

### **Association of Professional Archaeologists**

Working to Promote Professionalism in Ontario Archaeology

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# President's Message

I am honoured to accept the role of APA president, and I'm indebted to the executive for their support as I take on this role within our organization. I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, Laurie Jackson, for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the APA during his presidency and the members of the executive of 2020-2022. Their commitment to the organization inspires me as the world adjusts to its new "normal."

The role of president is new for me, and I'm both excited and anxious about the upcoming year and what it holds for us all. As we step forward together, I want to encourage each member to reach out to the board with any questions, concerns or ideas you have that will help our organization grow and continue to be a guiding force for archaeology and archaeologists in the Province.

The past two years have been difficult with the heartbreaking discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves of First Nations, Metis and Inuit children at former residential schools across Canada / Turtle Island. These graves were always known to the families and communities. Still, it was only with their "rediscovery" that the Canadian government and people began to truly realize the atrocities committed against Indigenous people by those purporting to help. The recent visit from the head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, heralded mixed emotions from survivors, their families and their friends. We must ask ourselves, "how can we support Indigenous voices and hold safe spaces for them?" This may be an uncomfortable time for many, but being uncomfortable is ok. It's time to be quiet and listen to Indigenous voices.

"[...] we need to cultivate the courage to be uncomfortable and to teach the people around us how to accept discomfort as a part of growth." Brene Brown

It was with great sadness that we learned of Gidigaa Migizi (Doug Williams), Curve Lake First Nation Elder, knowledge keeper and former chief's passing in July. Although he has begun his spirit journey, his absence will be felt by many in the archaeological, Anishinaabeg and Curve Lake communities. I did not have the good fortune to meet Gidigaa Migizi, but many have told me that he was a gentle and soft-spoken educator who touched the lives of many. His teachings will continue to guide those with whom he connected.

The APA has continued to be active in several areas. Our meetings with the MTCS are set to continue, and we are encouraged by the positive and mutually respectful relationship between our two organizations. A huge thank you to Laurie Jackson, Cathy Crinnion, Katherine Cappella (MTCS) and Kathryn Bryant (MTCS) for their ongoing efforts to ensure our voices and concerns are addressed. Among the issues we've been discussing are the new RHF draft standards and a working group has been formed to analyze how these changes affect the archaeological process and whether they work, or don't work, during the pilot period. The collections crisis has also been at the top of our discussions and we are working toward developing long-term solutions for licensees. At this time, we are encouraging our members to write their respective MPPs in order to highlight and put political pressure on this issue. We also have a new award, the Paul Lennox Research Award that is to be awarded to APA members to assist with archaeological research. More details to come.

Our membership numbers have levelled off at this time, holding at 152, and we are working toward increasing our Indigenous, professional, field director, associate, and student memberships. We decided to keep the 75% reduction in membership fees that was implemented in 2020, and will keep in place until such a time that Covid is well and truly gone!

Although the mandates have been lifted, and development appears full steam ahead, it is still a difficult time for many, and we hope this reduction will help.

I'm confident 2022 will be an eventful and busy year for the archaeological community. I want to thank all the Executive members who have worked together to help make the APA a well-respected and authentic organization within the archaeological and Indigenous communities. I look forward to working with our newly elected board - Lawrence Jackson (Vice President), Cathy Crinnion (Administrative Secretary/Treasurer), Jordan Downey (Investigations), Tom Arnold (Funding and Research), Jacquie Fisher (Newsletter Editor), Norbert Stanchly (Membership and Member Outreach), Dixie Shilling (First Nations Liaison Representative), and Josh Garrett (Field Directors Representative) - and the continued growth of the organization.

I wish you all success and happiness in the coming year.

- Laura McRae, APA President

# AGM Summary – July 9th, 2022

The AGM was held on Saturday July 9th, 2022. There was a small, but dedicated group that attended via Zoom. Introductions were made, and the Directors provided reports for the last year.

APA revenue is largely coming from membership fees and a small amount from workshop fees. Expenses have held steady. The APA is continuing to provide membership at reduced fees to alleviate some of the financial burden affiliated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations toward our various grants and bursaries amount to \$726.00 to support First Nation membership and workshop attendance; \$400.00 toward the Paul Lennox Award; and \$11.25 toward the student bursaries fund from one of our members.

