

**Archaeological Society of Alberta  
49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference**



April 19-21, 2024  
Held at The Cretaceous Conference Center in  
Drumheller, Alberta



# Archaeological Society of Alberta 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference Program

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## *Land Acknowledgement*

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The Archaeological Society of Alberta (ASA) recognizes the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. The ASA acknowledges the importance of the lands we share and call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between Nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. The lands of Alberta are the ancestral and unceded territories of the people of Treaty 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10, name the Assiniboine, Beaver, Blackfoot Confederacy: Kainai, Piikani, and Siksiska; Chipewyan, Cree, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, Stoney Nakoda, and the Tsuu T'ina Nations as well as the Metis Nation of Alberta within the historical Northwest Metis homeland. Their histories, languages, and cultures have and continue to enrich our province and our organization. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and consider how we can move forward in a spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration.



*Horseshoe Canyon, image courtesy of the Royal Tyrrell Museum.*



## Schedule at a Glance

Friday, April 19, 2024	
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm	Welcome Night and Reception
6:00 pm doors open 7:00 pm films begin	Banff Mountain Film Festival Presented by the Badlands Amphitheatre, showing at the Napier Theater (discounted tickets had to be pre-purchased by April 12 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday, April 20, 2024	
8:30 am	Opening Ceremonies
9:00 am	Dawn Wambold, University of Alberta <i>The Search for the Métis in Southern Alberta</i>
9:30 am	Sean Pickering, Bison Historical Services Ltd. <i>Meanwhile Back at the Ranche: Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Cochrane Ranche Site</i>
10:00 am	Karen Giering, Royal Alberta Museum <i>Havens to Horseshoes: Highlights of Recent Field Work at Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi</i>
10:30 am	15-minute Coffee Break
10:45 am	Dale Boland and Laureen Bryant, Stantec & Calgary Parks <i>Stirring Up Memories: An examination of foodways at the Chinese Market Gardens in Calgary's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary</i>
11:15 am	Peter Dawson, University of Calgary <i>"Undeniably, We Lived in Fear": The Importance of Digitally Preserving Alberta's Surviving Indian Residential School Buildings</i>
11:45 am	75-minute Lunch Break
1:00 pm	Sheila MacDonald, Archaeological Survey of Alberta <i>The Evolution of Archaeological Site Data in Alberta</i>
1:30 pm	Larissa Lazette, University of Calgary <i>An Investigation into Manifestations of Food Stress Among the Blackfoot People (1790-1890)</i>
2:00 pm	Josh Read, Stantec <i>The Things We Cannot See: An Overview of Excavations at EgPo-161</i>
2:30 pm	15-minute Coffee Break
2:45 pm	Patrick J. Rennie, Montana <i>Little Prickly Pear Canyon and Its Role In Obsidian Dissemination</i>
3:15 pm	Trevor Peck, Alberta <i>Archaeological Ammonites on the Northwestern Plains: Twenty Years Later</i>
3:45 pm	15-minute Coffee Break
4:00 pm	<b>Archaeological Society of Alberta Annual General Meeting</b>
5:30 pm	Reception / Open Poster Session
6:00 pm	Banquet Starts and Silent Auction Closes
7:00 pm	Heinz Pyszczyk <i>Beckoning the Horn of the Ram: Perceptions of Space by an 18th Century Trader and a Siksika Chief.</i>
Sunday, April 21, 2024	



9:00 am	<i>North Field Trip</i> – Includes a trip to Rumsey Medicine Wheel and Effigy, Tolman Bridge, and Dry Island Buffalo Jump.
9:00 am	<i>South Field Trip</i> - Includes visiting the Atlas Coal Mine and various effigies.

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## Welcome

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### **Welcome Message from the Brian Vivian, Archaeological Society of Alberta President**

Welcome to Drumheller and the 2024 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Archaeological Society of Alberta; this year marks the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the Society's operations. The annual conference provides avocational and professional archaeologists, as well as students pursuing careers in the field, the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich archaeological heritage of Alberta. In this regard, we are really excited about this year's program, which covers a wide range of recent archaeological studies in Alberta and beyond, extending from ancient times to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I am thankful for those presenters who accepted our invitation to come to Drumheller this year to share the stories of their research.

