

SHARING THE PAST: A SYMPOSIUM ON PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

March 20-21, 2014
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Tim Schadla-Hall

Please join us for a symposium to exchange information and perspectives on Public Archaeology in Nova Scotia and beyond.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- ❖ Opening Remarks: **Dr. Catherine Cottreau-Robins**
- ❖ Keynote Speaker: **Tim Schadla-Hall**
 - ❖ **Dr. Jonathan Fowler**
 - ❖ **Charles Burke**
 - ❖ **Dr. Helen Kristmanson**
 - ❖ **Sara Beanlands**
 - ❖ **Dr. Karolyn Smardz-Frost**
 - ❖ **Rebecca Dunham**
- ❖ Session Commentary: **Tim Schadla-Hall**



Communities, Culture and Heritage



Saint Mary's
University

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

BOREAS
Heritage Consulting Inc.



SHARING THE PAST: A SYMPOSIUM ON PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Thursday, March 20

- 7:00 pm **Keynote/Public Lecture** with **Tim Schadla-Hall** (University College London)
A Future for the Past? The Role of Public Archaeology
Scotiabank Theatre, Saint Mary's University
- 8:30 pm **Reception**

Friday, March 21

- 8:30 am **Registration - Scotiabank Theatre, Saint Mary's University**
- 9:00 am **Dr. Catherine Cottreau-Robins** (Provincial Archaeologist, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Province of Nova Scotia)
Welcome and Introduction
- 9:15 am **Dr. Jonathan Fowler** (Saint Mary's University)
Research, Education, and Resource Management: Why Nova Scotia Needs Public Archaeology
- 9:45 am **Charles Burke** (Senior Archaeologist, Parks Canada)
Public Archaeology in a Contested Landscape
- 10:15 am **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 am **Dr. Helen Kristmanson** (Director of Aboriginal Affairs and Archaeology, Government of PEI)
Public Archaeology in Prince Edward Island
- 11:15 am **Sara Beanlands** (Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc.)
Other Voices, Other Views: Emerging Themes in Public Archaeology
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm **Karolyn Smardz-Frost** (Senior Research Fellow at the Harriet Tubman Institute, York University and Harrison McCain Visiting Professor, Acadia University)
Digging for the Promised Land: Public Archaeology and the Underground Railroad in Canada
- 1:30 pm **Rebecca Dunham** (Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada, Parks Canada Agency)
Mutual Benefits in Public Archaeology
- 2:00 pm **Session Commentary: Tim Schadla-Hall**
- 2:30 pm **Coffee Break**
- 3:00 pm **Roundtable/Panel Discussion**
- 4:00 pm **Wrap-up**
- 6:30 pm **Post-Symposium Dinner (Optional)**

Symposium is free, including reception, coffee breaks and lunch, but registration is required. **Registration Deadline: March 12, 2014.** To register, or for more information, contact: sbeanlands@boreasheritage.ca. Please indicate if you are interested in joining us for Post-Symposium Dinner. Everyone Welcome.

Abstracts and Speakers

Tim Schadla-Hall (University College London and Editor, *Public Archaeology*)

A Future for the Past? The Role of Public Archaeology

Tim Schadla-Hall will briefly review the history of Public Archaeology and consider some of the recent discussions of defining the scope and nature of the subject that has become increasingly adopted from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. This will include a critique of recent published work and discussion of both the academic approach of compartmentalisation, and the problems that archaeology graduates face in the world today. It argues for radical approaches to the treatment of the past and the teaching of archaeology in the academy. It will conclude with several short case studies and pose a series of questions about the nature of archaeology in the 21st century world.

Tim Schadla-Hall is a world-renowned archaeologist and author, specializing in the study of how the archaeological discipline interacts with the public. After receiving his MA in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge, he spent three years as a field archaeologist in Winchester and Wessex, where he worked on strategic planning of archaeological resources and also on the plough damage of archaeological sites. Subsequently, he worked in Hull Museums as Principal Keeper of Museums and as Deputy Director and then Director of Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service. He is currently Reader in Public Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, where he lectures on Public Archaeology, Museum Management, and other aspects of archaeology. He is also editor of the journal *Public Archaeology*. His interests include the early Mesolithic in North Western Europe, as well as the Mesolithic in general; the archaeology of standing buildings and their landscapes; public participation in archaeology; and, governmental policy development for the past. He is currently working on various aspects of heritage law and repatriation of archaeological material, as well as the economics of archaeology. He is the author of numerous publications in all these fields.

