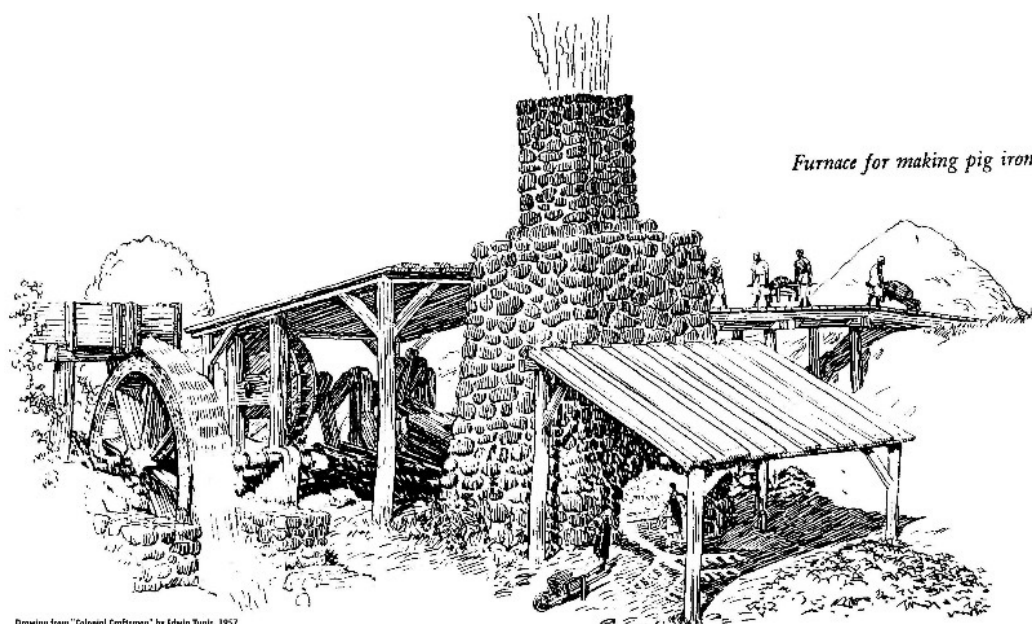


NOVEMBER 2018

VOL. 46-2  
ISSN 3818357

# THE OTTAWA ARCHAEOLOGIST



## **Public Archaeology**

**Wrap-up**

**LANSDOWNE IRON WORKS**

**NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

**(See page 3 for 2018 notes and photo)**

**Ottawa Chapter**

**Ontario Archaeological Society, Inc.**

**PO Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, ON K1S 5J1**

**[www.ottawaoas.ca](http://www.ottawaoas.ca)**

## BACKGROUND

On June 30th 1971, the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS was founded by: Mrs. J. D. Bradford, Mr. David J.A. Croft, Clyde C. Kennedy, Barry M. Mitchell, Mrs. Glenna Reid, Dr. Donald S. Robertson, Mr. Michael J. Schepanek, Mr. and Mrs. Iain Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Watson, Dr. James V. Wright, Col. and Mrs. Lou H. Wylie.

Since September 1976 The Ottawa Archaeologist has been the newsletter of the Ottawa Chapter. It is published 3-5 times annually. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee, the Executive, or the OAS. Other newsletters may reprint notes and papers with an appropriate credit line.

Submissions are always welcome and very much appreciated. Please send to the address below!

2018 Executive Committee: Please contact us by email: [ottawaoas@gmail.com](mailto:ottawaoas@gmail.com)

**President:** André Miller

**Vice President:** Stacey Girling-Christie

**Treasurer:** Bill MacLennan

**Secretary:** Carol Pritchard

**Directors at Large:**

Bradley Drouin

Elizabeth Imrie

Mel Massey

Ben Mortimer

Glenna Roberts

Sarah Taylor

Phil Trottier

**Newsletter Editor:** Marion Clark & Carol Pritchard

**Webmaster:** Yvon Riendeau

Any member of the Ontario Archaeological Society may join one of its local Chapters.

