

THE BRODIE CLUB



Established 1921

Website: <http://thebrodieclub.eeb.utoronto.ca>

THE 1,104th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The 1,104th meeting of the Brodie Club was held on Tuesday, 17 October, 2017 in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Chair: George Bryant

Secretary: Ricky Dunn

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and was attended by 19; 17 members and 2 guests.

Roll Call:

Present: E. Addison, R. Addison, Bell, Bertin, Bryant, Coady, Currie, Daniels, DeMarco, Dunn, Hussell, Kortright, Moldowan, Peter, Reading, Riley, Seymour

Guests: John and Mary Lou Bacher (guests of H. Juhola)

Regrets: Abraham, Carley, Curry, Dengler, Dunlop, Eadie, A. Falls, B. Falls, Iron, King, LaForest, Lindsay, Machin, Martyn, Obbard, Pittaway, T. Rising, Slessor, Sutherland, Thorpe

Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as amended and posted on the website.

Annual meeting (including committee reports)

Membership

Dunn reported that average attendance at meetings last year, not including the special 1100th meeting, was 24 members and 8 guests – about the same as in previous 5 years. Regular members attended an average of 5 meetings. Five came to all meetings (including Hussell for the fifth consecutive years). New members elected in the past year were Anne Bell, Jerry DeMarco, Warren Dunlap, Bob Kortright, Steve LaForest, Kathy Lindsay, and Patrick Moldowan.

Committee elections: (Those in parens will be relatively inactive this fall). Further additions and adjustments to take place during the year, with special focus on including some of newer members. Acceptance of slate moved by Riley, seconded by Bertin and passed unanimously.

Secretary Editing	Justin Peter
Secretary Corresponding	Ricky Dunn
Secretary Recording	Ken Abraham, Ed Addison, George Bryant, Kristen Martyn, Kevin Seymour
Treasurer	George Bryant
Membership	(Ann Falls), Bill Crins, Trudy Rising
Program	Ed Addison, Bruce Falls, Marc Johnson, Don Sutherland
FON Reps	Bob Curry, Glenda Slessor
Archives	Ricky Dunn, Sandra Eadie, Kevin Seymour

Refreshments	(Trudy Rising), (Nancy Dengler), Jerry DeMarco, Anne Bell, Oliver Bertin (Sharon Hick will help when needed)
Web Site	Ricky Dunn, Jeremy. Hussell
Field Trip	Justin Peter + 2 to be recruited
AV	Jeremy Hussell, Ricky Dunn

Rose Addison agreed to look after name tags.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer George Bryant gave financial report and draft budget (appended). He has opened a bank account in the name of the Club, with him as sole signatory and Dunn as back-up if anything happens to him.

Motion: To accept Treasurer's report, moved by Bryant, second by Coady, passed unanimously.

Motion: the following resolution was moved by Dunn, seconded by Riley, and passed unanimously:

Be it resolved that the Brodie Club authorizes George Bryant to sign cheques on behalf of the Club, as sole signatory.

Dues (20\$ Regular, \$10 Corresponding) were collected. Those not yet paid can send cheque (made out to Brodie Club) to George Bryant (1343 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON, M6J 1Y3).

Announcements:

Ann Falls had sent a message that Bruce would be returning home from rehab centre tomorrow. Welcome home, Bruce!

SPEAKER: Ed Addison introduced the speaker, Dr. Marti Latta, retired Anthropology Professor at the University of Toronto.

Auger Site BdGw-3: Excavations 1974-1992



Brodie Club members at Auger site, 1974

The Auger site has special significance for the Brodie Club. In 1974, member Wilf Auger bought the property, located between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay, because it had archeological remains on it. He invited Club members up for weekend digs. When Dr. Auger died in 1980, Howard Savage (also a Brodie member) approached the widow and asked whether the property could be made into a training site for students. The proposal was accepted, and Dr. Latta embarked on 11 years of running annual 6-week field courses for the University of Toronto at the Wilfrid Auger Memorial Archaeological Field School. Many of today's prominent Canadian archaeologists had their start in these courses.

