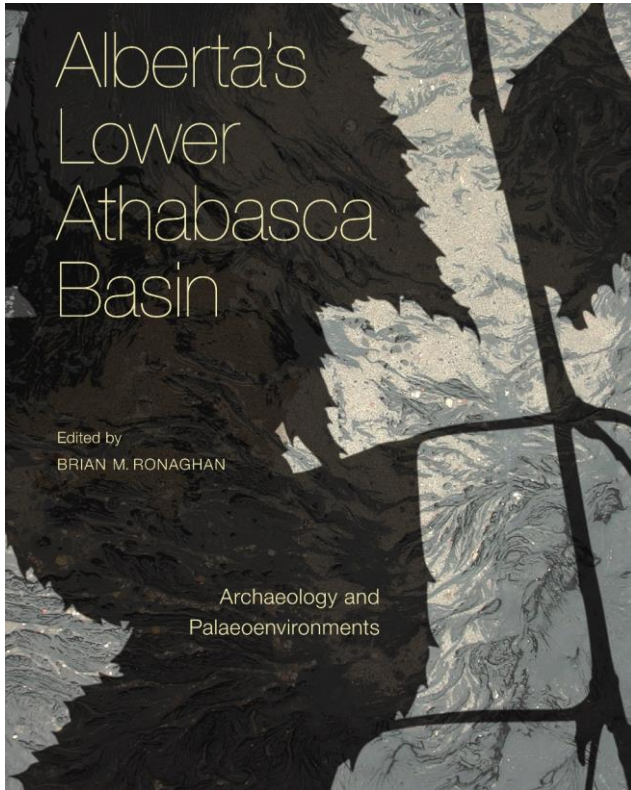




**Science Outreach –Athabasca  
presents...  
Ancient Landscapes and  
Prehistoric Human Activity  
in Alberta's Oil Sands**



**Speakers: Brian Ronaghan, former director of Alberta's Archaeological Survey, and Robin Woywitka, Archaeological Survey regional archaeologist and University of Alberta PhD candidate**

**Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018**

**Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Place: Athabasca University  
Governing Council Chambers**

To many observers, development of Alberta's oil sands has proceeded largely unregulated with little consideration for the intrinsic value of the landscape. However, assessment and mitigation studies conducted in compliance with Alberta's historical resources conservation legislation have revealed an ancient, rich, and varied archaeological record of habitation and resource use by prehistoric people—the intensity of which is currently unparalleled elsewhere in Canada's boreal forest.

Complementary environmental research has revealed a link between this remarkable pattern of use and a catastrophic postglacial flood that scoured the lower Athabasca basin, stripping away surface sediments, exposing bedrock containing material suitable for stone manufacture, and making surface mining of bitumen deposits possible. In the wake of the flood, the extended warm, dry postglacial climatic conditions created a unique landscape that attracted game animals and supported prehistoric habitation and activity. Free event! Door prizes!

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