



Back on the horse: Recent developments in archaeological and palaeontological research in Alberta

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALBERTA

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Introduction

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We are very pleased to introduce the 36th volume of the Archaeological Survey of Alberta Occasional Paper series. In light of the 22 years that have passed since the last edition, the release is overdue. However, the timing is auspicious given that it commemorates the 40th anniversary of the final stage of passage of Alberta's *Historical Resources Act* in 1976 and publication of the 1st volume in this series, *Archaeology in Alberta 1975*, under the guidance of J. M. Quigg and W. J. Byrne.

The Archaeological Survey of Alberta Occasional Paper series was established in 1976 as a means of disseminating information about archaeology in Alberta. The series included annual reviews of projects carried out within the province, edited thematic volumes, and monographs. The principal thrust of the series was to publish basic scientific papers on current topics in Alberta archaeology in an unrestrictive, quick-print format. The original volumes, referred to widely as the Blue Book series, enjoyed unquestionable popularity among practitioners and enthusiasts of Alberta archaeology. The series was discontinued in 1994 and copies of existing volumes became increasingly difficult to obtain. This problem was addressed in 2014 when all previous editions were digitized and made available online.

The revival of the series commemorates the legacy of this tradition through the publication of short articles on topics related to Alberta archaeology aimed at a wide audience including professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and informed enthusiasts. The primary focus will be upon the publication of the annual review of Alberta archaeology. In addition, thematic edited volumes will be released in response to specific initiatives or topics of interest. Submitted manuscripts are anticipated to cover a wide range of topics that present new information, methods, results, or interpretations about Alberta archaeology in short article

format. Despite some continued traditions, the revived series heralds some changes. Each new volume will now be offered as a free online publication with the capacity for on-demand printing. In addition, less emphasis will be placed on the presentation of long-format monographs given our desire to minimize overlap with the Occasional Papers of the Archaeological Society of Alberta (Gold Series) publications.

This first volume is a series of manuscripts authored, in whole or part, by past and present staff of the Archaeological Survey of Alberta and Royal Alberta Museum. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to these individuals and their collaborators for the time and attention devoted to creating these high-calibre contributions. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our editorial team and, in particular, the sustained vision of Robin Woywitka, that resulted in our successful revival of the iconic Blue Book series. Planning is already underway on the first thematic volume that will focus on Alberta's program to address impacts to archaeological resources from southern Alberta's devastating floods of 2013. Finally, a call for papers will soon be issued to solicit contributions for the upcoming edition of the annual review of Alberta archaeology.

Success of the Blue Book series over the long term will be reliant upon collective efforts and individual commitments. I sincerely encourage all archaeologists in Alberta to submit contributions to the annual review and edited thematic volumes. It is important that we focus a portion of our efforts to initiatives that improve communications and strengthen relationships within our archaeological community. We hope the Blue Book series serves as an ongoing venue to share our rich archaeological record, as well as innovative methods and dialogues to inform the protection of Alberta's past.