

NEWSLETTER

CATARAQUI ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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THE STELLA BUCK BUILDING . . . an update

As you can see from our address, the Kingston Archaeological Centre is still located in the Stella Buck Building at 370 King Street West. Over the winter months the deteriorating limestone wall was further strengthened by the installation of tie rods.

Meanwhile, those participating in various activities at the Centre were forced to don long underwear and heavy sweaters throughout much of the cool fall as the main boiler was not turned on at all this winter. The City, however, provided electric baseboard heaters at the beginning of November in the main office and display areas making the environment much more hospitable. This was not the case in the lab since the two blowers barely kept the temperature at 10°C brrr! For only 8 days in January and February was it above this temperature. It seems to be holding around 15°C now. While these are good conditions for artifacts it did not make work that had to be done in the lab enjoyable! In addition to the heat (or lack there of) the main water supply to the building was shut off at the start of December to avoid freezing pipes. As a consequence we ended up with an "indoor outhouse".

The Stella Buck Building Restoration Committee, consisting of various representatives of City Hall and the community, is working on applying for a JobsOntario grant and other fundraising activities to assist in the restoration of the building. Other groups in the J.K. Tett Complex are also conducting fundraising activities. The Committee is also looking for community groups who are interested in the possibility of occupying space in the building once renovation is complete. If you know of any group that might be interested in this, they should contact the Parks & Recreation Department at City Hall.

If you feel that you can assist with this project in any way please contact the office at 542-3483. We will continue to update members on new developments in this important project.

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

May 7 . . . 2nd Annual Giant Indoor Yard & Bake Sale

May 31 . . . Annual General Meeting of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation

Please mark these on your calendar and be sure to attend!

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Our Christmas meeting last December proved to be quite a success with an attendance of 30 + members and non-members. The illustrated talk on excavations at the Hay Bay Cemetery and associated burial practices in an early 19th century rural cemetery was enthusiastically absorbed. The Cheese Box raffle added further excitement to the social activities of the evening. Thanks to all those who attended.

CHRISTMAS CHEESE AND MAPLE SYRUP SALE

We feel that this particular fundraising effort was of great value although not utilised to its full potential. We raised \$208 from cheese and maple syrup sales, however, there was not a high ratio of response from members. We are not sure why, so please let us know. Thanks go to Sue Noakes for delivering the cheese, James Dodson and Sue Bazely for packaging and administration and to the Forfar Dairy for making this quite an easy task for those involved. Great cheese!

MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994

Thanks to all those members who have renewed for this year. Your continuing support through membership and donations is greatly appreciated. We encourage those who have not yet done so to renew their commitment to archaeology in the Kingston area. A membership form has been enclosed with this newsletter in case you are unable to find the previous mailing. PLEASE RENEW SOON!

Special Contribution . . .

ARCHAEOLOGY IN CHINA

Rainwater begins to collect to form the Yangzi River in the mountains and plateaus backing onto Burma. Its western flow covers the heart of China and enters the East China Sea at Shanghai. Near the centre of the river's length are the Yangzi Gorges where near vertical terrain above the water level has challenged settlement for a long time.

When I heard that an outrageous opportunity to volunteer for archaeology excavations might exist in China, my first thought was: if China invented paper-making, when does their historical period begin? Did cave dwellers once live there as in Europe? This mountainous landscape is frequently the subject of Chinese paintings.

On Leaving Bai Di Cheng: The Culture of China's Yangzi Gorges is a rich description of a trip exploring the Gorges in 1992, and informally the authors tracked down sites and monuments identified in The Three Gorges Feasibility Study, 1988, a study which involved Canadian expertise and money. The diary format allows each author to record observations from their own particular interest, knowledge or cultural grounding and by not travelling "tourist", contact with culture is direct and somewhat unpredictable. For instance, you carry your own rice bowl, chopsticks and glass into restaurants, water in hotel rooms needs to be negotiated, getting on a ferry is a free-for-all.

About the authors - Caroline Walker spent 1990 teaching in Chongquig, the city at the upstream end of the Gorges, and her husband is a son of China missionaries. She studies archaeology in Toronto while working as the publisher of NC Press. Robert Shipley is a consultant in Heritage Planning. Ruth Loy Malloy was born in Brockville and became a China guidebook writer after visiting China first in 1965 to visit family roots and again in 1972 when foreigners began to visit. Fu Kailin is an English teacher in Chongquig, a history buff and a contact to Chinese officialdom and street life. Several other Chinese associates made up the travelling party.

The Three Gorges Dam, which is to provide electricity, flood control, improved navigation and development for one of China's poorest areas, will flood a reservoir 600km long and many towns. The local culture and economy is based on fishing, sand and gravel, agriculture, salt, coal, transport and trade. Human history starts here with Wushu Man, an ancestor of Peking Man, followed by Neolithic settlements practising rice agriculture. The list of

Kingdoms and dynasties in the book begins with the Xia, occurring c. 21st - 16th century B.C. and ends with the Qing Dynasty 1644 - 1911.

