



# The Association of Professional Archaeologists Newsletter

2014-01

SPRING EDITION

Web Page: [www.apaontario.ca](http://www.apaontario.ca)

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## Your Executive

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- Past President, Scarlett Janusas
- Director, Membership and Webmaster, James B Badow
- Director, First Nations, Laurie Jackson
- Director, Northern Ontario, Scott Hamilton
- Director, Investigations, Carla Parslow
- Director, Field Director, Jeff Muir
- Director, Innovations and Process, Douglas Yahn

### Other Members

- Treasurer, Cathy Crinnion
- Secretary, Jeff Muir
- Newsletter, Tom Arnold

## President's Message

It's not quite here yet, but spring is on it's way, despite the snow depths and biting wind. As we continue to plug away at reports, repair and replace field equipment and prepare for new projects the APA has been working on a few things that we hope are of help to members. These include assembling and posting various resource listings in the members section of the website, continuing to meet quarterly with Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport staff to discuss a variety of issues and concerns, and organizing a session at the upcoming Canadian Archaeological Association conference in London this May. This session will replace our spring workshop for 2014.

Over the winter months we have also established committees for First Nations which will work with APA director Laurie Jackson, the First Nations Liaison; and Publications, with Douglas Yahn as chair, to oversee the website, newsletter and non-peer reviewed on-line articles. If you have an interest in these committees or wish to contribute in any way to APA activities please contact us. And finally, if you have any questions, issues or concerns that we can assist you with, do let us know.

**Sue Bazely**  
**APA President**

## Aboriginal Liaison Committee

We have formed an Aboriginal Liaison Committee this year to help with engagement and providing modest financial support to First Nation partners in the training of archaeological liaisons and to attend and co-host significant meetings to discuss First Nation needs concerning archaeology. Our committee has not met yet but we are planning to meet before our next executive meeting.

**Keith Powers**  
**Chair, Aboriginal Liaison Committee**

## Symposiums - CAA

### The Business of Archaeology in Ontario

Archaeological consultants form the bulk of the archaeology done in Ontario, under the guise of Cultural Resource Management. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport licenses archaeologists, directs the manner of archaeology being conducted through the Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists and files reports into the Registry. “Consulting” has been an entity in the province for 30 years. But, how effectively does the business end of archaeology work? As consultant archaeologists we work for the developer, but our duty is to the archaeology and associated cultural resources.

At the next annual meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association in May 2014 in London, Ontario, the Association of Professional Archaeologists (Ontario) will host a session on “The Business of Archaeology in Ontario”. This session will explore the many pitfalls, advantages, and growing pains the industry has experienced since its inception in the province, and seek to present solutions. It features an array of speakers including Dena Doroszenko of the Ontario Heritage Trust on Curatorial Care of Ontario’s Archaeological Heritage; Hugh Daechsel of Golder Associates on Managing Large Scale Projects; Raivo Uukkivi and Patrick MacDonald of Cassels Brock legal firm on Duty to Consult – what is and what is not required of the professional archaeologist, and Contracting in Archaeology – the importance of a clear contract; Jim Sherratt of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport on Striking the Right Balance: A Ministry Perspective on the Licensed Archaeologist and Archaeological Consulting, and Joanne Thomas and Rose Miller, Six Nations, on aboriginal monitoring and engagement. A panel discussion on key issues and questions concludes the session.

Find out more about the conference which runs from May 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at

<http://canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting>

**Scarlett Janusas**

**Symposium Committee Chair**

## Publications Committee

The APA will be piloting an on-line non-peer review publications component in the Members Only section of its website. We currently have three submissions to be placed on-line and we will soon be looking for additional works that could be put under the new Publications tab. More information is forthcoming. Related to this initiative will be a review of the current website and Facebook page to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our members with valuable and regularly-updated content. It is essential that regular, ongoing communication is encouraged amongst archaeologists and we are looking to facilitate this.

