland site on a beautiful island on Rice Lake. The students were motivated and inspired while on site as they actively participated in a test excavation. Through the hand excavation of multiple units, the students were able to identify numerous pieces of ceramics, lithics and faunal remains.



Figure 3: Curve Lake liaison trainee Lois Taylor completing unit with typical array of White's Island boulder fill.

## Test Excavations and Liaison Training in 2018 and 2019

2019 field work continued with one meter test units and small block excavations across a 70 by 20 meter area along the northeast shore of White's Island. Site BbGm-43, now known as the Mink site (Zhaangweshi in Ojibway) was discovered during test pit survey in 2008 by staff of Northeastern Archaeological Associates. Five Williams Treaties First Nations students completed the field work component required for graduation in 2019. Excavations consisted of trowel excavation and hand screening of one meter test units in the rocky island deposits averaging 30 to 35 cm in depth.

The Mink site produced large samples of Middle Woodland ceramics in six discrete activity nodes, as well as abundant animal bone (principally white-tailed deer) in a midden context. An additional 26 square meters was excavated in 2019 bringing the site excavation total to 46 square meters. The total Middle Woodland rim sample for the site, including both 2018 and 2019 test excavations, rose to 95, which is a high rim count for any test excavation. Lab assistants Dan Smith and Josh Garrett successfully reconstructed a number of partial vessels. Pseudo-scallop-shell and dentate stamp decorative attributes dominate the site and one pseudo-scallop shell vessel in Feature 3 is associated with a wood charcoal AMS radiocarbon date with a mean of about cal. 5 B.C.  $\pm$  87 years at two sigma. This vessel is indistinguishable from Laurel Tradition ceramics elsewhere in Ontario. A preponderance of pseudo-scallop shell ceramics at the site and an early B.C. date suggests strong Laurel influences early in the Rice Lake Middle Woodland (Wright 1967).



Figure 4: Rim sections of Vessel 1 (N30E1, Feature 3) with left oblique pseudo-scallop-shell decorated rim and horizontal pseudo-scallop shell below rim. Cal. 5 B.C.  $\pm$  87 at two sigma.

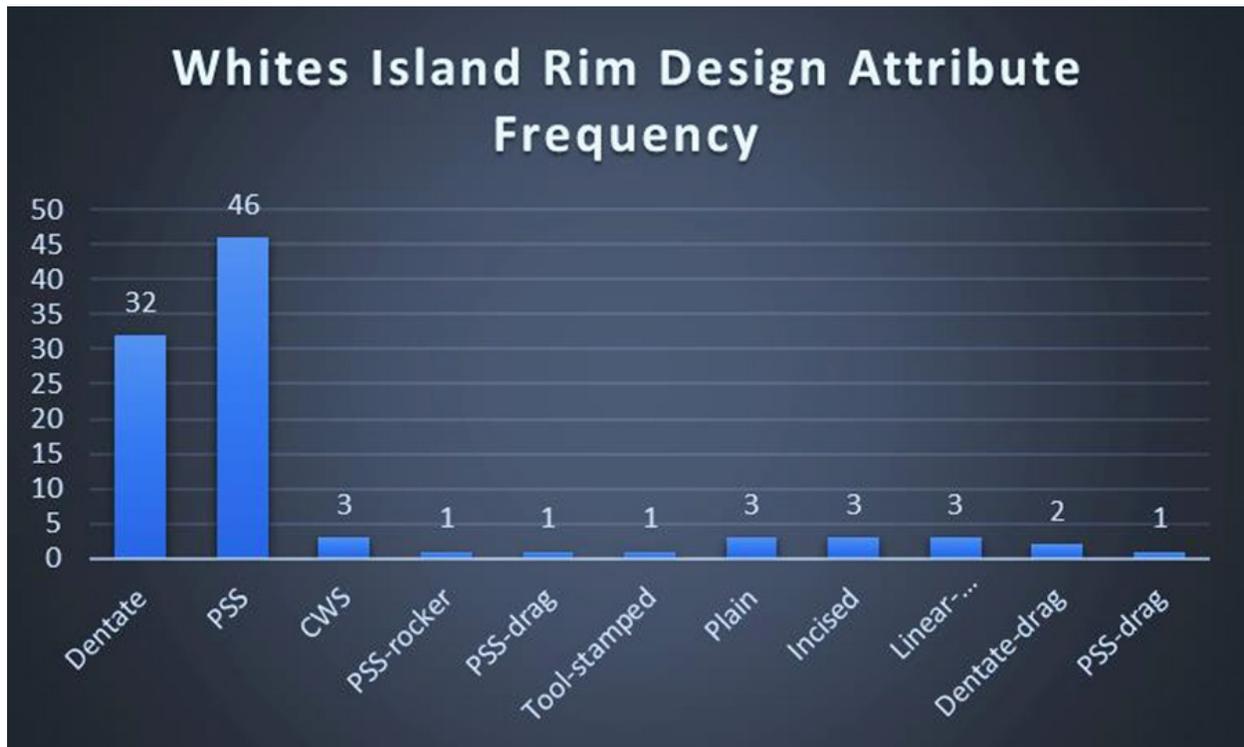


Figure 5: Rim Design Frequencies for 2018 and 2019 Middle Woodland Ceramics, Mink Site (BbGm-43).