### **Fees:**

Individual: OAS \$36 w/ OA\* \$48 Ottawa Chapter \$20

Family: OAS \$40 w /OA \$52 Ottawa Chapter \$25

Students: OAS \$25 w/OA \$34 Ottawa \$12

Institution/Corporate w/OA \$62

Life Membership w/OA \$800

\*Ontario Archaeology publication

### **Payable to:**

The Ontario Archaeological Society Inc.

P.O. Box 62066, Victoria Terrace Post Office

Toronto ON M4A 2W1

**Phone/fax:** 416-406-5959

**email:** [oasociety@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](mailto:oasociety@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

**Website:** [www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

Photos in this issue courtesy of Art Smith , Past Recovery Archaeological Services, OAS, Gatineau Historical Society and Carol Pritchard

## **Lansdowne Ironworks Archaeology Wrap-Up 2018**

**Art Shaw**

Dear Supporters & Friends;

The 2018 dig has concluded. As intended, it was centered on the west bank of the river, opposite the designated historic place of the Lansdowne Iron Works National Historic Site. This was calculated to dispel doubt by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board that the west bank should be included in the National Historic Site. We feel confident that this year's dig produced enough evidence to overcome any doubt about the bloomery being on the west bank.

This year, the dig was moved up a week to avoid the conflict with Turkey Fair preparations, as we encountered last year. We started on Monday Aug 27 for six working days, finishing on Tuesday Sept 4 after the Labour Day long weekend. The volunteers were many and enthusiastic, numbering 10 or 11 each day in the field and 6 or 7 in the lab, in addition to 5 staff members from Past Recovery Archaeological Services Inc. About three weeks prior to the dig, Jack Harvey, Dave Johnson, and myself investigated the mill pond by conducting a magnetic survey by boat. We found iron residue from the size of grains of sand up to small pebbles, including a nugget of once-molten iron similar to the one John Light found in 2001.

As on the east bank, there has been 200 years of industrial activity since 1811, when the iron works burned. Knowing that the overburden would be deep on the west bank, we were delighted with the offer by Brent Tye, who donated the services of his excavator to get us down to the iron works period soil strata quickly. He dug pits inside and outside the 1897 sawmill foundation. The pit inside revealed that there was no remaining wreckage from the mill machinery, and the floor of the basement of the sawmill was bedrock, littered with the same large pieces of granite that we find everywhere on both sides of the river. We also determined that the poured concrete foundation walls of the sawmill are founded on bedrock and could be reused to construct a pavilion in which to interpret the iron works and the subsequent mills, which were so important to the village.

Our reasoning was that the iron works buildings would have been in the same location as the later mills, to take advantage of the water power. Two machine-dug trenches and one hand dug pit inside the mill foundations did not reveal any clues to the location of the bloomery and forge. A stone wall which crossed the foundation of the grist mill at a shallow angle,



and appeared to be either loose laid, or else old enough that the mortar had leached out completely, gave us hope that it was a remnant of either the 1800 bloomery or the 1865 shingle mill, but excavation revealed it was probably of more recent origin and loose laid.



A trench outside the foundations at the upper level was more productive. There we found a thick layer of tree bark, believed to be cedar, which could date from the shingle mill period, and below that, on the bedrock, the residue of a charcoal pile in which there was a post hole. We interpret it to be the remains of a shelter for charcoal, from the iron works period, which is in keeping with the fact that the west bank was part of the “FurnaceYard” as described in a mortgage from 1805.



Four test pits nearby yielded nothing older than the remains of an unidentified electrical device from the 1912 to 1929 period, when hydro power was generated in the grist mill.

Five pits, down near water level on the south side of the site, were the most productive. Access was via a rope, for security in descending and ascending the steep loose incline from the upper level to water level. This has been a place to dispose of refuse ever since the iron works period, and was littered on the surface with household waste as recent as the 1960s.

Beneath this we discovered slag and other residue from a smelting process, increasing as we progressed from west to east along the beach. The amount of iron remaining in some of the slag (tested with a magnet) was enough to indicate that the process that was performed here

was quite primitive in efficiency. The concentration of slag was greatest near the access rope, where it appears the river bed is composed of a high percentage of slag, with a shallow overlay of loose stones.

