

CANADIAN PARKS SERVICE,
ONTARIO REGION.
SUMMARY OF THE 1991
ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMME

The staff from the Archaeological Research Section of the Canadian Parks Service, Ontario Region experienced a busy year in 1991 with field projects undertaken in National Parks and Historic Sites across the province. Due to the wide variety of cultural resources located within Ontario's National Parks system, the Archaeological Research Section is divided into three Units: National Parks and Native Sites; Canals, Domestic and Fur Trade Sites; and Military Sites. The following summary covers the projects undertaken in 1991 by all three Units.

National Parks and Native Sites Projects

This year the National Parks and Native Sites Unit, under the direction of project archaeologist Brian Ross, entered the 21st century by exploring a number of new research technologies. Carbonized residue from a ceramic vessel from Point Pelee National Park was subjected to Stable Isotope Analysis and found to consist of cooked native plant material and some traces of meat and/or fish. Copper alloy specimens from the Trent-Severn Waterway, St. Lawrence Islands National Park, and the Bruce Peninsula National Park were subjected to Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis. The sample from the Trent was found to be European brass; while that from the St. Lawrence was native copper from north of Lake Superior; and that from the Bruce, native copper from Michigan.

Two historic Ojibway cemeteries on Beausoleil Island in Georgian Bay Islands National Park were investigated and documented this summer. One cemetery has been well maintained; while the other had been completely forgotten until its re-discovery in 1990. The intent of this project was to gather as much information as possible on the true extent and orientation of these cemeteries

without any site intrusion. Each cemetery was first mapped using standing surveying techniques and then mapped by remote sensing, using a Geonic's EM-38 ground conductivity meter. A comparison between the two mapping techniques indicates that such remote sensing is a valuable predictive tool in locating archaeological resources and can be useful for the management of cemeteries such as those on Beausoleil Island.

The pattern of anomalies at the well maintained cemetery suggests that other graves and/or the remains of earlier fences now lie outside its perimeter. Also, a significant number of graves appear to exist that have not been identified; and many grave markers have been erected in areas devoid of actual graves. The strongest anomalies tend to be grouped in asymmetrical clusters rather than in neat rows. This seems to indicate a burial pattern foreign to the Euro-Canadian norm; perhaps indicative of Native kinship groupings. And yet, at the abandoned cemetery, the distribution of anomalies runs in three broad bands oriented diagonally across the site. Here, too, major anomalies extend beyond the limits of our grid, suggesting that it is very likely that the actual cemetery is much larger than our survey area.

During the course of its regular field work, the Unit also undertook an archaeological survey of the Bruce Peninsula National Park, locating 15 sites that represent early 20th century lumbering and zinc mining activities, enigmatic "Pukaskwa" pit feature, an Odawa campsite, and a number of Archaic sites (one of which produced native copper and is estimated to be at least 1.44 ha in area). Work continued at Pukaskwa National Park in recording and mapping pit sites for the Monitoring Programme; concentrating, this year, on the large "apartment complexes". In

pursuing our initiative to re-visit and inspect every reported site in the park, three new pit sites were discovered. For a third year in a row, the Unit returned to St. Lawrence Islands National Park, to mitigate the effects of sign relocation on a significant Point Peninsula/Owasco site. This site is so incredibly rich that even such small scale impacts must be rigorously managed.

The Unit also administered a contract to survey all developed areas within the Georgian Bay Islands National Park. The information from this survey will serve to be proactive in addressing recapitalization projects and will be incorporated into the new Park Management Plan. We were closely involved in research at an archaeological site in the City of Scarborough, on behalf of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, to determine the possible national significance of Canada's only remaining Seneca site. Our greatest achievement this year, though, was the completion of the first draft of a comprehensive Cultural Resource Management Plan for the land based archaeological sites at Fathom Five National Marine Park. This plan is a summary of archaeological sites in the park, related to park themes, with an evaluation of site significance and proposals for management actions to ensure site protection.

Canals, Domestic and Fur Trade Site Projects

The Canals, Domestic and Fur Trade Sites Unit, under the direction of project archaeologist Caroline Phillips, conducted excavations and archaeological monitoring at six sites in Ontario during 1991.