**Douglas Yahn**

**Publications Committee**

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## Of Wire Pinflags and Archaeological Contamination

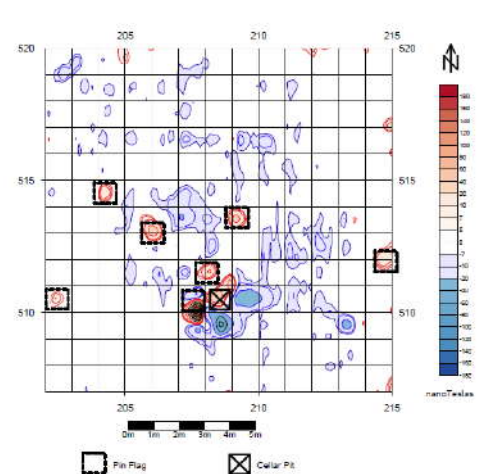
by Terry Gibson, Western Heritage

Having just recently completed Stage 3 and 4 investigations on a number of early EuroCanadian homestead archaeological sites in the Oshawa area in 2013, I wish to report a difficulty I encountered during site mitigation work. Every site that I was involved in was located on previously ploughed intensive cultivation, significant intact cultural remains were still present beneath the plough zone, in the form of foundations, pits, lot survey pins and post holes. Most of these features yielded significant finds. The challenge was to locate them within a given cultivated area, buried under 30-50 cm of disturbed ground. Once located by historical background study and surface examination, the standard method is to move to Stage 3 assessment protocols by placing 1 m pits spaced 5 m apart, in a grid pattern. In our experience this tends to be a little bit hit and miss, as most archaeologists are probably aware. A more reliable approach is to augment this approach with the application of near surface geophysical (NSG) techniques to locate buried features. For many of these sites our work crews employed gradiometer and ground penetrating radar methods. These sites were particularly suited to the use of these techniques because magnetic and radar approaches are sensitive to foundation and pit features, particularly if they are filled with iron artifacts.

Our original intent was to use the NSG techniques on Stage 4 sites, since it would allow us to more precisely locate and characterize features discovered (or tentatively discovered) during Stage 3 test pitting. Unfortunately, the previous Stage 3 assessments used wire pin flags as corner markers for their test pits, and left many of them on the sites. This appears to be a very common practice, and of course is not limited to southern Ontario. Since the sites were overgrown by the time we got to them, with some being in old uncultivated stubble, it was impossible to find and remove all of the pins, many which had lost their plastic flags. The result was that the NSG detection and mapping efforts resulted in finding major anomalies which corresponded to wire pin flags, masking out the more subtle archaeological signals provided by more deeply buried archaeological features. This kind of approach was severely hampered (and

on most sites effectively negated) by this introduced contamination.

An example of the contamination effect is shown in Figure 1a and Figure 1b. In the section portrayed, subsequent spot checking of anomalies revealed thin wire pins bereft of their plastic standing invisibly in the stubble. They appear as red “monopole” anomalies (high magnetic relief) on the map. In some places pin flags were found bent over and flattened on the ground, prior to excavation blending in with the vegetation (Figure 2). These produce powerful dipolar anomalies (high/low relief pairs). This is because they are on the ground surface and therefore their proximity to the gradiometer sensor produces an overwhelming magnetic response. Bent over pin flags are the most difficult to discriminate from more deeply buried (and probably archaeologically significant) anomaly sources.



**Figure 1a. Gradient magnetic relief on a southern Ontario EuroCanadian site. Note the strong interference introduced by pin wire (pin flags still standing in stubble, but missing plastic flagging), making the cellar pit difficult to discern.**



**Figure 1b.** Pinflag exposed after vegetation clearing



**Figure 2.** Exposed cellar pit during excavation. The pit was apparent during the magnetic survey, but could not be discerned because of pin flag contamination. Only post excavation blading revealed its full extent.

Elsewhere, especially in Great Britain (where NSG surveys are much more common), wire pin flags are discouraged for use on sites. We accordingly have banned them in favour of plastic pin flags, tent pegs or wooden stakes. In the US there has been condemnation in the use of wire pin flags in some jurisdictions, but others continue to allow them, much to the chagrin of NSG practitioners. In southern Ontario their use appears to be ubiquitous. In fact, local workers in the Oshawa area outright questioned our use of wooden stakes, and said we should be using wire pin flags as unit markers. Of course, they didn't know the kind of damage they do to the investigation of archaeological sites, damage that lasts for decades or more.

