

# Ontario Marine Heritage Committee

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

Established April 26, 2020

The study of maritime / maritime archaeology places a strong duty upon its practitioners to ensure that the archaeological record is conserved. Accordingly, members of the OMHC will adhere to the following principles and ethics:

1. We respect and support all domestic legislation and international conventions that protect archaeology and heritage.
2. As archaeologists, professional and avocational, we recognize that we have special obligations to any Indigenous or Descendant Community whose cultural legacy is the subject of our investigation.
3. We will take all reasonable efforts to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of representatives of Indigenous communities or Descendant groups prior to taking any steps in the investigation or management of their cultural properties.
4. We oppose the purchase, sale and trading of archaeological artifacts.
- 5 (a). We believe that it is the responsibility of OMHC members to disseminate the results of research to the Archaeological Community, as well as to the General Public, in an easily accessible manner, medium, and format.
- 5 (b). We believe that it is the responsibility of our Committee to protect the location of maritime archaeological resources, and that information that might reasonably be believed to lead to looting and damage of underwater sites will not be disclosed.
6. We condemn altering data, records and/or falsifying reports prepared by others or reporting information gathered by others without citation.
7. OMHC projects must be identified as such, and those participating on OMHC projects must be members, or approved guests of OMHC members and abide by OMHC bylaws and code of ethics.
8. We promote the stewardship of all archaeological collections and believe that these should be maintained in an approved repository for long-term conservation.
9. Members are obligated to notify the Board of Directors of any material breach of these ethical guidelines, and we support initiatives that the Board may implement to obtain fair resolution to such breach, or to resort to remedies as provided for in our constitution.