as "possible theater makeup." Clemons and the carpenter built a theater with a secret entrance disguised to look like window shades. Numerous alcohol and extract bottles were found in the backyard deposits that date from this time period. Porter-Lupu is currently exploring the hypothesis that there may have been a Prohibition-era queer speakeasy or drag performance venue in the building.

Porter-Lupu will continue her work on the Halcyon House Archaeology Project during the summer of 2019 and into the 2019-2020 academic year. During this time, the public is invited to participate in the project and attend open lab days, public talks, and creative workshops based around the materials from the site. You can follow the project on Instagram or Facebook by searching @halcyonarchaeology, or you can e-mail archaeologist Jenn Porter-Lupu at queerarchaeologist@ gmail.com to ask questions or get involved in the project.

# Making Moves: DC HPO Archaeological Collections Update

[Submitted by: Christine Ames, DC HPO]

In the fall of 2016, the DC HPO and DC Public Library signed a Memorandum of Agreement establishing that the DC archaeological collections will be moved to the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) branch upon completion of the building's renovations! Currently, the HPO does not have a single, permanent curation facility, so the District's archaeological collections are stored across multiple repositories in the DC, MD, VA area. So, this is a big MOVE in the right direction! In preparation, DC HPO staff and interns have been conducting a collections-wide inventory and conditions assessment. This has involved visiting the repositories holding the collections including District and Federal agencies, cultural resource management firms, and museums, and has seen tremendous support from area professionals. About 50% of the collection has been inventoried and assessed, although there remains much to do before the move.

In all, DC HPO staff have truly been enjoying diving back into each collection. Not only has the office gained additional insights about intriguing legacy projects and past curation practices, but the work has given staff the opportunity to realize how much potential the collections still hold. Storing these collections in a secure, controlled facility will bring DC HPO collections management practices up to current standards and it will also fulfill one of the office's major goals leading up to 2020: Make (and Keep!) Archaeology Visible and Accessible! As we MOVE forward, the DC HPO is thrilled to be able to continue to contribute to the District's rich historic past. Stay tuned!

See our 2020 plan at: https://planning.dc.gov/page/ preservation-planning

## Ontario

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

# Industrial Malting Tiles Found on Toronto Hospital Site

[Submitted by: Wesley Oldham, Archaeological Services Inc.]

In July 2018, ASI undertook a Stage 4 salvage excavation of lands being redeveloped at the southwest corner of Widmer Street and Adelaide Street West in Toronto, Ontario, under the project management of Ms. Eva MacDonald, and field direction of Mr. Wesley Oldham. The parcel of land was once part of the original Hospital Reserve in the Town of York (Toronto). ASI conducted excavations on three other properties in the Hospital Reserve between 2006 and 2010, resulting in the documentation and removal of all surviving archaeological deposits associated with the operation of the hospital, which was constructed in 1819-1820 and demolished circa 1862. The hospital was an important public institution during the cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1834, and most particularly the typhus epidemic of 1847.

Three months prior to the July 2018 work, ASI had excavated five test trenches on the parcel at Widmer and Adelaide Street West, successfully locating the remains of one of the hospital's "fever sheds" erected as temporary shelters for the Irish typhus victims who arrived in Toronto in 1847 (MacDonald 2018:12-13). In the end, the Stage 4 excavations uncovered portions of two fever sheds in the form of east-west alignments of large rectangular post moulds. The buildings stood approximately 15 metres apart from one another.

The July 2018 work also documented a number of features associated with the occupation of the late nineteenth-century row houses built on the property after the demolition of the hospital and the sale of the lands to private developers. A rear yard outbuilding associated with one of these residences turned up a rather unexpected discovery in the form of a floor or prepared surface constructed using not only bricks scavenged from the demolition of the Toronto Hospital, but also tiles from a malting works (Figure 1). These malting tiles or bricks, as they are also known, were identified on the basis of their distinctive deep cells on the underside (Figure 2), each of which is perforated on the upper surface (McComish 2015:52).

In order to dry malted grain in a kiln, a surface on which damp malt could be placed and allowed to dry evenly was needed. The perforated malting tiles were designed to allow hot air from a furnace to rise through the kiln floor, but at the same time not let the grain fall through. The heat was allowed to circulate through a series of chambers moulded into the underside of the tile, escaping through 2-3-millimetre-diameter perforations on the upper surface of the tiles (Figure 3), on which the grain was spread out. The earliest patent for a hand-made malting tile was in 1699; however, most of those that survive today are machine-moulded, dat-



Figure 1: Malting tiles in situ, repurposed in a prepared surface.



Figure 2: Sample malting tile profile.



Figure 3: Sample malting tile face up.



Figure 4: Most common style of malting tile found on the Toronto Hospital Site.

ing from the mid nineteenth century onwards (Patrick 2011:19). The tiles can be classified by the shape and pattern of the cells moulded into the underside and by the number of upper surface perforations per cell (Crew 2004:4).

