**Urban Exploration: Oneota Excavations in Downtown Onalaska**

This summer MVAC conducted a major excavation in the heart of Onalaska, Wisconsin, during the reconstruction of STH 35 (2nd Avenue). The Onalaska Village and Cemetery site (47LC288) is an Oneota site that until recently was known only from accounts, some of them from the 1800s, of artifacts and human remains found throughout much of the downtown. The site’s importance was clear, but after over a century of urban development, no one knew if any of the site remained intact, and excavation ahead of the highway construction was not feasible. Instead, archaeological monitoring was written into the construction project itself. The findings far exceeded expectations. About 500 features, including some with human remains, were found and excavated in a five-block stretch of road as the construction proceeded. Processing of the materials is just getting underway, but it is already clear that this information will add greatly to our understanding of the Oneota occupation of the La Crosse area, which lasted from about A.D. 1300 to A.D. 1625. The site produced a variety of feature types, a large amount of pottery, and abundant, well preserved animal and plant remains. All three phases of the local Oneota occupation are represented, with the heaviest representation from the Brice Prairie phase (A.D. 1300–1400).