

profile

Newsletter: Toronto Chapter Ontario Archaeological Society
April 2009 26 (2) ISNB: 0832-8439

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

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

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

Fall Schedule

September 16, Dr. Jock McAndrews,
University of Toronto, "Did a Comet
Kill Clovis?"



Your Editor notices Archaeology
everywhere!

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to report that the Toronto
Chapter has had a very busy first quarter.

In February, our annual Members
Winter Weekend - a tradition of more
than 15 years - was again spent at Lake
Solitaire Lodge in the Limberlost
Wildlife Reserve north of Huntsville.
Fourteen Chapter and family members
spent a fabulous three days snow-
shoeing, cross-country skiing, trail
hiking, bird watching and deer spotting,
creating great meals and playing endless
games around a roaring fire.

Also in February, Members staffed a
Chapter information display at Toronto
City Hall as part of the annual Heritage
Showcase.

During March Break, Members joined
with Toronto and Region Conservation
staff in providing archaeology-related
activities at Black Creek Pioneer
Village. Our simulated dig boxes were a
great hit with the kids, who learned the
basics of excavating and happily
unearthed bones, pottery and other
carefully-seeded artifacts.

The Chapter continued with its
monthly speaker program.

January is traditionally Members
Month, and this year there were three
member presentations.

- Charlie Garrard entertained us with an account of his visit to Simcoe's grave at Wolford Chapel in England.

- Janice Teichroeb outlined some of her Master's degree research in the area of Burley Falls, Ontario.

- Norma Hall and Sylvia Teaves recounted their volunteer activities excavating a newly-discovered 16th English burial ground in Cupers Cove (Cupids) Newfoundland last summer.

Our February speaker, Robert von Bitter, described the management of archaeological data at the Ministry of Culture.

In March, Dena Doroszenko of the Ontario Heritage Trust outlined ongoing excavations at four historic sites in Southern Ontario.

I am delighted to report that Chapter Membership at the end of the year had risen to 77 – the highest in very many years. Just a reminder – if you haven't renewed your membership yet, we would appreciate receiving your cheque soon.

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2009

As you may remember, a year or so ago we successfully negotiated with the OAS to have the annual **Archaeology Day** become a Chapter event, rather than have it continue as an OAS activity with Chapter members asked to volunteer their time. The advantage to the Chapter is that we can now select when, where, and what this event will be.

Last year, we opted not to hold an **Archaeology Day**, as most Chapter Members were already devoting a great

deal of time to organizing the annual OAS Symposium. This year, we felt that, in order to get the best possible exposure for the Chapter, we would try to find a partner organization that would be participating in **Doors Open Toronto**, when many hundreds of people visit the site and admission to the public is free.

I am delighted to report that we have found the perfect partner in **Black Creek Pioneer Village**, who provided a very successful venue for the OAS Symposium last fall and who are very happy to have us put on our **Archaeology Day** at their facility on **Sunday, May 24**.

Archaeology Day will take the same form as in previous years: there will be a number of displays, information booths, a simulated archaeological dig for the kids, and of course the ever-popular used book sale. We are working with Black Creek to find the best location for us on their site and have a couple of excellent options. More about this later. Meanwhile, we need the following.

(1) Volunteers. We need as many Chapter Members as possible to come out and help on the day. Remember, this can be a lot of fun. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks:

- setting up the used book tables and selling the books – **6-8**
- supervising the book sales and taking care of the cashbox – **1**
- setting up and equipping the 6 simulated dig boxes – **3**
- showing the kids how to excavate/measure/record – **6-8**

- staffing the OAS Chapter display - 2
- relieving other people so that they can take lunch/restroom breaks – 4
- packing everything up at the end of the afternoon - 6

(2) Used Books. We are collecting used books on Archaeology, Anthropology, History and related topics for resale. In the past, this has generated several hundred dollars in revenue, which will now come to the Chapter. Would you please check out your books and see if there are any you would like to recycle, then **bring them to the Chapter Meeting on May 20.**

We are very excited about running our own **Archaeology Day** – especially at such a great venue. In the past, Chapter Members have been very generous about giving their time to this event, so we are hoping that you will all rally around to help make this year an outstanding success.

Sylvia Teaves
President, Toronto Chapter

SUMMER EVENTS:

Claremont Archaeology Festival

Date: Sunday June 7, 2009

Time: 10 to 5

Location: Claremont Field Centre

Claremont is located on the west side of Westney Road, about 2 kilometres north of Highway 7 and 15 kilometres north of Highway 401.

Uncover Ontario's hidden past!
Help in the excavation of the 1870s era homestead of local blacksmith George Graham, his wife Annie and their 16

children! The site features fieldstone foundations of their home and thousands of artifacts relating to domestic family life and the trade of the blacksmith.



- Enjoy public Archaeology where there will be plots to play! (1 hr slots will be available and slots are limited for those who want to actively participate – observers are also welcome!).
- Register for workshops and talks throughout the day on topics such as stone-tool making, blacksmithing, and fire kit making.
- Take guided forest walks to discover the plants gathered for food & medicine, and explore the landscape of the once thriving mill complex.
- Discover great craft, books and food vendors.

Visit www.trca.on.ca/events for more information or call 416-661-6600 ext. 6280 to register for the event!

The Hiscock Site: Excavations for Summer 2009

Jock McAndrews reported that excavations at the PalaeoIndian site are planned for this summer. Anyone interested in volunteering must contact Dr. Richard Laub of the Buffalo Museum of Science to discuss arrangements.

Winter Weekend TOAS Chapter



A happy photo provided by Dave Hunt, looks like everyone was having a great time! You can join next years WW stay tuned for details. See Sylvia's comments about this successful event.

Abstracts

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.

NOTE: There has been a show on NOVA recently that discusses this controversial issue. Suggested readings are in earlier issues of Profile.

T.OAS CONTACT INFORMATION

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WINNER
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ARCHAEOLOGY
AWARD!



"Our son learned
so much from
the whole
experience...and
he seems much
more inspired
about finishing
school and
deciding what
to do with
his life."

-Mother of a grade 11 student
from Ontario

QUESTIONS?

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