



THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

P.O. Box 493 Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3Z4

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FALL EDITION

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S COMMENT

This field season has been challenging, and after a good start, the weather turned nasty in southern Ontario, and we all grew webbed feet and spent a lot of time apparently mud-wrestling with equipment as opposed to conducting archaeology.

The fall has come and almost gone, with winter blowing in early, with developers wondering why we are not out there surveying, when some areas have been hit with 70+ cm of snow. There is sporadic field work as fields become clear, but most people seem to be hunkering down to the awaited winter analysis and report writing. This newsletter will attempt to sum up what has gone on in the archaeological world since the last newsletter.

I have heard, and so have other Board Members of the APA, as to why should people join the APA, and what benefit is it to them? In essence, "What do I get out of it?". The APA is run on a volunteer basis, and the Board contributes their time and expertise, in addition to running their own businesses and being academics (never mind having a life outside of archaeology) to bring something back to the archaeological community. Given these constraints, the APA in recent years has done a

yeoman's job of providing a number of services. Sometimes these are visible and sometimes we are behind the scenes. Take a minute to consider that over this year, the APA has:

- 1) organized a legal workshop in Owen Sound in the spring, Mr. Ted Stevens answered legal questions *pro bono*. Thanks to Scarlett to organizing this workshop;
- 2) supported the third round table held by the EcoCentre of Six Nations, held in February. This discussion fed into the need for monitors and training (see below);
- 3) met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Steven Davidson, along with Richard Mortimer, Director of Programs, Neil Downs, Director of Cultural Programs, Michael Johnson (who is now the director of the Ontario archives), and Jane Holland, Senior Policy Advisor.
- 4) provided information when requested by the Ministry of Culture;
- 5) held the Archaeological First Nation Monitor/Liaison Training workshop with the EcoCentre at Ohsweken. The purpose of the APA/Six Nations Archaeological Monitor/Liaison program is to increase the number of Six Nations people qualified to work as archaeological monitor/liaisons, to improve communication between

archaeologists and the Six Nations/Haudenosaunee, and to improve quality assurance in Ontario CRM archaeology.

7) sponsored the First Nations section at the Ontario Archaeological Society's conference held in October at Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto;

6) continues to up-date and provide new information on the APA webpage. We have the 2006 MCL Standards and Guidelines on-line for members only;

7) is holding an historic ceramics identification workshop this November (see the AGM notice);

8) is organizing a questionnaire concerning the membership's needs and opinions on the services being provided to archaeologists by the Ministry of Culture;

9) working with First Nations about interactions between archaeologists and First Nations;

10) providing feedback to members' requests for information;

11) to ensure that a unified voice is heard concerning major issues....and this can only be as strong as the number of members and everyone's involvement.

Other initiatives are in the works, but have not yet been finalized. Please contribute to the APA and make a difference.

Cheers
Jacquie

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A members only section for the web page has been up and running for a while, and for member access please contact one of the directors. Peter Timmins recently sent an e-mail with the username and access code for this section of the web page. If you did not receive this email, please contact the membership director to up-date your information.

The **Annual General Meeting** for the APA was held Saturday, November 29th, 2008 at 1 pm, at Durham College, 2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, Willey Building, Room SW214. A historic artifact workshop conducted by Nick Gromoff. The meeting was well attended. A summary of the meeting will be in the next issue.

On the web page there is a place (Consultants List) for consultants to register their information. This is not solely restricted to APA members. The whole of the archaeological community is encouraged to fill out the form that is available in pdf format once you click on the Consultants List marker.

The consultant **has to fill out the form**, it is not an automatic placement onto this list, simply because you a license holder. The cover letter for the form indicates that

“As you are no doubt aware the Ministry of Culture has discontinued issuing an annual list of licensed consultants in the province due to privacy concerns. This list was extremely valuable to developers and others interested in hiring an archaeological consultant. As a new initiative, the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Ontario (APA) has offered to maintain a list of all consultants on our web page as a public service to the community and we are pleased to announce that the Ministry has supported this proposal.

This would make a complete list available to developers, municipalities and anyone else interested in hiring the services of an archaeologist. It would also be a list to which the Ministry could direct calls for information regarding consultant companies in the Province.

We want to make this an inclusive list of all licensed consultants. You do not need to be a member of the APA, nor do you have to become a member to be included on the list.

The list will be an alphabetic list based on the name of the licensed consultant. We plan to include contact information on the list as provided by you. We would like to keep this information brief and to the point. This should not be seen as an advertisement forum”. If you would like your name to be included in the list, please fill out the form available on the web page.

NEWS

1) This fall the Ministry of Culture, at the initiative of Neil Downs, the Manager of the Culture Programs Unit, held four archaeological roundtables to inform archaeologists about the goings on at the Ministry and to hear concerns and issues that archaeologists have about conducting archaeology in Ontario. The meetings were held in Thunder Bay (September 11th), London (September 13th), Kingston (September 17th), and Toronto (October 17th, just prior to the OAS Symposium).

