

Archaeological Society of Alberta 38th Annual Conference and AGM. May 10 – 12, 2013

Hosted by the South Eastern Archaeological Society of Alberta, Medicine Hat.

Friday, May 10th 6 – 9 p.m. – Registration and reception. **Studio Theatre, Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre.** Tour of the Esplanade Museum exhibits included.

Saturday May 11, Medicine Hat College, Foyer: 8:30 a.m., Registration cont'd.

9:00 a.m. Room 159, Sessions. Presenters to date include:

Cathy Linowski, (Biology instructor, Medicine Hat College). *Discovering the landscape – the plants and ecosystems associated with Archaeological sites in SE Alberta.*

Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer, (PhD Candidate, University of Calgary). *Listening to the Landscape: Results of the 2011 and 2012 Pine Coulee Surveys.*

Dr. Margaret Kennedy, Associate Professor, (University of Saskatchewan). *The Cabri Lake Archaeological Project.*

Dale E. Boland, M.A., (Stantec Consulting). *Telling Tales Around the Campfire: Recent Research at Selected Stone Circle Sites in Eastern Alberta.*

Alyssa Hamza, (M.A. candidate, University of Lethbridge). *Raw Material Utilization on the Northwestern Great Plains during the Besant Phase.*

Patrick Rennie, (State Lands Archaeologist, Montana). *The Surprise Creek Site: Late Period Bison Hunting in Central Montana.*

Sheila Macdonald, (M.A. candidate, University of Lethbridge). *New Opportunities to Examine Ethridge Pottery Ware from Sites on the Northwestern Plains.*

Vivian, Brian and Janet Blakey, (Lifeways of Canada Limited). *Wintering on Pigeon Lake and the Evidence for Fish and Furs at FgPm-05.*

Nancy Saxberg and Amanda Dow, (AMEC Environment & Infrastructure). *Results of 2012 Excavations at Fort Augustus/Edmonton House.*

Dr. Brian Reeves, Professor Emeritus, (University of Calgary) and **Dr. Margaret Kennedy**, Associate Professor, (University of Saskatchewan). *Naming the Stones: Rediscovering 19th Century Niitsitapi Place Names in the Bow-Red Deer Rivers Grasslands.*

Saturday Evening, May 11th Banquet Medicine Hat College

Banquet Speaker: Leslie J. (Butch) Amundson, M.A., RPA (Principal/Senior Archaeologist Stantec Consulting Ltd.) *The Wreck of the S.S. Medicine Hat.*

Scottish nobleman, Medicine Hat hotelier and shipping magnate, Horatio Hamilton Ross, steamed the sternwheeler SS City of Medicine Hat, named after his adopted home, to Saskatoon in June 1908. A combination of high water, submerged telegraph wires and a night on the town brought the 130' ship to a spectacular demise on a pier of the newly built Traffic Bridge. Research into "the greatest marine disaster in Saskatoon's history" has raised questions about whether this was an accident or an intentional scuttling of a money-losing investment in an obsolete industry.

ASA 2013 Conference Field trip details.

Sunday Morning, May 12. Bus tour to the British Block Medicine Wheel, EdOp 1, located on the Suffield Military Reserve. This is one of the oldest and largest Medicine Wheels in Alberta and visiting it is a rare opportunity. A Napi figure, 51 stone circles and an alignment are associated with this feature.

Due to CFB Suffield security requirements pre-registration is required with name and affiliation. Photo id will be required at the gate. All participants must be on our list **by May 6th**. Limited seating, please register early with contact information (email or phone Janice) so that we can notify you of any changes. Due to possibility of cancellation due to bad weather the tour fee will not be collected until Friday evening (May 10). An alternate field trip to the Medalta National Historic Site and IXL brick plant, (\$10), will be available if the field tour is cancelled.

Accommodation: Accommodation info coming later in March-Please check our website, www.arkyalberta.com, for updates. Accommodation at college residence is \$43.60. Call Rhonda, 403-529-3820 or email parahoniak@mhc.ab.ca, specify conference.

****Limited billeting is available for students. Please contact Janice by e-mail.**

If possible, please register **by May 1**. (Our registration and meal planning teams thank you)

Full registration \$50.00. (Friday evening reception, Saturday sessions, coffee breaks, lunch, banquet with guest speaker) *Saturday Sessions only (includes coffee breaks and lunch) - \$20. Banquet - \$30.*

Field trip to British Block Cairn, (includes bag lunch) - cost not yet available (max. \$20 per person.)