Figure 5 shows dominant decorative attributes from the 2018 and 2019 field seasons with pseudo-scallop shell decoration dominant. To date, there have been 1,400 analyzable Middle Woodland sherds recovered, including 96 rims, representing at least two dozen vessels (Jackson, Smith and Garrett 2018).



Figure 6: Curve Lake liaison trainees Coleman Williams and Timothy Jacobs disputing a rock/artifact.



Figure 7: Curve Lake Supervisor Kaitlin Hill trowel excavating in north of site.

It was an honour and a privilege to spend time with the students in the program this year, learning, laughing, and creating relationships – while celebrating the beautiful history and longevity of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg on these lands. From the Elders, the guest speakers, the knowledge keepers, the archaeologists, to the beautiful island that provided a 2000 year old Middle Woodland site on which to learn, the 2019 training program was a wonderful success.

This year was really special. Not only was the program successful in that several new cultural heritage liaisons were trained but there were other small victories and special moments that were happening at the same time on a whole other level. There seemed to be a reoccurring theme during this year's training – and it was about community and family. Uncles reconnected with nephews sisters reconnected with brothers, grandmother with grandchildren, and community members got to know one another and became closer as a result. What also made the field experience unique and special was that the site itself, a 2000 year-old Middle Woodland site, on an island in Rice Lake that has a vast and antiquated history, most likely was created by the ancestors of Anishinaabeg people – this made the experience deeply profound for some participants.

The program covered 10,000 years of history – from the Paleo to the Historic. The participants learned about the 4 Stages of archaeological fieldwork; they learned about provincial policy, archaeological licensing and about the cultural resource management Industry. They learned about lithics and reduction technologies; they learned about plant residues on ceramics and learned the differences between animal bone and human bone. They learned about cultural protocols and spiritual connections. They learned about the oral tradition and how Nishnaabeg lived on the land and what to look for on the landscape to help with that interpretation. They learned how to do scientific data generating fieldwork using measurements, towels, shovels, and screens. Ultimately they learned how to take all that information and put it together to understand what people were doing in the past.



Figure 8: Curve Lake Liaison Elijah Crawford drawing wood in unit N45E5.



Figure 9: Completing the final test unit, 2019. Tim Jacobs and Lois Taylor smile.

As Michi Saagiig Elder Dorothy Taylor reminded the participants shortly before completion of the program: “Be confident in who you are. You are Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg and this is your land, and those sites and those artifacts and those burials are your ancestors.”

She also reminded the participants of how important this work is. And that what they are doing is really needed.

### Future Work in WTFN Traditional Territory

Curve Lake First Nation and Northeastern Archaeological Associates plan a third season in 2020 at the White's Island Mink site. What makes this program unique is that equal respect is given during the instructional component to Indigenous Knowledge as to academic western knowledge for

the delivery of the program. Cultural and spiritual protocols were applied to the in-class sessions as well as the fieldwork component.

The 2019 Heritage and Archaeological liaison Training program saw five citizens of Curve Lake First Nation graduate and move on to become active Cultural Heritage Liaisons and APA First Nation Liaison members. All five have signed contracts with Curve Lake First Nation and four were actively engaged and attended numerous sites on Williams Treaties territories within two weeks of completing the program. The fifth Cultural Heritage Liaison is currently pursuing an archaeology degree and will join Curve Lake First Nation as a Liaison in April 2020. We hope that the 2020 training program and field instruction at White's Island will be equally successful in encouraging a blending of First Nations and academic pursuits which will benefit the archaeological consulting industry.

- Julie Kapyrka, Curve Lake First Nation

and

Lawrence Jackson, Northeastern Archaeological Associates

### References Cited

Curtis, Jenneth E.

2002 A Revised Temporal Framework for Middle Woodland Ceramics in South- central Ontario. Ontario Archaeology No. 73:15-28.

Jackson, Lawrence, Dan Smith and Josh Garrett

2018 Middle Woodland Research on White's Island. Association of Professional Archaeologists (Ontario), Newsletter, New Series 2018:2, pp. 10-11.

Wright, James V.

