



Newsletter of The Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society – A Tradition Since 1976

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In this issue

Page 2 Our Land Acknowledgment

Page 2 Upcoming Speakers and Events

Page 3 Upcoming Ottawa Chapter Election of Executive Committee

Page 4 *The 50th Anniversary of The Museum of Classical Antiquities* by Jean-François Beaulieu

Page 5 Save the Dates – 2026 Archaeology Days

Page 6 2025 Symposium Summary

Page 10 *Adventures along the Bonnechere River – A Magical Confluence of Interests* by Rory MacKay

Page 11 Book Review *Echo Maker - Craig Macdonald and the Lives that Produced One of Canada's Most Significant Historical Maps* by James Raffan Introduced by Rory MacKay

Page 12 Appreciation - Congrats

Page 13 2025 Chapter Executive, OAS/Chapter info, Coming Up...



Happy Holidays!

Welcome to the final *Ottawa Archaeologist* of 2025. The revival of our newsletter has culminated in a multi-page edition filled with Chapter and OAS news, recent event summaries, an article, and more. Enjoy!

As we take this publication to its 50th anniversary in 2026, it seems appropriate to begin to recognize and remember those who have served as editors, contributors, and supporters. We start with Jean-François Beaulieu who is pictured below in attendance at the recent 50th anniversary of the Museum of Classical Antiquities celebration (see page 4). He was on board as editor for the 25th anniversary and is celebrating 40 years of OAS membership this year. Congratulations! Time flies, n'est-ce pas?



Former *Ottawa Archaeologist* editor Jean-François Beaulieu at the Museum of Classical Antiquities 50th Anniversary celebration.

Image courtesy of: J-F. Beaulieu

Le chapitre d'Ottawa de la Société ontarienne d'archéologique Inc. reconnaît le territoire non cédé de la Nation algonquine Anishinabe dont le riche attachement culturel remonte à des milliers d'années et dont la culture et la présence ont nourri et continuent de nourrir ces terres. Nous reconnaissons les Algonquins Anishinabe comme étant les gardiens traditionnels de ces terres et comme étant les défenseurs coutumiers du savoir du bassin versant de la rivière des Outaouais. Nous honorons leur culture, leur présence et leur long passé d'accueil de nombreuses nations sur ce magnifique territoire. En outre, nous rendons hommage à tous les peuples autochtones de cette région, de toutes les nations à travers le Canada, qui vivent à Ottawa.

The Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. acknowledges the unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation whose rich cultural attachment to this land reaches back thousands of years and whose culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. We recognize the Anishinabe Algonquin as the traditional guardians of this land and as customary Knowledge Keepers and Defenders of the Ottawa River watershed. We honour their culture, presence and long history of welcoming many nations to this beautiful territory. Further, we pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada who call Ottawa home.

Upcoming Chapter Speakers and Events

Thanks to Chapter Vice President Brad Drouin, we now have a full slate of speakers for the upcoming year. Stay tuned for Zoom links and other information.



Wednesday, December 10, 2025

**Holiday Gathering &
Annual General Meeting**

Location: National Capital Commission (NCC)
12-18 York St., Ottawa

Time: 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck; 7:30 p.m. AGM
A Zoom link will be sent to members for the AGM.

January 15, 2026

Speaker: Shauna Huculak, Victoria, B.C.
Topic: TBD

February 19, 2026

Speaker: Ashley Cameron
Topic: FjCa-51 (site)

March 19, 2026

Speaker: Chelsea Colwell-Pasch
Topic: TBD

April 16, 2026

Speaker: Nicole Nicholls (City of Kamloops)
Topic: Power screening and Hydro-vac in Kamloops

May 21, 2026

Speaker: Susan Langley
Topic: What do the *Titanic*, the Bible and Superman have in Common? (maritime archaeology)

July 11-15, 2026

Archaeology Days in Bonnechere Provincial Park

Upcoming OAS Ottawa Chapter Election of the Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking members who would be interested in participating on the 2026 Ottawa Chapter Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of the following positions:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Directors at Large

Director at Large (*The Ottawa Archaeologist* Newsletter Editor)

Interested in becoming more involved? We are looking for enthusiastic members with a variety of experiences and interests in archaeology. All chapter members in good standing are eligible to run for office.