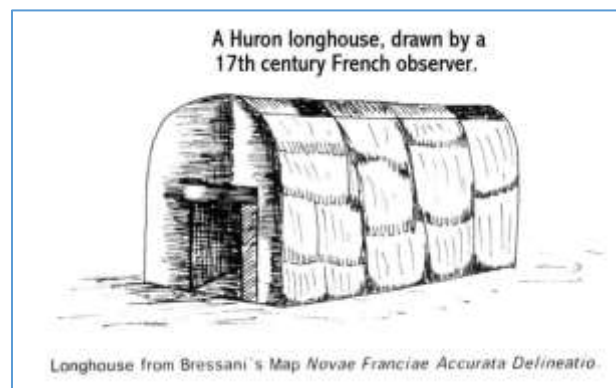
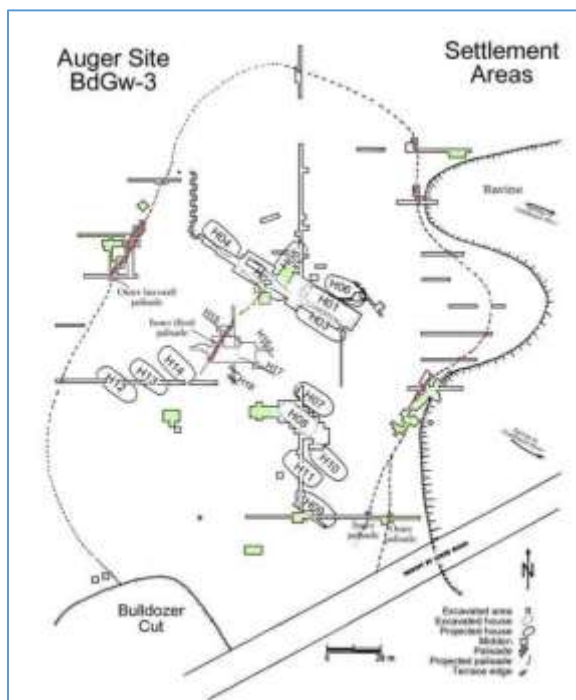
The Auger site was an excellent choice for a settlement. Located in Simcoe County on the edge of the Mount St. Louis Ridge, an esker overlooking the Coldwater River, the site had spring-fed water, a good climate, and friendly

neighbours. It was defensible, and strategically located close to both Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay. The Neolithic-level economy was based both on fishing, as well as farming.

Occupancy of the site can be quite precisely dated by the style of glass beads found during excavations. These trade goods had very distinctive styles and colours during relatively short periods before new styles were introduced. It's estimated that the Auger site was occupied only from about 1615 or 1920 to 1635, during the French fur trade period. It appears that the settlement began small and was later expanded, ending up with 30-40 permanent houses and an estimated population of 750-1000 people.



Dr. Latta explained the techniques used in the dig, showing examples of what one looks for and how to interpret such things as stains in the soil. The map of everything that was excavated (below) shows long houses, all oriented in the same direction (likely because of prevailing winds). The whole was surrounded by a wooden palisade made of 3 parallel rows of posts. Houses were probably typical Huron longhouses, made of 2 rows of saplings bent together to form a roof and covered with elm bark. Elm bark is fire resistant, and as each house had a series of hearths arranged down the middle of the house, fire was an everpresent danger.



Over 175,000 artifacts were excavated over the 11 years of study. These included tools for food preparation, cooking and storage; for wood working and construction; for fishing and hunting and for making clothing. Metal obtained in trading was clearly important, and included axes and metal pots – which were used not as pots, but as raw material for

making projectile points. Personal items were also found, such as pipes – some decorated as small animals or human faces, necklaces, combs, and incised disks that were used in 'heads or tails' types of gambling games.

Remains of flora and fauna revealed a great deal about the diet and way of life of the community. Over 20,000 animals were recorded, of which 13,000 were fish and 7,600 mammals, as well as birds, herptiles, clams and snails. At least 15 mammal species were identified, and included many species that would have been hunted for fur, as well as being eaten. A few elk, moose and caribou were represented, and there was a burst of comment from Latta's audience noting that caribou were common at the time on Manitoulin Island, so would not need to have come via trading from somewhere far away. There were relatively few birds identified, most of them large (Canada goose,

grouse, Sandhill Crane, Passenger Pigeon). Latta thought the identification of birds was perhaps suspect, but it was nonetheless notable that there were no small birds represented, despite their being good to eat. Possibly dogs (which were definitely present) would have disposed of small remains.

