



THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

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WINTER EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear APA Members:

This past December, a new executive was elected to the APA. I would like to welcome the new executive and introduce them to you. Laurie Jackson has stepped down from the presidency taking a much needed respite from the rigours of that position. I applaud Laurie for carrying the past executive forward into areas that were sometimes fraught with political difficulties. Laurie often went beyond our expectations of a president. I hope that I can, having assumed this position, do so well. Laurie is the current vice president of APA and takes a strong lead in First Nations issues. Nick Gromoff has taken on two positions – treasurer and membership director. His efforts in these areas are paramount to the organization keeping track of who's who and what's what. Thanks Nick! Cathy Crinnion remains on the executive as grants officer and First Nations liaison. Cathy has applied for funding to assist with another First Nations programme with Curve Lake First Nations. Laurie has managed to secure some funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to assist with this programme. Bill Finlayson remains a member of the executive as well, and assists wherever he is needed, and his past experience in

archaeology provides us with a history that puts things in perspective. Bill Ross remains on the executive as a representative for Northern Ontario and is joined by Scott Hamilton of Thunder Bay. The north is one area that we hope to provide additional services for, and Bill and Scott are reviewing possible ways of doing this. The biggest hurdle for running programmes for northern Ontario remains the wide open spaces between archaeologists. The resolve of these two individuals will no doubt find a way to overcome this temporary obstacle. Jacquie Fisher remains our intrepid newsletter editor, and is always looking for contributions. Jacquie recently supplied members with an outlet for “welded” mesh screen. Also joining our executive is GIS specialist, James Conolly, who will be running the second, more intensive, GIS workshop this spring. And Tom Arnold, who filled in last year when our secretary resigned, continues with the position, and has kept very important records of our meetings and correspondence. You will see the tongue in cheek missives that Tom sends out – that alone should be reason to read your e-mails. Thank you to all, and to outgoing executive member Gary Warrick, thank you for your input, and especially your assistance with the last Six Nations monitoring programme.

So, now what? Well, we have a new minister, the Hon. Michael Chan, and a new ministry name: Ministry of Tourism and Culture. I attended a reception to meet the new minister,

and have requested a meeting with the minister and his staff to discuss outstanding issues with respect to archaeology. I anticipate that this meeting will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Meeting with Ministry Staff: In the meantime, Bill Finlayson and I have met with Neil Downs and Chris Schiller to discuss operational issues. There are some good news scenarios. First, Chris Schiller has agreed to ensure that site data requests will be answered in a responsible and timely manner. One method suggested by APA was that a standard format for such requests be initiated to assist Ministry staff in tracking the requests. Chris also discussed the progress of his staff in producing a GIS based programme that will record not only registered archaeological sites, but areas assessed, whether with or without finds. In addition, the topic of forms was discussed, and that they should be available through their web site. Chris indicated that his department was moving towards E-forms that will allow archaeologists to process on computer and send out immediately. It all sounds good, but the date for any of this coming to fruition is still vague, with a promise of “hopefully this fall”.

Requests for Borden numbers are now also subject to a series of questions. While APA feels that most archaeologists will have no issues answering these questions, we were curious as to why the sudden shift in protocol. It was explained to us that there had been several instances where requests for Borden numbers, resulted in no sites at all, and that in other cases, reported artifacts were not artifacts at all. Neil Downs indicated that the Ministry may be requesting photographs accompany Borden number requests to prevent this type of error. We engaged in a discussion on how

people register sites. For example, if a project is a linear corridor, there are occasions that archaeologists find artifacts off corridor, and register the find as a site. The difficulty in this is that these “finds” are often not subject to a Stage 2 delineation of site size. It would better to avoid these types of scenarios. We did request a list of the questions being asked so that we could disseminate them to our membership. This would assist the data coordinator and professionals in terms of timing, and due diligence.

Neil Downs also informed us that it is the Ministry’s intent to conduct random, on site inspections, hopefully by the fall. APA pointed out that doing this for Stage 2 assessments would be problematic given that we are often subject to ploughing schedules, work load, and weather. An important facet in these on site inspections would also be the qualifications of the “inspector”. This is an important issue which deserves additional discussion with the ministry.