NSG assessment of Stage 3 sites was more successful since wire pin flags were not employed as much during shovel test assessment. However, people still do seem to mark artifact finds with pin flags, and they do fall over, lose their plastic and otherwise get left behind. Other kinds of markers are strongly recommended.

In conclusion, I am making this comment to archaeological practitioners in southern Ontario who work on any kind of archaeological site. Please refrain from using wire pin flags for markers on archaeological sites. If you do, keep an accounting of them like surgeons do their tools and clamps, and make sure you remove as many as you put out there on a site.

## Reintroducing the APA Website

By Jeff Muir, Field Directors Liaison

With the first newsletter of this year, it seems like a good time to reintroduce people to the APA's website, located at [www.apaontario.ca](http://www.apaontario.ca). I want to focus on three features of the website so that people can get exploring and contributing as quickly as possible:

- The home page itself
- The "members" section
- The "members discussion" section

Home Page – As soon as you arrive at [www.apaontario.ca](http://www.apaontario.ca), the easiest way to get yourself oriented is to just explore the left-hand navigation bar. I'm assuming that APA members are mostly reading this article, but this is the navigation bar where you really want to direct non-members to explore, be they prospective member archaeologists or clients you wish to educate about archaeology in Ontario. All of the links offer useful information, but if you want to make sure somebody new to the site gets a quick introduction with only time to look at a few links, sometimes choices have to be made. To me, the top three links on the bar (in order of importance) would be:

1. Standards & Guidelines – a great spot to introduce your client to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Let the client see to whom we have to answer when we conduct their archaeological undertakings. Not only can proponents get to know about the Ministry in the links provided there, but maybe they can take away why we as archaeologists ask them to do what they do!
2. Directories – once people have an idea of what we do, this is where they can find out about who we are. Lists concentrate on our APA members, whether as a member of this organization, as a part of the APA executive, or as a consultant archaeologist for hire. It's also a good place for our members to get a feel for the rest of the archaeological landscape in Ontario.
3. Events – a place where we get to advertise a little for the APA: what we do for our members and the archaeological community at large. It lists upcoming events where the APA is involved. It can give prospective members a chance to participate too and maybe decide to become part of the organization.

And as you're exploring these links, if you ever want to return to the home page, the website is easily navigable. The fastest way to return to the home page is just to click on the title bar at the top of the page.

**Members Section** – To access the Members Section from the home page, you can either enter your login information in the lower left-hand corner or follow the links in the "APA Members" box on the lower right-hand side of the page. If you have any troubles signing in, follow the prompts or please email [info@apaontario.ca](mailto:info@apaontario.ca) and somebody will help get you into the core of our site.

And the Members Section is indeed the core of the site. Examining the navigation bar on the left-hand side of the page once you've signed in, you will see a number of new sections with locks beside them. All of these sections are accessible to our members alone. We have services on offer to the membership; resources that can be used to assist with

your archaeological field work and reporting; a job bank; and a members lounge.

We really do encourage people to explore the resources on offer here, and more importantly, for our APA members to enthusiastically contribute information they would like to see on this site. For example, we already have useful links to websites under the "Online Resources" of the "Members Resources" subsection. Many archaeologists probably visit these sites to gain some initial research ideas for their projects or to assist in preparing archaeological reports. However, do you have another website that you use constantly that our membership might find helpful? Don't hesitate to email [info@apaontario.ca](mailto:info@apaontario.ca) to share those or any other assets you might have. Again this is the APA members section and it should be something that you find to be a great membership benefit. The web site is updated on a periodic basis, and we have just received permission to post a points typology programme developed by our newsletter editor, Dr. Tom Arnold.

The Members Resources also has First Nations contacts (for monitors), First Nations News (keeping in touch with FN issues), Products (screening material suggestions), Tools and Resources (contract ploughers, specialists, Borden block calculator, etc.). We hope you are able to take advantage of some of these tools.

**Members Discussion** – One section of the site which I would like to see grow (as I know would most of the APA executive) is found within the "Members Lounge". There you can find the Meeting Minutes between the APA and the Ministry plus where we are beginning to share Ministry correspondence on various matters. But the potentially most powerful page of the whole site is here, the "Members Discussion" board.

