

*The Archaeological Institute of America Toronto Society and the UofT Archaeology Centre present an illustrated lecture:*



# **“Pills and Potions at the Niagara Apothecary”**

**By Dena Doroszenko, Ontario Heritage Trust**  
**Tuesday November 27, 2018 at 6:00 pm**

**Location: Anthropology Building AP130 19 Russell Street, Univ of Toronto**

In 1964, pharmacist E. W. Field closed his practice in Niagara-on-the-Lake due to ill health. This pharmacy had been in operation for a total of 156 years by 6 pharmacists, 5 of whom had been apprenticed to their predecessors. Re-opened in 1971 as an authentic restoration of an 1866 pharmacy, the building is owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust and curated by the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Several archaeological investigations have taken place in the rear yard of the apothecary, most recently in 2016 and 2017. The excavation of a large feature recovered hundreds of pharmaceutical bottles dating from the late 1800s to the



early 1900s. This assemblage allows for discussion on the role of the pharmacist in a small community as well as allowing observations to be made regarding the community’s behavior and social needs with this service over time particularly in response to disease. The local apothecary was part of an old



tradition that of being a medical advisor and this site has a wealth of historical records and archaeological data to review developments in local health in small town Ontario. However, another story quickly emerged during our excavations that of the evolution of this corner through the settlement period including evidence related to the War of 1812 and the families who once resided on a major crossroads in the community.

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