We saw some changes to the composition of our Board of Directors this year. Ben Mortimer has stepped away from volunteer work. Gratefully, Laura McRae stepped in as VP for the interim. The Nomination Committee appointed the following members to the Board of Directors: Jacquie Fisher, Jordan Downey, Lawrence Jackson, Norbert Stanchly, Tom Arnold, Dixie Shilling, Josh Garrett, Cathy Crinnion, and Laura McRae. The APA is also looking for a volunteer for the Treasurer's position.

We currently have 153 active members with 2 pending in the Professional category. In there are:

- Professional members: n=77
- Field Director members: n=14
- First Nation Liaison members: n=7
- First Nations Consultation staff members: n=2
- Associate members: n=36
- Student members: n=13
- Honourary members: n=4

Two newsletters were published in 2021; however, we have yet to publish a 2022 newsletter (upcoming). The APA would like to encourage members to contribute to the newsletters and the Occasional Publications Series. Site reports, interesting artifacts, thesis research, or even research interests are valuable contributions to the APA, and to the ability of the APA to provide current and up to date happenings in archaeology.

The APA would like to congratulate Pat and Gord Dibb as the 2022 recipients of the Radiocarbon Dating Merit Award. They received a complimentary AMS radiocarbon date from AE Lalonde Labs! Patt Dibb told the APA the award will be used to date fragments of an in situ squash or gourd seed from Site AlGq-180, a multicomponent Late Paleo-Indian to Laurentian Archaic site in Courtice (10,300 – 9,900 B.P.; 6,500 – 5,000 B.P.).

Evidence of gourds as a subsistence food in the Archaic period is an exciting discovery and may shed light on plant management in Ontario before the evident widespread management of cultivars in the later Woodland periods.

In addition, Tiffany McLellan won the random draw for attending the AGM—she won a complimentary AMS date from AE Lalonde Labs in Ottawa. Congratulations!

Of late, the changes to the Rural Historical Farmsteads Bulletin have been eliciting much interest from both consultant archaeologists and developers. The APA has been spearheading communications with MTCS regarding potential problems arising from these new changes. We encourage all members to provide comments either via the APA or directly to the ministry. The APA has a Working Group devoted to handling this issue, and you can contact Josh Garrett with your questions or concerns.

As many know, there is a curation crisis in Ontario. The APA has been in meetings with MTCS regarding these issues in an attempt to find a mutually beneficial way to address the crisis. Meagan Brooks has reported that they have put together a presentation outlining what the crisis entails and what consultant archaeologists can do to help resolve it. Both Meagan Brooks and Michelle Davies were at the AGM representing the Ministry, taking time out of their Saturday, and had prepared a presentation for the APA. Unfortunately, the AGM took longer than expected. And Meagan suggested that the presentation could be made available on line. Therefore, the presentation will be posted on PastPort and shared with the APA. In the meantime, archaeologists are encouraged to write to their local MPPs to highlight the urgency of this crisis. Storage space is being lost faster than it is being gained.

There was also a draw held at the AGM with a prize donated by Sustainable Archaeology. Dr. Scott Martin provided a summary of Sustainable's facility indicating that collections could be housed there on a per box basis. The draw was for one box from a license holder to housed at Sustainable. The draw was won by Pat and Gordon Dibb, and it is a timely award as they are sorting out their collections and finding permanent homes for their artifacts.

The AGM was a fruitful meeting and the APA is making a meaningful impact on Ontario Archaeology. We continue to encourage members to contribute their voices to discussion and to bring comments and suggestions to our website and meetings.

# APA's Job Bank and DigConnect

Many employers will be looking ahead to their hiring needs for the late summer/fall. APA is willing to help make connections between employers and employees by circulating available positions to our members via *DigConnect*, or posting job ads and resumes in the Job Bank.

**Employers** - to advertise the positions you have available just email the details to members@apaontario.ca.

**Employees** - to be kept in the loop about positions coming available, log on to apaontario.ca and go to 'View Profile', then select the box that asks if you want to be informed via *DigConnect*. Also, feel free to send in a .pdf of your current resume to <a href="mailto:members@apaontario.ca">members@apaontario.ca</a> where it will be posted for other members to see on the Job Bank tab.

Members helping members with job opportunities, experience, and mentorship!

# C14 APA 2021 Award - Dawson Creek Site (BaGn-16), Feature 28a by Josh Garrett

The Dawson Creek site has significant Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland components, providing invaluable insight into the processes of material culture evolution and shifts in subsistence practices related to environmental and climatic change during these transitional time periods. Most interestingly, the assemblage of Early Woodland Vinette I pottery demonstrates evolving technological and decorative practices which may ultimately help to explain the dramatic proliferation of decorative tool use and tool impression orientations employed throughout the Middle Woodland period.

