

# Association of Professional Archaeologists

Box 38, Hamilton, ON L8S 1C0

## President's Message

Welcome back to the APA. This past year and a half has been a rough one for some of the Directors and consequently for the APA. Both the President and Vice-President (Laurie Jackson) were dealing with personal hardships that devoured both their time and energy. The APA suffered accordingly from neglect. Problems with APA's financial situation caused considerable concern and jump-started the Directors into action. It is to the credit of certain individuals, namely Laurie Jackson, Andrew Hinshelwood, Dean Knight, Donna Morrison, Arthur Horn, Rita Griffin-Short, and Gordon Dibb, that APA still exists. I am certain that without this group of dedicated people, APA would be no more.

I realize that APA members have not been well-served over the last year. So, why should you consider renewing your membership? You should for several reasons. First of all, the Harris government, needless to say, does not hold heritage and archaeology in high esteem. Cutbacks to MCzCr, the OHF, the ROM, universities and grants to numerous, heritage groups and organizations including the OAS demonstrate the government's attitude - heritage is a luxury that should pay for itself. The "Red Tape Review" has streamlined the development review process and has made it much easier for developers to conveniently ignore or selectively forget certain legislative, requirements. Downsizing has cut monitoring staff who enforced environmental legislation. It is not inconceivable that the next step that the Harris government may take will be to eliminate certain clauses or modify key definitions in the current legislation which would effectively remove archaeology as part of the environmental review process. The APA could be an effective voice to remind the government of its legislative requirements and its responsibility to the people of Ontario.

Another reason for renewing your membership is to facilitate communication amongst professional archaeologists across Ontario and beyond. Through the wonders of the Internet and E-mail, in theory, professionals have quick and easy access to other professionals. Nevertheless, a recent decision by MCzCR to restrict access to archaeology license reports has brought into question free exchange of intellectual property amongst bona fide researchers. For APA members, MCzCR's restriction on access to reports can be bypassed by the creation of a report library or an APA Web site. APA members would then have free access, to the research of other APA members, adhering to professional rules of conduct for usage and citation of others' research.

Another advantage to APA membership is that APA provides a civilized setting for dialogue between academic and consulting archaeologists. Although academics and consultants have a history of cooperation rather than animosity in Canada, there is a need for strengthening the ties between the two groups. APA provides just the right forum for doing this.

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**Ethel The Aardvark Goes Quantity Surveying**  
by L. J. Jackson

Do you have Great Expectations by Edmund Wells? No, how about Rarnaby Budge by Charles Dickens? Dickens with two k's, the well-known Dutch author? How about Olsen's Standard Book of British Birds - the expurgated version?

A history of English literature through the eyes of a Monty Python quack is not too far from the murky ideas which Ontario archaeologists have of what is currently happening in our profession. Recently, many of us were excited to learn, through CP wire accounts, in all of Ontario's major papers, that "Ontario's oldest artifacts" had been discovered at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Well they weren't and likely nobody even said they were. An 8,000 year old site acting up perhaps? The point is that we don't know who is doing what, what is being found, and what is being written. Without a central clearing house for archaeological information in Ontario we don't have a chance at accurate information and rely on garbled newspaper accounts as everyone else does. Not very impressive for a so-called profession is it? We can't even get access to consulting reports filed with MCzCR, publications take years to come out, and much data simply submerges never to be seen again. What to do?

Well, good news! The APA has created its own central clearing house of archaeological reports, available to any APA member. Simply for the cost of xeroxing and mailing, you can order any report in our listings. Members are invited to submit their titles for regular newsletter updates.

For starters, the following titles are now available:

Researcher	Title	Site Type(s)
D. Morrison	Stage 3 Assessment of Areas H and 1, Jerseyville Estates, Ancaster	Middle/ Late Archaic
G. Dibb	Stage 1-2 Assessment of Proposed Site of Quorum Development Inc. Subdivision near Seagrave, Ontario Township of Mariposa, Victoria Co	Early/Middle Late Archaic
L. Jackson	Stage 1/2 Assessment of the Cayuga Quarry Site (AfGw-11), Lake Erie	Late Archaic Broadpoint

Send your request with a \$10 copying fee to: APA, Box 38, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1C0. Your copy will arrive shortly. And watch for the upcoming title. "Ethel the Aardvark Goes Quantity Surveying". Seriously!

**WEB PAGE ANYONE?**

The APA is considering funding and establishing a web page. Good idea or waste of time? Make your opinion known by including it in your renewal.

**RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

Choose your preferred delivery format for your copy of the APA Newsletter:

FAX

POST

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## Open letter from Nick Adams

Dear Folks,

Am I alone in the world in thinking that somebody's brother-in-law has pulled in a slick software contract from MTO to set up the registration process?

Correct me if I am wrong, but does it not also seem unreasonable to you that as small consultants, we are effectively being required (as I read it) to spend a minimum of about \$1300, simply to be eligible to bid on projects, not only for MTO, but soon for all Ministries within Her Majesty's government?

Does it not seem bizarre - assuming what the lady that contacted me on the phone had to say is correct - that paper submissions will shortly become inadmissible, and a fee of some \$200+ will be levied if one chooses to submit proposals in that way?

Does it not also seem ironic, that just when all of us are getting 'up to speed' in our use of electronic forms of communication (let's see what drivelt MCZCR comes up with when I submit three copies of a survey report as elec-

tronic documents!), MTO has created a system that involves unnecessary third parties and additional software - when comparable systems could probably be set up, for all of us to use, using existing Internet based technology.

Now, I realise that I may not be in full command of the facts - but on the basis of what I have seen to date (from the info-package, and the information posted on MTO's website at: (<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/about/consult/register.htm/date> ), I would suggest that archaeological consultants collectively boycott this expensive and unnecessary intrusion. Such a process may be appropriate for major contracting companies, but it hardly seems reasonable for services such as ours.

I would be interested in receiving any comments, observations, feelings, experiences or corrections you may have in response to my diatribe. Please pass this on to any other colleagues you feel would be interested.

Nick Adams  
Heritage Marketplace at <http://www.adamsheritage.on.ca>

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### President's Message (continued from page 1)

Low bidding is of major concern to archaeological consultants. In fact, it has actually forced some archaeologists to seek gainful employment in another field. Low bidding rewards a few over the short-term but over the long-term it will hurt us all. Low bidding results in a product that may satisfy legislative requirements, but is wholly unsatisfying to any serious researcher. Low bid reports, are often not published because the money has all been spent at the end of artifact descriptions. Low bids also make all of us look rather unprofessional. Developers will not take us seriously until we take ourselves seriously and value ourselves as professionals in the full sense of the word. The APA will investigate ways of reducing or eliminating low bidding.

Lastly, what other archaeological organization will actually listen to your concerns and

make efforts to do something about them? The APA has an impressive membership that could potentially exert considerable political pressure and censure. Members who have been unfairly treated by a developer, a government agency, or another member have the ability to solicit the support of the other members and to condemn the wrongdoing with a unified voice.

The APA is your professional organization. Please show your support by renewing your membership for 1998 at the cheap rate of \$25.00. In addition to the above, more tangible benefits include the APA Newsletter, Speaker Nights and the Annual General Meeting. I hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 1997, venue to be announced shortly (possibly Erindale Campus, University of Toronto).



## Lost in Space?

Archaeologists, like so many other field professionals who deal with spatial data in their work are increasingly looking to portable Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to increase the speed, ease and accuracy of their mapping and site recording work. Newer, inexpensive hand held GPS models allow the user to store several different routes, and up to 250 and more waypoints, while tracking a dozen satellites or more. Many (indeed most) models also come with the necessary functionality to download data from a GPS survey directly onto a personal computer allowing the convenience of GPS to continue right

into the data processing and map development stage.

But the downside of GPS is that a coded error that is built in to the satellite data sequence that your unit is using. The coded error cannot be discerned by the hand held unit and as a result you cannot obtain a reliable accuracy of less than  $\pm 100$  metres. This error, created as it is by the US military, is not likely to go away in the near future, but many institutional users of GPS have developed reliable work-arounds. In this, a stationary, high end GPS constantly downloaded satellite information onto a mainframe computer. The data is tied to clock data with the result that the "drift" in the antenna can be

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tracked back to the introduced error from individual satellites through recent history. Users of hand-held units who wish to increase the accuracy of their reading above the 100 metre accuracy limit can *simply* obtain the data record for the period when their readings were being taken, run software programs to calculate the timing of the introduced error for each of the satellites their unit was receiving and -hey presto, you are well on your way to increasing your accuracy to  $\pm 5$  metres at the very least.

The big trick in all of this, of course, is finding a group who has a fixed antenna, that is willing to

sell or share their data and software, and who aren't going to require some special involvement, like doing all of your GIS work at \$500/hr.

Perhaps APA members can exchange information on the location of these fixed antennae, the proprietors openness to making their data available, the cost of the data and their success with the software and error calculations. The future, as they say, is just around the corner, and GPS/GIS may prove to be a significant advance over our present methods for mapping sites.

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