Investigators from Sustainable Archaeology deployed a Geoscan RM15-D resistivity apparatus to survey two of the same transects. The resistivity survey intersected the ditch and bank system at a point where the earthwork was poorly preserved on the surface. The survey identified linear disturbances of the subsurface environment that correspond with slight changes in surface elevation as identified by a topographical survey of the site. These patterns of resistivity also align with the anticipated trajectory of the earthwork established through excavation at points along its length. Detailed analysis of the resistivity results were hampered however by uniformly high levels of subsurface moisture. This feature of the site is apparently not a new one. Historical reports from members of various forces garri soned at the fort frequently feature comment on the poor drainage and muddy conditions of their post.
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Magnetic gradiometry yielded a strongly-patterned distribution of targets associated with the site’s defensive network. Relatively low frequencies of magnetic targets in front of the earthwork were mirrored by correspondingly high concentrations of anomalies within and beyond the defensive embankment. Excavation at the site has yet to identify these targets, with the exception of a very strong signature revealed to be the anchor for a modern utility pole. At the same time, excavated units elsewhere along the earthwork encountered quantities of complete and fragmental projectiles. Further work will demonstrate what proportion of these magnetic targets represents buried ordnance, and the degree to which projectiles remain in situ. Preliminary observation of patterns of parallel polarities in these magnetic anomalies leaves room for optimism that target density may be related to the intensity of the bombardment. If this is so, the survey provides an evocative and sobering picture of the experience of the fort’s defenders.

The WLU excavation is very pleased to have had the opportunity to deploy a geophysical approach at Fort Erie. Subsequent field schools will seek to build on the survey completed to date. The equipment and expertise made available by Sustainable Archaeology has the potential to substantially augment understandings of the very large-scale features associated with the reconstructed area of the fort in a way that excavation could not. Geophysical applications are valuable from a pedagogical point of view as well and provide an opportunity to illustrate to students how surveys are designed and integrated into the investigative process. The WLU Archaeology program is particularly grateful for the excellent training, assistance and support provided by Ed Eastaugh and others at Sustainable Archaeology, and for the work of Ed and Jean-François Millaire during their visit to the site.

Sustainable Archaeology Database

The Sustainable Archaeology database and informational platform is currently under development by a team of database developers: Namir Ahmed, Graham Berry, Colin Creamer and Josh Summers. Each member of the team offers a unique and complementary skill set, including experience with database design and implementation, SQL code, interface and graphic design, and archaeological practice. The team is currently working with the Sustainable Archaeology staff to complete development of the inventory management aspects of the database. Incorporation of inventory management, including RFID tracking technology will allow collections to be managed and monitored from the point of intake onward.

Other aspects of the database currently under development include the integration of geospatial data and mapping capabilities, and the creation of a text-based database structure for the purpose of performing attribute based queries of artifact data.
Student Research Grant Opportunities

The Shelley R. Saunders Thesis Research Grant

Grants support the costs associated with Ph.D. dissertation research. Maximum of (3) grants per annum for up to $800. Grants support lab research, fieldwork, museum or archive work, but not travel to conferences. Student members of CAPA in good standing, currently registered in a Ph.D. programme in physical anthropology, may apply.

Application Deadline: February 1st.

For more information, visit the CAPA website, www.capa.fenali.net/

Wenner-Gren Foundation

The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc. is a private operating foundation dedicated to the advancement of anthropology throughout the world. The Foundation has a variety of grant programs for anthropological research and scholarship that are open to applicants irrespective of nationality or country of residence, including doctoral and post doctoral scholars.

Application Deadlines: Vary depending on specific grant, beginning February 1.

For more information on specific grants and application deadlines, visit www.wennergren.org/programs/ or contact the Foundation: inquiries@wennergren.org

The Leakey Foundation Research Grants

The Foundation funds research related specifically to human origins, including paleoanthropology, primate behavior, & studies of modern hunter-gatherer groups.

Research Grants to doctoral student are in the $3,000-$13,500 range; larger grants, especially to senior scientists and post-doctoral students, may be funded up to $22,000.

Application Deadlines: January 5, July 15.

For more information on deadlines and the application process, visit www.leakeyfoundation.org/grants/

Western Graduate Research Scholarships (WGRS)

Western Graduate Research Scholarships support full time graduate students at Western who are enrolled in Category I programs. The value of the WGRS varies by program and/or by student.

For more information and application deadlines, visit the Western Graduate and Post Doctoral Studies Funding Opportunities web page.

Mackenzie King Scholarship Trust

Open and Travelling Scholarships for graduates of any Canadian university who engage in postgraduate study, in any field, in Canada or elsewhere.

Application Deadline: February 1st.

For more information, visit www.mkingscholarships.ca/
Upcoming Events, Lectures, Conferences, and Workshops

Events

Canadian Museum of Civilization Cross-Canada Consultation Tour for the Canadian Museum of History December 11 &12, Toronto, ON. Dec. 11 panel and roundtable will be held in the Toronto Reference Library, Epic Hall and Prologue, from 7 -9pm. Dec. 12 activity kiosk location TBA. RSVP at www.civilization.ca/myhistorymuseum/

Western University Department of Anthropology: Graduate Research Seminar Series

Friday, Jan. 11th, 2:30 pm, Western Social Science Centre, Rm. 2257. Speakers are Brian Venne and Josh Smith. Topics TBA.
Friday, Jan. 25th, 2:30 pm, Western Social Science Centre, Rm. 2257. Speakers are Claire Venet-Rogers and Jeffrey Muir. Topics TBA.

Conferences

Society for Historical Archaeology 46th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology: January 9-12, 2013, Leicester, Great Britain. www.sha.org/meetings/annual_meetings.cfm


Computer Applications & Quantitative Methods in Archaeology Annual Conference, March 25-28, 2013, University Club of Western Australia, Perth (Western Australia).


Workshops

National Park Service Archaeological Prospection Workshop: Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century, May 13-17, 2013, Cedar Point Biological Station, Nebraska. For more information or to register, contact Steven L. DeVore, NPS Archaeologist, steve_de_vore@nps.gov or visit www.nps.gov/mwac/