

Huronia Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society

The Huronia Chapter is one of several regional chapters of the Ontario Archaeological Society. The chapter was founded in 2007 with the intention of promoting understanding of the history of the Huronia area, particularly as it is known through archaeology.

The chapter holds an open meeting on the second Thursday of every month at the Huronia Museum, 549 Little Lake Park, Midland, Ontario.

Membership Renewals are Now Due

It's time to renew your membership for 2010. A separate membership renewal form has been sent to you. If you have already renewed for 2010, thank you.

Executive Elected

At the meeting in January the election which had to be postponed due to bad weather in December took place:
Election results - President John Raynor, Vice-president William Gibson, Treasurer Jamie Hunter, and Secretary Marg Raynor

Chapter meeting dates

April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug 12, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Newsletter Editor

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☐ Thomson Walker Site Artefacts Recovered

by Jamie Hunter

The OPP Investigations Unit has recovered archaeological remains from the Thomson Walker site that had been removed illegally by the members of the Barrie Metal Detectors Club. In early May 2009 I received two calls from area residents that suspicious activities were taking place on the Huron Village dating to 1635-45. Constable Chris Picken of the Barrie detachment of the OPP conducted the investigation and was able to recover 4 brass "Jesuit rings", 5 trade axes, awls, knives, copper kettle fragments and other assorted items and some pottery sherds.

This is the first time that metal detector groups have been apprehended and because they co-operated with the police and returned all items recovered to the owners of the property, the Ontario Heritage Trust, the three individuals involved in the illegal activities will not be charged. If they are found on other similar archaeological sites, the full weight of the law will be brought against them which is 2 years less a day and/or a fine of \$250,000. Dena Doroszenko, Archaeologist with the Ontario Heritage Trust, has agreed to loan the items to the Huronia Museum to create an exhibit that will educate the public about not damaging our local heritage.

☐ Next Chapter Meeting Presentation:

Dr. Martha Latta

April 8 at 7:00 PM Huronia Museum, Midland

Dr. Martha Latta recently retired from the University of Toronto, Department of Anthropology, will be presenting a discussion on the Huron sites and the collections housed at the University of Toronto on Thursday April 8, 2010 at 7 pm at the Huronia Museum, Little Lake Road Midland. This is being sponsored by the Huronia Chapter and the Huronia Museum.

Dr Latta is no stranger to the archaeology of Huronia having spent many field seasons at the Auger site, Robitaille site, Thompson/Walker site, Beeton site and other sites. Dr. Latta has carried out extensive research into many aspects of Huron prehistory including settlement patterns, ceramic studies, copper-based artifacts studies and gender studies all pertaining to the Huron/Ouendat cultural developments of the past 900 years. It should prove to be a very interesting presentation and the public is invited to attend.

400 Years of Tourism in Huronia

by John Raynor

This year will mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Huronia's first European tourist. It was in the fall of 1610 that Étienne Brûlé accompanied a group of Algonquin from the Ottawa Valley on their trek to Huronia to spend the winter with their allies.

Étienne Brûlé was an indentured servant of Samuel de Champlain who had travelled to New France with his employer in 1608. He spent an arduous winter with Champlain at the Quebec settlement and went with him on his first venture against the Iroquois in the summer of 1609. Brûlé volunteered to overwinter at Quebec in 1609 while Champlain returned to France.

In the spring of 1610 Étienne Brûlé accompanied Champlain on another incursion against the Iroquois along with the Algonquin, Montagnais and friendly Iroquois (later to be known as the Huron) at the mouth of the river of the Iroquois (now called the Richelieu River). After this bloody encounter these Nations had a rendezvous with Champlain where he expressed an interest in sending some of his men to live with these tribes in order

to learn their customs and languages. Étienne Brûlé volunteered to go with the Algonquin tribe known as the Petite Nation whose chief was named Iroquet.

*Brule plaque at the Old Mill Inn,
Toronto*



This tribe lived on the river of the Algonquin (now known as the Ottawa River) south of Ottawa.

