

Archaeological Society of Alberta Session - Insights, Discoveries, Projects, and Public Outreach

Start Time	Title	Presenter(s)
8:00 am	Indigenous Land Acknowledgement and Introductory Remarks	Shawn Bubel, Past President of the Archaeological Society of Alberta
8:00 am	Public Archaeology in East Central Alberta: Successes, Challenges (in person)	Courtney Lakevold, Bodo Archaeological Society
8:20 am	When Life Gives You Lemons: Make an Online Expansion of the University of Calgary's Indigenous Youth Engagement Program (in person)	Madisen Hvidberg and Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer, University of Calgary
8:40 am	The Dead Can't Speak: A Look into Cemeteries of Métis Communities in Alberta (in person)	Maria Nelson, University of Alberta
9:00 am	Investigating Seasonality Estimates at the Fincastle Site (in person)	Samantha Kondor, University of Lethbridge
9:20 am	Dendroarchaeological Investigations in the Beaver Hills: A Case Study of the Robertson Spruce Lodge (in person)	Greg King et al., University of Alberta, Augustana
9:40 am	Diversity in Archaeological Employment (in person)	Madi Badger, MacEwan University
10:00 am	Food is More than Just Animals: Plant Analyses from Parkland Sites in Alberta (in person)	Kate Peach, Stantec Consulting Ltd. and Clarence Surette, Lakehead University
10:20 am	COFFEE	
10:40 am	From Slate Pencils to Militia Buttons: A Complex Historic Site in Calgary (online)	Meg Porter, Stantec Consulting Ltd.

11:00 am	A Well-Preserved Cody Complex Campsite at FiPj-176 - EL. Smith Water Treatment Plant, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (in person)	Gareth Spicer, Turtle Island CRM
11:20 am	Developing the West: An Examination of Railway Concentration Camps in Western Canada (online)	Joshua Read, Stantec Consulting Ltd.
11:40 am	Circle CRM Public Archaeology: The Swainson Site (FeOw-2) (in person)	Trevor Peck, Kyle Belanger, Grant Smith, Meg Simper, and Amanda Wong, Circle CRM Group Inc.
12:00 pm	LUNCH	
12:20 pm	Annual General Meeting (over lunch) Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84594256126?pwd=WHU4eSs5WUZESTh1aDhuc1VIYzN5dz09 Password: CAAaca2022	Leila Grobel, President of the Archaeological Society of Alberta

Archaeological Society of Alberta - Alberta Archaeology and Community Engagement

Session Abstract

The aim of this session is to share information about Alberta archaeology to all those interested: academics, professional working in CRM, and the general public. The Archaeological Society of Alberta (ASA) serves as a liaison between the public and the Archaeological Survey/Royal Alberta Museum. Members of the ASA help protect Alberta's cultural resources and educate people about the importance these non-renewable resources. Thus, the ASA encourages the reporting of archaeological sites and artifacts, and assists in the dissemination of archaeological discoveries and projects. Presenters in this session will share information about their recent finds, field work, and research projects relating to Alberta Archaeology. This session is open to all those interested in Alberta Archaeology, and especially welcomes students and members of the public to present and attend.

Presentation Abstracts and Contact Emails

Public Archaeology in East Central Alberta: Successes, Challenges (in person)

Courtney Lakevold, Bodo Archaeological Society, bodoarchaeology@gmail.com

The Bodo Archaeological Society (BAS), a regional centre of the Archaeological Society of Alberta, was formed in 2003 to promote public archaeology, education, and conservation of historical and archaeological resources at the Bodo Archaeological Sites, located in East Central Alberta. The tours and programs at Bodo have engaged and educated the public for over a decade by providing an authentic experience at an archaeological excavation. These programs have also promoted an understanding and awareness of the discipline of archaeology in Alberta and North America. This presentation will discuss the evolution of the programs and the BAS, what our successes and challenges have been so far, lessons learned while developing and maintaining these programs, our partnerships with important stakeholders, and the value of doing public archaeology.

When Life Gives You Lemons: Make an Online Expansion of the University of Calgary's Indigenous Youth Engagement Program (in person)

Madisen Hvidberg, University of Calgary, madisen.hvidberg@ucalgary.ca; Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer, University of Calgary, lmamunds@ucalgary.ca

The University of Calgary's Archaeological Indigenous Youth Engagement (IYE) program, operated in partnership with Old Sun Community College, focuses on incorporating knowledge students have learned throughout their junior high and high school education into applications commonly used for archaeology. Traditionally, this program has combined in-classroom and on-site teaching activities but during the COVID-19 pandemic has expanded to incorporate a large

self-guided digital program, including topics specifically focused on decolonization and reconciliation through archaeology. This paper will discuss the redevelopments of the IYE program during the pandemic, our public education and outreach initiatives, as well as our plans for the future of the program in a post-pandemic world.