Our ability to host this conference owes much to the many sponsors who have contributed financial support or donated goods and services for the silent auction. These generous sponsors are duly noted in your program, on our electronic billboard, and throughout the venue. The success of a conference such as this also depends on the hard work and dedication of Society members who commit to the planning of this conference and the many conference participants who have joined us to listen to the presentations. I trust you all find this an enjoyable and worthwhile day to listen to the many archaeological stories that have helped shape this province as we know it. It is your participation in this event as a member of the Archaeological Society of Alberta, which maintains a strong and vibrant Society that continues to contribute significantly toward understanding our world: past, present, and future. Thank all of you for joining us today, and please enjoy your time in Drumheller!

### **Welcome Message from Chris Ullmann, ASA Red Deer Centre President**

Welcome to everyone joining us here in Drumheller for the 49<sup>th</sup> ASA Annual AGM and Conference. To you, our guests, and elders present, I hope this conference gives you something to take home - a bit of knowledge, understanding, or a goal that you want to achieve.



I expect many, if not most of you, are archaeologists or aspiring archaeologists. In addition to your love of science and knowledge, you are here to share and build professional capacity. Others here today, including myself, are here because we are interested in where we came from and who lived here before we did. We want to know and understand the lives of our ancestors and the people they met. Know that this conference is for you, too; this is our heritage and the heritage of everyone who lives in Alberta.

Each of the presenters today has brought something special for you today. A mystery they have solved, an understanding of something that happened, or something needed for the future to preserve knowledge. I hope you uncover something meaningful today or on the field trips tomorrow.

To our speakers, the organizing committee, sponsors, and volunteers, thank you for making this event possible.



*Image courtesy of the Royal Tyrrell Museum*



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## ***Opening Ceremonies***

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Métis Culture-Bearer GILLES ALLARD

Drumheller Mayor HEATHER COLBERG

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## ***Morning Sessions***

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### ***The Search for the Métis in Southern Alberta***

DAWN WAMBOLD, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Court cases regarding Métis harvesting rights in Southern Alberta have relied on the Crown's position that the Métis were not present in the region until after the arrival of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) in 1874. While this is true for much of the region, especially in core Blackfoot territory, oral and written histories indicate that there are places where the Métis connection to the Southern Alberta landscape appears to pre-date the NWMP. Archaeology has the potential to validate these sources and increase our understanding of the Métis presence in the area. In this presentation I will provide an overview of Métis archaeology that has already been conducted in the southern part of the province to date. I will also discuss the opportunities that exist to use archaeology to explore the historical record and aid in our search for the Métis of Southern Alberta.

### ***Meanwhile Back at the Ranche: Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Cochrane Ranche Site.***

SEAN PICKERING, BISON HISTORICAL SERVICES LTD.

Archaeological investigations at the Cochrane Ranche Site (EhPo-37) began in the 1970s with surveys of standing buildings and excavations associated with the early (1880s) ranching period. Subsequent work in the 1990s and 2000s revealed Precontact Period occupations at the site dating back to approximately 8,000 years ago. The most recent archaeological investigations at the site in 2019 and 2020 have furthered our understanding of the Precontact Period occupations, but also have provided new information about the use of the site in the early to mid-twentieth century. This presentation will discuss the history or archaeological investigations at the Cochrane Ranche Site over the past 50 years and present the latest findings from recent excavations.





## ***Havens to Horseshoes: Highlights of Recent Field Work at Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi***

KAREN GIERING, ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM

In 2010 the Alberta Government purchased land to the west of Writing-On-Stone/ Áísínai'pi Provincial Park. This presentation details the investigations by staff from the Royal Alberta Museum and the Archaeological Survey of Alberta to evaluate historic resources on these lands. Several new significant rock art sites were recorded including tally marks and red ochre in a small cave and an unusual panel of geometric motifs in a rockshelter. Surface features were also discovered including tipi rings and cairns, a lithic procurement/workshop area, and a historic homestead. This work allowed part of the purchased land to be included in the successful UNESCO nomination of the park. Subsequent investigations also included a visit to the mouth of Police Coulee where historic artifacts thought to be attributed to the NWMP Police Post had been observed eroding out of the riverbed during a drawdown of the Milk River in 2020. Preliminary indications are that these artifacts relate to the blacksmith shop associated with the post that previous field work failed to locate.

