



MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release
Feb. 19, 2011*

Archaeo Apprentice recognized with provincial award

The Friends of Murphys Point Park and local archaeologists Brenda Kennett and Jeff Earl have received a provincial award for the Archaeo Apprentice program for students.

The Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award is presented by the Ontario Archaeological Society and recognizes individuals and groups that show commitment to a greater public awareness of archaeology. It takes into account the scope of the audience reached, the innovation of the program, the development of enduring resource materials and the partnerships and sponsorships springing from the activity.

“The Friends celebrated their 15th anniversary in 2010, and it seemed appropriate that they also receive the recognition they deserve for a successful public archaeology program,” said Glenna Roberts, Ottawa chapter president. “In addition, Brenda and Jeff are well known for their professionalism and steadfast support for local archaeology. Recognition of their significant contribution to furthering archaeological research is long overdue.”

The Friends of Murphys Point began developing what is now known as the Archaeo Apprentice program in 2000, starting with initial surveys of the McParlan House and Burgess Mill site (circa 1820) on Hogg Bay at Murphys Point Provincial Park. Ms. Kennett and Mr. Earl of Past Recovery Archaeological Services were on the initial steering committee and continue to help the Friends to realize the goal of developing the project into an educational experience with hands-on archaeology for Grade 5 students.

“We are truly honoured to receive this prestigious award in recognition of Archaeo Apprentice,” said Stephanie Gray, Friends president. “Since we began excavating in 2004, more than 750 children have had a chance to experience hands-on history. They have found artifacts representing the very settlement history they are learning about in school. It’s a magical program that relates directly to their curriculum.”

“The opportunity for us and our staff to teach students about archaeology and to share what we can learn from the past has been tremendous, as has working with the Friends of Murphys Point,” said Ms. Kennett.

“It is extremely gratifying to receive the Peggi Armstrong Award from our peers in the archaeological community,” added Mr. Earl.

In addition to a full-day field trip that provides the opportunity for excavation, lab-related exercises and a natural history component, participating classes have access to an interactive Travelling Museum in their classroom for a week, as well as a teacher resource package and a take-home workbook.

“This project has been an enormous benefit to Murphys Point and we congratulate the Friends and Brenda and Jeff for this award,” said Curtis Thompson, acting park superintendent. “With the knowledge gained from the excavations and studies, we have learned a great deal more about the history of the park and, indeed, the area, which we can then share with the community and the visiting public.”

The beautifully hand-crafted and unique award has been presented since 1997 in memory of Peggi Armstrong, who was a long-standing member of the Ottawa Chapter of the OAS and who was a driving force behind the development of a public archaeology component of the chapter’s activities. For more information about the award, check <http://www.ottawaoas.ca/peggi/peggi.htm>.

The Friends have embarked upon their annual fundraising campaign to offer the program to more than 150 students this spring. For information about the program or to make a donation, check www.friendsofmurphyspoint.ca or call 613-264-0447.

–30–

For more information contact:

Stephanie Gray
Friends of Murphys Point Park
President
613-264-0447
friendsofmurphyspointpark@yahoo.ca

Glenna Roberts
OAS, Ottawa Chapter
President
613-235-7358
glennaroberts@sympatico.ca

Rory Mackay
OAS, Ottawa Chapter
Director of Public Archaeology
613-382-3439
rmackay3@cogeco.ca

THREE PHOTOS INCLUDED WITH E-MAIL

Please contact Stephanie for photo information (names or higher resolution)