We brought forward the matter of extensions for licences based on compassionate reasons, and wondered what “qualified” as acceptable, and did one require a doctor’s note, etc. Neil Downs indicated that this would be handled on a case by case basis, and realized that there was nothing in place with the 1993 standards and guidelines to address this issue. He had thought they were looking at individual cases in a timely manner. We assured him that this was not the case across the board. All extensions based on compassionate grounds will not be addressed from the currently proposed standards and guidelines.

APA brought up the issue of peer review and wondered what the role of the Ministry might be in this area. The Ministry, not being an

approval authority, had no role in peer review. If licence obligations were met, they considered their role ended. APA will be developing a list of criteria to provide the development community and other groups wishing peer review of acceptable standards for someone to be a peer reviewer.

APA wondered what the role of the Ministry was with respect to the two new proposed repositories. At the present, the Ministry said it did not have a role, but undoubtedly they will be interested in divesting themselves of their own collections. APA proposed that the Ministry work with the repositories in establishing a “grandfathering” of collections” prior to the inception of a collections management policy – given that most professionals did not anticipate the protocols of curation that will be set out, and did not include a charge to accommodate these protocols. APA also referred the Ministry to Parks Canada, and their draft deaccessioning policy – which may play a very important role in how we curate collections.

APA also requested that we be part of the review committee for the proposed collections policy being developed by the Ministry. We have been assured that we will serve as part of the TAG team.

Some First Nations have indicated that they would like to see aboriginal engagement at a Stage 1 and 2 level, where it is currently being proposed for Stage 3 and 4 levels by the Ministry. APA voiced its concerns over this proposed early engagement and felt it would be inappropriate in a majority of projects.

The issue of backlogs stills haunts us, even with the proposed streamlining made by Neil Downs in a recent Ministry communiqué.

APA suggested that reports with no finds be flagged differently and streamlined accordingly, to assist with depleting the backlog. This suggestion is being taken under advisement.

A request was made to receive a list of all existing Master Plans in the province and a list of those being currently developed. The Ministry has agreed to provide this list to us, and we will post this on the web page for our members.

We discussed that distinct role that APA has to play in the archaeology of the province, specifically representing professionals. We plan to have another meeting with the Ministry to further discuss the role APA has in archaeology.

A brief discussion was also held with respect to underwater archaeology. It was proposed by APA that professionals receive the same type of licence as land archaeologists, and that the PIF/CIF be modified to accommodate the differences in projects. Chris Schiller asked about the proposed requirement for a “special programme” to be used by underwater archaeologists. It was mentioned that if the results satisfied the reviewer, the programme should not be an issue, especially given that the reviewer only receives a paper report. There was a concern voiced by APA that jobs were diverted to France, and felt that there were enough specialists in the province that would be able to accommodate the projects.

We ended on a positive note, and APA will meet with the Ministry on a regular basis.

I had the opportunity to meet with Neal Ferris, president of OAS, and congratulate him on his new position. We plan to meet towards the end

of March and discuss mutually beneficial roles that our organizations can explore.

The Standards and Guidelines have still not been posted to the Ministry web page. Once they are posted, there will be 60 day grace period to review them, and then they become official. In the meantime, if you start field work before they are in place, you will still be reviewed by the 1993 Standards.

This year promises to have lots of excitement, and I look forward to the support of the executive in providing the information, opportunities, and experience our membership deserves.

Scarlett Janusas

PAST PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY OF 2009

Dear APA Members:

Our new President Scarlett Janusas has asked me to pen a few words about the accomplishments of APA in 2009. I would like to keep this brief but will give you a few highlights of the work of your APA Executive.