## ***Stirring Up Memories: An Examination of Foodways at the Chinese Market Gardens in Calgary's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary***

DALE BOLAND AND LAUREEN BRYANT, STANTEC & CALGARY PARKS

The City of Calgary is planning to develop the Chinese Market Gardens Interpretive Program within the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Between approximately 1929 and 1952, retired NWMP officer Colonel James Walker and his son, Selby Walker, leased plots of the homestead to Chinese families. The plots included up to 5 acres per family, and included greenhouses, root cellars, raised beds, and small bungalows. Crops such as cabbages, carrots, and bedding plants were raised, harvested, and sold to local greengrocers and restaurants. Recent archaeological investigations supporting the development recovered over 5,000 artifacts and faunal materials from an excavation block centred on one of the root cellars. This paper will discuss some of the fauna and food-related materials relative to the brief and little-known Chinese occupation on the lands. Material culture evidence is supplemented with descendant family memories of their years in the Market Gardens.

## ***"Undeniably, We Lived in Fear": The Importance of Digitally Preserving Alberta's Surviving Indian Residential School Buildings.***

PETER DAWSON, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Former Indian Residential School buildings exist as physical reminders of an education system, in name only, that brought great harm and suffering to generations of Indigenous children. While approximately 147 such schools existed during the height of the residential school era, only a handful remain standing today. Over the past four years, a group of Blackfoot and Cree educators and residential school survivors have guided the University of Calgary in an innovative project aimed at raising awareness of residential school history within settler communities. Terrestrial Lidar (laser



scanning) was used to digitally preserve three surviving residential school buildings: Old Sun Community College, Poundmaker's Lodge Carriage House (once part of the Edmonton Indian Residential School) and University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills. Detailed 3D printed physical models of each school were then created from the laser scanning data. These scale models can be disassembled floor by floor to reveal the locations of children's dormitories, classrooms, the chapel, and other significant areas. The models are designed to work in combination with an online archive containing survivors' stories, along with historic background information, archival photos, and interactive virtual tours of each school. In this presentation, I discuss how the models and archive are being used to create educational kits for use in classrooms across the province.

*Lunch will be held in the main conference room of the Cretaceous Conference Centre. Silent auction items, books, and other information tables are in the small conference room next door.*

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## **Afternoon Sessions**

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### ***The Evolution of Archaeological Site Data in Alberta***

SHEILA MACDONALD, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALBERTA

Archaeological site data management in Alberta has changed significantly over the past 40+ years. From early vocational and academic site records to the boom of the archaeological consulting industry and the advent of geo-spatial innovations, the nature of recorded data has evolved. As a result, the Archaeological Survey of Alberta has had to adapt how we archive records in order to meet current demands for detailed and accessible data. This presentation will highlight major updates to the Alberta archaeological sites inventory and the potential for future analysis.

### ***An Investigation into Manifestations of Food Stress Among the Blackfoot People (1790-1890)***

LARISSA LAZETTE, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The Protocontact (1730-1830) and Contact (1830-Present) Periods were a time of great turbulence for Indigenous peoples living on the Plains. Many aspects of their traditional lives were altered as a result of contact including their traditional diets. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the bison herds, which sustained many Indigenous groups, were in sharp decline, and Indigenous peoples on the Plains were relocated onto newly established reserves where they were forced to rely on government administered rations. This newly imposed diet, and sharply declining bison herds greatly impacted food availability for Indigenous peoples. This research examines manifestations of food stress among the Blackfoot people using multiple lines of evidence. These lines of evidence include archaeological





faunal assemblages from two stone circles at the Antelope Hill Tipi Ring Site (EbPi-75), ethnographic accounts, Blackfoot winter counts, and Blackfoot oral tradition in the form of an interview with a Siksika Knowledge Keeper. All lines of evidence are compared and combined to create a holistic understanding of changes in traditional diets during the Protocontact and Contact Periods. This research also sheds light on the impacts colonization had on traditional Blackfoot diets from the perspective of Siksika Knowledge Keeper Herman Yellow Old Woman.

