

STRATA

Newsletter: Peterborough Chapter Ontario Archaeological Society Fall 2010

It's Official ! The Peterborough Chapter of the OAS is Born!

On June 22, 2010 the Ontario Archaeology Society granted a Chapter Charter Peterborough

We are the first chapter of the OAS between Toronto and Ottawa. We are inviting everyone interested in regional history and archaeology to join us in this exciting new venture.

The Peterborough chapter plans to offer its members regular monthly presentations by local and visiting archaeologists, participation in archaeological excavations, opportunities for artifact analysis and a regularly published newsletter.

Included in this, our first newsletter, you will find:

- A hint of things to come
- A message from Michael Stringer, our president
- An introduction to the members of our executive
- An invitation to attend our first public presentation by Prof. Morgan Tamplin
- A summary of Julie Kapyrka's presentation at our organizational meeting
- An application for membership



A hint of things to come? Peterborough Chapter Members at Graham House Site

On October 23, several members of the Peterborough Chapter met in North Pickering to assist in a public dig sponsored by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The project was an excavation of the 1870s era homestead of local blacksmith George Graham and his family. The site features fieldstone foundations of their home and numerous artifacts relating to domestic family life and the trade of the blacksmith.

Message from the President (Michael Stringer)

Hello and welcome to all!

While the first ideas to begin a Peterborough chapter of the OAS were being formulated in the minds of individuals with a more extensive archaeological arsenal than me, I was busy completing the long journey that is a Master's Degree in Anthropology at Trent University. Now I know what some of you are saying: "The president of the chapter was merely a student? What can he offer that others can't?" Well the answer to that million dollar question is quite simple. Freshness and perspective.

Freshness, now some may recognize the term as modern day slang for "hip" or "cool". I am neither (although some would argue that point with me). I use the term as a verb to describe my approach to understanding the past. With fresh eyes, mildly untainted by the paradigms of the past, or the discourse and disorganization of previous archaeological perspectives. Although bias is inherent in the work of any good archaeologist, I merely try to view the bias as a necessary evil. Or as my mother would say: my own big mouth. A

fresh view of the past helps all people interested in archaeology to understand what is involved with interpreting the past. And although I may be in a small and select group that sees archaeology as a foundation upon which the modern world can better understand the trends of our current cultural climate, and help to predict where our society is heading, a fresh perspective on what the past is, and how we all interact with it, is quite refreshing to people used to hearing the same old garb and drabble. That's not to say that previous views and methods of studying the past were wrong or boring, just that a new perspective is needed to guide and present the past to a multi-weaponed archaeologist. This fresh view is simply an amalgamation of who archaeologists are, and what they represent to the current community. If you are an academic, commercial or consultant archaeologist, avocational or avid admirer of archaeology, or simply a fan of the discipline and what it represents, a fresh perspective offers a bridge between all facets of what makes archaeology the ideal tool study the past.

Perspective is something that allows us all, as fans of the discipline, to formulate

an idea of how we see the past, and what we conclude to be as “the past”. A fresh perspective is simply that, a new way to study and derive information from the remains of the past. Like a detective piecing the clues together in an unsolvable case, or the missing puzzle pieces that won’t complete the entire picture, our conclusions about the past and means of reaching them are all valuable contributions to the entire picture. Yet the picture becomes clearer as new ideas, methods, and technologies for studying the past improve. That’s just what I am offering to this chapter and the wider Peterborough community: The next step in how we can collectively observe and understand the past.

I am very glad and honored that we are all getting the opportunity to represent Peterborough’s diverse and unique

archaeological perspectives to the OAS, and to show the value and importance that studying the past can have on how we function as a society, to those that might not fully understand what archaeology, or anthropology, is. Our location and setting make us all quite valuable in terms of our knowledge and experiences in all aspects of anthropology, and it is my hope that we can make both the larger Peterborough community, and the archaeological society in general, understand the importance of having an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to utilizing, studying, and presenting the past.

Meet Your Peterborough Chapter Executive

President: Michael Stringer

Mike received his B.Sc. (Hon) in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology from Trent University in 2006, and his M.A. in anthropology from Trent University in 2010. Michael is a Staff Archaeologist, Surveyor, and GIS Technician with YNAS.

Treasurer: Harry Johnston

Originally from England, Harry and his wife live in Uxbridge. He is retired from IBM where he worked in computer hardware design. After retirement he studied archaeology at York University. He has participated in the York archaeological field school at the Boyd site.

Vice-President: Dirk Verhulst

Dirk is a retired secondary school teacher and vice-principal. Upon retirement he taught part-time at the Trent U. School of Education. He holds an M.A. in anthropology from Trent, an M.Ed. from U of T, and a B.A. from York U. His master's thesis involved an analysis of Mayan iconography at Altun Ha in Belize. He and his wife, Lorna, live in Peterborough. They have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

Director: Michael D. White

Michael is an Anishinawbe of the M'Chigeeng First Nation. He has worked with his family business for over 20 years teaching workshops on Aboriginal Craft. He holds a B.A. in anthropology and is currently enrolled in a M. of Sc. in archaeology. His research focuses on pre-contact archaeology of North America.