The APA C14 award allowed me to date Feature 28a. This feature was located outside of the main excavation area; however, it is significant in that an abundance of acorn shell, Oak charcoal, and a variety of faunal remains were recovered during excavation. The availability of White Oak for acorn harvesting suggests a summer to fall occupation of Dawson Creek by the Late Archaic occupants. A subsequent conventional radiocarbon date of 3920 +/- 90 from charcoal derived from the 10-20 cm layer was calibrated to 2397 B.C. +/- 140. Due to the possibility of hearth reuse, previously documented at the Dawson Creek site, a second radiocarbon date was warranted in order to elucidate any possible clues regarding the advent of Early Woodland pottery or the transition from the Late Archaic to the Woodland period at Dawson Creek.

The new radiocarbon date, awarded to me by the APA, produced an AMS date of 3960 +/- 29, calibrated to 2480 B.C. +/- 60 on 0.25g of Maple charcoal. This date is statistically identical to the previous date, indicating that Feature 28a is truly a terminal Late Archaic feature. This feature dates to a post-Hypsithermal period for Rice Lake during which the shoreline was several hundred metres distant from the site, but gradually encroaching closer. Faunal and floral remains suggest that acorns, white-tailed deer, and catfish were part of the subsistence program for the Late Archaic occupants of the Dawson Creek site.

Thanks very much to the APA for providing the funds for the dating of the feature.

### 2022 Radiocarbon Date Merit Award

Apply for a future Radiocarbon Date Merit Award. The prize is the cost of one sample dated at A.E. Lalonde AMS Facility, one of APA's sponsors. Open to APA members holding the PIF on a recent/current project, or all APA members conducting research on a project with no active PIF.

Current projects or past projects - you decide which samples are likely to provide valuable information to yourself and your colleagues.

### Upcoming deadline to apply:

# October 31, 2022 at 11:59pm Eastern

Visit our website (http://www.apaontario.ca/cl4Awards) for details on how to apply.

# New Perspective and AMS Dates for the Early Woodland Dawson Creek Site (BaGn-16), Rice Lake, Ontario

by Lawrence Jackson, Daniel Smith and Josh Garrett

Recent work re-analyzing the collections from the Early Woodland Dawson Creek site on the northwest shore of Rice Lake, south-central Ontario (Figure 1) has produced some new insights. Notable among these is Feature 14 which contained the largest collection of Vinette 1 ceramics of any of the site features and for which we lined up a new series of AMS samples including single species wood charcoal and annular material such as nut shell.

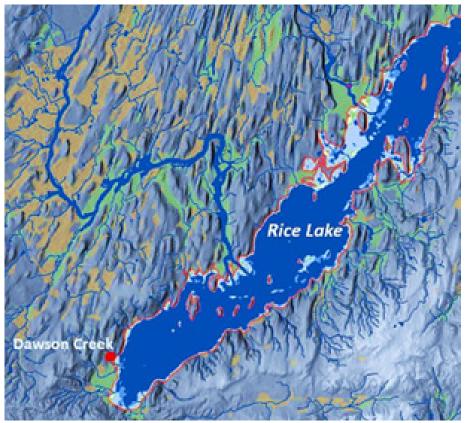


Figure 1: Dawson Creek site, Rice Lake.

We have been working the past two years on re-assessing all of the Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland era features at the site. Reviewing field notes, artifact, faunal and botanical evidence also raised questions about previously undesignated features. Judicious use of AMS dating has allowed us to add three new features to the Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland picture of the site. There are now 10 radiocarbon dated hearths or pits which fall in the period circa cal. 1300 B.C. to 400 B.C. Calibrated dates in this paper are pooled mean dates provided by the statistical program OxCal.

Following on a paper by Ellis et al. (2021) on the Davidson Late Archaic site in southwestern Ontario, we now regard some of the earlier dates at Dawson Creek as likely associated with the Small Point Archaic. The reason these were not recognized during the original analyses in 1976, 1986 and 1988 (Jackson 1977, 1986, 1988) was the absence of Small Point Archaic diagnostics in the features. What diagnostics were found were all either Meadowood points and cache blades or Vinette 1 ceramics. Running new AMS samples for most of the previously dated "Early Woodland" features revealed a definite pattern of feature re-use with a bimodal distribution of the sample of 23 AMS dates. We were able to correlate the distribution of Small Point Archaic points from plough zone excavation with feature bases which were re-used in the Meadowood Early

Woodland phase. A rather stunning discovery was that all of the charred nut botanicals from site features 13, 15 and 17 (which had produced large quantities of acorn shell and some meat) dated circa cal. 1100 to 1200 B.C. (Small Point Archaic age) and none in the Meadowood range which we now believe at Dawson Creek is about cal. 850 to 400 B.C.