The Dead Can't Speak: A Look in to Cemeteries of Métis Communities in Alberta (in person)

Maria Nelson, University of Alberta, mlnelson@ualberta.ca

Cemeteries are a place for processing grief, remembrance, and respect. In many places, cemeteries are woven into the community's story. The dead may not speak, but that does not mean there is nothing to be gained from examining the spaces that they occupy. The original goal of this paper was to explore the relationship between historical Métis cemeteries and Métis identity, but this goal quickly changed. Four locations within Alberta were chosen due to their connection with historical Métis communities. The most prominent pattern that was determined was the distinctive lack of Métis individuals in these spaces. For communities that have been around over a century and half, it should have been reflected through their cemeteries. And yet, they are not. Why? Where are all of these individuals buried, if they are not buried in the cemeteries of their community parishes? To answer these questions, I dug into the story of the communities, compared scrip records to grave markers, and the all too familiar trend of erasing Métis history.

Investigating Seasonality Estimates at the Fincastle Site (in person)

Samantha Kondor, University of Lethbridge, sbkondo@gmail.com

Mass bison kill events, such as the Fincastle site, have been the dominant focus of zooarchaeological work on the Great Plains. A common component of bison zooarchaeological research is a dentition analysis for estimating the seasonality of the kill. This research is possible because bison are born in the spring; therefore, their dentition at death corresponds to a season. Mass bison kill events are often linked to a fall seasonality, as it is theorized these events occurred as a way to stockpile resources for winter. My master's thesis research analyzed the Fincastle bison mandible assemblage using four common aging methods to assess the eruption and wear patterns of the mandibular molars. The Fincastle site is a single component bonebed; there is no inherent reason for temporal variation in the bonebed that would result in different seasonality estimates. My research identified patterns in the eruption and wear sequence of the Fincastle molar cusps that did not match the four reference methods. This research indicates the complexity of seasonality models and provides evidence that further research is needed in bison dentition analyses to understand the connection between age and seasonality estimates.

Dendroarchaeological Investigations in the Beaver Hills: A Case Study of the Robertson Spruce Lodge (in person)

Greg King et al., University of Alberta Augustana, gking@ualberta.ca

One of the most problematic issues facing archaeologists and local historians is the inability to scientifically verify the construction dates of old buildings. Complications include exaggerations of age, unsubstantiated guesses based on local or family stories, modern renovations, and survey documents that may not refer to specific buildings. Dendroarchaeology, which uses the annual radial growth of trees to exactly determine the construction date of a wooden historical building or structure, offers one possible solution. However, to our knowledge, the method has not been applied within east-central Alberta. One of the major hurdles is that forests are assumed to be younger than wooden structures of interest, owing to fires and logging. "Spruce Lodge" was built by Walter Scott Robertson on land acquired in 1890 at what is today the hamlet of South Cooking Lake. The cabin is one of the oldest buildings still standing in Strathcona County. However, the date of construction was unknown, with some suggesting 1893, 1896 or 1898. We used dendroarchaeological sampling of more than 30 cabin timbers to accurately determine the building date. Here we share results of this case study and the potential to expand this work within communities interested in better understanding local histories

Diversity in Archaeological Employment (in person)

Madi Badger, MacEwan University, badergm8@mymacewan.ca

Current research on equity, diversity, and inclusion in archaeology has largely focused on academia. For this study, I broadly examine representation in archaeology focusing on the experiences of those in Cultural Resource Management (CRM). Specifically, a survey was distributed to CRM companies across Canada that focused on the role of gender and sexual orientation in the workplace, and the possible inequity as a result. The purpose of this study was to determine if there is an underrepresentation of members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in CRM archaeology. As well, CRM has a reputation of being a heteronormative, male-dominated field, and I wanted to look at how this affects marginalized archaeologists. Initial results of the survey indicate issues with working conditions related to gender and sexual orientation. This paper will present the results of said survey, as well as offer insight on how to make archaeology a more inclusive field based on the issues identified.

Food is More than Just animals: Plant Analyses from Parkland Sites in Alberta (in person)

Kate Peach, Stantec Consulting Ltd., kate.peach@stantec.com; Clarence Surette, Lakehead University, clsurett@lakeheadu.ca

Recent samples from excavated precontact period sites in the parkland area of Alberta, including the North Saskatchewan River valley, were primarily analyzed for floral remains. Samples included carbonized food residues from pottery sherds, stone tools and feature fill (boiling pits, hearths). To recover the maximum information possible, multiple techniques were employed when examining each specimen. This multi-proxy approach allowed for the recovery

of a wide range of macro-and-micro botanical remains. This presentation provides a summary of the results from five sites, discussing how these results have suggested interesting lines of interpretation, changing our views of landscape use in the parkland area and the functions of specific lithic tool types.