**Formations of slag of different types from the beach area. These are residue from the bloomery, deposited here before 1811.**



Fallen rocks from the mill foundation, and the instability of the remaining wall above, prevented us from digging to the east of the access point, but in that area a tailrace had been dug for the new mill in 1897, at which time much slag had been removed from the bottom of the river and deposited on top of the surrounding rocks. These samples included a large piece with strong magnetic attraction, which was identified by Darrell Markewitz, one of our volunteers who makes frequent practice of smelting iron in a primitive bloomery, as a “slag bowl” which had formed around the outside of a bloom but had not adhered to the bloom when it was extracted from the furnace. The nature and concentration of the slag in this area indicate that a bloomery furnace existed in very close proximity, probably within the footprint of the 1897 grist mill.

The next step will be to present our newfound evidence to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, in support of the appeal we made last year to have the designated historic place of the Iron Works enlarged to include the west bank of the river. If we can persuade them of that fact, our future archaeology should become eligible for cost sharing with Parks Canada; however, there is little hope of the decision being made before the deadline for applications for 2019, and “eligible” means only that we can compete for funding with all the other National Historic Sites.

Thank you to our loyal supporters, who donated a total of \$10,250 in 2018. After the dig last year, donations continued to come in until year end, resulting in \$4,050 remaining from 2017. So in round numbers, our budget for this year was \$14,300, and our outlay about \$13,400. Our appeal to the steel industry for corporate support was eclipsed by the crisis resulting from tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

Your dollars enabled us to learn a lot about the site. We found lots of positive information, which is pivotal to the interpretation of the National Historic Site, and as the archaeologist says, the “negative information” still teaches us something. There is more to be done on both sides of the river in years to come. The negative findings from both this year and last point us to new locations to dig in the future. In that regard, Brent Tye thinks he can get his excavator down the slope on the east side, to move the heavy rubble covering the spot we now consider most likely.

Of course, the most important factor is the continued generosity of you, our supporters. Without you, nothing more will be revealed of this site, which is so important to the village of Lyndhurst as well as the province of Ontario. Once again, tax receipts will be issued in the new year. We will be in touch again as soon as plans for next year are solidified.

Sincerely, Art Shaw



**This piece of primitive equipment was removed from the river. It is probably part of a device to open a sluice or a turbine, from a mill prior to 1897.**



**Five pits down on the beach provided some of the most important discoveries.**

**This unidentified electrical device had field coils, and once had two armatures.**



**The flume (circa 1912) is accessible, which carried water to the entrance to the turbine**



Photos from Past Recovery Archaeological Services

The following is an open letter of support for additional recognition of the important Lansdowne Iron Works National Historic Site in Lyndhurst by Jeff Earl, Principal Archaeologist with P. It provides a further description of the work that has been undertaken at the site.

September 27th, 2018

**Re: Lansdowne Iron Works NHS Designated Historic Place Extension**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the efforts by Mr. Art Shaw of Lyndhurst to have the Designated Historic Place associated with the Lansdowne Iron Works NHS extended to the west side of the Gananoque River. I am a principal at Past Recovery Archaeological Services Inc. and over the past two summers we have been involved with Mr. Shaw in the organization and running of a public archaeology program at the falls at Lyndhurst in an effort to find traces of the structures related to the Lansdowne Iron Works, active intermittently from c. 1801 to c. 1811. Two

summers ago the focus was on the east bank of the river, the current Designated Historic Place, which revealed concentrations of slag and waste from iron working, including the coagulated fuel, slag and waste from the interior of the blast furnace formed after it had been used for the final time. Though no evidence of structures related to the furnace, casting house, bellows or water power system were found given later mill development at the site, the abundance of waste material confirmed that the iron works was active on the east bank, where early historical mapping depicted the furnace to be.