Figure 2: Feature 2 Vinette 1 variety - "Dawson Creek Smoothed Punctate."

This research note, however, is not about that discovery, but about the search for viable dates directly associated with Vinette 1 ceramics. Two features at the site, Features 2 and 14, produced large collections of Vinette 1 while the remainder of the site features had very small quantities which could easily be accounted for by redeposition. Feature 2, test excavated in 1976, had contextual samples of Vinette 1 with measurements recorded. With a sample norm of 10 grams of wood charcoal needed for radiocarbon dating, we relied at that time on flotation to recover sufficient charcoal for two conventional dates. These are now calibrated with IntCal 20 to cal. 570 B.C. ± 120 and 565 B.C. ± 125 (I-9565 and I-9861, respectively). One of the major artifact associations in this deep pit was a Vinette I vessel rim and side, with characteristic traits of thickness, paste, temper and smoothed-over cord-marking (Figure 2). What was distinctive was the presence of "incipient punctation" - the somewhat careless application of deliberate punctates in oblique lines below the rim (Figure 3). This may represent the beginning of a transition away from cord-marking to other forms of tool decoration typical of the Middle Woodland. Certainly, smoothed-over exteriors on thinner Early Woodland vessels are known from the

Schultz Early Woodland site in Michigan (Fischer 1972; Ozker 1982). A presumed late Vinette 1 expression known as "Pinery Ware" is recorded at the Neeb Early Woodland site in southwestern Ontario (Spence and Fox 1986). Similarly plain and thinner Vinette 1 is also recorded at the Pocock site in southwestern Ontario where it is associated with Feature 1 and a conventional date on annular walnut shell of cal. 521 B.C. ± 106 (Wilson 1993).

Feature 14 at Dawson Creek, excavated in 1981, has both a large collection of Vinette 1 sherds (n=37), compared to Feature 2 (n=16), and charcoal and annular botanicals from stratigraphic level flotation. Two prior dates on Feature 14 were cal. 850 B.C. ± 75 (S-2205) on wood charcoal from 10-20 cm which was accepted, and cal. 530 A.D. ± 75 (Beta-9967) on wood charcoal from 0-10 cm rejected as too late for Vinette 1. Both dates were on large samples of charcoal. In 2021 and 2022, we ran four new AMS samples for Feature 14, two on single species wood charcoal, one on charred acorn shell and one on charred acorn meat. The acorn shell from 0-10 cm was, surprisingly, consistent with the original conventional charcoal date with a result of cal. 710 A.D. ± 40 (UOC-15293) and not Early Woodland at all. Middle Woodland re-use of the uppermost feature is now



Figure 3: Feature 14 Heavy cord-marked Vinette 1 (on left) from 10 cm. Smoothed-over punctate Vinette 1 (on right) from 20 cm.

indicated. Similarly, a tiny piece of acorn meat from 10-20 cm produced a result of cal. 50 A.D. ± 28 (UOC-18399), also Middle Woodland. Not yet discouraged, we ran two more small, single species charcoal samples from 10-20 cm and, to our relief considering the Vinette 1 sherd associations (examples in Figure 3), obtained viable results of cal. 642 B.C. ± 64 (UOC-18312) on 0.15 g of sugar maple charcoal and cal. 595 B.C. ± 100 (UOC-14530) on 0.73 g of beech charcoal. These two dates are consistent with the Early Woodland artifacts and generally agree with the prior conventional date of cal. 850 B.C. The problem is that they also fall within the Hallstatt Plateau, notorious in European archaeology for reversals and multiple intercepts for all dates between cal. 800 and 400 B.C.

