

**Saskatchewan Archaeological Society 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
2010 Abstracts (Alphabetical)**

**Nathalie Cahill (M.A. Candidate)**  
**Department of Archaeology and Anthropology**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

**Camp Rayner: EgNr-2**

The Camp Rayner site operated as a field school for eight days out of each summer from 1987 to 1995 to serve the purpose of educating members of the Saskatchewan Archaeology Society on excavation methodology and the subject of Saskatchewan's prehistory. During this time SAS members were able to collect archaeological material that suggests as much as 9000 years of human occupation in this area. Twenty-three years later, this material is now becoming the focus of my upcoming M.A. dissertation. This presentation will focus on providing an overview of my thesis research in hopes to provide a sense of how this material can provide a rather extensive look in time at the culture history of one of Saskatchewan's historically richest sites.

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**Jim Finnigan**  
**Western Heritage Services Inc.**

**Gunnar: Archaeology of a Mining Town**

In 1952, two prospectors flying over the Cracking Stone Peninsula, on the north shore of Lake Athabasca noted an interesting mineralization in the rocks. It was an interesting time in world history and uranium was seen as an important mineral for national security. Uranium was so important that the Government of Canada had recently created Eldorado, a company which would buy all of the uranium that could be mined.

Based on an initial find, a full scale drilling program started the next winter by Gunnar Gold Mines Ltd. The drilling looked promising and in the spring of 1954, Gunnar Mines landed 500 tons of equipment on the ice in St. Mary's Channel, and the development of the mine was on. Eight years later, 1962, the mine was closed.

In just a brief period of time, children were born, families were raised and schooled, and Gunnar was a large northern community. Now it is a half disassembled ghost town. In 2009, Jim Finnigan and William Ferris from Western Heritage Services Inc. spent 10 days at Gunnar, carrying out an archaeology

survey of this abandoned site. We were assisted in our tasks by Kenny Mercredi, a resident of Uranium City. This talk will focus on our examination of the remains of the Gunnar community and what can be learned from the archaeology of a site too recent to be given a Borden number.

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**C.M. Foley (Department of Archaeology and Anthropology UofS)**

L. Foley (Department of Archaeology and Anthropology UofS)

M. Kennedy (Department of Archaeology and Anthropology UofS)

Ted Douglas (Eatonia)

N. Friesen (Heritage Resources Branch)

Peter Gallén (Saskatoon)

### **Memories Written on the Landscape: Archaeological Survey in the Cabri Lake Region**

The upland region around the Cabri Lake depression is one of the few remaining grassland areas in the province unbroken by the plough. It is “home” to a significant number of surface features, ranging from extensive linear stone arrangements, cairns, stone circles and effigies. While it has attracted the attention of both avocational and professional archaeologists, with numerous features recorded, the area has yet to be surveyed completely. This presentation presents a brief review of what has been done and a proposal for an inclusive archaeological survey of the Cabri Lake region.

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**Denise Gibson (M.A. Candidate)**

**Department of Archaeology and Anthropology**

**University of Saskatchewan**

### **The Historical Ceramics at Clark’s Crossing, Saskatchewan**

The archaeological study of the farmstead at Clark’s Crossing, Saskatchewan, offers numerous insights into the life of early Anglo-Canadian settlers in the Canadian west during the late nineteenth century. Excavations of the site revealed an absence of transfer-printed ceramics while plain and moulded whitewares dominate the assemblage. Although often overlooked, plain and moulded whitewares can offer the archaeologist a wealth of information, especially pertaining to the consumer behaviour of early Anglo-Canadian settlers. This presentation will focus on these ceramics and will explore the relationship between the moulded patterns featured on the ceramics and their role in the formation and/or maintenance of a perceived and possibly conceived, separate western Canadian identity.

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**Frank McDougall**

### **SAS Slide Scanning Project**

The Saskatchewan Archaeology Society office in Saskatoon houses a large collection of roughly 5000 slides that continuously spans the period from 1954 to 2004. The photos cover a large spectrum of subjects and activities in archaeology and in some cases palaeontology within Saskatchewan during this 50 year period. They include photos from field schools, excavations, bus tours, special events, as well as sites and collections. The images also record changing approaches to archaeology as well as changes in archaeology and historical sites over half a century.

As part of a volunteer program at the Society, the author embarked on a project to scan all of the slides into digital format with a view to making them more accessible and useful. The scanning process was carried out during the past winter and is now complete with a total of about 4500 slides from the Society collection being scanned in. In addition a number of the authors own slides were scanned and will be added to the collection. The scanning was done using the SAS offices computers and slide scanning facilities that were made operational by Peter Gallén, another volunteer at the office. Using this equipment the slides were scanned at the rate of about 130 per day.

The scanned slides will be entered into a searchable database that is being developed. A policy addressing such issues as publication rights will be developed as part of this process. This presentation will talk about some of the issues to consider when taking, cataloguing, and storing photographs and will highlight some of the great photographs that have been rediscovered.

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**Peggy McKeand**  
**Western Heritage Services Inc.**

### **Archaeological Investigations at the Humboldt Telegraph Station and Fort Denison**

In 1995 the town of Humboldt approached Western Heritage Services Inc. (WHSI) about conducting an archaeological search for the remains of the Humboldt Telegraph Station and a possible military encampment, Fort Denison. The initial study confirmed that both historical resources are located in the SW 1/4, Section 16, Township 37, Range 23, W2M. In 2009 WHSI returned to the area and completed additional research. Both times, various methods, old and new, were used in the search for and investigation of the Telegraph Station and

Fort Denison. The results were exciting, augmenting the historical records and providing a guide for future investigations and site management.

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**Dr. David Meyer**  
**Department of Archaeology and Anthropology**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

### **Paleo-Indians at the Ice front - Central Saskatchewan**

At 10,500 B.P. Glacial Lake Saskatchewan was centred over the area which is now the confluence of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers. At this time, the first aboriginal bands took up occupation of this part of the province - people who made basally thinned triangular points. A thin scatter of these points has been found on the surfaces of fields in this region, right up to the ice front and the shores of Glacial Lake Saskatchewan.

This sparse population lives in a chaotic, shifting landscape, in part a result of melting permafrost and summer surges of melt-water. A zone of tundra bordered the ice front, supporting herds of caribou and muskoxen. The makers of the basally thinned triangular points may have concentrated their hunting on this "Arctic" game.

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**Bradley Schiele\* (M.A. Candidate)**  
**bms396@mail.usask.ca**  
**Department of Anthropology & Archaeology**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

### **Straight from the Bison's Mouth: Conducting Climate Research Through Oxygen Isotope Ratios of Tooth Enamel**

Prehistoric archaeological sites (e.g. kill and camp sites) on the Great Plains often contain skeletal remains of bison (*Bison bison*). Because tooth enamel has a high content (96-97%) of inorganic material (hydroxyapatite), bison teeth have a high success rate of entering the archaeological record. Pioneer studies have established a correlation between the stable isotope values of animal tissues and their diets. Oxygen isotope values obtained from tooth enamel of large bodied (>100kg) water-dependant ungulates are primarily derived from indigested drinking water and to a lesser extent plant and metabolic (process of food oxidation) waters consumed during amelogenesis (tooth enamel formation). Stable oxygen isotope values of meteoric water strongly reflect local temperatures. Because drinking water available to prehistoric animals (e.g. rivers, streams, ponds, lakes) are recharged by local precipitation sources, oxygen isotope values derived from tooth enamel of these large herbivores can

be used to reconstruct local climates. This presentation will briefly introduce techniques and methods used to isotopically analyze ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  ratios) tooth enamel for the purpose of reconstructing climate as well as seasonal variables in the northern Great Plains region.

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**Lisa Rudolph (M.A. Candidate)**  
**Department of Archaeology and Anthropology**  
**University of Saskatchewan**  
**Stantec Consulting Ltd.**

**These Are the People in Your Neighbourhood:  
“P” is for Presbyterian and Prince Albert**

The city of Prince Albert originated from a small Presbyterian mission established in 1866 along the fertile North Saskatchewan River. Soon, a small village grew around the mission which frantically boomed into a city during the late nineteenth century. Promises of prosperity and progress made the Prince Albert settlement an attractive place to establish a home and business. This presentation will explore the early settlement history of the city and examine some of the features left behind as a reminder.

This abstract has been brought to you by the letters M and J and the number 3.

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**Sandra Walker**  
**Brightwater Science and Environmental Centre**

**Brightwater Science and Environmental Centre's  
Archaeology Educational Project**

Brightwater is a system sponsored, out-of-school learning centre for middle years, Science 10 and Biology 20 students of the Saskatoon Public Schools. The program takes place along a creek valley that is encompassed by a quarter section of sandy grasslands, south of Saskatoon. Reconnaissance Survey Permits were obtained in 2008 and 2009 for students to be involved in surface collection of artefacts in the Brightwater area as part of the established ethnobotany programming.

Four new sites were discovered as a result of the project, including what is thought to be a unique find of Middle Missouri River pottery. Results of the project indicate that archaeology can be successfully integrated in meaningful and relevant ways to school programming.

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**Kim Weinbender**  
**Heritage Resources Branch**

Updates from the Heritage Resources Branch

Come check out the 2009 happenings at the Heritage Resources Branch, as well as our upcoming plans for 2010! On the review side, the economic downturn has led to more cautious investments in the oil and gas sector but other industries have increased their development momentum. Expanded electronic data sources are also helping, with better satellite and aerial photography than ever before. For 2010, a major expansion of the Online Screening Tool is planned. As part of that project, a detailed scrutiny of site locations in our paper and electronic databases has been completed. And, as always, we fit in field work when we can!

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**Patrick Young**  
Brad Novecosky  
**Golder Associates Ltd.**

**The Star-Orion South Diamond Project: Archaeological Investigations in the Fort à la Corne Provincial Forest**

Golder Associates Ltd. has been involved with Heritage Resources Impact Assessments relating to diamond exploration in the Fort à la Corne Provincial Forest since 2004. This culminated in an assessment and mitigation program of Shore Gold's proposed Star-Orion South Diamond Project in 2008. This presentation will focus on the results of the mitigation program and compare them with previous studies in areas adjacent to the Fort à la Corne Provincial Forest, such as the Nipawin Reservoir Study and the Forks Survey. While previous studies in the region have primarily focused on the Saskatchewan River valley, the Star-Orion South Diamond Project provides a unique opportunity to examine Precontact utilization of areas beyond this valley complex.