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Newsletter: Toronto Chapter Ontario Archaeological Society

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Limberlost: A Winter Weekend

Christine Caroppo details the Toronto Chapter's Winter Weekend in Huntsville, Ontario.

Also, upcoming events hosted by the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

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President's Message

The snow is melting and the birds are singing, let the fieldwork begin! For all of us involved in Cultural Resource Management, I expect this coming year will be full of challenges as we navigate our way through the Ministry of Tourism and Culture's new Standards and Guidelines. Neal Ferris, President of the OAS, is suggesting that the archaeological community as a whole be engaged during this transition to discuss what is working and where the stumbling blocks lie. I think this is a great idea and if any of the Toronto Chapter members are interested in participating I encourage you to refer to Neal's message in the January/February issue of Arch Notes. [http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/archnotes16\(1\).pdf](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/archnotes16(1).pdf)

The Toronto Chapter executive welcomed Jane Simser to the position of Treasurer beginning in February this year. Jane replaces Norma Knowlton who held the position for many years. Norma will continue to be involved in the chapter organizing the distribution of Arch Notes. Many thanks to Norma for her past contributions to the chapter and for continuing to volunteer her time and energy! Anyone interested in helping with the distribution of Arch Notes (the commitment is a few hours a couple of times a year), please contact Norma at knowltonne@start.ca.

Another administrative change made this year was to add a non-elected position of corresponding secretary. Carole Moran has graciously volunteered to take on this role and you have no doubt already received emails from her with chapter news. As coresponding secretary, Carole will be in charge of distributing various materials via email. It is our intent to distribute an upcoming Chapter agenda each month along with the minutes of the previous meeting. This will allow all members to keep current with chapter activities even if they are unable to attend the business meeting. Carole will also be responsible for distributing information regarding chapter events and activities.

The final two speakers before the summer break will discuss archaeological sites located in the Niagara region of New York State. Dr. Susan Maguire will speak in April on her archaeological work at Fork Niagara, NY and Dr. Lisa Marie Anselmi will speak in May on the Martin II site: an Early Woodland Meadowood lithic manufacturing locality on Grand Island, NY.

An upcoming bus trip exclusively for Toronto Chapter members is currently in the planning stages. Details will be posted on the chapter website toronto.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca as well as on our Facebook page Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society when finalized.

Mark your calendars for the annual OAS Symposium "Waterways Through Time, Recognition and Celebration" being held in Ottawa this year from October 13 to October 16. . Refer to the OAS website for more details: <http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/OASSymposium/2011Symposium.php>

Janice

OAS Toronto Chapter Winter Weekend at Limberlost Lodge, Huntsville, ON.

By Christine Caroppo

The intrepid members of the Toronto Chapter of the OAS returned, once again, to the tall white pines and frozen lakes of the Canadian Shield near Algonquin Park on the Family Day weekend of February 18-21, 2011.

The members who made the trek were: Brian and Garnet Clarence, and Christine Caroppo, Paul Dickey and Vickie Hayler, Norma Hall, Dave Hunt and Jorie Tuck, Tony Stappells, and Sylvia Teaves (**Figure 1**).

The weather on the way up from Toronto on Friday afternoon was glorious and sunny, but by the time we had contributed to the local economy by purchasing supplies in Huntsville, the sky had clouded over. Meanwhile, at the Lodge the power had gone out and the traditional chilli dinner (ably prepared by Paul & Vickie) had to be started on the woodstove; very resourceful bunch, we are. Luckily, the weather was cold enough outside to keep the beer chilled, as the fridge wasn't working.

Power restored, and dinner served we settled down to a quiet evening of reading and puzzling. This year's jigsaw puzzle [laboured over throughout the weekend] was a challenging masterwork of tiny pieces, mostly brown. It was especially satanic as the picture consisted of hundreds of overlapping chocolates proving frustrating while at the same time planting in the mind a primal desire for chocolate.

Sadly, half of the group had the unalloyed joy of the wilderness weekend spoiled by having to do homework. The rest lounged, ate bonbons, read the newspaper or novels. The temperature plunged and the wind picked up howling around the cabin and stirring up drifts.

Saturday morning dawned calmer and developed into a beautiful sunny day. Some cross-country skied on the trails around the Lodge while others snowshoed. In the evening, the sun set in beautiful tones of salmon and pink within a dramatic cloudscape over Solitaire Lake. Dinner was a fragrantly delicious roast turkey with all the trimmings prepared by Norma & Sylvia. After-dinner entertainment was a rousing game of non-competitive Pictionary that lasted until midnight.

Sunday morning dawned still and bright and -17°C. With another delicious bacon and egg breakfast by Paul tucked away we debated the merits of steel cut oats, psyllium and spurtles. The irony was not lost on the assembled members. This was followed by more cross-country skiing, walking in the crisp air and more sedate pursuits for those electing to stay in the cosy Lodge.