Excavations were conducted at Bethune Memorial House in Gravenhurst, as part of a continuing historic landscape project. An area of the garden which was disturbed by a construction crew during the Fall of 1990 was investigated as the possible location of a well. A pit was located but it was not possible to complete its investigation; this will be done in the Spring of 1992. Two school programs were included with the field work. Children from two grade seven classes took part in the

excavation and they prepared drawings and text for a display in the Visitor Centre at the site.

A mitigation project was conducted at Sir John Johnson House in Williamstown, Ont. (built 1784-1792). This project preceded the removal of shrubs and bushes around an outbuilding, believed to be the ice-house (built ca. 1830). The area was tested for the presence of a midden and artifacts that could positively date the construction of the building. A small number of 19th and 20th century domestic artifacts were recovered, however, there was no indication that the area was used as a midden. Nothing was found that could positively date the construction of the building.

Archaeological testing took place at the Kingston Mills lockstation on the Rideau Canal in preparation for an upcoming landscaping project. Units were excavated around the Anglin Centre lockmasters house and the 19th century blockhouse. At the Anglin Centre the excavation revealed evidence of the original roadbed and several modern service lines. At the blockhouse a large quantity of late-19th century artifacts were recovered from fill layers that had accumulated along the south side of the building. Further work is planned for the blockhouse area in 1992.

Archaeological test excavations were conducted at Bellevue House National Historic Site in preparation for a repointing and regrading project and the construction of a wheelchair lift for the house. Excavations around the House foundation, in the driveway and stable yard revealed important information on the original grades, including past surface treatments of the driveway and stable yard. During the excavations, the interpretation staff from the site, in cooperation with the Kingston-based Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, ran a public archaeology program with students from the Kingston area.

Monitoring of construction projects was undertaken during 1991 at Inverarden House in Cornwall and at a landscape restoration

project at Woodside National Historic Site in Kitchener.

Military Sites Projects

Under the direction of project archaeologist Joseph Last and the supervision of David Christianson, Arnold Feast and Suzanne Plousois the Military Sites Unit concluded a three year investigation of the 1839 latrine at Fort Wellington National Historic Site in Prescott, Ontario. The twelve week excavation documented the structural history of the latrine as well as the stratigraphic sequence associated with its use. The aims of the excavations were to obtain structural and spatial information relevant to the stabilization and restoration of the latrine and its associated features. Further goals were to provide data pertinent to the interpretive themes for Fort Wellington National Historic Site.

The latrine is unique as it represents the only known wood framed, military privy of its age in Canada. Although a single structure, its interior was partitioned to accommodate the needs of Officers, Enlisted men, their wives and children. This spatial segregation is reflected in the cess-pit deposit, providing an unequalled opportunity to compare material culture, dietary differences and taste among military ranks and between single males and garrison families.

Initial inventory of the artifacts reveals a seriation of 19th century materials including ammunition, industrial slipware, and tobacco pipes (with a good representative sample of Montreal manufacturers). Transitional forms in footwear from straight last to left/right designs were also present. Preservation of other organic material, such as knitted gloves and human hair clippings was also high. Artifact research by the Historic Parks Headquarters Material Culture Research staff has just commenced. Presently, floral, faunal and parasitic samples are being prepared for future research. Even at this preliminary stage, the immense potential of the assemblage is evident.

While rich in artifacts, the real significance of the latrine is the undisturbed deposit. Stratigraphic analysis indicates that 30.4 cubic

metres of the cess-pit was never emptied. Over 200 discrete layers were observed representing 88 years of continuous deposition.

In addition, the latrine demonstrates the evolution of Canadian waste management. In 1927 the cess-pit was replaced by Waterbury chemical toilets and then, in the 1940's, a flush toilet system was introduced.

The analysis of the findings from this project will surely enhance our understanding of British garrisons in Canada, and more specifically, the material and social history of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment which garrisoned Fort Wellington between 1843 and 1854.

Also during 1991, the Military Sites Unit carried out several short duration mitigation projects at the Niagara Historic Sites Complex in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. While monitoring the excavation of a new service line for Navy Hall, a building foundation and a probable drain feature were recorded. The building may date to the mid-19th century while the drain may relate to the original Navy Hall which was destroyed during the War of 1812. A series of small shovel tests for a service line on the property of the 19th century Butler's Barracks complex provided more information on a series of roadbeds/pathways. Finally, a monitoring program associated with tree planting at Fort Mississauga recorded additional evidence of a native component at the site. ■