The two Feature 14 Early Woodland AMS dates in the Hallstatt Plateau are statistically identical at the 95% confidence level. A date distribution graph (Figure 4) for these two AMS dates, the conventional Feature 14 date at 10-20 cm and two conventional dates for Feature 2 shows the Feature 14 conventional date as an earlier outlier while the Feature 14 AMS and Feature 2 conventional dates are similarly distributed within the Hallstatt Plateau. We can visually estimate that the multiple intercept trend favours the latter half of the plateau circa cal. 600 to 400 B.C. as the age at which the smoothed-over, cord-marked punctate Vinette 1 appears in southern Ontario. We have still to carry out a Bayesian analysis of the radiocarbon results for Feature 14 but are happy to have something which helps us fix in time the occurrence of the Ontario Vinette 1 variety which we refer to as Dawson Creek Smoothed Punctate.

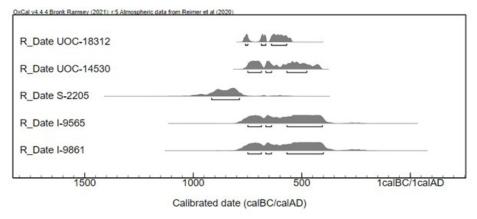
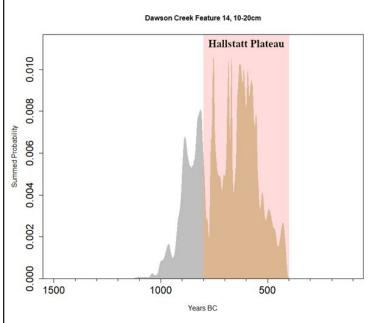


Figure 4: Distribution Curves for Early Woodland Feature 14 dates from 10-20 cm and Feature 2 at Dawson Creek. Top two dates are F14 AMS dates, bottom two dates are F2 conventional dates and middle date is F14 conventional date.



The Summed Probability Distribution graph for the three Early Woodland Feature 14 10-20 cm dates (see Figure 5) clearly illustrates multiple intercepts typical of the Hallstatt Plateau (van der Plicht 2004). Figuring out the most probable intercepts is sometimes possible with "wiggle matching" to calendrical chronologies such as tree rings. For now, we can note that smoothed-over, cord-marked punctate Vinette 1 at Dawson Creek is decidedly a phenomenon of cal. 800 to 400 B.C. and more likely the latter half of this period. All dates in this paper are calibrated with IntCal20 (Reimer et al. 2020).

Figure 5: Summed Probability Distribution of Feature 14 10-20 cm Early Woodland Dates. Both AMS dates fall precisely in the Hallstatt Plateau pink shaded area cal. 800 to 400 B.C. while the one conventional date is earlier and barely overlaps with the start of the Hallstatt Plateau

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### Reserve Lands Research Grant

APA wishes to foster collaboration between First Nation communities and the archaeological work force in an effort to disseminate important information regarding the cultural past of Ontario. It is hoped that this grant will aid in such endeavours.

Value: \$1,000

The primary condition of the grant is acknowledgement of the APA Reserve Lands Research Grant if the information obtained from the research is published, as well as a submission of a short note for the APA website and newsletter. This newsletter/ website report can be a brief summary of the project, site, context and how the community and archaeology will benefit from the research.

A small committee will evaluate proposals from members before awarding the grant.

Next award deadline: February 28, 2023

For more information or to submit your application materials, contact us at <a href="mailto:members@apaontario.ca">members@apaontario.ca</a>

### 2022-23 Student Bursary Awards

# The APA Post-Secondary Student Bursary and Indigenous Post-Secondary Student Bursary

Two Student Bursaries will be awarded once per calendar year to two student members in the amount of \$750 each. Each bursary would be the approximate amount of tuition for 1 single-semester course.

Upcoming deadline to apply:

September 30, 2022

For eligibility and how to apply, check it out here: <a href="http://www.apaontario.ca/StudentBursaries">http://www.apaontario.ca/StudentBursaries</a>

### Conference Travel Award

The Conference Travel Award is currently on-hold due to Covid-19 travel and public gatherings restrictions

For more information, visit http://apaontario.ca/ConferenceTravelAward

# Radiocarbon Date Lottery

Chapter dating An absolute dating and additional control of the decay in the decay size isotope of carbon (%)

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Win a free radiocarbon date from A.E. Lalonde AMS Lab!

The prize of our Radiocarbon Date Lottery is the cost of one sample dated at A.E. Lalonde AMS Facility, one of APA's sponsors. To enter, members simply provide us with the following information in an email to members@apaontario.ca:

- Your information (name, contact, etc.)
- PIF number for the project where the sample was collected
- Site type

hit

- Sample context
- Material to be dated

The next random draw will take place at an upcoming APA event!

Visit our website (http://www.apaontario.ca/cl4Awards) for details on how to apply.

