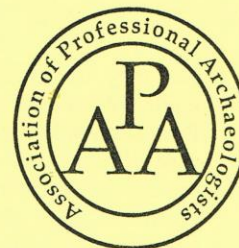




ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2001
WWW.APAONTARIO.ORG



Message from the President: CURRENT APA NEWS

With this issue of the APA Newsletter, I am very pleased to announce that Nick Adams has agreed to stay on as our **Newsletter Editor** and that we can look forward to more regular production now that he is a full-time APA Director. Nick encourages members to send him their comments and concerns, cautionary tales, or anything they would like to share. Nick especially loves electronic submissions.

After our very successful spring symposium and lithic workshop, the APA is planning another year of events for members. First off, we will hold another **instructional workshop in late fall or early winter** so that those interested can improve or practice their skills. A repeat of the lithics workshop hosted by Dan Long and Donna Morrison will also be offered this winter. The spring symposium will address more current issues in Ontario archaeology and offer a relaxing venue for socializing with colleagues - something most of us don't get much time for in the summer and fall. Hopefully, this year we will not accidentally overlap with the CAPHC meetings as we did last year!

Most of you will already be aware that the **APA web page** has undergone a major overhaul and upgrade. Thanks to our beginnings with Andy Schoenhof, we have now entered the world wide web in a bigger way courtesy of Arthor Horn and Kavartha.com. All members with e-mail can be located on our web page. Check out our Page at www.apaontario.org. As a perk to publishing members, the APA will provide free advertising of scholarly publications in archaeology for sale by members. Just contact the Treasurer or Secretary and arrangements will be made for posting at least twice a year. Elaine Dewar's book **Bones** is available to members at a discount through our Web page and other member publications will be posted soon.

Membership in APA is growing by leaps and

bounds. Although we are a small community of archaeologists, we are now approaching a membership of 60 - a far cry from our early days. We are raising our fees this year for the first time in two years, to keep up with the increased cost of doing business and running a web page and to offer more services to members. Full Members will now pay \$50.00 a year, Associates \$40.00 and Students still \$20.00.

Please don't forget our Radiocarbon Dating support fund. 2001 Submissions may still be made by any member for a free date for an especially deserving site. Value of this award is \$240 - the current cost of running a standard sample at Brock University. Executive members are not permitted to make submissions so your odds of success are much, much higher than a lottery!

As a maturing organization, APA will also be **raising its entry level standards** to include a **graduate degree**. For existing members, a grandfather clause will be in effect unless membership is allowed to lapse for two years. Reapplication would then require the graduate degree. The new criteria for entry as a regular member, not an Associate or Student member, will include a Master's Degree in Archaeology, Anthropology or a closely related field (subject to the adjudication of the Membership Committee) plus the same level of archaeological field, laboratory, and supervisory experience as previously required.

One current issue facing the APA is the appearance of the **American Register** of Professional Archaeologists on the Canadian scene. This high profile affiliate of the Society for American Archaeology is actively lobbying for Canadian members. Although ROPA does not, apparently, offer any advocacy on behalf of its members it does define what professionalism should be and monitors its membership. Many of

you may not realize that our own APA was modelled on ROPA's precursor, the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and that our code of ethics and set of research standards and performance guidelines are also very close to those of ROPA. We also have in place a complete grievance procedure for the use of members. At our next Special Executive meeting in late August, the nature of our grievance procedure will be examined and its effectiveness as a guarantee of member

performance evaluated. Results of this meeting will be posted on the Web page and any suggested changes sent out to the membership for voting.

Finally, I am very happy to report that, as a self-sustaining organization, we are very healthy financially and may be able to offer our Journal in paper-back rather than electronic format. More on this later.

Lawrence Jackson

Beat The Plague

A pox on the houses of those who deliberately create and distribute viruses! Fortunately, you can now stay infection free as long as you follow some simple rules.