Director: Tom Mohr

Tom worked as a printer at the U. of T. where he studied archaeology as a part time student. He did field work at the Scarborough's Guild Log Cabin and the Ashbridges sites. He is the co-founder of the Pickering Twp. Historical Society and, currently, a director for the Victoria County Historical Society. Tom has made application for his avocational licence. He and his wife live in Lindsay and have 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

Director: Julie Kapyrka

Born and raised in Ottawa, Julie holds a B.A. in anthropology from Trent and a B.of Ed. from Western. After teaching for several years, she completed her M.A. in anthropology at Trent and is in the process of finishing her PhD in Indigenous Studies, also at Trent. Her interests include building relationships between indigenous peoples and archaeologists.

Peterborough OAS at Lindsay Showcase

July 24th, 2010 marked a couple of firsts in the local heritage community. The Victoria County Historical Society presented its inaugural heritage showcase, *Honouring the Past*, in Lindsay's historic Armoury and surrounding Victoria Park. Notable amongst the 35 participants was our newly-minted Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society in its first outreach project. Chapter member Morgan Tamplin graciously agreed to man our booth for the day, armed with a theodolite, trowels, shovels and other tools of the trade. By all reports, our presence was very well received by the 300-odd members of the public who visited this free event and we were asked to return next year. Special thanks go out to Morgan, as the day was a hot one.

First Public Meeting of OAS Peterborough Chapter

Who: Dr. Morgan Tamplin, retired professor of archaeology, Trent U.

What: presentation on First Nation Quarry Sites

Video: *Written in Stone*

When: Wed. Nov.3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 105 of Gzowski College, Trent University

This presentation will summarize the latest research on First Nations quarries reported at the OAS 2010 symposium at Killarney, Ontario. One of the earliest such sites in North America is at Sheguindah on the eastern end of Manitoulin Island, a 40 km boat trip SW of Killarney across Georgian Bay. Another early quarry at Granville Lake Manitoba is the subject of a video documentary, “Written in Stone” which first aired on APTN in 2007. After showing this video, results of the most recent excavation in 2009 will be compared to the latest research on Sheguindah and other Ontario sites. We will then discuss the implications of this early First Nations mining activity to current land claims in Canada.



Prof. Morgan Tamplin representing the Peterborough Chapter at the Lindsay Showcase

Archaeology and Indigenous Peoples in Ontario: Exploring the Relationship and Examining Perspectives.

Editor's Note: On June 22, 2010, at the inaugural meeting of the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS, Julie Kapyrka gave a presentation on improving relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Archaeologists. Below is a summary of her presentation. It is based on a paper she presented at the International Conference: Celebrating Indigenous Knowledges: Peoples, Lands, and Cultures on June 17, 2010 at Trent University.

This presentation outlined some of the results from my PhD research. My work lies in exploring the relationship between Indigenous peoples and archaeology, and by extension archaeologists. The aim of my research was to gain an understanding of both Indigenous peoples' perspectives and archaeologists' perspectives in terms of archaeological theory and practice in Ontario, to see where they agree and disagree, and to offer insight into positive relationship building between them. The results generated from this study indicate that the relationship between Indigenous peoples and archaeology/ists is situated in a highly charged atmosphere characterised by the larger relationship that exists between Indigenous cultures and Western society in general.

The relationship between Indigenous peoples and archaeology/ists finds its roots buried deep in the challenges arising out of a phenomenon Leroy Little Bear has called: "Worldviews Colliding". Archaeologists and Indigenous peoples not only find themselves amidst a sea of intellectual and cultural differences, but also involved in a relationship that is deeply affected and shaped by colonial influences that were set in motion at the time of Contact. Understanding how these processes affect present day contexts and relations between Indigenous peoples and archaeologists is fundamental to building new relationships between them based in trust, respect and mutual benefit. Building these kinds of relationships has the potential to reshape archaeological theory and practice: First, through the engagement of inclusive practice thereby expanding its meaning and relevance to Indigenous peoples and second, by enhancing its contextual understanding of the past by including Indigenous knowledge in its discourse. In this way, a new archaeology can be developed, one that is inclusive, ethical, and collaborative, and thus works to the benefit of both Indigenous and archaeological communities in Ontario. Based upon the results of my research, I offered several recommendations to implement this vision.

The Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

Application for Membership

Name	
Address	
City	
Postal Code	
Phone	
Email	

To be a member of the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS, it is also necessary to be a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. The Peterborough chapter will collect the OAS fees (see below) or you may consult www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca for membership information.

Fees collected are from date signed until the end of 2011

Membership Type	Fee	Amount
Peterborough Chapter – Individual	\$12	
Peterborough Chapter – Family	\$15	
Peterborough Chapter – Full Time Student (** proof required)	\$8	
Peterborough Chapter – Donation ***		
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Individual	\$36	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Individual with OA	\$48	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Family	\$40	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Family with OA	\$52	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Full Time Student (** proof required)	\$25	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Full Time Student (** proof required) with OA	\$34	
Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. – Donation ***		
	Total	

** Photocopy of student card is acceptable proof.

*** Donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt mailed directly from the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. Please make sure address information is correct.

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make cheques payable to the Peterborough Chapter of the OAS.

Send form and cheque to Treasurer:

Harry Johnson, 2 Testa Road, Apt 205, Uxbridge ON L9P 1L9, 905-852-5097,

hjohnson@powergate.ca