Dr. Jonathan Fowler (Saint Mary's University)

Research, Education, and Resource Management: Why Nova Scotia Needs Public Archaeology

Nova Scotia is a small province with an uncertain future, but it is also a place with a deep past and outstanding archaeological resources. The quality of Nova Scotia's archaeological heritage allows our students and researchers to make serious contributions to international scholarship and clarify our understandings of our communities and of ourselves. It also constitutes a significant - though non-renewable - economic resource that has generally remained disconnected from Nova Scotia's tourism sector. This is short-sighted. The sustainable management of our archaeological resources is a necessary first step in enhancing their value in our cultural life and economy. Here, too, the public have a role to play.

Jonathan Fowler is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Saint Mary's University. He holds degrees from Saint Mary's, Acadia University, the University of Sheffield, and the University of Oxford and has wide-ranging interests in the fields of archaeology, anthropology and history. Since 2001, Jonathan has directed an archaeological field school at Grand-Pré National Historic Site. He is the co-editor, with Paul Erickson, of two popular books on regional archaeology, *Underground Nova Scotia* and *Underground New Brunswick*.

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Charles Burke (Senior Archaeologist, Parks Canada)

Public Archaeology in a Contested Landscape

The Village of Beaubassin, settled in the 1670s by Acadians from Port Royal was attacked and destroyed twice by New England raiders and razed to the ground in 1750 by French soldiers. Following its abandonment, the British built Fort Lawrence on the ruins of Beaubassin. Set against the historical backdrop of Anglo - French rivalry in the Chignecto area, these sites became the focus of an archaeological project in 2007, providing an opportunity to develop a Public Archaeology Experience. The program, aimed at meeting both policy and community expectations, was intended to demonstrate how the practice of public archaeology could frame the site in the broader context of landscape, commemoration, and heritage management. This presentation explores the challenges and lessons learned through a public archaeology program with special emphasis on redefining a community approach to these unique heritage resources.

Charles Burke is a Senior Archaeologist with Parks Canada's National Terrestrial Archaeology Unit based in Halifax. He has an MA (Anthropology) from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

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Dr. Helen Kristmanson (Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Archaeology, Government of PEI)

Public Archaeology in Prince Edward Island

At the invitation of the site manager, a public archaeology program was offered for two field seasons at Orwell Corner Historical Village in eastern Prince Edward Island. Now one of the seven museum sites of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, the agricultural community at Orwell Corner was established in the 19th century by Irish settlers, American Loyalists, and Scottish Highlanders. Here, a stroll through the old community brings visitors into contact with "villagers" in period costume who guide them through the church, schoolhouse, community hall, general store, blacksmith shop, and barns. The objectives of the public archaeology program were simple and mutually satisfactory. Archaeological excavations at an abandoned house site, which tourists encountered directly upon exiting the PEI Agricultural Heritage Museum, served to enhance visitor experience through observation and/or participation while communicating basic principles of archaeological logic. From our perspective, as the provincial archaeology office, the program gave us the opportunity to interact directly with the public and provide an experience in which they could encounter the past in the first person.

Helen Kristmanson is Director of Aboriginal Affairs and Archaeology with the Government of Prince Edward Island's Department of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs and is the Island's first Provincial Archaeologist. Helen holds a Masters degree in Archaeology from Memorial University and a PhD in archaeology from the University of Manchester, UK. In 2011, Helen was recipient of Le Comité historique Soeur-Antoinette-DesRoches Gilbert-Buote Award for her archaeological research at the Pointe-aux-Vieux, a pre-Deportation site in western PEI.

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Sara Beanlands (Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc.)

Other Voices, Other Views: Emerging Themes in Public Archaeology

During the summer of 2013, an empty field in the small rural village of Poplar Grove, Nova Scotia, was transformed into the site of a large public archaeology program. Believed to contain both Pre-Deportation Acadian archaeological resources and evidence of early Planter occupation, the public program brought together members of both descendent communities to collectively explore the cultural interface of Acadian/Planter settlement in Nova Scotia. The excavation received a significant amount of media attention, including personal accounts written by the participants themselves, offering a rare opportunity to identify, examine, and reflect upon the variety of themes that emerged from the process of public archaeology.