If you're interested in participating or would like information about the positions, please reach out to any member of the nominating committee at contact@ottawaoas.ca **before December 8th**. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 (6:30 p.m. potluck, 7:30 p.m. AGM)

Where: NCC, 12-18 York Street, Ottawa, 4th Floor

Nominating Committee

Stacey Girling-Christie (Chair)

Colleen McGuire

Rachel Perkins



The 50th Anniversary of the Museum of Classical Antiquities

by Jean-François Beaulieu, B.A Honours Classical Studies, M.A History

On the evening of Friday October 3, 2025, I went to the 50th anniversary of the Museum Of Classical Antiquities reception. My friend Terry came with me. This event occurred on the fourth floor of the Desmarais building at the University of Ottawa from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There were lots of guests including current classical studies students, faculty members of the Department of Classical Studies sector, graduate students, and former students. The curatorial staff of the Museum Of Classical Antiquities was also present.



The guest speakers were seated on a podium. The host was the director of the Museum, John Serrati. Her excellency Ekaterina Dimakis, the Ambassador of Greece to Canada spoke, as did Marc Charron, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Ephfaris Kostala, President of the Parnassos Society, and former curator, Antonia Holden. Our host thanked the various organizers of the event. Greek wines, other beverages, and finger food were served. During the evening, a PowerPoint presentation was shown; it included a mention of my name as a contributor. I took lots of photos.



Afterwards, we were invited to go to the third floor to visit the Museum of Classical Antiquities. Curatorial staff was present to assist us. The vast collections represent various aspects of the Greco-Roman world. When I was a classical student, I volunteered here, cataloguing a newly acquired Greco-Roman lamp collection. I also assisted in the preparation of the 1985 exhibit, "Lux Perpetua." A reception for this exhibit was held at the department; other museum exhibits were held at Simard Hall. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Lux Perpetua exhibit. As part of the 50th anniversary, I provided a 1985 framed article and photos to the curatorial staff for the exhibit.

As a reminder, the Museum of Classical Antiquities was founded by two professors in 1975. Later a curator was added. For a long time, this triumvirate and some students took care of the museum. Professors purchased or donated artifacts. Private collectors also donated artifacts. In time, the collections grew. Originally, the Museum was located in the basement of the Department of Classical Studies located at 30 Stewart Street. It was a cramped room with a desk, table, heavy glass display table, chairs, and no computers. Eventually the Museum and the Department relocated.



program was also added. Students and interns volunteer and offer guided tours; these can be arranged by reservation and are held during office hours.

The Museum's collection has become a priceless gem! Staff have added new technology such as Facebook and other social media. The Department of Classical studies added a practicum in museology for fourth-year students. As you can see, a lot of changes have occurred since I was a student.

Finally, for the last 50 years, generations of classical students have acquired skills in museology and CRM by volunteering at the Museum. They used the collections for scholarly research which helped some prepare for future careers careers as art historians, academics, curators, classical archaeologists, and professions in other related fields. Professors also used these collections for their classes and research.

Friday October 3rd was a memorable evening. I do hope that the Museum Of Classical Antiquities will be a beacon for generations to come.

*Images for this article courtesy of:
Jean-François Beaulieu.*

For more information, visit:

<https://www.uottawa.ca/faculty-arts/classics-religious-studies/museum-classical-antiquities>

In 1994, the Museum of Classical Antiquities moved to the ground floor of the new Arts building. It had a new modern curatorial office and a separate display area. I have visited the Museum on several occasions. This was before moving to the current location. Over the years, the Museum witnessed numerous changes. In recent years, an advisory board was created. There is an emerita curator. There is also a collections manager (since 2020) and there are museum interns (since 2022) and student volunteers (since 2018). An educational



SAVE THE DATES

2026 Archaeology Days in Bonnechere Provincial Park

July 11 – 15, 2026

(July 11-12 – Public Archaeology Programming)

(July 13-15 – Dickerson Site – 3 days of excavation)



2025 OAS Symposium Summary – October 17-19, Windsor

by Ellen Blaubergs



Congratulations to the Windsor and Grand River-Waterloo Chapters on a very successful collaboration and hosting of the 2025 OAS Symposium on Windsor's famed riverside waterfront. Traditional with a bit of an edge, it was very well-attended by just over 220 people.



Susan Dermarkar, OAS Director of Chapter Services picked me up in Oro-Medonte and drove all the way to Windsor. We took the back roads and joined other leaf-lookers admiring the sunny, colourful countryside. A brief stop in London at the new OAS office in the Museum of Ontario Archaeology allowed us to pick up some symposium materials and meet our new Executive Director, Sean Doyle. He is still in the process of unpacking boxes from the former Toronto office and we wished him a bright light at the end of that tunnel.