The fragmented remains of the malting tiles found at Widmer and Adelaide are machine-moulded. the vast majority of which are from two-inch-thick, 12-inch-square red tiles containing six rows of 10 sets of perforations alternating with five rows of nine sets of perforations, each set containing five perforations in a slightly offset X pattern (Figure 4). The cells on the underside of these bricks are circular. This pattern of five perforations appears to be one of the most common (Patrick 2011). A single fragment also of red fabric and two inches thick contains one-inch-square sets of perforations, with each set containing 25 perforations in an evenly spaced 5x5 pattern (Figure 3). The cells on the underside of this fragment are square. Lastly, a single buff-coloured malting tile was found (Figure 5). This two-inch-thick tile is 121/2 inches square and contains 64 (8x8) sets of perforations roughly evenly spaced in a checkerboard pattern. Each set contains 12 perforations, eight around the exterior forming a square, and four in the interior forming a second square. The cells on the underside of this brick are also square. This pattern of perforations, however, appears rather unique and is unlike any of the patterns identified thus far in



Figure 5: *Buff-coloured malting tile found on the Toronto Hospital Site*.

our literature search.

The origin of these items is still a mystery. There is no evident connection between any of the occupants of the property and the malting, brewing or distilling industries. But it can be said that the people of Toronto liked their drink. In 1865, for example, 300 tavern licenses were issued to serve a population that had reached about 45,000 people (St. John 2014: Table 2). This helped to support the business of at least 12 breweries and three distilleries, most of which probably malted their own grain. There was, in addition, at least one other specialized malting operation (Irving 1865). Thus, narrowing down the source of these recycled pieces seems an unlikely prospect.

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## Quebec

Reported by: Stéphane Noël

# ARCHEOLAB.QUEBEC: AN OPEN WINDOW ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCE COLLECTION AND ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF QUEBEC

A project by Pointe-à-Callière, Montreal's archaeology and history complex, in partnership with Quebec's Ministry of Culture and Communications.

During the last half-century, archaeology has assumed an increasingly prominent place in western society. More intensive regional programs of research and mitigation have led to more precise knowledge about the past and a growing number of collections demanding management and curation. Paradoxically to their scientific and heritage values, these collections often remain understudied and somewhat inaccessible. In the province of Quebec, this heritage represents 12,000 years of human occupation, some 10,000 recorded sites, and deserves better understanding and appreciation nationally and internationally. This is why Pointe-à-Callière, Montreal's archaeology and history complex partnered up with Quebec's Ministry of Culture and Communications to create a digital archaeological reference collection and a platform of diffusion to highlight the province's archaeological heritage and archaeological discipline in Quebec more generally. This initiative, financed by the Plan culturel numérique du Québec, brings together a diversity of experts and promotes the development of new fields of expertise. The collection is composed of material culture representing the entirety of the province's cultural periods and its regional diversity. The platform Archeolab. quebec (www.archeolab.quebec) enables Quebec archaeology to enter the digital age and thus contributes to the quality and diversity of cultural content available

online. This initiative responds to demands for information, research, stewardship and diffusion from agents of cultural management, but also for imperatives related to education, popular culture and curiosity from the general population.

# Introducing the Collection archéologique de référence du Québec (CARQ)

The creation of an archaeological reference collection in digital format is a structuring project that holds the potential of improving knowledge of the province's archaeological collections and acknowledgement of its cultural heritage.

This digital collection carries a global vision of Quebec's cultural past. Many of the artifacts, documented by specialists in material culture, are selected from the provincial collection curated by the *Laboratoire et Réserve d'archéologie du Québec (LRAQ)*. It also incorporates a body of objects housed in a variety of other institutions: museums, universities, regional and municipal administrations as well as from private collections, insofar as their archaeological origins are known. Therefore, it brings together, in a single digital location, collections hitherto decentralized and difficult to access. The data and contexts associated with these objects are also verified and updated according to the contemporary state of knowledge.

The artifacts selected to constitute the CARQ are assembled thematically, whether by typological groupings (glass bottles, Euro-Canadian earthenware, projectile points, etc.) or coherent contextual groupings (Fort Ville-Marie, Elizabeth & Mary shipwreck, the Basques in North America, etc.), appropriate for browsing. The entire collection is supported by a powerful and flexible search engine that transcends the different groups.

## What is the platform Archeolab.quebec?

Archeolab.quebec's basic objective is the promotion of knowledge about Quebec's archaeological collections. In addition, it constitutes a tool that fosters education and professional development in archaeology. Thanks to the online availability of the reference collection, professionals in cultural resource management and the public at-large have access to artifact data, their detailed description and their contexts, as well as high-quality photographs.

The province's cultural chronology and diversity of contexts are also highlighted by features such as video clips, thematic chronicles and an interactive cultural timeline (in development). Media documents, produced