Sara Beanlands is a Principal and Senior Archaeologist with Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc., specializing in cultural resource management. She has served as President of the Nova Scotia Archaeology Society and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Archaeological Land Trust of Nova Scotia and the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society. Sara recently joined the Anthropology Department at Saint Mary's University as an Adjunct Professor.

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Karolyn Smartz-Frost (Harrison McCain Visiting Professor at Acadia University)

Digging for the Promised Land: Public Archaeology and the Underground Railroad in Canada

The Thornton and Lucie Blackburn Site was the first Underground Railroad site excavated in Canada. Conducted at the home of a Kentucky fugitive slave couple, more than 10,000 visitors toured the site in the summer of 1985, and 3,000 schoolchildren participated in hands-on excavation programs. The site received more publicity than any dig in Canadian history, after Louisburg. The Blackburn project highlighted the important role African Canadians played in building urban Canada and made significant contributions to popular knowledge regarding Canada's place in the 19th century African Diaspora. The biography of the Blackburns, published in 2007, was the first book on African Canadian history to win the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction. This paper discusses the ambitious public education initiative launched at the Blackburn dig, as well as the long-term impact of the discoveries made there.

Karolyn Smardz Frost is an archaeologist, historian and award-winning author. She served in 2012-2013 as the Bicentennial Visiting Professor for Canadian Studies at Yale University, and now is Harrison McCain Visiting Professor at Acadia University. Karolyn holds a BA in Archaeology, an MA in Classical Studies and a doctorate in the History of Race, Slavery and Imperialism. An early leader in Canadian public archaeology, she administered the Archaeological Resource Centre at the Toronto Board of Education, was a founder of the public education committees of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Society for American Archaeology, and represented Canada at the World Archaeological Congress for 11 years. She is the author of a number of articles and chapters on public and educational archaeology, and is co-editor of *The Archaeology Education Handbook: Sharing the Past With Kids* (2002).

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Rebecca Dunham (Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, Parks Canada Agency)

Mutual Benefits in Public Archaeology

Public archaeology is a broad, fuzzily defined subject referring to multiple potential interactions between the public and the field of archaeology – the sites, researchers, material culture, intangible heritage, interpretations, reconstructions, and so on. To simplify things, any and all facets of archaeology are inherently public. However, sometimes there may be a disconnect between what heritage professionals and the public believe to be the value of archaeology, and this disconnect may inadvertently lead to ineffective interpretations, exhibits, marketing, media communications and other forms of public engagement. A possible link, or connection, between these two groups is the volunteer who, with a foot in each field, can offer a valuable perspective on where interests coincide and differ. In this light, the development of archaeology volunteer programs may be immensely beneficial for the heritage sector yet so long as they are equally beneficial for the volunteer and respond to their particular values and interests. This paper will discuss shared values that have come to light through recent public archaeology programming and volunteerism at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada.

Rebecca Dunham, Senior Archaeologist at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC), directed an annual 'hands-on' public archaeology program at Louisbourg from 2005 to 2012 (and at Grand Pré in 2011), working with volunteers and students and interpreter training. She has participated in Parks Canada archaeology projects with strong public engagement at Fort Anne NHSC and Grand Pré NHSC (1989-1997). She holds degrees from Saint Mary's, University of Saskatchewan and the University of Birmingham (MA).

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CAMPUS MAP



 NE Campus Construction

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|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| A Atrium | LA Loyola Academic Complex | P Parking | HC Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness |
| AA Alumni Arena | LR Loyola Residence | PM Parking Meters | UA Development/Alumni |
| AG Art Gallery | ME McNally East Wing | PPL Patrick Power Library | VR Vanier Residence |
| B Burke Building | MM McNally Main | RR Rice Residence | 980 TESL Centre |
| C Cafeteria | MN McNally North Wing | S Science Building | 5960 Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies |
| CE Continuing Education | MS McNally South Wing | SB Sobey Building | |
| EA External Affairs | O The Oaks/International Activities | SC O'Donnell Hennessey Student Centre | |

All main buildings are wheelchair accessible and most are connected by tunnels or walkways.