For more information please contact:

Janice Andreas
(403) 526-3346
Banjomh1@telus.net

To register, mail form and cheque to:

Phyllis McLaughlin
PO Box 113 LCD 1
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 7E8

Registration Form

Name(s): _____ these names will be on your conference tags

Centre affiliation _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Full Registration (\$50) X _____ (#) = \$ _____ or

Session only (\$20) X _____ = \$ _____ Banquet only (\$30) X _____ = \$ _____

Field Trip – Yes X _____ (this is for lunch numbers. As above, contact Janice to be on list)

Please make cheques to South Eastern Alberta Archaeological Society or SEAAS c/o Phyllis McLaughlin.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



Partial funding for the Conference is provided
by the ASA through a grant from the Alberta
Historical Resources Foundation and Alberta
Lottery

Archaeological Society of Alberta AGM and Conference May 11-12, 2013
Hosted by the South Eastern Alberta Archaeological Society, Medicine Hat.

Speakers List

1. From Mud unto Mud, the 127 year history of brickmaking beside the Ross Creek

Malcolm Sissons President, I-XL Industries Ltd.

The wind-sculpted tan clay cliffs at the bend in the South Saskatchewan River are part of the name legend of Medicine Hat. That same clay became the source for the first brick making operation in 1886 in the area, a scant three years after the CPR laid its tracks through the community. Take the Oldman Formation clay, add water, shape in a mould and burn it with coal, hey, presto, a brick. Corbin and McCord set up this brickyard next to the clay cliffs, in a bend of the Ross (Plume) Creek. The coal was hauled from a mine they established up the river. Period floods of the river and creeks inundated the site but brick making carried on until 2010, when a one-in-300 year flood overwhelmed the levee and poured a metre of muddy water into the plant, causing operations to cease for good.... Well, maybe not as the Friends of Medalta plan to go back to the beginnings. The history of the site will be traced through the use of historic photos.

2. Discovering the landscape – the plants and ecosystems associated with Archaeological sites in SE Alberta. Cathy Linowski, Biology instructor – Medicine Hat College.

Archaeological sites such as the Saamis location in Medicine Hat show evidence of large-scale bison butchering and meat processing activities. The repeated occupation of the area is therefore understandable on the basis of supplying required food for first nations groups visiting the area. Other Archaeological sites reveal placement associated with distinctive or prominent landforms. But what of other Archeological sites that don't seem to have the link with acquiring of meat or marking spiritual events? Understanding the ecosystems and plant communities found in SE Alberta brings greater understanding of the seasonal cycle of movement of Blackfoot and other aboriginal groups as they sought to optimize collection of plants for food, medicine, spiritual pursuits and even art. This presentation introduces some of the key plants and their associated ecosystems that contributed to human settlement choices throughout SE Alberta.

3. The Cabri Lake Archaeological Project

Dr. Margaret Kennedy, Associate Professor, Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Saskatchewan

Cabri Lake sits in a valley rimmed by moraine uplands in west central Saskatchewan just east of the Alberta border. The lands surrounding the valley have, since the Dirty Thirties, been emptied of settlers but the rich archaeological record there indicates that Cabri Lake once supported repeated human occupation over millennia. Cabri is considered to have one of the most significant and diverse arrays of archaeological sites in the province, with medicine wheels, effigies, alignments of impressive length and nature, cairns of all sizes, tipi rings and other enigmatic stone constructions being found there. Ted Douglas, who grew up in the area, began photographing some of the sites from the air decades ago and it was he who pushed for the proper recording and study of the valley's archaeology. This paper describes the work being done by the author along with her colleagues Chris and Laura Foley as they engage in a long-term systematic survey of the impressive archaeology at Cabri Lake. Reference to comparative archaeology in adjacent areas to the immediate west and south of Cabri Lake will also be made.

4. Telling Tales Around the Campfire: Recent Research at Selected Stone Circle Sites in Eastern Alberta

Dale E. Boland, M.A., Stantec Consulting

Survey and mitigation work conducted by Stantec archaeologists over the last several years ahead of pipeline developments along the east part of southern Alberta has resulted in the identification (or revisitation) of some 224 stone circles or arcs at 97 sites along this linear development. This paper presents a summary of these stone circle (tipi rings) studies, highlighting the seven that the author recently mitigated, the three that were mitigated under an earlier program, and a few that yielded interesting results during their assessments.