The archaeological work this summer was focussed on the west bank of the river, which oral tradition had related was the site of the initial bloomery forge, and a later legal deed had described as being part of the 'iron works yard.' Though this side of the river had also seen extensive mid-nineteenth century and twentieth century industrial development which appears to have removed structural evidence of the forge itself, extensive deposits of material related to its operation were still evident on the site. A large deposit of waste material consisting of slag and conglomerates with charcoal was found at the base of the steep bank next to the river, angling back towards the location where the forge would have been, in much greater concentrations than would have been deposited through random or casual disposal from the opposite side of the river. This confirmed that iron working had been undertaken in close proximity, with the waste accumulated over a length of time. Further, excavations to the rear of a late nineteenth century sawmill at the top of the slope found a distinct stratigraphic layer of pure charcoal and charcoal dust up to 10 cm in thickness and extending over four metres away from the mill wall and hence away from the water, lying directly above the original grade and below deposits related both to the use of a shingle mill erected on the site in the mid-nineteenth century and to a period of disuse between the time the iron works was abandoned in 1811 and the construction of the shingle mill. The charcoal deposit appears to have been created through the storage of the material in this location, likely for use in the adjacent forge. Thus in spite of the lack of structural evidence, there was both raw material in the form of fuel in a protected location away from the river and waste product in a convenient location downstream, surrounding what could only have been the forge location on the west bank of the river.

Thank you for your time, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information.

Sincerely yours, Jeff Earl, M.Soc.Sc.  
Principal Archaeologist with Past Recovery Archaeological Services.

\*\*\*\*\*



OAS Ottawa Chapter has lost another member, this time to the west coast. All the best to Secretary Karen Lochhead, who has moved to Vancouver Island.

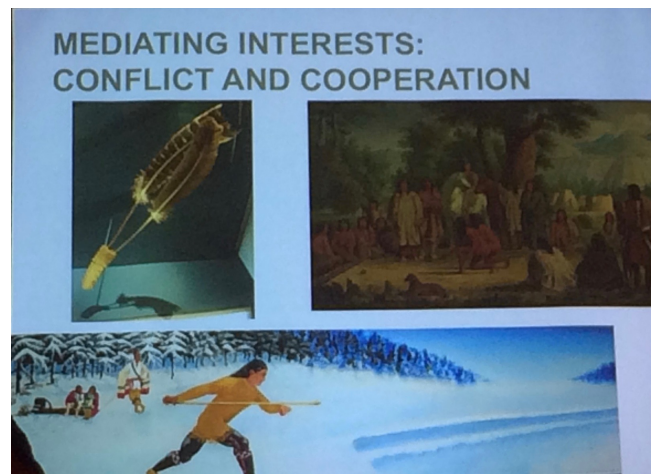
Karen's knowledge, volunteer work with the Executive and Chapter public events were greatly appreciated. She will be missed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Pictures and notes from recent OAS Ottawa Lectures (Carol Pritchard)

### September lecture: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GAMBLING

Dr. Gabriel Yanicki, shared his knowledge of various traditional games of skill and chance, played by First Nations adults throughout North America. He focussed on 3 games to demonstrate the tradition of sharing gaming over large distances and offer evidence of contact, trade and demographic change. Often the stakes were high and played between tribes who would otherwise be at war. Losing could involve everything they owned, including clothing, weapons, wives and even children.



Dr. Yanicki is the author of *Old Man's Playing Ground: Gaming and Trade on the Plains/Plateau Frontier*, published jointly by the Canadian Museum of History and the University of Ottawa Press.

## **October lecture: CANADIANS AND THE FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY, 1934-1942**

Dr Mima Kapches, regaled the audience with personal insights into the work and personality of the early Canadian archaeologists who participated in the first years of the Society of American Archaeology (SAA) Although no Canadians signed the founding document, Diamond Jenness of the Dominion Museum, Ottawa, and others were involved with the development of its Constitution, prior to the founding meeting in 1935. Jenness and William John Wintemberg became Fellows of the society.

