



ISSUE 58 SPRING - SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The Archaeological Society of Alberta



The ASA is created by individuals like you! We honour the society's past while eagerly anticipating its growth and development in the future.

Have a Fantastic Summer!

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PASSING THE TORCH – LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

With deep gratitude, we extend our heartfelt thanks to **Brian Vivian** for his term of dedicated service as President of the Archaeological Society of Alberta. Brian's leadership, steady presence, and passion for public archaeology have helped guide the ASA through important transitions, grow its visibility, and strengthen its community connections across the province and beyond.

As Brian steps down, we warmly welcome **Wendy-Ellen Nittel** into the role of ASA President. Wendy-Ellen brings a wealth of non-profit experience, a collaborative spirit, and a deep appreciation for Alberta's archaeological heritage. We look forward to the vision and energy she brings to the Society as we continue to celebrate our 50th anniversary and shape the next chapter together.



Brian Vivian (top) and Wendy-Ellen Nittel (bottom) being interviewed by Jayk Sterkenburg from CHAT News at the Medalta in Medicine Hat. (photos by Colleen Hughes)

SEAAS AND ASA 50TH AGM AND CONFERENCE

The Archaeological Society of Alberta (ASA), and the South Eastern Alberta Archaeological Society recently gathered in Medicine Hat for a very special event: the 50th Anniversary Conference and Annual General Meeting, held from April 25–27, 2025.

This year, 104 conference participants enjoyed a vibrant weekend that honoured the society's rich history while looking towards its future. Hosted at the historic Medalta Potteries in Medicine Hat's Historic Clay District, the conference featured lectures, hands-on demonstrations, tours, and celebrations that reflected the diversity and depth of Alberta's archaeology.

Key highlights included:

Friday Welcome Reception: Celebratory toasts honoured the ASA's 50 years, its members, and its volunteers. **Janice Andreas** toasted the ASA's beginnings, **Taralyn Niggli** spoke to its future in terms of the innovative work students are doing, and **Colleen Hughes** offered a heartfelt toast to all the volunteers who built and continue to contribute to the ASA. A fantastic cake was thoroughly enjoyed, and participants received a limited edition pin.



Top left: ASA's 50th Cake, top right: Janice Andreas giving the first toast, bottom: Taralyn Niggli giving the second celebratory toast

SEAAS AND ASA 50TH AGM AND CONFERENCE

Saturday Sessions: Saturday was an inspiring day filled with talks, the exchange of ideas, and research. Participants were welcomed by the sounds of a bagpipe played by **Malcolm Sissons**. **Bruce Shepard**, the Master of Ceremonies, kindly hosted the event. He invited **Brenda Mercer** to open the event with blessings. Brenda also offered a beautiful and heartfelt blessing at the banquet later that evening.

Linnsie Clark, the Mayor of Medicine Hat, also provided supportive words towards the ASA and SEAAS 50th Anniversary celebration. Thank you to the photographer, **Bruce McLeod** for taking images of this milestone event and helping to keep the memories alive!

In the morning, **Alison Landals** thoughtfully reflected on the development of tipi ring archaeology over the years, where Alberta archaeologists played a significant role. **Dale Fisher** provided participants with food for thought about landscapes, bison kill sites, and how to think beyond the status quo. **Joshua Read** encouraged participants to rethink assumptions about disturbed sites, using Medicine Hat's water plant excavation to demonstrate that important data can still be recovered.

The afternoon sessions showcased the more recent past and ancient art. **Christina Robinson** highlighted the value and importance of studying industrial archaeology in the province. **Lindsay Amundson-Meyers** brought the story of legendary cowboy John Ware to life through her research into his homestead. **Michael Turney** showed the various Vertical Series Rock Art sites across the Northwestern Plains and argued that this type of rock art may be much older than first thought. **Todd Kristensen** provided 50th anniversary greetings from the Archaeological Survey of Alberta. He then gave a presentation showcasing the last 50 years of the Archaeological Survey of Alberta's Occasional Paper Series – also affectionately known as the “Blue Book”. You can explore this remarkable (free) series here: <https://www.alberta.ca/archaeological-survey-alberta-publications>.