The most impressive faunal list was for fish, with more than 25 species identified. These included river fish, but also large lake fish such as Lake sturgeon that would have come from wiers and seine fishing on Lake Simcoe or Georgian Bay. Although there were many floral remains (largely maize, but also beans, sunflower, tobacco, and various berries), the predominance of fish remains indicates that fish and a fishing lifestyle were clearly of central importance to this village.

Howard Savage, the Brodie member who helped set up this study, was also key to collecting up the bone remains and identifying them. This collection is among the most extensive of a native site from this era.

Questions:

Q: Setting three rows of 8-10" diameter palisade poles must have been a huge effort, for only 20 years of occupancy.

A: Yes, although what the ground shows is the size and depth of the hole, which would have been bigger than the post, and it's sometimes hard to estimate the size. The other two rows may have been smaller poles, slanted toward larger poles in the middle row to help support them.

Q: How many families would have been in a longhouse?

A.: Width of houses were limited by the construction method, but they could be as long as you wanted. Each hearth lined up down the middle of the house probably belonged to a family group, and houses could be extended to add more hearths as needed.

Q: Geographers define "urban" as towns with >1000 inhabitants. Should we think of the Hurons as an urban society?

A: Anthropologists' definition of urban requires that settlements must have a central nucleus (public buildings, churches, etc.). The Auger site and others were 'unnucleated.' Jesuits living among the Huron wanted their own building, which was looked down upon by the Huron as being anti-social and possibly even nefarious.

Q: The community only lasted for about as many years as it took to excavate its remains. Why did it disappear?

A: For a village made of wood, and a large group of people needing to gather wood every day for cooking fires, there would have been little wood remaining in the vicinity and an ever ncreasing incentive to move elsewhere.

George Bryant thanked the speaker.

OBSERVATIONS

George Bryant recommended three readings.

- "The Beast of Gevaudan," written by Brodie Club member C.H.D. Clarke, appeared in the magazine Natural History (April 1971) and can be read online at <http://wolfology1.tripod.com/id106.htm>. It ascribes most wolf killings to rabid animals.
- "W.E. Saunders—Naturalist," a compilation of papers given to Brodie Club and which George will place in our archives.

- “Writing History—A Professor’s Life,” by Michael Bliss, about life as a professor at University of Toronto. (You can look it up on Amazon for more info.)

Bertin reported signs of beaver activity on Lake Ontario waterfront, and others chimed in to say they also knew of beavers being there.

Daniels reported 13 White-throated Sparrow and 2 Dark-eyed Junco in his Toronto back yard over the past several days. Dunn noted that she heard via a phone call with someone at Cape May, New Jersey that White-throats had arrived there just today.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, 21 November, 2017, will feature Ken Welch, speaking on “Hummingbirds, nectar, and the interface of metabolic physiology and natural history.”

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:30 pm.

APPENDIX: Treasurer’s Report

	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2017 Budget
Balance Beginning	\$1,632.90	\$1,112.90	\$1,112.90
Revenue			
Membership	\$300.00	\$210.00	\$950.00
Contributions			
1100 Meeting		\$6,400.00	\$6,400.00
Total Revenues	\$300.00	\$6,610.00	\$7,350.00
Expenses			
Meeting Expenses	\$85.00		\$100.00
Honoraria/Speaker Expenses	\$127.00	\$50.25	\$500.00
1100 Meeting	\$525.00	\$5,966.98	\$5,966.98
FON scholarship			\$350.00
Social		\$21.46	\$100.00
Bank Charges			\$30.00
FON Membership	\$83.00		\$83.00
Total Expenses	\$820.00	\$6,038.69	\$7,129.98
Balance Ending	\$1,112.90	\$1,684.21	\$1,332.92
Increase/Decrease	-\$520.00	\$571.31	-\$220.02