The symposium began with the Chapter Presidents' Meeting on Friday afternoon at the Best Western hotel. It was great have to seven chapter presidents and/or representatives in the room while two were

able to join the meeting virtually. A Toronto Chapter representative chimed in during her train trip to Windsor.

Later that evening, we ventured over to the Chimczuk Museum, a short distance away, to enjoy the opening ceremonies and other delights. Attendees had been urged to dress in 1920s-style glad rags and many rose to the occasion. The flapper dress and fringe seemed to be popular, as was the Zoot suit and some variations. A prize was given for the "best dressed." At first, the 20s theme seemed a bit incongruous to the drum circle members who opened the event following a traditional land acknowledgement, and the thoughtful words from the Caldwell First Nation's feather bonnet-clad Chief Nikki van Oirschot. Upon further reflection, the evening's spirit seemed to capture several aspects of the symposium theme, "beyond borders."



OAS President Lisa Sonnenberg - aka Al Capone

We sampled libations from the Wolfhead Distillery (in nearby Amherstburg) and appreciated that this business was donating 20% of the sale of certain cocktails, to the Windsor Chapter. Windsor-style pizzas from Koolini's Italian Eatery proved very popular, as did the coffee house sounds provided by a local combo. We also heard from the Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, The Honourable Graham McGregor (MPP Brampton North) who stayed quite a long time following his speech to answer questions and chat with attendees.



BEYOND BORDERS LANDS RIVERS PEOPLES

Papers were presented all day on Saturday at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. Three sessions ran concurrently; fortunately the session rooms were side by each, so it was fairly easy to move between them. Poster papers and the silent auction were in another adjacent room, and the coffee was just outside that area, so there was a lot of traffic into that room as well. There were some excellent papers demonstrating a healthy state of academic and CRM research. A link to the 2025 symposium

program follows this summary should you wish to check out the paper abstracts.



Poster papers and Silent Auction

The Annual Business Meeting was particularly lively as the president and various directors reported on the past year's activities, events, and challenges. Among other things, a membership fee increase was approved. There will be no traditional symposium in 2026; instead, the group of people attempting to revive the Toronto Chapter will coordinate an event to be held on Zoom. There may be an in-person aspect as well. Much remains up in the air but the board was reminded that they were still legally obliged to hold an ABM, regardless of the format. The London Chapter will be hosting the 2027 symposium and the Huronia Chapter will be teaming up with the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology in 2028 (venue city to be determined).

A great view of the Detroit evening skyline greeted over 120 of us as we entered the ballroom at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts, following the ABM. Billed as the "After Party and Awards", the event featured hors d'oeuvres, fabulous buffet stations, burlesque by Velvet Edge Entertainment (including an aerial performance!) and the presentation of several awards. Hopefully, these will all be covered in a future issue of *Arch Notes*.



An OAS Symposium first – aerial burlesque!



Dena Doroszenko with a gift from Elaine Cheng and Eva MacDonald, organizers of the “Dena Session”

Some Ottawa Chapter members will be pleased to know that Dena Doroszenko was presented with the Helen Devereux Award for Excellence in Archaeological Mentorship. Earlier that day, Dena’s 38-year career with the Ontario Heritage Foundation/Trust was celebrated in a session of papers held in her honour. Happily, this session did not include too many embarrassing images, although

some women were mortified to see themselves working on sites, wearing that insane stretchy fashion abomination from 70s/80s – the “tube top” – yikes!



Ruth Macdougall with her Tim and Ian Kenyon Award

Ruth Macdougall was a most deserving recipient of the Tim and Ian Kenyon Award for her exceptional contributions to historical archaeology in Ontario. Some Ottawa Chapter members will recall having the pleasure of working with her in the early 2000s at Parliament Hill and Murphy’s Point Provincial Park. During the August 2003 northeastern North America power outage, she insisted that “archaeology is an essential service.” She also inspired the symposium t-shirt slogan for that year: “Ontario Archaeology – Our grid systems don’t require electricity.” I still have mine!

Karolyn Smardz-Frost (who chimed in via Zoom from her home in Wolfville, N.S.) received the J.V. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award. It was accepted by Karolyn’s former Archaeological

Resource Centre high school co-op student, Claire Freisenhausen. Claire is now a senior partner at CRM Lab Archaeological Services – Toronto.