1967 The Laurel Tradition and the Middle Woodland Period. National Museum of Canada, Bulletin 217, Ottawa.

## Liaison Training Review

As a second year Trent University student in Indigenous Studies and Archaeology degree, this training program was not only an excellent opportunity to experience what I am learning hands on, but I was able to reconnect with my ancestors in a new way. Uncovering pottery and even deer molars on Jacob's Island reminded me of digging into small hills with my brother as a child, only this time I get to make a career out of it. Miigwech to Julie and Katie as well as the various professors at Trent for providing this unique learning opportunity.

- Elijah Crawford

# Upcoming Workshop: Plants and Archaeology



## A one-day ArchaeoBotany Workshop

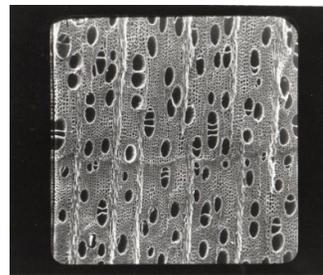
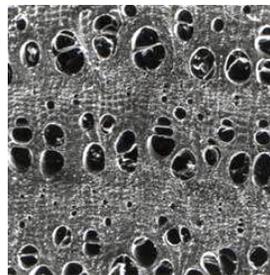
Five available dates in winter 2020:

February 9, February 23  
March 1, March 8, March 22

All sessions run from 9 am–4 pm

Location: in the 'Dungeon' at 14 Kirby Avenue, Dundas

Cost: \$50 (food included) - Spots are limited, reserve by emailing [members@apaontario.ca](mailto:members@apaontario.ca)



AGENDA – Meet and Greet at 9am - Coffee, banana bread, juice, water

9:00 AM – 10:30 A.M. – PP presentation - 'INTRODUCTION TO MACRO-BOTANICAL IDENTIFICATION'

10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. BREAK – Coffee, banana bread, juice, water

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 NOON – PP presentation - WOOD IDENTIFICATION

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. – LUNCH - Veggie chili, corn bread, coffee, juice, water

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. – IDENTIFICATION OF MACRO-BOTANICAL REMAINS – WITH A FOCUS OF WOOD IDENTIFICATION – MICROSCOPY SESSION.

Workshop provided by  
R.D. FECTEAU AND ASSOCIATES, DUNDAS ONTARIO

Workshop sponsored by  
The Association of Professional Archaeologists

## Annual General Meeting 2020

The APA Board Members are currently finalizing plans for the

### 2020 Annual General Meeting

and details will be released shortly.

Stay Tuned.

## Reserve Lands Research Grant

In an effort to promote studies and collaboration with First Nation communities, APA Ontario is pleased to offer a special grant to assist those who conduct work in conjunction with and on First Nation reserve lands. APA wishes to foster collaboration between First Nation communities and the Archaeological work force in an effort to disseminate important information regarding the cultural past of Ontario. It is hoped that this grant will aid in such endeavours.

**Value: \$1,000**

To apply for the grant, provide APA with the following information:

- Your organization
- The Community you are working with
- Brief (1 page) summary of the project
- How this will contribute to archaeological research in Ontario
- Brief history of the investigations
- What the monies will be used for

The primary condition of the grant is acknowledgement of the APA Reserve Lands Research Grant if the information obtained from the research is published, as well as a submission of a short note for the APA website and newsletter. This newsletter/ website report can be a brief summary of the project, site, context and how the community and archaeology will benefit from the research.

A small committee will evaluate proposals from members before awarding the grant.

**Deadline to Apply: February 29, 2020**

<http://www.apaontario.ca/FirstNationsLands>

## 2020 Student Bursary Awards

### The APA Post-Secondary Student Bursary and Indigenous Post-Secondary Student Bursary

Two Student Bursaries will be awarded once per calendar year to two student members in the amount of \$750 each. Each bursary would be the approximate amount of tuition for 1 single-semester course.

Upcoming deadline to apply:

**February 29, 2020**

For eligibility and how to apply, check it out here:  
<http://www.apaontario.ca/StudentBursaries>

## Conference Travel Award

**Now open to ALL membership categories!**

The Conference Travel Award will assist with expenses to travel to a conference/symposium to present a paper or poster to the APA or other archaeological organizations within Canada or abroad.

A total of three awards will be granted twice per calendar year (one in the spring and one in the fall).

**Value: \$250**

Upcoming deadline to apply for

Spring 2020 conferences or reimbursement from fall/winter conferences:

**March 31, 2020**

For more information, visit <http://apaontario.ca/ConferenceTravelAward>

# 2020 Radiocarbon Date Merit Award

Apply for a future Radiocarbon Date Merit Award. The prize is the cost of one sample dated at A.E. Lalonde AMS Facility, one of APA's sponsors. Open to APA members holding the PIF on a recent/current project, or all APA members conducting research on a project with no active PIF.

Current projects or past projects - you decide which samples are likely to provide valuable information to yourself and your colleagues.

Upcoming deadline to apply:

**February 15, 2020**

Visit our website (<http://www.apaontario.ca/c14Awards>) for details on how to apply.

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