### ***The Things We Cannot See: An Overview of Excavations at EgPo-161***

JOSH READ, STANTEC

Originally identified in 2020, site EgPo-161 has been the subject of a systematic shovel testing program and two stages of mitigative excavation (including winter excavation) totaling 280 sq. m between 2021 and 2023. Regular occupation of the site dating from the Old Women's Phase back to the McKean Period is evident in the diagnostic projectile point assemblage but perhaps of greater interest, the artifact assemblage showcases unique artifacts not often seen in foothills sites, including Mortlach pottery, groundstone tools, and bone peg features, among others. Macrobotanical analysis and XRF sampling have been conducted at the site and the results of these analyses, as well as preliminary site interpretations, will be outlined in this presentation.

### ***Little Prickly Pear Canyon and Its Role In Obsidian Dissemination***

PATRICK J. RENNIE, MONTANA

The Clark Creek Caches I and II in site 24LC523 are locations where one or more persons, ca. 650-400 HYBP, knapped then stored in the ground an assemblage of large, blade-like flakes, large bifacial cores, and possible unidirectional blocky cores. Similarly, site 24PW84 some 34 km from 24LC523 contained two large obsidian bifaces. The modified obsidian is derived from the Bear Gulch source(s) in southeastern Idaho/southwestern Montana some 280 km distant (Figure 1). Based on the unusually large sizes of the cores, it is speculated here that site 24LC523 in part represents, for lack of a better term, an obsidian trading post or perhaps a staging area for bulk amounts of obsidian.

### ***Archaeological Ammonites on the Northwestern Plains: Twenty Years Later***

TREVOR PECK, ALBERTA

In 2002 I provided evidence that supported Richard Forbis' notion that archaeologically recovered ammonites may represent \*Iniskim\* or buffalo stones used by the Blackfoot. While ethnographic evidence indicated that other groups used these fossils, no group utilised the items in such a variety of ways as the Blackfoot. In addition, ammonites recovered with diagnostic material were mainly found in association with the Old Women's Phase, the archaeological culture attributed to the ancestral Blackfoot. Twenty years of additional recoveries further support this interpretation. As well, preliminary analysis using D-stretch has detected red ochre on a number of ammonites. Not surprisingly, the Blackfoot sanctify \*Iniskim\* with ochre prior to use.



*Silent auction will close at 6:00 pm. The banquet begins at 6:00 pm.*

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## ***Keynote Address***

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Keynote Speaker: HEINZ PYSZCZYK

### ***Beckoning the Horn of the Ram: Perceptions of Space by an 18th Century Trader and a Siksika Chief.***

Perceptions of space - how we know where we are, orient ourselves and find our way around – often differ among human cultures. Research from human Neuroscience shows the hippocampus, also shaped like the horn of a ram in the brain, responsible for spatial information and memory, is highly developed in hunter-gatherer societies like the Blackfoot. The hippocampus stores route, locational, and survey spatial information (coupled with a keen sense of their surroundings), helping humans successfully navigate their landscape. The early 19th- century maps the Blackfoot drew for HBC explorer/trader Peter Fidler are not maps in the conventional sense (used as navigational tools by the Blackfoot). They are more a metaphor for Blackfoot history, culture, and way of thinking about their surroundings and space. These maps contain insights into how the Blackfoot and other hunter-gatherers remembered directions and places to navigate their vast territories (transforming wilderness into shaped land or landscape) without conventional navigational tools.

# ***Thank You Conference Sponsors!***

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## ***2024 Conference Sponsors***

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*We express our deepest gratitude to the amazing sponsors who helped make the 2024 AGM and Conference an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We couldn't have done it without your generous support and commitment to the Archaeological Society of Alberta. Your contributions have been instrumental in making a real difference!*



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Bikes & Bites offers conference participants the following extras!