From Slate Pencils to Militia Buttons: A Complex Historic Site in Calgary (online)

Meg Porter, Stantec Consulting Ltd., meaghan.porter@stantec.com

As part of a cultural resource management program on behalf of the City of Calgary for their Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion, Stantec archaeologists have investigated the remains at site EgPm-137 from 2016 and 2019. Initially the site of St. Dunstan's Calgary Industrial School from 1898 to 1907, it was purchased by the Department of Defence and used for storage and military training into the 1920s. The site was then used as a feedlot and later, an unsanctioned dump. Within the ruins of the school foundations the material culture recovered is almost exclusively related to the military presence at the site. This presentation will focus on the Department of Defence's occupation of EgPm-137, share the findings and challenges, and explore some historic milestones.

A Well-Preserved Cody Complex Campsite at FiPj-176 - EL. Smith Water Treatment Plant, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (in person)

Gareth Spicer, Turtle Island CRM, gareth@turtleislandcrm.com

Cody Complex archaeological sites, well preserved and with authoritative dates are rare. This paper describes one such site (FiPj-176) located within the North Saskatchewan River valley in Edmonton, Alberta. The Cody portion of this site was subject to mitigative excavations in association with the installation of a new water intake pipe at the EL. Smith Water Treatment Plant operated by EPCOR Water Services. This 9,000-year-old, single occupation, site includes a lithic assemblage of Knife River Flint and other exotic tool stone distributed over two distinct activity areas, one of which in association with a concentration of burnt and calcined bone interpreted as a hearth feature. In alignment with current research, the site is reflective of a small highly mobile group of hunter/gathers. This group likely travelled over a vast area to access a diverse range of resources (including tool stone), as a means to mitigate localized procurement and nutritional limitations. The site offers a level of interpretive and research potential exhibited by a limited corpus of archaeological sites on the Northern Plains of North America.

Developing the West: An Examination of Railway Concentration Camps in Western Canada (online)

Joshua Read, Stantec Consulting Ltd., joshua.read@stantec.com

The expansion and development of Western Canada by immigrating settlers was driven by the construction and maintenance of the trans-national rail system built at the turn of the 20th century. The development of the railway not only allowed for the movement of peoples

but allowed for the advancement of industries such as logging and mining. While the effect of the railway on the development of Western Canada is undeniable, analysis of day-to-day activities for the railway construction workers has been relatively understudied from an archaeological perspective. Rail construction camps have been recorded along the original Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in the Edson/Hinton and Jasper areas within Alberta but little excavation has been undertaken at these sites. A Stage 1 excavation conducted at site FiQi-27, one of the largest excavations at rail construction sites in the province, was undertaken in 2020 to further investigate the range of activities, the ethnicities of the workforce, and the function of various structures at the site. The results of these investigations are presented here and will be used to aid in the interpretation of railway activities in this region of Western Canada.

Circle CRM Public Archaeology: The Swainson Site (FeOw-2) (in person)

Trevor Peck, Circle CRM Group Inc., trevor@circleconsulting.com, Kyle Belanger, Circle CRM Group Inc., kyle@circleconsulting.ca, Grant Smith, Circle CRM Group Inc., grant@circleconsulting.ca, Meg Simper, Circle CRM Group Inc., meg@circleconsulting.ca, Amanda Wong, Circle CRM Group Inc., amanda@circleconsulting.ca

Circle CRM believes in engaging the communities within which we work using the tools of our trade - archaeology. These communities include the general public with an emphasis on Indigenous communities - the ancestors of the peoples who created the archaeological record. In the summer of 2021, Circle worked with locals from near Sedgewick, Alberta, to survey and test the Swainson Site (FeOw-2). Work at the Swainson site allowed Circle staff, the local landowner, and local collectors to revisit the previously known site for which further testing had been recommended. In the 1970s, cultivation had exposed hundreds of “Besant” points manufactured on Knife River Flint in association with bison bone. In 1974, a small trench excavation by Maurice Doll, Provincial Museum of Alberta, found some intact material below the plough-zone in association with a single “Besant” point of Knife River Flint; subsequently, no further work has been conducted at the site. The current team managed to relocate the site, find an intact processing area, recover a diagnostic Sonota point of Knife River Flint, obtain a radiocarbon data that supports the Sonota interpretation, and make the local newspaper.