The Association of Consulting Archaeologists sponsored the posters. This year's winner is **Ali Berlinguette**, with the poster titled “*The Life & Health of a Roman Woman from Carnuntum, Austria.*”

Demonstrations, Tour, and Dancing: Demonstrations were held throughout Medalta. Participants were given a tour of the Medalta Pottery area. **Brenda Francoeur** provided a rattle-making demonstration, during which we learned all about the stories of rattles and how they are made. **Dale Fisher** gave the flint-knapping demonstration, showing how practice makes perfect. Young Indigenous dancers lit up the stage with their beautiful, shy moves, and ended with an amazing circle dance where everyone was invited to join. It was really moving, both literally and figuratively!

Annual General Meeting: The provincial ASA executive saw **Brian Vivian** move into the past president role and welcomed the incoming president, **Wendy-Ellen Nittel**. **Shawn Bubel** is the president-elect. **Joanne Braaten** stays on as the Executive Treasurer, and **Christina Poletto** remains the Executive Secretary.

Banquet and Keynote Address: Delicious food and a celebratory SEAAS cake kept attendees well fed. The keynote address by **Dr. Talva Jacobson** shared lessons from her work preserving the historic industrial district, emphasizing the importance of archaeologists in community heritage and disaster recovery.

SEAAS AND ASA 50TH AGM AND CONFERENCE



SEAAS AND ASA 50TH AGM AND CONFERENCE

Photos from the previous page

Top left to right: Dr. Talva Jacobson giving a keynote speech; Sharon Hogg in the Beehive kiln bookroom; ACA President Brian Leslie and poster winner Ali Berlinguette. Middle: SEAAS 50th Cake, Brenda Francoeur and friend demonstrating rattle making. Bottom: Circle Dance.

Sunday Field Trips: The first field trip was to the Saamis Archaeological Site, located within the City of Medicine Hat. This significant Indigenous wintering site is nestled along Seven Parsons Creek. Our tour guides for this site included **Cathy Linowski, Janice Andreas, and Rob Gardner.**

The second field trip was to the Redcliff Pressed Brick Park, which was once home to a bustling brickworks founded in 1912. Although the kilns have cooled, the site now features original equipment and a vivid mural that honours the workers and legacy of one of Alberta's key industrial landmarks. The field trip was guided by **Malcolm Sissons** along **James Marshall** who explained the mural.



Sammis Site Tour



Redcliff Pressed Brick Park Tour

Of course, without sponsors, this event couldn't happen! Thank you!!

- Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta
- Association of Consulting Archaeologists
- Atlatl Archaeology and Laboratory Services
- Bison Historical Services Ltd.
- Circle CRM Group
- Ember Archaeology
- Lifeways of Canada Limited
- Stantec
- Country Crumbs Bakery & Cafe
- Blondie's Gift & Garden
- Grand Rental Station
- Grasslands Naturalists
- James Marshall
- MacDesign
- Margie Booyans
- Medalta Potteries
- Medicine Hat Accommodation Association
- Mike's Meats
- Phyllis & Ian McLaughlin
- Tourism Medicine Hat
- Zenith Engraving and Gifts

The conference's spirit of collaboration among professional and avocational archaeologists was evident throughout. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our speakers, sponsors, volunteers, demonstrators and the organizing committee for making this milestone gathering a resounding success! Here's to the next 50 years of uncovering Alberta's past!

ASA Centre *Memberships*

Bodo Centre

Calgary Centre

Edmonton Centre

Lethbridge Centre

Red Deer Centre*

SEEAS Centre

*Please contact the Provincial Coordinator at arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com



Discover More: Follow the ASA on Social Media



Please like, subscribe, and follow.

Volunteer Opportunity

Newsletter Co-Editor

The ASA Newsletter is looking for a student who loves archaeology and story telling to help as a co-editor.

You'll help with newsletter layout and collect the events held by the centres.

Perks include: resume gold, insider access, and bragging rights.