It was lovely to see a small memorial erected to the Windsor Chapter's former president, Rosemarie Denunzio who passed away late last year. She will always be remembered for her decades-long and tireless advocacy for Windsor and Essex County cultural heritage.

As with any symposium, its success on so many levels can be attributed to the strength of an amazing organizing committee, the energy of volunteers, and the generosity of sponsors, mainly from the CRM community. Special appreciation is extended to everyone, including: ARA, Regal Element and Tents, WSP, Wilfred Laurier University, TMHC, Stantec, ASI, True North Archaeological Services Inc., LHC Heritage, Matrix Heritage, and Parslow Heritage Consultancy Inc.

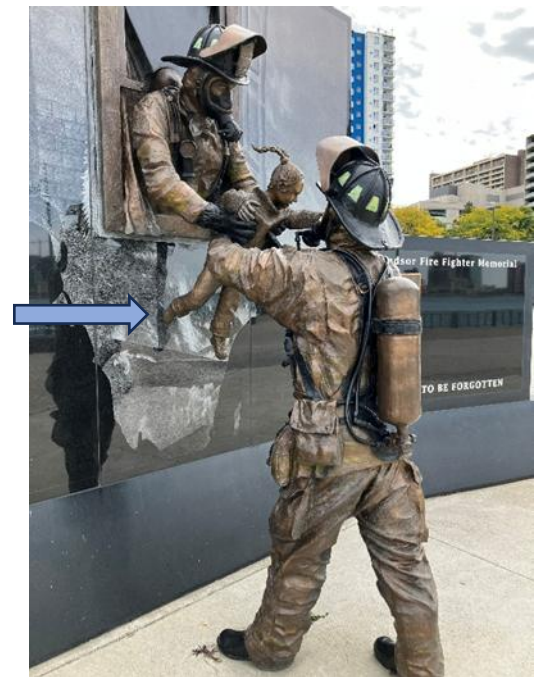


A walk along the Detroit River reveals industrial and railway heritage, and many memorials.

The Sunday morning/early afternoon program included an Indigenous Roundtable, Lithic and GPR workshops, a Black History Walking Tour of Sandwich, and a Riverside Walking Tour featuring villages and gravesites on the Detroit River. Facing a long and rainy drive home, Susan and I opted not to participate in any of these offerings. From all accounts they were well-attended and provided an enjoyable conclusion to an excellent symposium.

Symposium program and paper abstracts:
<https://ontarioarchaeology.org/oas-symposium-2025>

All images except logos: E. Blaubergs



The Windsor Fire Fighter Memorial
The little girl is missing one shoe!

Adventures along the Bonnechere River – A Magical Confluence of Interests

by Rory MacKay

During the three days of work at the Dickerson Site this past July, one of the park staff inquired how it was that I had become a research archaeologist interested in Algonquin Park and Bonnechere Parks sites. I thought perhaps a few adventures along the Bonnechere River might be of interest to Ottawa Chapter readers.

A good place to start might be in the middle, when I first worked with members of the Ottawa Chapter. That story, like some others I will tell, is related in the book *Spirits of the Little Bonnechere*, of which I am the author.

A committee, including the Regional Archaeologist, Park Superintendent Jim Fraser, Bonnechere Park staff, and Ottawa Chapter members, had decided in 1995 to plan a weekend of archaeology at Basin Depot, in Algonquin Park. It was at that location that there had been a base for the McLachlan Lumber Company in 1890. A survey map from that year showed several buildings, including an office and a blacksmith shop. In 1996, Basin Depot was accessible by road and was an open space with sandy soil.

In early May 1996, members of the Ottawa Chapter had taken up short-term residence in the Bonnechere Parks staff house on the Thursday night and on Friday morning were beginning to shovel test in the field at Basin Depot. Meanwhile, I was teaching high school classes in Kingston. I must have received permission for time off, because after a three-hour drive it was late afternoon when I approached the boundary of Algonquin Park in my van.