5. Raw Material Utilization on the Northwestern Great Plains during the Besant Phase

Alyssa Hamza (University of Lethbridge)

Prehistoric flint-knappers used a wide variety of stone types for the manufacture of their lithic tools. Macrocrystalline rocks, including granite and quartzite, were often used as hammerstones or to create basic tool forms, while microcrystalline materials (chert, chalcedony, and obsidian) were preferred for the production of tools that required more meticulous and detailed shaping, such as projectile points, knives and scrapers. Unfortunately, high quality microcrystalline stone sources may not have been locally available, necessitating the use of less-desirable stone types or the acquisition of better quality materials through trade or long distance travel. Many Besant Phase lithic collections are predominantly made up of an exotic material known as Knife River Flint, which is sourced to deposits in North Dakota. Alternatively, other Besant collections are dominated by locally available stones, such as siltstone, quartzite and miscellaneous cherts. The wide array of stone types used to manufacture Besant Phase projectile points may be why there is detectable variability between these points. This hypothesis was explored by examining six Besant Phase sites located on the Northwestern Great Plains.

6. The Surprise Creek Site: Late Period Bison Hunting in Central Montana

Patrick Rennie, State Lands Archaeologist, Montana

The Surprise Creek site consists of alignments of cairns, stone circles and the remnants of two buried components. One is presumably associated with the stone features, the other is not. Archaeological investigative work conducted in the site was intended to develop detailed maps of the stone features and to salvage what remained of the buried components. The site provides a great deal of information about communal bison hunting in central Montana, and although the investigated portion of the site lacked in formal stone tools, an unusual antler-tine artifact was recovered.

7. NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO EXAMINE ETHRIDGE POTTERY WARE FROM SITES ON THE NORTHWESTERN PLAINS

Sheila Macdonald (University of Lethbridge)

Pottery sherds recovered from sites on the Northwestern Plains have been subject to numerous studies, including temporal, spatial, and production analyses. Since pottery is typologically distinct, it is often used to define cultural phases. Ethridge ware, for example, has been recovered from sites throughout Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. This ware is associated with the terminal portion of the Avonlea horizon and the Old Women's phase, with dates ranging from 1200-200 years ago. It is recognised by its globular form, shouldered profiles, thick walls, and cord impressed surfaces. The number of Ethridge ware pieces has now grown to the point that regional and temporal variability may be identified. To do this, a detailed study of the pottery attributes, as well as the associated site features, will be spatially and chronologically investigated using ArcGIS. The aim is to identify patterns within and between the attributes in order to identify any variability within Ethridge ware. The findings of this research will aid in our understanding of its variability through space and time by highlighting production and stylistic choice.

8. Wintering on Pigeon Lake and the Evidence for Fish and Furs at FgPm-05

Brian Vivian and Janet Blakey; Lifeways of Canada Limited

Archaeological survey and excavations at Pigeon Lake Park in 2011 and 2012 found evidence of a complex of precontact sites found on the south shore of Pigeon Lake. Subsequent excavation of FgPm-05 revealed a rich and diverse artifact assemblage complete with stone tools, fire broken rock and bone from a campsite located here long ago. Closer analysis of these artifactual materials reveals complex distributions which suggest this represents the remains of a lodge representing a winter camp on the lake shore.

9. Results of 2012 Excavations at Fort Augustus/Edmonton House

By Nancy Saxberg and Amanda Dow, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure

In the spring and summer of 2012, AMEC conducted archaeological excavations on the Rossdale site (FjPi-63), the historical location of the second and fourth phases of NWCo. Fort Augustus and HBCo. Edmonton House. Situated in the North Saskatchewan River Valley near downtown Edmonton, Rossdale has been home to various municipal and industrial developments for over a century. This more recent land use has resulted in extensive disturbance to significant archaeological deposits, although explorations on the site since the 1980s have shown that intact vestiges occasionally occur. Consistent management of these historical resources over the past decade has resulted in a better understanding of the patterning of the nineteenth-century occupation. The 2012 excavations were located in an area that had been protected from development since the mid-1950s, revealing structural evidence of at least one of the phases of fur trade occupation, dating to the early nineteenth century. This paper is a presentation of the results of these recent excavations and a discussion of the results within the context of contemporary historical records and previous archaeological investigations.