Wintemberg recommended many Canadians, providing insight today into who was involved in Archaeology across Canada at the time including, Rutherford 'Smith, Hannah Black, Margaret Thomson (later Tushingham), and Peter Marshall Pringle. Of the 786 SAA members in 1938, 19 were Canadian, Jenness, as President for 1 year and Black and Thomson being the 1st & 2nd Canadian women members.

The Canadian membership was short lived for a variety of reasons; the entry of Canada in WW2, the \$3.00 cost of annual fees and the value of membership for a small number of Canadians in a large USA focussed group.



**Dr Kapches receiving the JV Wright Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017  
(Ontario Archaeological Society)**

Dr. Mima Kapches, had a distinguished career at the ROM as an archaeologist, is a Past President of the CAA and is currently researching Profile articles for Ontario Archaeology on Peter Marshall Pringle and Margaret Thomson Tushingham.

## Archaeological Lectures in the Ottawa Valley

Gatineau Valley Historical Society / Societe historique de la vallee de la Gatineau

Location: Larrimac Golf Club 1148 Hwy 105, Chelsea

Monday, November 19, 2018 7:30 pm



### The **Underwater** Archaeology of the Franklin Shipwrecks

An evening of underwater discovery with Chelsea's **Thierry Boyer**, one of the Parks Canada team of underwater archeologists who have been exploring and documenting the wrecks of the Franklin Expedition's HMS Erebus and HMS Terror in the northern waters of the Arctic.

\*\*\*\*\*

Shannon Lecture Series - Bad Archaeology History Dept. Carleton U

Location: Dunton Tower Rm 2017, from 1 to 2.30 pm. Reception to follow.

November 23 2018

“There is no ‘net neutrality’ in digital archaeology”

**Katherine Cook**, Université de Montréal

Colonization, at its core, is the extraction of resources from those without power. What then gets extracted in digital colonialism and what does this have to do with archaeology in Canada? This discussion will consider the realities of digitally disrupting archaeology, the opportunities it presents but also the dangers it poses, to argue that not all data, not all audiences, and not all archaeologists are treated equally in digital practice. Digital archaeology will not save us from bad archaeology, so we must decolonize the digital first.

November 30 2018

“The Pathways of Pots: The movement of Early Bronze Age vessels from the Dead Sea Plain, Jordan”

**Morag M. Kersel** - DePaul University

What is the pathway of a pot? How do Early Bronze Age (3600–2000 BCE) pots from Jordan end up in Canadian institutions – and why does it matter? These particular pots are from sites along the Dead Sea Plain in Jordan, which have been identified as the “Cities of the Plain” mentioned in Genesis. Over 15 years of investigation have led to interesting insights related to why individuals and institutions want to own artifacts from the Holy Land.

Tracing how pots move (both legally and illegally) involves archaeological survey, aerial investigations using un-piloted aerial vehicles, archival research, and ethnographic interviews in order to understand better the competing claims for these archaeological objects and the often deleterious effects of demand on the landscape. In this talk, I will look at how artifacts go from the mound to the market to the mantelpiece or museum vitrine and why this matters.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Upcoming OAS OTTAWA CHAPTER Events**

OAS Ottawa meetings take place at the Routhier Centre, 172 Guigues Avenue,  
(near Cumberland Ave) Ottawa, ON,.Meetings commence at 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday Nov 15 2018: Jenneth Curtis:Archaeology in the Rouge Valley  
Rouge National Urban Park of Canada**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday Dec 13 2018: Seasonal Celebration and Chapter AGM & Elections**

An email notice regarding time and location of the AGM will be sent to each member.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Notice of the Nomination Committee for Election of Officers to the Chapter Board of Directors.**

A Nomination Committee has been formed to receive nominations from OAS and Ottawa Chapter members to serve as Officers on the 2019 Board of Directors. Any fully paid up member of the Ottawa Chapter and the OAS, may be nominated with their agreement to serve the Chapter. An election of Officers will take place at the Annual General Meeting on **December 13, 2018.**

Nominations may be forwarded to the Nominations Committee, whose members are: Ian Dyck, Sherry Dyck and Lois King. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*