It was the custom of Iroquet's people to travel to Huronia and spend the winter with the Arendaronons (People of the Rock or Rock Nation) who were the part of the Huron

Confederacy that resided between the Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe to the east and the Coldwater River to the west.

Upon Brûlé's return to Quebec in the spring of 1611 he informed Champlain of the whereabouts, customs and lifestyle of the "friendly Iroquois" with whom he had spent the winter as part of Iroquet's entourage. It was as a result of Brûlé's glowing report of these people and their sedentary lifestyle that Champlain decided to champion an allegiance with them that would eventually lead to the Huron becoming the strongest trading partner of New France.

One happy tourist changed Huronia forever.

Champlain Projects

The 400th anniversary of Champlain's visit to Huronia is approaching. Some discussions have begun and some initial project planning is underway to realize some of these possible outcomes:

- Hosting of the 2015 OAS Symposium in Huronia featuring the research done to determine the sites.
- Hosting archaeological field schools during the project to assist with the research.
- Champlain site reports and artifacts acquired by the Huronia Museum as part of a research project.
- A Champlain Room established at the Huronia Museum for research and display purposes.
- The development of "Champlain's Guide to Huronia" complete with map and notes.
- Champlain sites added to "Huronian Guide Map" and other similar maps and guides.
- Champlain sites designated as historic sites under Federal, Provincial and Municipal legislation.
- Champlain sites marked by "Historic site" plaques along with legislation that protects these sites.

- A memorial plaque for Étienne Brûlé placed at Toanche identifying him as the first European settler in Huronia.
- Trail system development linking the Champlain sites and following as close as possible to his assumed track.
- Interpretive Centres and museum built at Toanche and the Narrows similar to that found at the French River.

This is an ambitious list and to make these things happen a lot of participation is going to be needed. If we get started this year, we have a much better chance of success.

If you would like to find out more about these plans or would like to volunteer to join the work team for a specific outcome, please contact John Raynor (jraynor@rogers.com)

March Chapter Meeting

March 11 at 7:00 PM

by William Gibson

Presentation - **“Mapping the Ahrendarrhonon Territory”** J. Raynor, followed by a brief presentation by Jamie Hunter on **“Conflicting Dating”** based on the examination of one sample site with conflicting reports. From a blog post by John Raynor on this topic:

If we are to define Ahrendarrhonon territory as being contained within an area bounded on the east by Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching, in the west by the Coldwater River Valley, to the north by the Trent Severn Waterway and in the south by a line drawn from Hawkstone to Bass Lake then we must examine most of the sites contained within the current municipalities of the City of Orillia, Severn twp and Oro – Medonte twp. Based on the data that I am aware of this portion of Huronia contains about 260 archaeological sites.

Even thinking about examining the data available from 260 archaeological sites is more than somewhat daunting. Attempting to sift through this data in an effort to isolate one particular site or even come up with a reasonable list of candidates for the 1610 wintering camp of Iroquet and his people seems almost impossible when we look at this number alone. We need to break this number down.

Let's first define an archaeological site. An archaeological site may include anything from a fully excavated native village complex like the Ball site to a single find spot of

perhaps one arrowhead that was found beside a trail. By looking at the current data available we can set aside a number of sites that show insufficient data to be what we are looking for by way of a winter camp or village site.

Next we might more closely define our search area. While in my first definition I have been quite broad and included all sites within each of the three municipalities mentioned, it is clear that not all the sites within each municipalities need be included. I would propose that any sites west of Hwy 400 would be out of our search area and that we redefine that western boundary to be in line with Hwy 93 at Barrie north to its intersection with Hwy 400 followed through to its crossing of Matchedash Bay at Waubaushene. This reduction in territory would reduce the number of sites that we need to look at in Oro – Medonte while still being generous enough to include all the sites speculated to be Ahrendarrhonon.

