



# Ontario Archaeological Society

## Arch Notes

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(From left) Bill Greenlaw, CMA President; Morgan Tamplin, Director of Heritage Advocacy, Ontario Archaeological Society; and Victoria Dickenson, Director and CEO, McMichael Canadian Art Collection at the recent Canadian Museums Day on Parliament Hill

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# HERITAGE ADVOCACY AT CANADIAN MUSEUMS DAY ON PARLIAMENT HILL

by Morgan Tamplin

On November 29, 2011, the Canadian Museums Association held its third annual 'Canadian Museums Day on Parliament Hill' celebration to present key heritage issues with selected Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, Senators and others.

In early October, I had read the CMA notice inviting its members to participate in this event. It looked like an interesting opportunity to learn another form of heritage advocacy – political lobbying – so I sent an application with the following note: "As Director of Heritage Advocacy for the Ontario Archaeological Society, I would be pleased to add our voice in support of the Canadian Museums Association. However, as we are neither a museum nor a CMA member, I understand that we may not be eligible to participate."

Be careful what you wish for! On November 2, I received their reply: "It gives me great pleasure to confirm your participation and welcome you to this important event." In retrospect I should not have been surprised. A key objective in the CMA Mission Statement is, "Initiating and enabling dialogue and collaboration with other partners across Canada and internationally" (CMA Strategic Plan, 2009-2013 p. 3).

A busy schedule lay ahead. Delegates had to arrive in Ottawa on Monday, November 28 to attend a mandatory two-hour briefing session. CMA staff and two MPs introduced us to the lobbying ritual. We received a full information package with the CMA message. That evening we were bused to a reception at the Italian Ambassador's residence in Gatineau to celebrate the 65th year of the CMA and the launch of the Canadian Chapter of The Friends of the Certosa di Capri ([www.capricertosa.com](http://www.capricertosa.com)).

By a lucky coincidence, I had a September/October 2011 copy of *Arch Notes* (16-5) with the article 'A Visit To The Pisa Boat

Museum' by Henry van Lieshout (pp. 13-15), which I presented to a surprised and delighted ambassador. He also knew my Peterborough MP, Dean Del Mastro, in his role as Vice-Chair of the Canada-Italy Inter-Parliamentary Group.

Next morning, the Peterborough connection continued. I was assigned as lead to a meeting with MP Del Mastro, accompanied by Executive Director of the CMA, John McAvity and the CMA President, Bill Greenlaw. Both of them had lobbied Dean at previous events when he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage; he is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister! Why did they want me, the lobby newbie to lead the delegation? I was a constituent from his Peterborough Riding and could also speak to the implications of the CMA proposals for our area.

I presented the three point CMA message: continuing support for the Young Canada Works Program, continuation of the Travelling Exhibitions Indemnification Program and consideration of a new Canadians Supporting Museums Fund to encourage more and larger donations. Check the CMA website: [www.museums.ca](http://www.museums.ca) for more information on these and other issues.

Dean still has an interest in heritage and is still a member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. He was receptive and sympathetic to our proposals and kept the discussion going for 45 minutes – better than the allotted half hour. As the final touch to the ritual, we left an information package in both official languages.

In the evening we walked up to Parliament Hill for a reception hosted by the Honorable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons, in the Speaker's dining room. We met with a number of MPs and continued spreading the heritage message. Photographs were published in the latest issue of the CMA magazine *Muse*. Now that we know how to lobby for the cause, let's continue the work in partnership with other federal and provincial organizations.

## BOYD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Are there high school students in your family or community who might be interested in doing real archaeology this summer, to earn a high school credit?

Please inform them about the Boyd Archaeological Field School's 2012 session – an exciting opportunity for them to earn a high school credit while getting real archaeological skills.

The Field School was founded in 1975, and has provided hundreds of students with the foundations of archaeological practice. Many have gone on to post-

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secondary studies and careers in the field.

The course, open to students who have completed Grade 10, is offered as an Interdisciplinary Studies, Grade 12 University Prep credit (IDC4U). The program is run by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) under the sponsorship of the York Region District School Board.

Students live in residence at Claremont Field Centre, north of Ajax, for 16 days, and excavate a site nearby. In addition to fieldwork, there are lectures by leading professionals, seminars, and hands-on

workshops in early technologies such as flint-knapping (stone-tool making), firestarting kits, cordage, fishtraps and other re-creations. Evaluation is based on fieldwork, written assignments, seminars, workshops and a final exam.

This summer's course is takes place August 11 to 26th. Tuition is \$1995 (\$2495 for non-residents of Ontario).

Inquiries can be directed to Aldo Missio (905-649-2208 or [amissio@trca.on.ca](mailto:amissio@trca.on.ca)). Information is also available at: <http://www.boydfieldschool.org/index.html>

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