- 1) After considerable effort in terms of meetings and writing letters, APA succeeded in convincing the Ministry of Culture to agree to establishing Regional discussion panels to review the proposed 2009 Standards and Guidelines. Through the summer of 2009 a series of meetings took place, with participation from the OAS, in southwestern, central, southeastern and northern Ontario. The results of these meetings were posted on the APA web page and were provided to the Ministry of Culture as necessary revisions. APA has yet to see how these results were incorporated into the document and continues to ask to see them.
- 2) Six Nations: Our relationship with Six Nations continues on a positive note and in the spring of 2009 another First Nations Liaison Training program was successfully completed with the dedicated assistance of APA members under the direct supervision of Dr. Gary Warrick. There is now a sizeable body of trained liaison people available for projects in southwestern Ontario.
- 3) Successful contact was made with the Williams Treaty First Nations in setting up a series of discussions leading to a training program for First Nations Liaison staff in the spring of 2010. APA will also be discussing a protocol agreement with the Williams Treaty. It should be noted here that this group of Nations has been extremely reluctant, until now, to enter into arrangements with archaeologists due to past experience with abuse of this relationship. This was expressed to us directly by several Chiefs of these Nations.
- 4) Membership Services: As membership in APA climbs dramatically, we are finally able to offer more services to our members. At our Annual General Meeting at Trent University in

December we hosted a successful GIS workshop with instructor Dr. James Conolly. There will be a follow-up intensive workshop this spring (2010) and other workshops are in the planning stages. Some initiatives tentatively explored in the past were also brought to fruition in 2009, including the offer of group liability insurance for our members at a discount rate.

5) In the spring of 2009, APA membership stood at about 40 individuals, most of these licenced professional consultants. In the spring of 2010, it stands at about 80 individuals, most licenced professional consultants. This doubling of membership says quite clearly to us that we are doing the things that our members want and need, including advocacy on difficult or contentious issues. Our professional members must meet strict criteria and be vetted by our membership committee. I would just like to take a moment, here, and thank both Andrew Murray and Heather Henderson for their volunteer work on this committee.

6) Web Page: The APA web page offers the only comprehensive listing of archaeological consultants in Ontario, as well as advertising space for its members. Some new members have noted a marked increase in business once their names have been posted. Scarlett is to be thanked for constantly

striving to improve the services offered on the web page, including news and opportunities for members.

Watch for financial cost-impact studies of the new Standards and Guidelines prepared by a number of our members to help guide us through the new procedures and anticipate some of the hidden cost land-mines.

In closing, I will say that we are looking forward to 2010 as the year that APA reaches a new level of professional capability. We have a great start in our new President.

Laurie Jackson

Past-President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CONFERENCES

CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

43rd Annual Meeting

April 28 - May 2, 2010

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/CAA2010/>

No-Till Cultivation and Consulting Archaeology in Ontario: Food For Thought

By Tom Arnold

Over the last year our attention has been focussed on the 2009 New Standards and Guidelines and what effect they will have on the cost and the way we do consulting archaeology in Ontario. Although certainly more immediate, because the Ministry of Culture suddenly informed the consulting community in the spring of 2009 that it wished to implement them in the 2010 field season, there are other factors that will affect consulting archaeology in Ontario. In Southern Ontario, where plough-zone archaeology predominates, one such factor is the increase of no-till or reduced tillage agriculture. No-till or reduced tillage agriculture is the practice of leaving some portion of the previous years' crop stubble on the field surface by not ploughing it under with the traditional mouldboard plough.

The curved nature of the mouldboard plough was probably invented in Europe around A.D. 1100 (Huggins and Reganold 2008:72-73). This involved modifying the iron sheathed wedge shaped Mesopotamian ploughshare (ca. 3500

B.C.) with a curved blade that allows the soil to be turned over. The turning of the soil buries weeds and crop stubble, mixes in fertilizers and shapes the soil into rowed furrows for planting and irrigation (Wikipedia 2009). In addition, ploughing aerates the soil, allows for deeper root penetration and causes soil microorganisms to increase, at least initially, that in turn increases soil fertility by aiding in the decomposition rate of old plant residues. The down-sides of ploughing are erosion, decrease in water retention of the soil, soil compaction (due to the use tractors going over the field several times to prepare for seeding) and the release of carbon into the atmosphere. Reduced tillage agriculture decreases erosion, increases water content and soil biota (i.e. good insects and microbes) in the soil, helps sequester carbon into the soil (Wikipedia 2009) and requires fewer passes over the field with equipment. At least one down-side is the increase use of herbicides to control weed growth at least during the transition from traditional tillage to reduced tillage practices.