The afternoon's excitement was provided by a member whose car skidded off the icy drive and into the ditch. The Lodge manager and his snow-cat tractor came to



Figure 1: Back row- Christine Caroppo, Brian Clarence, Sylvia Teaves, Paul Dickey, Jorie Tuck. Front row- Dave Hunt, Norma Hall, Tony Stappells, Vickie Hayler, Garnet Clarence. (photo by D. Hunt)

the rescue and all was put right. Dinner was a pleasant affair featuring lasagne and a divinely decadent cheesecake prepared by Dave and Jorie. The evening was convivially spent playing Trivial Pursuit until very late.

Family Day Monday morning was again beautiful and sunny but very cold, -21°C. Only the hardiest souls ventured forth. The rest of us huddled around the jigsaw with mugs of coffee or cocoa and admired the view of lofty white pines and pillowy snowdrifts against a bright blue sky through the livingroom window.

The weekend rolled peaceably along with no particular agenda. A calm sort of zen-like atmosphere descended upon us with no obtrusive phone or internet or TV or radio to impose itself on the silence of forest and our thoughts or upon the conversation and companionship.

But all good things must come to an end, and so when the idyll was over we packed up and made the journey to our various homes. The difference this year is that the group, after much discussion, came to the difficult decision not to return to Limberlost in 2012. Sharply escalating fees made the decision inevitable. The search is now on for a more economical alternative for next year's adventure.



Figure 2: Limberlost Lodge and Lake Solitaire, near Huntsville, ON.
(photo by P. Dickey)

My thanks to Dave Hunt for all of his help and coaching in my first outing as Winter Weekend Coordinator. Thanks, also, to the other attendees for their contributions to shopping, cooking, cleaning up, etc. Couldn't have done it without you!

Bonus Recipe:

Limberlost Cranberry Sauce a la Sylvia

2 cups of whole cranberries (we used frozen)

3 Tbsp sugar, or more to taste

1 lemon ginger Stash™ brand herbal teabag

Bring berries and sugar to a boil in a small saucepan. Add the teabag being careful not to break it. Reduce heat and continue simmering, for about 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove teabag. Continue simmering until berries are soft, adding water as necessary, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat, let cool. Sauce will gel on its own. Serve with pride and turkey!

Notice: Special Lecture

Craigleith Heritage Depot Lecture Series

Monday, April 25th 1:00-2:00pm

Charles Garrad, archaeologist

Indian Myth and Magic on the Blue Mountain

The similarity of the ancient Greek myth of “Orpheus in the Underworld” to the beliefs the Jesuits reported among the Hurons/Petuns in the Blue Mountains will be examined



Location: Beaver Valley Community Centre, Thornbury

Cost: \$7 per lecture, \$10 per Couple, \$2 Youth ticket (18 and Under), \$65 Year Pass

**Museum members receive 10% discount*

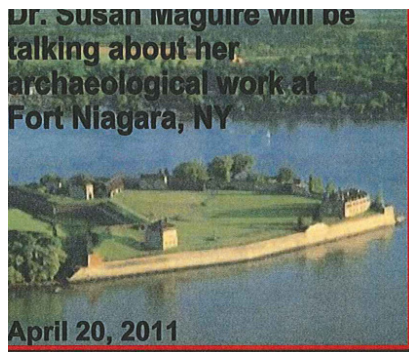
Tickets can be purchased at the door or pre-purchased at the Depot, or at Town Hall in Thornbury

For more information contact the Depot at (705) 444-2601 or visit www.thebluemountains.ca

Upcoming Events

Wednesday April 20, 2011

Upcoming Lecture



The speaker will be Dr. Susan Maguire talking about her archaeological work at Fort Niagara, NY.

Wednesday May 18, 2011

Upcoming Lecture



Dr. Lisa Marie Anselmi, "The Martin II site: An Early Woodland Meadowood Lithic Manufacturing Locality on Grand Island, New York." The Buffalo State College (SUNY) Archaeological Field School discovered the Martin II site during excavations in 2006 while looking for the original Martin site in Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island. This presentation outlines the results of three seasons of excavation at the site with an emphasis on the lithic artifacts recovered, differential preservation conditions and contextualizes the results at Martin II with sites on both the Ontario and New York mainland.

May, 2011

Upcoming Bus Trip!

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October 13-16 2011

2011 OAS Symposium

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Contact Us!

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Come Visit Our Website

Website: <http://toronto.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/>



Also, don't forget to join the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society **Facebook Group** for all the up to date information about meetings and interesting links. Information is also posted on the Chapter's webpage.