For more information contact Colleen at
arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com



ASA'S WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL) PROGRAM



WIL Voucher Placements Still Available



The Archaeological Society of Alberta's Work-integrated Learning Voucher program still has some placements available. If you or you know of employers in the heritage sector that might have use for a voucher of up to \$5000.00 for Albertan post-secondary students or recent graduates (up to 12 months) wages please contact the Provincial Coordinator at arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com for further information.

Alberta Archaeological Review

Do you have something you'd like published but a bit shy about doing so?

This is a fantastic opportunity for students, early-career archaeologists, and avocational enthusiasts to dip their toes into the world of publishing. If you've been thinking about sharing your research, reflections, or fieldwork experiences, this is a great place to get started!

<https://arkyalberta.com/publications/alberta-archaeological-review>



Vision Statement

The Archaeological Society of Alberta enhances the public's understanding of Alberta's archaeological resources and instils an appreciation of our collective past.

The Archaeological Society of Alberta advocates for the safeguarding of our non-renewable cultural heritage.

2024 Goldbook

Occasional Papers of the Archaeological Society of Alberta
Volume Number 17 (2 books)

Revisiting the Ancients: A Natural and Cultural History of the MacHaffie Archaeological Site (24JF4)

Patrick J. Rennie, Edwin Mohler, John P. Albanese, Jr., Synctiay Riley Auge, Linda Scott-Cummings, Leslie B. Davis, James K. Feathers, and T. Weber Greiser

with contributions by:

Melvin Beattie, John Byrd, John (Jack) Fisher, Jr., Richard E. Hughes, James Krakker, Sean McQueen, and Richard Pettersen

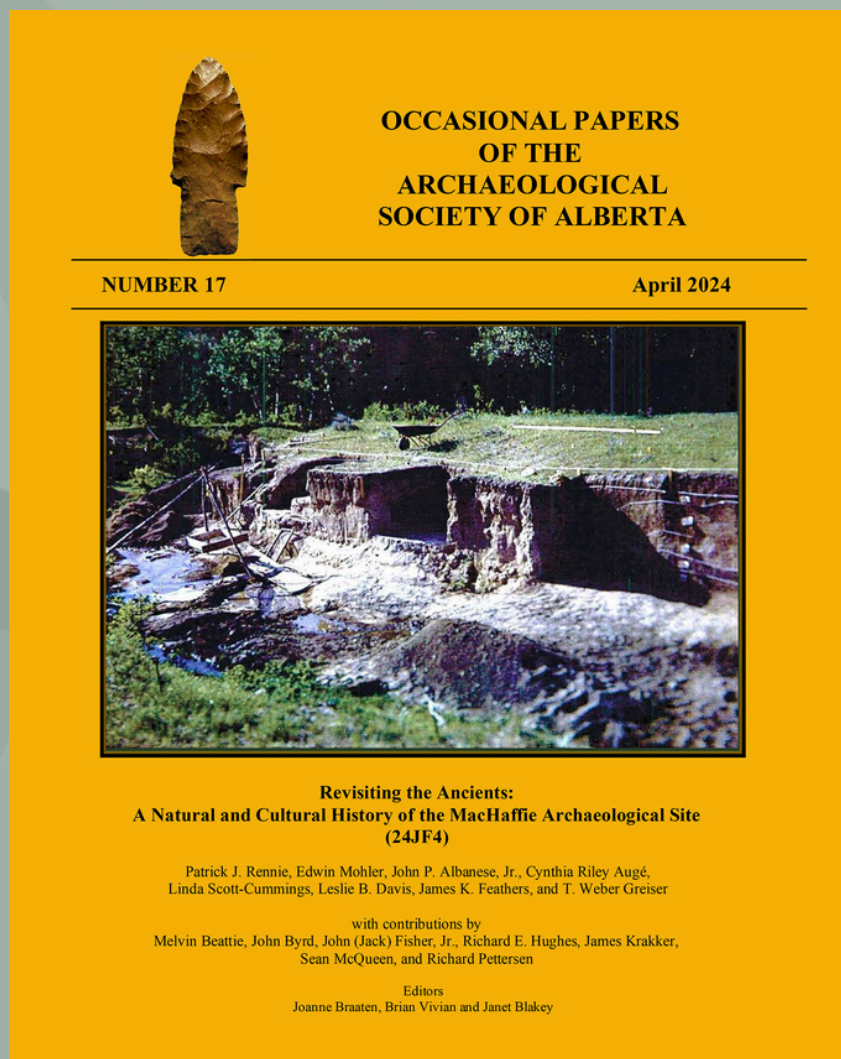
edited by:

Joanne Braaten, Brian Vivian, and Janet Blakey

Book 1: \$75.00 plus shipping

Book 2: complimentary PDF available on the [ASA Website](http://www.asa-alberta.com)

**Order
online**



www.arkyalberta.com

ASA STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

On March 12, 2025, the ASA provincial board met for its biannual meeting to discuss the society's strategy regarding funding and its next steps.

STRATEGIC MEETING SUMMARY

Overall, the strategic meeting highlighted the need for improved feedback, volunteer recruitment, enhanced branding, and strategic financial management to support the society's goals and activities.

Day 1: Focused on centre successes and challenges, volunteer recruitment, event planning, and public outreach. Key discussions included the need for better feedback mechanisms, the challenges of finding volunteers, and the importance of effective branding and outreach.

Day 2: Recapped the previous day's discussions and delved into financial management, program development, and marketing strategies. The workshop concluded with a focus on defining roles, establishing funding amounts, and planning for future conferences and events.

Most Discussed Topics

Volunteer Challenges:

Many centres shared difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers, particularly for events or board positions.

Event Planning and Execution:

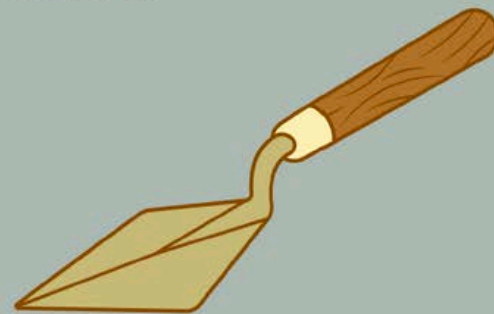
Discussions on the effectiveness of hybrid events, the importance of engaging speakers, and the logistics of organizing events / plan for international speakers to attend multiple centres.

Public Outreach and Branding:

The need for better branding and public outreach to increase awareness and engagement with the society.

Program Development:

The importance of developing programs that engage multiple types of audiences to ensure sustained interest in archaeology.



Operation Artifact



Looking for Collections

Do you or know of someone who would like their artifact collection catalogued?

Operation Artifact can turn that collection into a contribution to the archaeology of the province! And the collection stays with you until you want to pass it along to the Royal Alberta Museum.

For more information please check out:

<https://arkyalberta.com/centres/lethbridge/events-activities>

Provincial Heritage Organizations (PHOs)

Did you know that Alberta has **six PHOs**? They are funded by the **Alberta Government Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Status of Women**. Here they are!

Alberta



Archaeological Society of Alberta



Alberta Genealogical Society



Alberta Museum Association



Archives Society of Alberta



Société historique francophone de l'Alberta (SHFA)

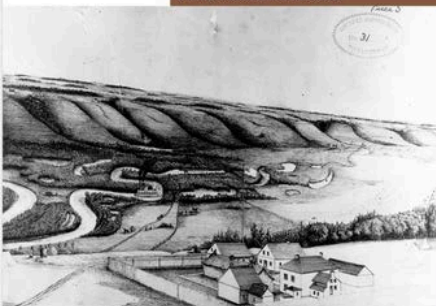


Historical Society of Alberta

CENTER ACTIVITIES

ASA CALGARY CENTRE SPEAKER SERIES

ASA CALGARY CENTRE
Lecture Series
Dr. Scott Hamilton:
Towards Non-Invasive Archaeology? Experiments with drones in archaeology
WED JAN 15th @ 7pm. Central Library:
Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall



Abstract

Over the past 25 years consumer digital technologies have rapidly expanded in capacity and declined in cost. Archaeologists are among the researchers who have selectively integrated technology into their professional practice, but early implementation is often driven by unit cost, unexpected complexity, and rapid obsolescence. Unmanned aerial vehicles follow this pattern, but have had a comparatively slow uptake as a standard archaeological tool. Since about 2015 we have been experimenting with UAVs, predominately exploring the use case for 'prosumer' drones. These instruments are predominately marketed to hobbyists but have surprisingly high technical capacity. We have moved from learning how to fly (and not crash), to evaluating photographic utility, experimented with semi-autonomous mapping and photogrammetry, explored archaeological 'value added', and finally moved to refining georeferencing accuracy and experimentation with diverse sensors. Through a series of case study examples, I explore the utility and limitations of UAVs in archaeology, and some of the unexpected downstream implications related to computing and data storage demands. It also suggests important potential for non-invasive archaeological site characterization under the right conditions.

Towards Non-Invasive Archaeology? Experiments with drones in archaeology?

Presented By: Dr. Scott Hamilton


Date: January 15, 2025

Napi is the Environment: Integrating Oral Tradition and Science in the Blackfoot World

Presented By: Dr. Maria Nieves Zedeño

Date: February 19, 2025

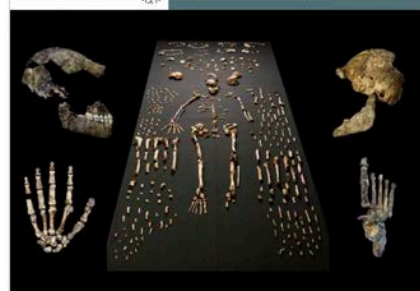
ASA CALGARY CENTRE
Lecture Series
Dr. Maria Nieves Zedeño:
Napi is the environment: Integrating oral tradition and science in the Blackfoot World
WED FEB 19th @ 7pm. Central Library:
Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall



Abstract

A major goal of The University of Arizona's multiyear and multidisciplinary Early Blackfoot Origins Program has been the unveiling, through systematic analysis of Blackfoot oral traditions, of paleoenvironmental clues that can account for the early peopling of the northern Rocky Mountain Front and adjacent prairies. Combined with the results of a recent DNA study that indicates the Blackfoot genetic lineage might date to Late Pleistocene glacial times, this presentation focuses on evidence of early Blackfoot landscape knowledge at the time of deglaciation. It demonstrates that oral traditions can complement and augment the fragmentary record of the peopling of this region.

ASA CALGARY CENTRE
Lecture Series
Dr. Marina Elliott:
Homo naledi and the Rising Star Cave
WED MAR 19th @ 7pm. Central Library:
Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall



Abstract

Discovered deep in the Rising Star Cave in South Africa in September 2013, *Homo naledi* is one of the newest members of the human family. Subsequent excavations recovered one of the largest assemblages of fossil hominins in the world, and the material is notable for the unprecedented quality and completeness of the remains. In addition, the nature of the deposit suggests that *Homo naledi* may have been engaging in complex behaviours previously assumed to have been practiced only by modern humans. In this lecture, Dr. Elliott will briefly recap the discovery and describe what the research to date has learned about the biology and behaviour of this fascinating new species.

Homo naledi and the Rising Star Cave

Presented By: Dr. Marina Elliott

Date: March 19, 2025

How Art and Literature Made Indians, 1800-1860

Presented by: Dr. I. S. MacLaren

Date: April 17, 2025



ASA EDMONTON CENTRE *SPEAKER SERIES*

Talking Archaeology: What was for Dinner 1,000 Years Ago? Recreating Past Plains Recipes via Pottery

Presented by: Andrew Lints

Date: February 27, 2025



BODO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *SUMMER PROGRAMMING*

The Bodo Center is open **Tuesdays-Sundays, May 27-Aug 22, 2025**—guided or self-guided drop-in tours are available.

Summer Kids Day Camps for Ages 5-15: See website for dates and details

Adult Dig Camps: Be an archaeologist for a day, or a week! June 27-29 & July 8-12

Artifact Cataloguing: Get a behind-the-scenes look in an archaeological lab, July 23-27 & August 5-8

Keep an eye out on our social media for additional activities and events throughout the summer. Let's get Archaeology in Action and see you this summer!