I was confronted with a deep gully across the road where there had been a washout. I stopped. Would my van be able to get across without getting stuck? There were tire marks through the gully, and there

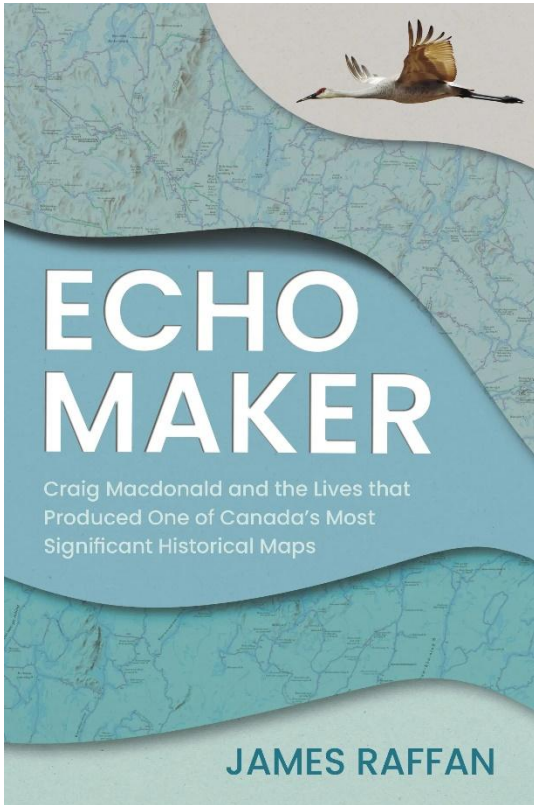
was archaeology ahead, so I decided to try to get across. Successfully on the other side I raced up the gravel road, and just past the oldest cabin in Algonquin Park.

Now there are some observers who say that my van was still rolling when I exited it and ran across the grassy field to the closest archaeologist. Peggi Armstrong was busy excavating a square test pit and had just extracted part of a ceramic plate from the ground. Parts of the plate were arranged together on a dustpan by her assistant. I was impressed by the care taken in Peggi's work.



The next day I had the opportunity to do my very first shovel test near where the survey map showed there had been a blacksmith shop. There could have been nothing found, but with sod and some soil removed I reached down into the hole and pulled up a handful of dark material holding what could be described as “things that would be found in a blacksmith shop”: long nails, short nails with broad heads, and a metal hook. My interests in Algonquin Park history, hobby blacksmithing, and archaeology had all come together in one small hole in the ground at Basin Depot.

What could be a better start for beginning a quest for my own archaeological license, other Ottawa Chapter archaeological adventures, and my own archaeological projects along the Little Bonnechere River.



Echo Maker

Craig Macdonald and the Lives that Produced One of Canada's Most Significant Historical Maps

by James Raffan

2025 • Dundurn Press, Toronto, ON
<https://www.dundurn.com/books>

ISBN 978-1-459-755765 (PB) • 336 pp. • \$39.99

ISBN 978-1-459-755789 (eBook) • 336 pp. • \$17.99

Introduced by Roderick (Rory) MacKay

We archaeologists, avocational, research, or consultant, are interested in recovering and understanding the past through careful discovery of artifacts, and in revealing through context the story they tell. It has been by those means that the distant past of First Nations people has been learned, but only in part. On most archaeological sites parts of the story are absent; organic materials succumb to bacterial decay or acidity of the soil; and there is no record of

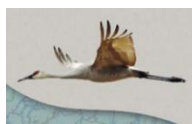
location names and travel routes, important aspects of any cultural tradition.

While some of the record of the past can survive for thousands of years to be recovered through archaeology, with oral tradition, unless passed on to be recorded by a receptive listener, information from the past disappears with the demise of the holder. By combining a phenomenal memory with pencil notes on foolscap, instead of a trowel, Craig Macdonald could be considered a cultural "archaeologist" of oral tradition.

In 1966, as a young man, Craig set out to research and document the original geographic names and travel routes of the last of the Anishinabeg people of the Temagami region who lived on the land. Craig gained the trust of elders, learned to communicate in their first language, and listened, and listened, and heard. Through countless hours of "after his regular work", Craig eventually rendered that information he had learned, on an accurate historical map of the landscape, for which there are no equals. His was pioneering the work of Reconciliation long before the days of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Author James Raffan has produced a fascinating biography of Macdonald's early life, leading into his careful assembly of his map of Temagami and his ongoing fascination and experimentation with techniques of traditional winter travel, gathered from First Nations sources across the north. Here is the story of a man who continues to give back to a particular First Nation, but also helps the rest of us understand the past. It is a well-written and inspirational narrative, worthy of a space on your bookshelf for reading more than once.

Echo Maker was published in October 2025 by Dundurn Press. All royalties from *Echo Maker* benefit the Temagami Community Foundation.