I was fascinated most by Robert's conversations about the impacts on buildings. The Feasibility Study has established that the reservoir water level could be 35 to 45 metres above the present levels, but raging spring flood waters have regularly scoured the Gorges and access to all the towns begins with a climb up broad stairways of stone. Rebuilding has gone on for so long and the building materials reused so many times that the Chinese are not so attached to the building itself - it is the "fengshui" of the place that is important. Any buildings, especially temples and graves, were carefully placed in harmony with nature - the cosmic breath - to ensure good fortune to the living. The decision to move significant buildings involves more than just saving timbers and stone - how to reproduce a site with springs, favourable breezes and pleasing aspect when the mountains seemingly become shorter?

Caroline described images of carp fish carved into rock. Boatmen refer to these markers to judge navigation, but inscribed fish also indicate low water marks that are considered national treasures, their dates known from written records.

Expeditions to various dry land sites mentioned in the Feasibility Study pass through sweet potato fields where pottery from every past dynasty is mixed together and weathering. I haven't finished reading about the crag burials on one stretch of the river, where coffins perch high up on sheer cliff faces.

The Ontario Archaeological Society in Toronto has agreed to forward letters to the authors from those that might be interested in volunteering for any salvage projects which could materialize over the next few years. Anyone interested in forming a team from Kingston?

Write to the authors, care of:
The Ontario Archaeological Society
126 Willowdale Ave.
North York, Ontario M2N 4Y2

Sue Noakes is a Board Member of the Catarauqui Archaeological Research Foundation

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, TOURISM & RECREATION MOVING!

This Ministry is to move to Niagara Falls in 1995. These are the people who administer heritage grants and provide guidance in archaeological matters. For more information on this please contact the office.

the CATARAQUI ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

invites you to join us at our

Annual General Meeting

A short business meeting and elections to the Board of Directors will be followed

with a special presentation:

The Cartwright House

An Archaeological Perspective

*presented by Dena Doroszenko
Ontario Heritage Foundation*

with Guest of Honour Dr. Margaret Angus

when: Tuesday May 31, 1994, 7.00pm
where: The Rotary Rotunda
J.K. Tett Creativity Complex
370 King Street West
(next to Domino Theatre)

EVERYONE WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS SERVED

NATIVE STUDIES: *RETRACING THE PATH FROM THE FOREST*

Frontenac County School of Continuing and Community Education offers a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into Native culture through a new program, *Retracing the Path From the Forest*.

The program explores the many facets of Native life and culture, both in the past and present. With the insights and knowledge gained from the course, the student could broaden their career opportunities within various fields such as education, Child and Family Services, Day Care settings or private business.

The student gains a prospective of the cultural history of Natives before and after contact with the European settlers, as well as the political history including Aboriginal Rights, Land Claims, and Treaties.

The course introduces the student to native customs, religion, and philosophy, and examines the divisions between status and non-status Natives. The student will have an opportunity to explore how art has been used to communicate Native Peoples cultural uniqueness to the world around them. Students will also delve into the archaeological past of the Native Peoples.

Retracing the Path From the Forest is a co-op program that gives the student an opportunity to work in the Native businesses, organizations, with Elders, artists and craftspersons. Some of the co-op opportunities open to the students are the Tyendinaga Day Care Centre, the Quinte Mohawk Public School, Tyendinaga Social Services, the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, and Hotel Dieu Hospital Native Patient Services.

The program is open to Native and Non-Native peoples who wish to broaden their horizons. If you are a person who wishes to continue or complete your high school education, or someone who wishes to learn about Native Culture, *Retracing the Path to the Forest* is a program you should explore.

For more information call Rocky Landon at the Frontenac County Board of Education School of Continuing Education. Telephone: 542-7369

Thanks to Peggy Wildsmith for providing information on this new program for our newsletter. Peggy and Reg Aitken are both doing co-op placements at the Kingston Archaeological Centre. We look forward to seeing the results of their work.

GRANTS . . .

This year we have made an application to the federal government's SEED Program to hire two students for the summer. We should know if we are successful by the end of April. We may also apply to the provincial EXPERIENCE '94 program depending on the outcome of the first application.

Former Board member Frank Wootton and Treasurer Bob Hamilton prepared our annual grant application to the City of Kingston last fall. We hope to know the outcome of this very soon. Thanks to both Frank and Bob for their time and effort.

ONGOING FUNDRAISING

Reminder . . . the Foundation is continuing with its efforts in fundraising. Our **2ND ANNUAL GIANT INDOOR YARD AND BAKE SALE** is fast approaching. We have been getting more items, but we would like to remind you to save your outcasts if you are embarking on spring cleaning. Pick-up of large items can be arranged. We will also need baked goods to sell. It would be best to drop these off on the day of the sale (or the day before).

Volunteers to help price and set up are needed for the previous day and volunteers for morning and afternoon shifts on Saturday are still required. If you can spare any time to help make this a successful event please call Sue Bazely at 542-3483.

Don't forget: **SATURDAY MAY 7, 9 AM TO 3 PM**, see you there!

POSSIBLE CHANGES

The Ontario Heritage Act, having undergone several years of review, may be soon be heading to the legislature! In addition, proposed changes to the Planning Act, currently in the works, should also have positive impacts on the future of archaeology in this province. We are hopeful that both of these Acts will provide better protection for such a valuable non-renewable resource - our archaeological heritage!

STRATEGIC PLANNING

A summary of our draft 1 year strategic plan was enclosed with the last newsletter. Members of the Board wish to continue with this important exercise, but we need more input from our members. If you are interested in participating in further discussions please contact the office for more information on the time of any strategic planning meetings. We cannot stress the importance of having a plan for our future.