

# profile

Newsletter: Toronto Chapter Ontario Archaeological Society

January 2009

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Happy New Year to all our Members! 2009 is shaping up to be an exciting year and there are lots of plans in the works for members to get involved in activities.

Watch for details in future editions of Profile as our plans come together. Our Members Christmas Party was an outstanding success and we had the largest attendance for many years. Twenty Chapter members shared some wonderful potluck dishes, and I actually had to cook two turkeys in order to feed everyone. Our next Chapter event is the Winter Weekend at Limberlost, on February 13-15. Spaces are filling up fast so if you want to come to this fun-filled weekend you need to check quickly with Dave Hunt (see announcement elsewhere in this issue). You may remember

that Archaeology Day is now a Chapter event (we formerly ran things on behalf of the OAS). We did not hold an Archaeology Day last year as everyone was busy organizing the OAS Symposium. This year, the Executive is exploring ways that we can piggyback on a Doors Open event with another organization, so that we can benefit from increased public attendance. Stay tuned for more news. Don't forget that the January 21 meeting is Members Night. This year we have three presentations by Chapter members, so we can promise you an interesting evening. Mima Kapches continues to round up interesting speakers for the year (see separate list). Finally, don't forget that Chapter dues are due. This could be the best \$12 you ever spent.

**Sylvia Teaves, TOAS Chapter President**



## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

All talks are in room 246, 19 Russell Street, and begin at 7:30pm.  
University of Toronto.

**January 21 is Members' Night:** *Sylvia Teaves and Norma Hall will talk about their summer work in Newfoundland. Janice Teichroeb will talk about her work at Burleigh Falls, Ontario. Charles Garrad will talk about his visit to John Graves Simcoe's chapel in England.*

Isn't this a great photo of two of our loyal members! Hear about their trip at the meeting.



**February 18, Robert von Bitter,**  
*Ontario Ministry of Culture,  
"Management of Archaeological Site  
Data at the Ontario Ministry of  
Culture"*

**March 18, Dena Doroszenko, Ontario  
Heritage Trust (FYI: Arni Brownstone  
had a conflict with a conference in  
Germany and will speak at another  
meeting.)**

**April 15, Helen Mills, "The  
Archaeology of Toronto's Lost Rivers."**

**May 21, John Steckley, "Finding the  
St. Lawrence Iroquoians and Ben  
Kingsley: How I spent my summer  
vacation."**

**September 16, Dr. Jock McAndrews,  
University of Toronto, "Did a Comet  
Kill Clovis?" See assigned readings  
under the abstract for this talk.**

**COMING UP!!! Winter Weekend  
February 13 – 15, 2009: Limberlost  
Wilderness Reserve - Solitaire Lake  
Lodge. Please contact Dave Hunt or  
Marjorie Tuck at email below or call**

(905) 892-4773 for any other questions and to reserve your spot on the winter weekend.

#### **REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

During the business portion of the Toronto Chapter December meeting held November 29, the Nominating Committee advised the members present that a full slate of candidates for the 2009 Chapter Board was assembled, but that further nominations would be accepted from the floor. The call was made three times without response, whereon the Call for Nominations was closed and the candidates declared elected by acclamation as follow: President Sylvia Teaves, Vice-President Janice Teichroeb, Secretary Annie Gould, Treasurer Norma Knowlton. The Committee thanks these same members for their service in 2008. Charles Garrad and Mima Kapches

#### **ABSTRACTS:**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> Robert Von Bitter**  
*“Management of Archaeological Site Data at the Ontario Ministry of Culture.”* This presentation will provide a history of how archaeological site information has been managed at the Ontario Ministry of Culture over the years. The Ministry’s use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) will be highlighted, as will, recent work focused on integrating various silos of archaeology related data. Finally, an outline of the Ministry’s information management goals will be given, including those involving electronic service delivery.

**March 18, 2008, Dena Doroszenko, TBA**

**April 15, 2009, Helen Mills, “The Archaeology of Toronto’s Lost Rivers.”**

**May 21, 2009, John Steckley, “Finding the St. Lawrence Iroquoians and Ben Kingsley: How I spent my summer vacation.”** This last summer, while translating and analysing Gabriel Sagard's French-Huron dictionary, I discovered that it contained not just two dialects of Huron, but a trade language largely based on St. Lawrence Iroquoian. Hear both what the evidence was, and what it means for the study of the ethnohistory of Huron.

More recently I was hired to translate from English into Wyandot (a dialect of Huron) for the movie *Whispers Like Thunder*, about three Kansas Wyandot sisters who defended their cemetery throughout several decades during the 20th century. In doing the translation, I learned a lot about the nature of the difference between Huron and English, things I hadn't thought about before.

**September 16, Jock McAndrews, UofT and ROM, “Did a comet kill Clovis?”**

Beginning 13,600 years ago Paleo-Indian Clovis people appeared south of the continental ice sheet; they made distinctive fluted spear points adapted to big game hunting. Five hundred years later this fluted point culture disappeared to be replaced by diverse Late Paleo-Indian cultures. In addition, at 12,900 years ago mastodon and other large vertebrates suddenly became extinct. It is suggested that at this time a comet struck northern Ontario and caused a sudden climatic cooling that lasted until 11,500 years ago (Firestone et al. 2006, 2007). Fossil pollen diagrams document

this cool period called the Younger Dryas. Mastodon tusks in the ROM and Buffalo Museum of Science, which date to about 12,900 years ago, have surface traces of magnetite that may be from the comet. **Reading for interested Chapter members:**

Firestone, R., A. West and S. Warwick-Smith. 2006. The cycle of cosmic catastrophes, Bear and Co., Rochester VT. 392 pages. about \$18 at Chapters.  
Firestone, R. B. and 25 others. 2007. Evidence for an extraterrestrial impact 12,900 years ago that contributed to the megafaunal extinctions and the Younger Dryas cooling  
Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences 104:16016-16021.

#### **CHECK OUT HERITAGE TORONTO'S WEBSITE:**

Charles and Ella Garrad took a trip to Woford Chapel, the final resting place of John Graves Simcoe  
<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/news/story/2008/11/25/visit-simcoe-chapel>

#### **CAA Meeting Announcement**

We are pleased to invite you to Thunder Bay, Ontario for the 42nd Annual Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA) Meeting from May 13-17, 2009.

SEE ALSO: On the Internet: Firestone, R. B. and Topping, W. "Terrestrial evidence of a nuclear catastrophe in Paleoindian times." Mammoth Trumpet 16(2) March 2001, pp. 9 – 16.

#### **MEMBER NEWS**

**News from Dave Hunt:** "I know you will be pleased to hear that the other infamous winter weekend shot of my red skis along the path, that appeared in a previous OAS (Profile) newsletter, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place this year in the prestigious Pelham Horticultural Flower and Vegetable Show (Winter Landscape category)." Congratulations Dave!

#### **T.OAS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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