- 20% off anything in-store (e-bike rentals, merchandise, food) from April 19-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 when you show your conference name badge.
- 20% off any e-bike tour or rental in 2024 when you book online by May 31, 2024 (use promo code ASA24)



**Bakers for Friday Night Reception**

**Glenda Kendrick, Justine Kendrick, and Ann Wade**

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## Royal Tyrrell Museum



When you show your badge in-store, conference participants can receive 10% off at Unleash Your Sparkle.



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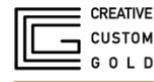
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Town of Drumheller – “Where’s My Dino”  
book and plushie

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Wolf Mountain Massage – Massages





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## Conference Committee

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*Please take a moment to express a heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated Archaeological Society of Alberta Conference Committee members. Their tireless efforts in organizing and executing the ASA's 49th Annual General Meeting and Conference are fantastic and inspiring. Your commitment to furthering the understanding and appreciation of the archaeology and history of Alberta is admirable.*

*THANK YOU for all the time, energy, and resources you put into making this conference successful.*

*Meet your 2024 Conference Committee Team.*

Chris Ullmann – President, ASA Red Deer Center

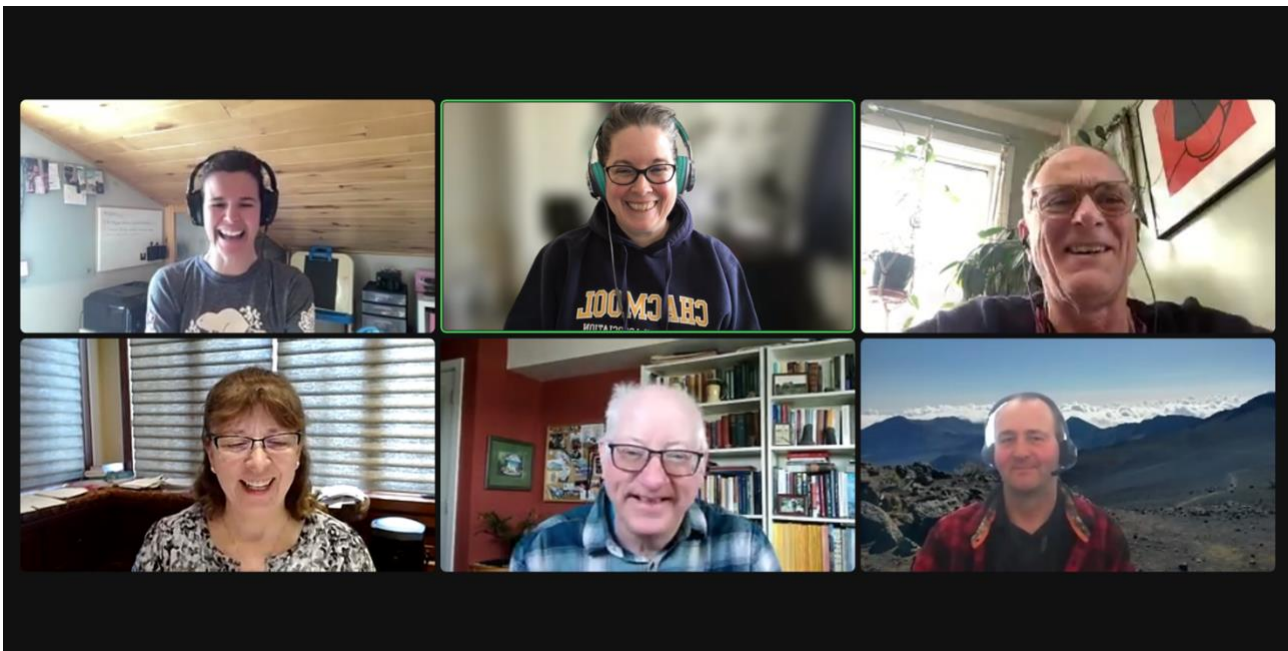
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## Notes

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