10. Naming the Stones: Rediscovering 19th century Niitsitapi Place Names in the Bow-Red Deer Rivers Grasslands

Dr. Brian Reeves, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Calgary

Dr. Margaret Kennedy, Associate Professor, Dept. of Archaeology and

Anthropology, University of Saskatchewan

Some of the late 19th century visitors to Niitsitapi country, such as surveyors, scientists and a wandering faux priest, took the effort and interest to learn the Blackfoot terms for many important geographic and cultural places of significance to the Niitsitapi. These have been preserved in a variety of forms, including Blackfoot vocabularies and maps. We attempt here to identify some of the sacred sites such as medicine wheels, and ribstone locales as well as prominent natural landforms in Niitsitapi geography in the grasslands between the Red Deer and Bow Rivers by comparing the historic terms against the archaeological and topographic record.

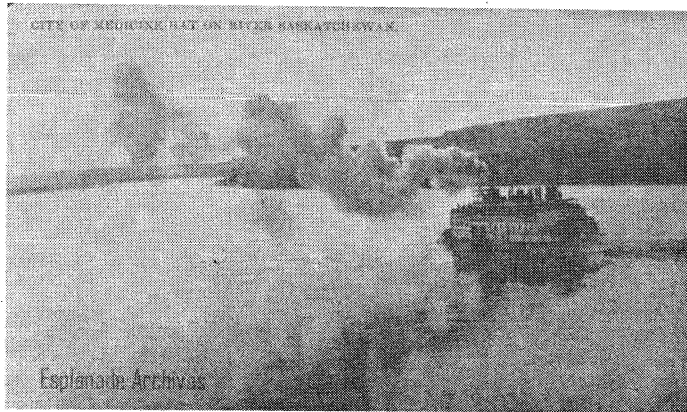
11. Stone Alignments Revisited

Dean Wetzel, Land Use Planner, Archaeological Survey,

This presentation will follow up and expand the non-bison drive lane component of "*A Review of Certain Stone Alignments and Rock Cairns in Alberta Archaeology*" (Brink, Wright-Fedyniak and Wetzel 2003). As a co-author of this article my task was to discuss stone alignments that could not be interpreted as bison drive lanes. Although there are over 1000 sites fitting this description within the "Archaeological Site Inventory", I focused on two stone alignments (Wetzel Rock Alignment, Murphy Medicine Wheel) and eight 'bisected' stone circles. This presentation will re-examine the stone lines at these sites, elaborate on other patterns of stone / cairn alignments, and extrapolate on how interpretations of these sites may explain the distribution of archaeological features at other sites e.g. the Grassy Lake cairn, medicine wheel, tipi ring sites.

The Wreck of the S.S. City of Medicine Hat

Leslie (Butch) Amundson, Principal/Senior Archaeologist, Stantec Consulting Ltd.



In August, 2006, Fire Fighters Fehr and Lucyshyn of Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services discovered a large anchor in the South Saskatchewan River during dive rescue training. The anchor was brought to Stantec's conservation lab for stabilization. Our investigation

into the artefact resulted in our presenting an argument for identifying the anchor with the June 7, 1908 wreck of the steam-powered sternwheeler S.S. City of Medicine Hat. In 2008, Stantec Consulting Ltd. was approached by Dan Paulsen, then the instructor of the Dive Rescue Team, SFPS. He proposed a joint project with the Meewasin Valley Authority, City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, Shearwater Tours and Stantec to search for more wreckage of the Medicine Hat. Reconnaissance dives took place in September, 2008 and were the subject of the feature length documentary. *The Last Steamship: The Search for the S.S. City of Medicine Hat*. We recovered several artefacts including firebox brick from a boiler, a marlinspike and items that may be contemporary with the wreck. We believe that the firebox brick and marlinspike are strong evidence that we discovered the debris field of the Wreck of the S.S. City of Medicine Hat, but that the bulk of the wreck was buried in landfill at the pier on the Traffic Bridge where the wreck occurred. In August 2012, while monitoring geotechnical testing at this pier, we recovered wood remains, metal items, tableware and personal artefacts that we believe are evidence that a significant portion of the wreck remains buried in the South Saskatchewan River, beneath 8 m of landfill and river sand. This discovery provides an opportunity to relate the stories of steam shipping on the prairies, the colourful Horatio Hamilton Ross and the abrupt and spectacular end of the steamship era on the South Saskatchewan River.