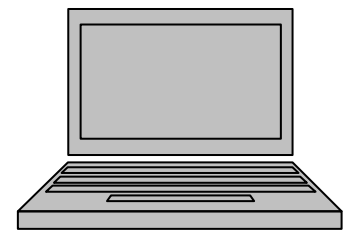
The most defining parameter in our search for the Iroquet/Brule site of 1610 is that of dating. Within our searchable sites are some that are archaic or prehistoric with no signs of European contact and others that may clearly date to the historic period with no sign of protohistoric or early historic occupation.

Once these sites are identified as best we can by date we need to find two sites that correspond in dating and are close enough together to show simultaneous occupation within the principle village's territory.

From the historical record it would appear that the Ahrendarrhonon only occupied a maximum of four villages at any one time and their Nation's territory was the first to fall to the attacks of the enemy. Once mapped, it may well become apparent that we will see four clusters of village sites with staggered dating. It will be within one of these clusters that we will find what we are looking for.

Watch the Chapter Meetings Online

We are preparing the technical support to provide web view of chapter meetings. How this will work is a webcam-enabled laptop will show the meeting live. To watch the meeting you must install a free software program, Skype, and select as a contact the person who is running the meeting broadcast on their laptop. We are hoping to try this for the May meeting. You will receive more information about this before our first attempt.



OAS Huronia Chapter

2010 Executive

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Facebook Group

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Newsletter

The Pot, published quarterly by email in pdf format Editor: William Gibson
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Historic Plaques Commemorating Champlain

by Bill Gibson

I was curious to see what I could find out about plaques associated with Champlain. A search on the web turned up this list of Federal plaques:

- Commemorated at Ottawa, Ontario
- Also commemorated at Orillia, Ontario
- Also commemorated at No Plaque in place, recommended location -- Québec, Quebec Date Designated: 1929

I also found a photo website of all Ontario historic plaques at <http://www.ontarioplaques.com/>

- Champlain's journey of 1613 - see http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_PQR/Plaque_Renfrew04.html
- Champlain's War Party of 1605
- Plaque_Outside10.html
- Toronto plaque - Champlain's travels through Ontario
- http://www.torontohistory.org/Pages_STU/Samuel_de_Champlain.html
- http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_GHI/Plaque_Hastings01.html
- Champlain died 1635 (Ottawa) http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_MNO/Plaque_Ottawa31.html
- Champlain, Brouage, France http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_MNO/

I am doing a little research into the process for applying to have a historic plaque installed so that we can arrange for a Champlain plaque to mark the visits to the Huron villages.

◆ GPS 101 – a presentation in September?

We are working to arrange a presentation entitled GPS 101 for those who want to learn the fundamentals about Global Positioning and how it might be of assistance in archaeological work. We have in mind to have this happen at a chapter meeting in the Fall.

Stay tuned for more information.

◆ Upcoming Newsletter Feature: “Book Bag”

This feature of the newsletter will hold information about any interesting books you would like to share with other members of the chapter.

◆ Upcoming Newsletter Feature “What R U UP 2”.

This feature of the newsletter is a space dedicated for members to share what archaeological activities they are working on that they feel other members would be interested in.



1st CALL for PAPERS



Shibaonaning - the place of the clear passage

The 37th annual symposium
of the
Ontario Archaeological Society
will be held

Sept. 24-26, 2010

in Killarney Ontario.

The organizing committee invites abstracts for the following sessions:

- Pits, piles, quarries and petroglyphs: Archaeology of the Canadian Shield
- Friend or Foe? A Dialogue on Aboriginal-Archaeological Relationship
- Geoarchaeology and archaeometry

There will also be an open conference session
and an open poster session.

For more information
or to submit a 150 word abstract, please contact
symposium@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

The conference will be held at the Killarney Bay Inn (www.killarneybayinn.ca)
(705) 287-2011

There are limited accommodations in Killarney, **we encourage you to book early.**
Another local hotel is the Sportsmans Inn (<http://www.sportsmansinn.ca/>) (705) 287-9990.