**SUMMER
PROGRAMMING
2025**



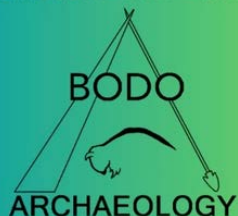
**Kids Camps
Adult Dig Days
Artifact Cataloguing
+ More
BOOK NOW!!**

For dates, more information, and to register

visit: bodoarchaeology.com

email: bodoarchaeology@gmail.com

call: 780 - 753 - 4056



CENTER ACTIVITIES

SOUTHEASTERN ALBERTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPEAKER SERIES



Physical geography and the landscape of SE Alberta

Presented by: Ben Moffat (in person)

Date: January 15, 2025

Matheis Ranch Archaeology Research

Presented by: Jack Ives (via Zoom)

Date: February 19, 2025



Learning to be a Good Relation: Enacting wâhkôhtowin and kîhokewin through Métis archaeology

Presented by: Kisha Supernant (via Zoom)

Date: March 19, 2025

Prehistoric people of the Baikal, Siberia

Presented by: Victoria Van der Haas (via Zoom)

Date: April 16, 2025



Mummified Baby Mammoth Nun Cho Ga and Other New Mammoth Discoveries

Presented by: Grant Zazula

Date: May 24, 2025

ASA LETHBRIDGE CENTRE *Speaker Series*



Snapshots of Coffins & Carpenters in Ancient Egypt

Presented by: Caroline Arbuckle Macleod

Date: January 7, 2025



A Human History of an Archaeological Era

Presented by: Susan Cohen

Date: February 4, 2025



New 'Frontiers' in Roman Bioarchaeology at Carnuntum

Presented by: Rebecca Gilmour

Date: March 4, 2025

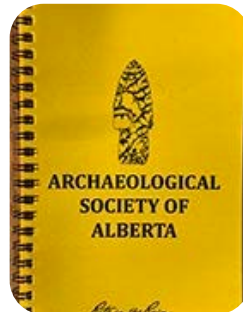


Paradise Found: Persian Gardens & Classical Landscapes

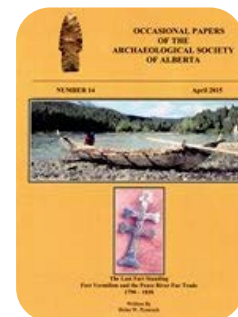
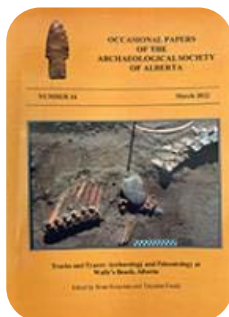
Presented by: Chris Epplett

Date: April 1, 2025

CHECK OUT THE ASA STORE FOR A VARIETY OF BOOKS AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGY ITEMS



*Dive deep into a site with the
ASA GOLD SERIES volumes!*



ALL STORE ITEMS CAN BE FOUND HERE

THOUSANDS OF STONE TOOLS MADE BY EARLY HUMANS AROUND 20,000 YEARS AGO FOUND IN CAVE

Source: Good News Network



400,000-YEAR-OLD-IVORY TOOLS FOUND IN UKRAINE REWRITE HUMAN INNOVATION TIMELINE

Source: Archaeology News



OBSIDIAN ARTIFACTS UNEARTHED IN ALBERTA OFFER NEW CLUES ON PREHISTORIC TRADE ROUTES

Source: Archaeological Survey of Alberta, Occasional Paper No. 43



REFLECTIONS ON A DECADE OF PRACTICE IN INDIGENOUS ARCHAEOLOGIES: A PERSPECTIVE FROM CANADA

Source: EAZ (Ethnographisch Archaeologische Zeitschrift)



JOURNEY INTO ARCHAEOLOGY

Source: Bridging Voices, UCalgary Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Student Podcast



ARCHAEOLOGY IN CANADA: AN INTRODUCTORY LEARNING TOOL

Source: Historica Canada



THIS FIRST NATION IS RECRUITING ITS MEMBERS TO DO ARCHAEOLOGY AND PROVE THEIR ORAL HISTORY IS TRUE

Source: CBC.ca



ANCIENT GENOMES REVEAL AN IRON AGE SOCIETY

Source: Phys.org

