

Dec 1973

Underwater Archaeology Committee Activities

By golly, things have been happening so fast in this area that even I have a hard time keeping up!

We have been holding so many meetings that I've really been climbing the walls. Much discussion has centered around the application of a permit for the Carleton Island area.

The major argument for a permit is that it legalizes and gives the project the recognition it deserves. I believe we will be able to open up many more doors of cooperation.

The major fear that most divers have when they hear the word "permit" is that a persons diving will be limited or restricted. This I believe is due to the administration of the permits in existence. We all agree that no restriction to dive in the Carleton area should exist. The Archaeology Committee will not act as an enforcement agency.

The goals of our program will be to excavate the wreck in North Bay and identify it. To date, under the direction of Pete Perrault, a grid has been laid down and excavation should start in the spring. The task to identify the vessel has fallen on the Research Committee headed by Dennis McCarthy; this group has accomplished alot. Dennis is assisted here by Dona Hibert, Kathy Bogden, Mary Cobb and a few of us nuts.

We have had a new face pop up in the underwater archaeology area this fall. He is Pat Wilder, Supervisor of Historic Sites for the Thousand Island Parks Commission. Pat is based at Sackets Harbor. The plans for Sackets are quite exciting. The state has purchased the Masonic Hall (old Union Hotel) across from the boat launch to make into a museum. This building is so big that it probably could house a ship 20 feet longer than the Constitution! His main problem is to fill it. If you have any goodies that are cluttering up the old pad, I am sure Pat would appreciate a donation.

Pat is in the process of setting up at Sackets a preservation lab. He has acquired to date 12 drums of carbowax. He has asked our assistance in setting this up; we have even discussed setting up a place for divers to stay at Sackets.

In all, we are very enthusiastically looking forward to the coming year. I would like to encourage any interested divers to take a trip to Sackets this winter to meet Pat. He is an expert on guns of the period and makes them by hand.

I extend an invitation to anyone in NYSDA who would like to get more involved in this field of archaeology, either at Carleton or Sackets, to drop me a line and state your area of interest.

See you all at the seminar!

Howard Trowbridge