We welcome all members to air their thoughts on all subjects. However, we want to keep the board open and stimulating for everybody in the APA. So, please keep the following things in mind when posting:

1. Keep it short, at least to start – when starting a new chain, keep it relatively short to begin with. If you have a lot to say on a subject (and it's wonderful if you do) don't be afraid to roll your thoughts out a bit at a time during the course of the discussion so that people aren't intimidated by a huge block of text to start.
2. Keep it constructive – while the members discussion posts can be used to blow off steam, we want to foster discussion and debate. It's okay to praise or criticize something, but leave it open ended so that you can see what sorts of interesting discussions will come out of it.
3. Keep it topical – don't hesitate to post right now about the subject. If it's something that is happening at the start of the field season for example, post about it right away when other archaeologists may be similarly passionate about the subject at hand.
4. Keep checking back – make sure you subscribe to the discussion board to keep updated (right above the table in the upper right-hand corner).

Hopefully, I have provided people with some places to start with on the website. Again, I'd like to emphasize this website can be used to bring new Ontario archaeologists into the fold, to educate non-specialists (especially our clients), and to interact with other Ontario archaeologists so that we can all help one another produce the best archaeological work we can in Ontario.

## Field Tips

### Alternative Bag Labels

By Marian Clark

Here is an idea I got from a dig I am participating on in St. Augustine - it may have some merit. It is a unique field bag label. They cut up aluminum or PVC venetian blinds into 1 in by 2-3 inch lengths, write on them in permanent marker and they handle the wear and tear and wet very well. Lots of this stuff would be available from Home Depot or a

blinds company where they are custom cutting sizes and the ends would just be thrown out. They also stack neatly. Might be worth experimenting with.

## APA is Looking for Volunteers



Don't want to make the big commitment and be on the executive, but still want to make a contribution?

The APA now has a number of committees – if you are interested in volunteering – please email Sue Bazely at [sue@bazely.ca](mailto:sue@bazely.ca)

## MTCS News

### Please save the date: April 11 - Applied Research/Field Director workshop

Please join MTCS Archaeology Program Unit for the first Applied Research Licence Information Session and Workshop.

**Date:** Friday April 11, 2014

**Time:** Doors open at 9:00 am for sign-in, the session begins at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm.

**Audience:** This session is designed for those working within cultural resource management and are Applied Research licensees or Professional licensees who act as field directors.

**Location:** Markham Museum, 9350 Highway 48 (Markham Road), Markham.

**Cost:** Free.

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch and assorted beverages will be provided.

The session will include the following presentations:

Applied Research Licence 101: Licensing Conditions and Obligations of Applied Research Licensees

Ministry Advice on Fieldwork Practices: Common Fieldwork Practices and Best Practice Procedures

Peer Experience: Guest Speaker(s) on Applied Research Field Experiences

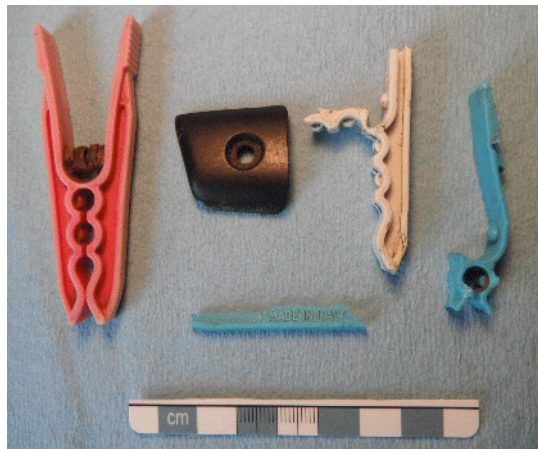
*Further details including registration information and a detailed agenda will be sent out in the coming weeks.*

**It is recommended that all Applied Research Licence holders attend this event.**

**The Archaeology Team  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport**

### Archaeology In Photos

Some Artifacts Last Forever.



...And forever



Early Spring Excavations 2013



Dry Laid Stone Foundation

