



PROFILE

Newsletter of the Toronto Chapter of The Ontario Archaeological Society

Spring 2012

29 (1)

ISSN: 0832-843



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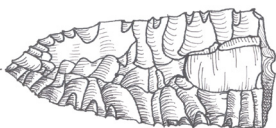
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The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

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.

President's Message

Back in the 20th century, when amateur archaeologists could join in the fun and excitement of excavating on archaeological sites in the Province of Ontario, members of the OAS worked on a number of large Iroquoian village sites including the Warminster site. Excavated between 1946 and 1979 Warminster is a Huron village located in Simcoe County. Though excavations for OAS members have become few and far between we now have a unique opportunity to re-visit the Warminster site through the artifacts that were excavated. Marti Latta is coordinating a 21st century review of the artifacts and the Toronto Chapter members are invited to get their hands dirty and get involved! During our February and April 2012 meetings we will be processing artifacts from the Warminster site in place of our regularly scheduled business meetings. So plan to stick around after the guest speaker and see what you can 'dig up' from the assemblage. You never know what mysterious and intriguing artifacts may come to light. Check out the following website for more information about the site and a sample of artifacts: <http://anthropology.utoronto.ca/Exhibit/warminster.htm>

Speaking of mysteries, we are inviting members and guests to bring UAO's (unidentified artifactual objects) to these meetings for identification. Have you found something on a site that you haven't been able to identify? There may be someone at the meeting who just happens to be an expert in that particular type of artifact. If there is something that can't be identified then Amanda (our dedicated Profile editor) may decide to include it in her newest feature. See details later in this edition.

There are three speakers remaining before the summer break. Dr. Max Friesen will discuss Late Dorset Longhouses in March, Dr. David Smith is scheduled for April, and Dr. Conrad Heidenreich will be discussing Champlain's visit to Huronia at the May meeting. I invite all members to attend.

Janice

Chapter Notices

Charles Garrad Receives Order of Ontario Award



Congratulations to Charles Garrad, who on January 26, 2012 was awarded the Order of Ontario. As the highest honour that can be given in Ontario, this award recognizes Mr. Garrad's long standing work in the field of archaeology. As the province's longest licensed archaeologist, Garrad has registered more than 90 archaeological sites.

Executive Board Members Nominations

We are still looking for nominations for the executive board of the Toronto Chapter. For now, the board will remain as it is, however if you know someone who would enjoy contributing to our chapter, specifically as Vice President, please send the nominations to the chapter email at: torontoarchaeology@gmail.com.

Call for Papers

We are always interested in publishing articles by all members of the Toronto Chapter. If you are interested in sharing your research or experiences in archaeology in this newsletter, please contact Amanda Parks at amanda.parks@gmail.com.

Boyd Archaeological Field School: Notice of 2012 field school season

OAS Members:

Are there high school students in your family or community who might be interested in doing **real archaeology** this summer, to earn a high school credit? Please help us inform your children and their friends of the **Boyd Archaeological Field School's** 2012 session – an exciting opportunity for students to earn a high school credit while getting real archaeological skills.



The Field School was founded in 1975, and has provided hundreds of students with the foundations of archaeological practice. Many have gone on to post-secondary studies and careers in the field. The course, open to students who have completed Grade 10, is offered as an **Interdisciplinary Studies, Grade 12 University Prep credit (IDC4U)**. The program is run by **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)** under the sponsorship of the **York Region District School Board**.

Students live in residence at Claremont Field Centre, north of Ajax, for 16 days, and excavate a site nearby. In addition to fieldwork, there are lectures by leading professionals, seminars, and hands-on workshops in early technologies such as flint-knapping (stone-tool making), firestarting kits, cordage, fishtraps and other re-creations. Evaluation is based on fieldwork, written assignments, seminars, workshops and a final exam.

This summer's course is takes place:
August 11 to 26th.

Tuition is \$1995 (\$2495 for non-residents of Ontario).

Inquiries can be directed to:

Aldo Missio

(Tel): 905-649-2208

(Email): amissio@trca.on.ca

Information is also available at the following website:

www.boydfieldschool.org/index.html



Stepping out of the classroom and into the field can be a daunting experience. In the classroom professors speak of cultures from next door and across the world, and though their lectures are interesting, they can also seem quite distant. The theoretical and the practical can be disjointed but I have been fortunate enough to have had stepped into the field before I stepped foot into the university classroom. While the experience gave me a reference for comparison, the field school I attended was not a true reality of consulting and research archaeology. Throughout my undergraduate career I was able to have my foot in the academic world as well in the field. Until the summer of 2011, my field experience had been limited to a combination of contract and research archaeology as a summer student and through a variety of experience programs. I had no idea there was a whole other aspect of field archaeology of which I had no experience.