- › **Install some effective anti-virus software.** Make sure you have it set up to scan downloaded files.
- › **Keep your virus definitions up-to-date.** New viruses are invented daily! Most anti-virus software vendors let you download revised virus definitions from their web site. Do it every month!!
- › **NEVER open attached files** unless you are sure of what it is and who it is from. Some of the most pernicious viruses are distributed as attachments with messages in the body of the text such as "I send you this file for your advice".
- › **NEVER open attached files with the extensions .com .pif .src or .exe** unless a) you have checked them out first, and b) you were expecting the file. Even if you know the person from whom the file originated, there is no guarantee that it is safe. Many viruses are distributed through a persons email address book without their knowledge.
- › **NEVER send any email** if you have the slightest suspicion that your computer might be infected.
- › **BE VERY SUSPICIOUS** of any unexpected email, especially ones which ask for your advice, request that you click on links (one nasty one tries to get you to look at a comic strip), or promise personal letters, notes or pictures. These viruses capitalize on peoples natural curiosity, their ego and their gullibility. Don't be curious, flattered or gullible!

If you get an email with a suspicious attachment one of your best lines of defense is to check it out at the Norton Anti-Virus Virus Encyclopaedia Search Site at:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/vinfodb.html#>

Here, you can enter any information you have about the potential virus (such as the dubious attachment extension, or a text string from the message) to see whether it corresponds with anything in their virus list.

Some of the more common viruses are devils to purge from your system (the Win95.MTX worm is a good example). In some instances it may be necessary to download a patch or a special 'fix-it' file from the anti-virus vendor. Follow the instructions completely, otherwise fragments of the virus may continue to infect your machine, and those of your contacts.

If you get an email warning you about a new, destructive virus DO NOT FORWARD IT to your friends and colleagues. These messages are almost always **hoaxes!** Spreading them unnecessarily is just another kind of internet nuisance! Check them out for yourself at the web site above or at:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

Lastly, if you are a Microsoft Internet Explorer / Outlook Express user, don't forget to update your software with the latest security updates from:

<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/?IE>

Nick Adams

Introductory Remarks

APA Annual Symposium - March 31, 2001

"Artifacts Gathering Dust: Collections Management in a Corporate World"

Laurier Brantford, Brantford

For those of you who missed this year's symposium, here are the introductory remarks introducing the theme and some of the challenges facing Ontario archaeology in the Twenty-first century.

Archaeological excavation is a destructive process. Data are recovered through excavation but the site can never be put back together in its original form. An excavated site is "preserved" in the recovered archaeological record which must be curated in perpetuity. Long-term curation of the archaeological record is in crisis both in Canada and the U.S. It is estimated that 30% of non-federal museums and archaeological storage facilities in the U.S. have run out of space to store archaeological materials. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that 90% of all data recovered in consulting projects from their lands are stored in non-federal repositories with no funding to assist in long-term care. The situation in Canada and Ontario is not much better. Elaine Dewar drew attention to the abysmal state of artifact curation in Ontario in her May 1997 "Toronto Life" article entitled "Behind This Door".

The archaeological record requiring long-term curation consists of artifacts, ecofacts, catalogues, field notes, maps, drawings, photos, computer files, correspondence and reports. Preferably the record from one site should be housed in one location. However, in practice, collections are broken up and sometimes scattered in several repositories. In Ontario, a central repository for archaeological records would be best but its construction and operation would require substantial funding. How should artifact curation in Ontario be financed?

Another issue of archaeological curation is access to collections and ownership of collections. The Ontario Heritage Act is unclear about artifact ownership and less clear about access to archaeological collections. Many site collections are stored in private repositories (i.e. consultants' basements and storage rooms). Is there equal access to all collections?

A final issue concerns the long-term curation of human skeletal remains. It is my opinion that skeletal remains from archaeological contexts are not the same as artifacts or ecofacts. The wishes of the descendants of the dead must be respected. Most Natives in Ontario advocate reburial of ancient skeletal remains. It is no secret that most universities in Ontario with archaeological departments have collections of human skeletal remains. How should these be dealt with and should the archaeological community be proactive and make offers of repatriation and reburial of those remains to the appropriate Native communities? Should skeletal remains continue to reside in these institutions for further scientific study?

Long-term care of archaeological artifacts and data is obvious to the archaeological community but not so obvious to the corporate world. Should the corporate world be responsible for financing both the recovery and curation of archaeological data? Is it realistic to preserve every piece of archaeological data that comes out of the ground? These and other questions were addressed in this year's symposium.