Appreciation – Congratulations



It is the season of good cheer, so we are reminded of our Chapter President **Phil Trottier's** thoughtful and generous donation of various bottles of wine to two events. These accompanied some wonderful dinners by the shores of Round Lake during Archaeology Days in Bonnechere Provincial Park. A few additional vintages will be added to the Pot Luck table during the Chapter's Holiday

Gathering on December 10th. Many thanks, and cheers Phil!

OAS Tim and Ian Kenyon Award in 2019. (This information was summarized from the OAS Symposium session abstract by Eva MacDonald and Elaine Cheng).

For several decades, whenever she was working in eastern Ontario, Ottawa Chapter members were invited to participate on "local" sites held in trust by the OHF/OHT. Some of the more memorable ones included Inge Va in Perth, Macdonell House in Pointe-Fortune, and Homewood near Maitland. We always received a warm welcome, good instruction and feedback, and even found the odd cool artifact or structural remnant. We are grateful to Dena for all of these opportunities, for keeping the bar high, and for inspiring many of us to pursue and value historical archaeology in Ontario.

As noted in the symposium summary on page 8, **Dena Dorozenko** recently retired after 38 years of service with the Ontario Heritage Foundation/Trust. She held the position of Senior Archaeologist for all those years and was celebrated with a special session in her honour at the recent OAS Symposium in Windsor: Entitled, "A Trusted Authority on Historical Archaeology: Papers in Honour of Dena Dorozenko", the session included eight papers on historical archaeology and the legacy of Dena. She also received the Helen Devereux Award for Excellence in Archaeological Mentorship at the OAS Awards ceremony.

As the OHT owns or has easements on over 400 provincially significant properties with built heritage that require continued maintenance and repair, Dena designed and implemented numerous historical archaeological programs for a diverse range of sites. Often, these had a public education component that related to the Trust's mandate to conserve, interpret and communicate Ontario's heritage. Through these projects, she shared her expertise and mentored hundreds of people who have since been hired in a wide variety of leadership, technical, analytical and other positions. She is recognized as an authority in historical archaeology as a result of her publications and regular participation in provincial, national, and international conferences. She also authored the chapter for Canada in the *International Handbook of Historical Archaeology* (2009) and received the



The Ottawa Chapter extends its heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to Dena for a very well-deserved and happy retirement!

Dena Dorozenko happily acted as discussant at the conclusion of the recent OAS symposium paper session in her honour. Image: E. Blaubergs

2025 Ottawa Chapter Executive Committee

President: Phil Trottier
Vice President: Brad Drouin
Treasurer: Bill MacLennan
Secretary: Monica Maika
Director at Large: Marian Clark
Director at Large: Pierre Desrosiers (until May)
Director at Large: Stephanie Carles
Director at Large: Aaron Mior
Director at Large (*The Ottawa Archaeologist*
Newsletter Editor): Ellen Blaubergs



Ottawa Chapter
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The clay pipe in the Ottawa Chapter logo is from the Roebuck Village Site excavations undertaken in 1912 and 1915. It was reported and illustrated in *Roebuck Prehistoric Village Site, Grenville County, Ontario* by W. J. Wintemberg, National Museum of Canada, Bulletin No. 83; 1972 Facsimile Edition; page 163, Plate XVI, Figure 18.

Coming up in the next *Ottawa Archaeologist*...

- Book Review: *Aprons and Moccasins*
- *Adventures along the Bonnechere River – A Picnic at the McGuey Farm* by Rory MacKay

Remember...

Our newsletter is a great place to showcase images, short articles, event notifications, book and media reviews, and other related items. Please send them to ottawaoas@gmail.com for consideration.

**Don't forget to renew your
2026 OAS and Ottawa Chapter memberships**

<https://ontarioarchaeology.org/get-involved/membership/>

Our mailing address is:

Ottawa OAS Chapter Station E PO Box 4939
Ottawa, ON K1S 5J1 Canada

Contact us:

ottawaoas@gmail.com ottawaoas.ca

**With appreciation for information and
contributions to this issue....**

Jean-François Bealieu, Amanda Black, Ellen B.,
Brad Drouin, Stacey Girling-Christie & Rory MacKay



This Ottawa Chapter Basket was donated to the recent OAS Symposium Silent Auction in Windsor. It featured a vintage seasonal platter & paperweight, two books by "local" authors, a jar of Cranberry-Port Sauce and our most recent newsletters.

Image: E. Blaubergs