Figure 1: Mackenzie 1 looking northeast

After I graduated I was fortunate enough to get a job with Western Heritage that was longer than any student contract that I had previously received. Not only was that thrilling, but the site happened to be an extremely large PalaeoIndian site. Named the Mackenzie I site (DdJf-9), the site was located just outside of Thunder Bay along the Trans Canada Highway, approximately 1400km from where I lived. When I arrived the camp that I had signed up to live in and realized the tent construction wasn't complete, I wondered, what had I gotten myself into? I had stumbled upon a third world within archaeology. My previous field experience in Southern Ontario mostly consisted of Stage 2 and 3 historic work, with a brief foray into Stage 4 work, and until this point I had never seen anything on such a large scale. Though I had been told that nearly 1000 units had already been excavated at the site, I don't think I was prepared for what a site that

big would actually look like. I think this shock was amplified by the knowledge that the site was approximately 9000 years old. My knowledge acquired in Southern Ontario had always led me to believe that PalaeoIndian sites were more akin to findspots than sites, and were few and far between at that. Needless to say I had never imagined that I would ever see a PalaeoIndian site, let alone one that big. While I couldn't say the field season that followed changed my whole perspective on consulting archaeology, it definitely opened me up to an aspect of the discipline to which I had never been exposed, and it was one whirlwind of a learning experience.

There were several aspects of my new job that I found were completely new and some things that I had never thought that I would experience. These were both big and small and some easier to adjust to than others. The biggest adjustment was to the size - not just the size of the site, although it felt enormous - but the scale of the project itself. Prior to this field season I had worked on relatively small crews, thinking that 13 was a lot of people, and here I found myself in a crew of 60 plus people. It was a slightly overwhelming adjustment at first. The living situation was another adjustment altogether. I lived in a corner of a tent big enough to fit a single bed and a small amount of space along the side and end. I roomed with three other tent mates in one of several in our tent city, and it became our own little world. It didn't take long to adjust to camp life, but what I didn't anticipate was how difficult it would be to leave. The part of the job that I thought I would have the most difficulty dealing with, as I am traditionally not overly social, ended up being one of the best experiences of the season.



Figure 2: Mackenzie 1 looking NE from the centre of

The Mackenzie I Site, continued

Throughout my undergraduate career I learned about PalaeoIndian sites and, as I have noted, what I had learned did not match what I saw before me. Some aspects of my expectations were met but others fell a little flat. I had heard stories of what would happen when a projectile point was found at one of the sites, of all the celebration that would occur, but what made this site so special and such a draw for so many people negated this expectation. I remember I found the first point of the season, something I was quite proud of. Not long after that another point was found and then another and another, without the pomp and circumstance I had expected. Although I shouldn't really be disappointed, I found my fair share of the points and other tools that came up during the season. I had never thought that I would have the opportunity, considering my impression of PalaeoIndian sites, to find a point that was possibly over 9000 years old. To hold something like that in my hand was a very humbling experience, and in my limited flintknapping experience I couldn't hold a candle to the skill needed to make the tools that we were finding.



Figure 3: Knife fragment, approximately 4cm tall (left), Point midsection, approx. 10cm tall (right)

The speed at which contract archaeology took place was also somewhat of a shock, I had never had to dig so fast. Thankfully the horror stories that I had been told by professors about consulting archaeology did not take place.

There was no backhoe archaeology, and in fact it was all very meticulous. I consider myself lucky to have worked with a company that cared about the research that could be done with what we were digging up. One very pleasant surprise of the work was the involvement of Native bands in the excavation. It was one of the greatest learning experiences that I could have imagined, as I had been taught that archaeology had traditionally been a white middle class profession. It was a pleasure to see that things are changing and I was happy to learn what archaeology meant to the people whose history I was uncovering and had the pleasure of sharing with them what archaeology means to me.



Figure 4: Taken on an excursion to Red Lake Ontario for Stage 2

This job taught me a lot about a world of archaeology that I had never experienced. When I started I wasn't sure if it would be the right fit for me but with the benefit of hindsight it was probably one of the best archaeological experiences that I've had. I'm glad I took the chance, because when I think about it, can you really ask for anything better than doing what you love in a beautiful environment? Is there a better office could you ask for?

Marina Russel is a recent graduate from Trent University with a Bachelor's of Science in Anthropology. Ms. Russel participated in the excavation of the Mackenzie I site from May to November, 2011.

Photographs are courtesy of Ms. Russel and Western Heritage.

What's That?

Have you ever discovered an artifact that puzzled you? Over the years I'm sure many of us have found an item or two for which the purpose of the artifact is unknown. If this has happened to you, or if you simply enjoy a mystery, then What's That? is for you!