Gary Warrick

Summary of Annual APA Symposium

March 30th 2001

Held at the Wilfred Laurier University Campus, Brantford, Ontario

By

Andrew Murray

The Annual APA Symposium was held in Brantford at the Wilfred Laurier University Campus on March 30, 2001. In his introduction, Gary Warrick put forth several questions to be considered during the day's sessions.

Since Elaine Dewar was to be speaking later in the day, Gary thought it was time to consider how much progress has been made in Ontario since her 1997 article "Behind This Door" was published. Toronto Life Magazine pointing out some of the shortcomings in our archaeological community.

Gary also asked how much of the mass of information in archaeological collections needs to be curated in perpetuity and what needs to be retained and what needs to be returned or repatriated? He suggested that the professional community needs to be proactive to avoid future access problems.

Dr. Bill Finlayson, Adjunct Professor at Wilfred Laurier University, described the work he has been doing to organize and find "homes" for the collections of Albert Mohr and Laetitia Sample in Arizona. He pointed out that despite 45 years of excellent anthropological study, archival research and documentation the collections were in jeopardy since no continued provisions had been made for the ultimate disposition of the collections. Only through the work and dedication of family, institutions and others were the collections eventually "settled".

Bill Nesbitt, the curator of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton, demonstrated a new technological approach to collections access. In order to conveniently display parts of the over 100 000 artifacts recovered from excavations at the castle since 1990, approximately 2000 artifact photographs have been organized onto a CD-ROM. Using the language of the world wide web, the CD-ROM provides a virtual visible storage, letting visitors to Dundurn Castle interactively view a much wider selection of the collection than would otherwise be possible.

Willis Stevens, the underwater archaeologist for Parks Canada, presented a talk titled "Underwater Resources of the Trent-Severn Waterway". The talk brought everyone up to date on the work Parks Canada has been doing along the Trent-Severn waterway in documenting Native and historic European archaeological sites and educating recreational divers in the preservation of these sites. Underwater Archaeological Services of Parks Canada, through the Nautical Archaeology Society training program in partnership with the NAS divers of the Trent-Severn, are making excellent progress in achieving these elusive goals.

Mima Kapches, curator of New World Archaeology at the Royal Ontario Museum, talked about collections policy at the Museum. Currently, the Board of Trustees of the Royal Ontario Museum are reviewing and rewriting all the policies concerned with collections. During a period of fiscal restraint, the Museum has faced a number of challenges including issues dealing with repatriation of artifacts, deteriorating collections, and staff shortages. The information was relevant to the current situation in the consulting world since the ROM deals with large collections from a wide variety of sources.

The paper delivered by Rita Griffin-Short, RGS Archaeological Services, asked the question: "What About the Artefacts?" The care and disposition of artifact assemblages are but two of the ongoing problems consultants face when accepting contracts. There are currently problems with the consistency of how collections are dealt with. The competitive climate of consulting, developers' financial constraints and artifact ownership questions mean the long-term financing of collections management is unclear. Where once some consultants bristled at the thought of a centralized repository, it was suggested that such a facility is now necessary.

Elaine Dewar read excerpts from her new book *Bones* which can be purchased through the

APA website at

<http://www.apaontario.org/products.htm>.

Bones documents the ferocious struggle in the scientific world to reshape our views of prehistory, telling the stories of the archaeologists, Native American activists, DNA experts and physical anthropologists who are scrambling for control over the ancient bones that can answer all the questions. However, the book also reveals stories that never find their way into scientific papers, reports of mysterious deaths, of the bones of evil shamans and the shadows falling on the lives of scientists who pull them from the ground. In the end, Bones brings us face to face with the first Americans.

Dr. Ron Ross, Assistant Professor at Wilfred Laurier University delivered a talk titled "Archives and Collections: The British Experience". The paper focussed on the solutions that archaeologists and institutions in Britain have used to address some of the same curatorial problems we are now experiencing in Ontario. Institutional storage of excavation records, including material remains, has been practiced since the 1960s. The paper discussed the underlying principles and philosophy of the archive, and how it is prepared and structured. The talk concluded by commenting on the usefulness and applicability of some of these practices in the

context of Ontario Chairman archaeology.

