

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology

2004 Award for Excellence in Service

PIERRE BEAUDET



In CNEHA's 40th-anniversary year it is appropriate that we remember the numerous contributions of the person who was CNEHA's Chair for almost one-quarter of our history. Pierre Beaudet served as Chair of the Board for nine years (1989–1998). He received the Council's Award for Excellence in Service in 2003 at the Kingston, Ontario meeting, which was fitting since he worked for many years to increase the visibility of CNEHA in Canada.

Pierre joined the Board in 1985 and served a three-year term until 1988. He came back on the board in 1989. In the early 1980s, CNEHA actively sought to recruit Canadian archaeologists to serve on the board. In 1985 (the year Pierre joined the board), CNEHA held its first conference in Canada—in Ottawa. In her letter of welcome to the board, then incoming chair Ann Smith of Ottawa noted her special pleasure in Pierre's "election as it ensures a continued strong Canadian representation."

The 1980s were a period of transition for the organization and Pierre joined the board at an important moment in our history. In 1985, CNEHA had a very small Canadian membership. One of Pierre's goals was to increase our Canadian membership and he was very successful. Pierre encouraged his Canadian colleagues to come to meetings and present papers. As a result, today we can see a strong Canadian representation at our conferences. He worked hard to insure that CNEHA was a strong bi-national organization. He worked tirelessly each year to offer a slate of nominations for the board that represented the diversity of our membership.

Pierre also worked hard to insure that we would continue to have annual meetings in Canadian cities. The second CNEHA conference in Canada was in 1988 in Québec City and Pierre was the conference chair. During his years on the board (1985–1988, 1989–1998) we had conferences in: Québec City (1988), Kingston (1990), Louisbourg (1995), and Montréal (1998). The annual meeting at Louisbourg was a conference at the outer edges of our territory and some members thought that it was too far and worried that we would have poor attendance. Pierre believed that it would be an extraordinary site and a great meeting place. It turned out to be one of our most successful and memorable conferences.

As Chair he was concerned about rising publication costs and decreasing print quality for our journal. He found a Canadian printer who would produce a better quality publication for a very reasonable price—and we are still happily using that same printer. He also found a colleague who would translate our journal abstracts into French thereby making the publication more accessible to archaeologists in Québec Province.

He was a very organized Chair with a clear vision for CNEHA. He believed in delegating authority to board members. For example, he was aware of the importance and the potential reach of the Internet and he encouraged Silas Hurry (another of our award winners) to create and maintain our CNEHA web site. He worked closely with Mary Beaudry to institute a special publication series, *Studies in Northeast Historical Archaeology*. The first monograph—*Mocha, Banded, Cat's Eye, and Other Factory-Made Slipware*—remains a bestseller.

In talking to board members who worked with Pierre they all seemed to have similar positive feelings about his leadership. He was able to inspire people to work hard for CNEHA. One board member said that it was Pierre's "gentle persuasion and his quiet, clever witticisms" that inspired them. Another board member noted that Pierre was "amazingly skillful at getting us to do things that we really hadn't planned to do." Another added that Pierre had "a charming personal style" and a "smile you couldn't say no to." Board members totally enjoyed working with Pierre and they shared his vision of strong partnership between Canadian and US archaeologists. He was successful in this mission and CNEHA is stronger because of his leadership.

SHERENE BAUGHER