Reduced tillage leaves anywhere from 15% to over 30% of the previous crops' residue on the field surface (Wikipedia 2010). In Ontario, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs noted that reduced tillage agriculture in soybean production increased 15%, from 30% to 45%, between 2001 and 2002 (Bohner 2008). No other data could be easily found on this Ministry's web site to show if the use of no-till has continued to increase at this rate but the Ministry does have a number of articles that can be accessed (go to <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environ>

[ment/](#) and type in 'no-till' in the search box).

Effects on Consulting Archaeology

Since no-till leaves crop residue of at least 15% and sometimes greater than 30% on the surface of fields, surface visibility during pedestrian transects of ploughed fields will obviously be affected. If we equate each percent residue increase with a percent visibility decrease then this should immediately raise red flags for those archaeologists working in Ontario, where at least 80% visibility is required to conduct pedestrian transect surveys of ploughed fields.

Other effects are that no-till requires different equipment (i.e. chisel plough, cultivators and specialized seeding equipment) that does not turn the soil like the mouldboard plough. This means that it will become harder to find someone with a mouldboard plough to conduct a proper ploughing of a field. As an aside, I know I have had discussions, and I am sure others have had similar ones, with farmers and proponents where I am told that the field has been ploughed when in fact they mean tilled with something other than a mouldboard plough. I have even had farmers basically refuse to use a plough because of its effects on the land, even when the property is question is going to become a gravel pit or housing subdivision in few years, which to me seems much more damaging than a little erosion caused by the ploughing.

Since in no-till the fields are not cultivated with a traditional plough, the quantity of artifacts that are exposed on the surface after

each tilling of the soil will be reduced. My experience is, and this only anecdotal evidence, sites will appear sparser (a thin scatter over a wide area) with no real concentration and thus appear insignificant; only the riches and largest sites may be easily recognizable as significant. It is possible that small sites may be missed altogether or may appear as single artifact find spots. This will affect our ability, as consultants, to accurately assess sites found during Stage 2 pedestrian transect surveys.

On a positive note, no-till also means that deeply buried sites or portions of sites (i.e. subsurface pit features) are less likely to be impacted and will thus be preserved for future research. In addition, any remaining surface features (i.e. mounds, embankments, earthworks) will be impacted less. Studies in England and Illinois have shown that ploughing with modern equipment has seriously affected both subsurface and surface archaeological remains (Olson et al 2002; English Heritage 2003).

Conclusions

Obviously, the use of no-till agricultural practices is not going to stop simply because it affects our ability as consulting archaeologists to accurately assess the nature of surface scatters. With true ploughs becoming rarer, as farmers buy equipment geared to reduced till agriculture, it is possible that an entrepreneur may see an opportunity to cater to archaeologists needing fields to be properly ploughed. I am uncertain if there would be enough of a demand for this to be a sole enterprise and it may have to become a sideline

to other heavy equipment use.

More likely, is that we as consulting archaeologists will have to adapt to this changing agricultural reality and redefine what is a significant surface scatter, or at least those that require Stage 3 testing. I believe this will lead to an increase in the number of Stage 3 test excavations in order to properly assess the potential of any surface scatter and thus increase the cost to proponents.

References

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2009 No-till Farming.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No-till>, accessed Dec. 1, 2009.

2010 Tillage.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tillage>, accessed Feb. 3, 2010.

References for Historic Artifacts

This section is to provide references for the historic analyst. If you have any others that you would like listed, just drop me a line. Jacquie www.wolfcreekarcheology.com/Outhouse.htm

-this is a very useful website. It concerns Lake County Archaeology, California. The photographs are many and varied; good for material culturalists. This reference is specifically concerning the excavation of a privy from the late 1800s, but follow the pages back for different sites.

www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/Historic_Ceramic_Web_Page/Historic_Ware_Descriptions/Jackfield.htm

This webpage is from Maryland, and provides useful diagnostic information about certain ceramics.

www.sha.org/bottle/index.htm

Great site for bottles – both manufacturing techniques and types.