The symposium closed with a session moderated by Jacquie Fisher that asked the question: "Are Ontario Collections in Crisis?" From the preceding talks it was apparent that there are problems with Ontario's collections. It was recognized that the question of artifact ownership needs to be cleared up before any further solutions can be proposed. A suggestion from Bob Mayer proposed that the APA create a standardized APA contract form that would be sent by our members along with the rest of their proposal information to clients. The key element of this form would be a section that would aim to clarify the ownership of any artifacts recovered. A motion proposed by Jacquie Fisher is as follows:

A committee shall be struck concerning standardized APA contract agreement forms.

This motion was seconded by Bob Mayer and was unanimously approved. Jacquie Fisher, Bob Mayer and Andrew Murray have volunteered to head up the committee. If you have any suggestions or contract form examples, please forward them to the APA via email apaontario@kawartha.com, fax 416-652-9263 or regular mail at Box 404 Peterborough ON K6J 6Z3.

In summary, Andrew Murray noted that the main issue the symposium addressed is a need for a concerted effort to preserve our archaeological collections. Currently, no single institution is capable of dealing with the large amount of material culture that continues to be recovered by archaeologists in the province. Since no "white knight" appears on the horizon, it is likely that the answers to these questions will require a concerted effort by all involved in Ontario archaeology to cooperate in finding long-term solutions.

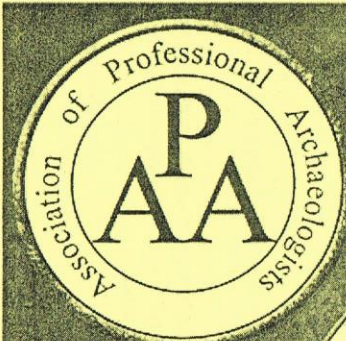
Finally, the meeting retired to a local Brantford pub where discussions continued over food and drink.

Thanks to Lawrence Jackson, Jacqueline Fisher and Gary Warrick for organizing the symposium speakers.

Andrew Murray



CARTOON © EMILY ADAMS



The Ontario Association of Professional Archaeologists

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If you are here for the first time, start by reading *about our organization* (below) or click your way around the website using the links on the left.

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The Association of Professional Archaeologists seeks to integrate the concerns of archaeologists in Ontario from all avenues of employment including: administration, conservation/curation, consulting, education, research, and teaching and also seeks to ensure that issues and practices affecting archaeological resources are conducted within a commonly recognized set of standards.

Our Mission

Specifically the objectives of the APA are to:

- 1.- encourage professionalism in archaeology;
- 2.- represent the profession in areas of concern;
- 3.- mediate solutions to problems involving archaeological resources;
- 4.- recognize significant accomplishments in archaeology;
- 5.- encourage cooperation in and beyond the profession of archaeology.

Organization Profile

The APA's newly revised web site is attractive, clear and easy to use. If you haven't already, take a look, then email us your comments.

The web address is unchanged at: <http://www.apaontario.org>
The email address is: apaontario@kawartha.com

APA Membership Application and Renewal

The Association of Professional Archaeologists draws its membership from practising professional archaeologists in the Province of Ontario and across North America. Our members derive the greater part of their income from archaeological practice. Business, academic, and ethical issues are addressed in our yearly Symposium, Newsletters, Workshops, and Web site. The Association is engaged in a number of exciting initiatives for the coming year and welcomes your input.

Please consider adding your voice to the growing membership of the APA by applying for membership (Professional, Associate, or Student) or renewing your existing membership. Together we can work towards a professional environment in which the objectives of advancement of knowledge, heritage resource conservation, and secure professional practice can be met.

Annual Membership Fees are:

\$50.00 Professional \$40.00 Associate and \$20.00 Student

Association of Professional Archaeologists
P.O. Box 404, Peterborough, ON K9J 6Z3

Membership Application/Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Fee Enclosed: _____

Academic or Company Affiliation: _____

Years of Professional Practice: _____

Check: Professional: _____ Associate: _____ Student: _____

Association of Professional Archaeologists

Executive, 2001

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