What's That? is a new interactive column for which individuals can request an artifact be posted for discussion. The artifact will be described in text, photographs, and drawings, and the site from which the item was found will be summarized. If any member has a inkling as to what the purpose of the posted item is, thoughts can be directed to Amanda Parks (amanda.parks@gmail.com), and they will be posted in the following newsletter. Who knows how many mysteries can be solved!

Loren Scott from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority asks, What's That?

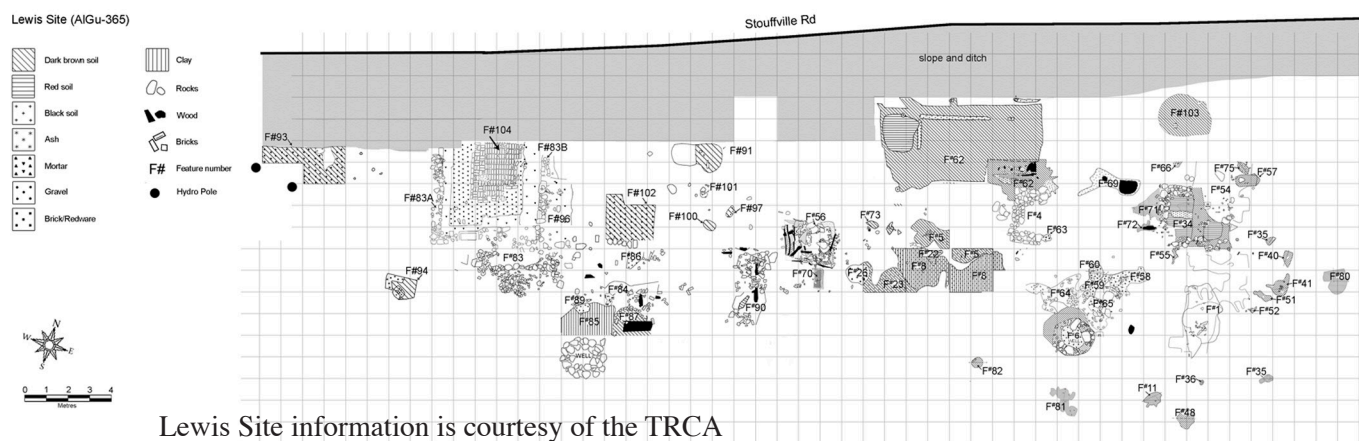
The Artifact

The artifact in question was discovered at the Lewis site (AlGu-365), described below. The item, pictured below, is bowl-shaped and is open on the top. It is made of clear glass, is slightly patinated, and was hand blown. The lip of the item appears applied and stretched. The artifact is bulbous where there is a cylindrical opening, presumably where an additional piece is attached.



The Lewis Site (AlGu-365)

The Lewis site was excavated by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) from 2006 to 2009. The site consists of a nineteenth century kiln complex and the Lewis homestead. It is likely that the kiln predates the Lewis homestead based on the artifact distribution across the site. This western area is identified with the location of the homestead, dating to between 1870 and 1880, while the eastern area housed the kiln and ceramic production and dated to somewhere between 1825 and 1850. Somewhat surprisingly, there appears to be a lack of any contemporaneous documentation regarding the kiln further suggesting it predates the Lewis homestead. Several foundations were identified, including a possible privy or shed, a foundation possibly associated with the Lewis house and two wells or cisterns. Additionally, over 40 features were mapped. The recovered artifacts and settlement patterns are still being processed and awaiting an in-depth analysis.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday February 15, 2012

Upcoming Lecture



Dr. Holly Martelle, Timmins Martelle Consultants,
The History and Archaeology of the Elgin County Jail

In 2010 Timmins Martelle Heritage carried out excavations at the Elgin County judicial complex in St. Thomas that once housed the former Elgin County Jail. The jail facility was constructed in 1853 and demolished over a 15 year period beginning after its closing in 1977. This presentation will review the history of the jail (1853 to 1900), the archaeological remains recovered and the discovery and documentation of the remains of John Hendershott and William Welter who were hung and buried in the jail yard in 1895 after being found guilty of murder in one of the most high profile criminal trials in Canada at the time

Wednesday March 21, 2012

Upcoming Lecture



Dr. Max Friesen, University of Toronto
“Across the Top of North America: The Thule Inuit Migration from Alaska to Arctic Canada”

One of the central events in the Arctic past revolves around the migration of ancestral “Thule” Inuit from Alaska to Canada and Greenland around 800 years ago. Traveling by boat and dogsled, these early Inuit moved across an entire continent in only a few decades, learning about their new environments as they went. In this paper, I will report on new research which is leading to a re-thinking of when and why this migration occurred, and how the earliest Canadian Inuit lived.