These roundtables were a chance to meet the reviewers and introduce Neil Downs into the world of archaeology, as well as to provide the Ministry staff with an opportunity to put faces to names, and not just interact over the phone. This initiative is a good first step to hold dialogues between the Ministry and the archaeological community, and Neil Downs should be applauded for opening up this type of venue.

From the London meeting some issues were raised (this is by no means all of them, but some that are of interest to the whole community):

1) Apart from the usual PIF/CIF saga, it was noted by Neil Downs that the CIF has been considered to be an approval of methodology to receive a CIF number. Neil indicated that the PIF/CIF is solely an administrative tool and has no “approval” status.

This raises an interesting aside. Stage 4 excavations are going to be an exercise in interpreting what the Ministry wants, and this may mean discussing or submitting

methodology practices beforehand, rather than after a Stage 4 excavation. This sounds almost like a permit system, and instead of providing a seamless process, may contribute to a slow-down. However, this is something that will need to be determined.

2) Standards & Guidelines issue of which to use – 1993 Guidelines or 2004 draft Standards and Guidelines. Neil Downs stated that the 1993 document is to be used, and where there are gaps, then to use the 2004 document.

-also note that the 2004 document is no longer available on the Ministry's web page. However, also note that the APA has it on ours.

3) the report review process was also brought up as an issue, and what happened to substantive comments? The focus appeared to be on the small details such as formatting. Neil indicated that as professionals we were assumed to know what we were doing.

4) A question asked from the floor concerned that MCL has not clearly stated why it actually reviews reports if it no longer issues clearance, and it is up to the approval authority (ie. Municipality) to do so, and therefore, what is its role? MCL clearly needs to state its reason for being, and letting people know.

5) Aboriginal consultation/engagement – MCL does not appear to have any clear policy regarding this (2004 Standards & Guidelines are still in draft form), but MCL encouraged the archaeologists to contact First Nation's early and often.

6) Field Inspection – a question was raised as to when this was going to be implemented. MCL is working on that.

7) Collections - Transfer of collections is at the discretion and approval of the Minister or their delegate. Collections remains a steadfast issue, especially when the consultant group as a whole is rapidly aging. Where do the collections go once we ourselves pass away?

9) Internet – when will material be available on-line? Students finding the Ministry of Culture to be behind the times.

The Ministry does accept an addendum for a report electronically as long as it has a corporate letterhead, and is not substantial. MCL indicated that it could also ask for a whole new report. The e-mail submissions of stating the weather and curation of the archaeological record are much easier than mailing them in.

10) Licensing – the issue was raised about an apparent problem in the licensing programme where an avocational could eventually run their own stage 4 projects, while a regular research licensee could not (even though they may have trained that avocational!)

This meeting was held from 11 am to 2 pm, and was a good start. The floor needed to be open at an earlier time, as it was 2:02pm when the participants could bring forth issues that were concerning them. Although, issues were brought up throughout the session, in between MCL's presentation of "what the Ministry is doing, and what are the obligations of the archaeological community".

There also needs to be more of a voice for the avocational, as the new 2006 Standards and Guidelines do not address a number of their concerns and is geared for the Cultural Resources Management group.

These sessions are good, and will be useful as long as both sides are really listening to what each other is saying. Let's see if this occurs.

CONFERENCES

SHA

DIG Conference

Developing International Geoarchaeology
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
May 25th to May 29th, 2009
contact: Lisa Sonnenburg 905 525-1940 x20115
www.developinginternationalgeoarchaeology.org

CAA Conference

Canadian Archaeological Association
May 13th to May 16th, 2009
Thunder Bay (Valhalla Inn)
www.canadianarchaeology.com/econferences.lasso

Final Comment:

In keeping with the situation of environmental concern, I put the following question to the members. Would people like to receive the newsletter in electronic form, rather than in paper form? No one has responded to this, and I have put the newsletters on the members only section of the web page. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter in paper form, please let me know at jacquie.fisher@sympatico.ca and I will continue to send the newsletters in this format. Otherwise, I will send them in electronic form.

Jacquie

MCL's Review Officers:

North: Andrew Hinshelwood, Thunder Bay office. telephone: 807 475-1632, fax 807 475-1297; andrew.hinshelwood@ontario.ca Now Paige Campbell since Andrew is back in New Zealand finishing his PhD. Paige's e-mail is: paige.campbell@ontario.ca

East: Jim Sherratt, Toronto Office. telephone: 416 314-7132; jim.sherratt@ontario.ca

Central East: Malcolm Horne back from parental leave), Toronto office; telephone: 416 314-7146; malcolm.horne@ontario.ca

Central West: Katherine Cappella, Toronto office; telephone: 416 314-7143; katherine.cappella@ontario.ca

***NB: fax for the Toronto office is 416 314-7175.**

Southwest: Shari Prowse, London office. Telephone: 519 675-6898; fax: 519 675-7777; shari.prowse@ontario.ca

Amrita Dillon: the person who now receives reports.

Licensing officer: Andy Schoenhofer, Toronto office. Telephone: 416 314-7148; andy.schoenhofer@ontario.ca

Free Space to Make Notes: