the dominant ethic of “boosterism” and triggered a flurry of optimistic newspaper editorials denying that the city had sustained a mortal economic blow. The mayor was even urged to suppress a booklet of disaster photographs published in Winnipeg for fear it would damage Regina’s reputation in the eyes of outside investors. Joe Cherwinski describes the great lengths to which the federal government was prepared to go to refute the widely circulated (but erroneous) claim that a recently arrived family of English immigrants had frozen to death in Saskatchewan during the winter of 1906–07.

Taken together, this is an interesting collection of essays which illuminates a long-ignored aspect of western Canadian history. Unhappily, the editors and the contributors have not been well served by the University of Calgary Press. The copy of Harm’s Way provided for this review contains only the first ten pages of J.M. Bumsted’s essay on the Red River floods, but this fragment appears twice in the book. So does David Jones’ essay on the drought in east-central Alberta. The last three pages of Clint Evans’ essay on weed infestation on the prairies and his endnotes also appear twice. Half of the index is missing as well. The University of Calgary Press would be well advised to heed the old carpenter’s motto: “measure twice, cut once.”

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The present BAR publication is a revised version of Peck’s 2001 dissertation out of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Calgary. In it, Peck tackles an old dispute within northern plains archaeology regarding the congruence (or not) of bison and human seasonal migrations. Most archaeologists seem satisfied with the interpretation that bison summered on the plains but moved towards the parkland or wooded river valleys as the colder weather approached. It is assumed that native peoples then moved in tandem with this major food source. However, there are dissenting views within the profession which state that bison were unpredictable in their movements or that they could be found on the plains in all seasons. The type of settlement and subsistence strategies employed by native people in these latter cases would then be radically different from the more predictable pattern ensuing from bison moving between parklands and plains over the course of the year.

Peck approaches the problem of this lack of consensus on bison and human movements in the past with a solid, multidisciplinary approach which spans the natural and social sciences. The publication is comprised of eight
fairly concise and often overly independent chapters. The fairly brief introductory chapter reviews the cultural history of the past 1,200 years of the northern plains up to and including the time of contact. The time period is select as Peck will concentrate on landscape use by peoples of the Old Women's Phase on the northwestern plains for his study. Following in Chapter 2 is a review of 17 different models of mobility strategies and seasonal movement developed by archaeologists working in the northern/northwestern plains over the past forty years. This list includes an extended description of Peck's own intriguing ideas on the association of bison wallows, the rut and calving locations.

Peck then breaks away in Chapter 3 to present models of hunter-gatherer settlement patterns and mobility strategies which, while the discussion is informative, never become fully integrated into the remainder of the work, especially into his conclusions regarding the seasonal round of native people during the Old Women's phase. This chapter is followed by a very detailed, in-depth analysis of historic accounts as relates to bison movements throughout the year. This is a key chapter for setting up Peck's line of argument. He consults records produced by late 18th- and 19th-century fur traders and explorers in strategic points around the northwestern plains and parklands to build up a picture of bison movement and behaviour throughout the year. He organizes this discussion by dividing the buffalo year into five parts: Period I (mid-April to end of June), Period II (end of June to mid-July), Period III (mid-July to September), Period IV (October to mid-November) and Period V, which is subdivided into three: part A (mid-November to December), part B (January to February) and C (March to mid-April). While accounts are more numerous for the parklands, especially during the colder months of the year when trading was actively ongoing, the Alberta-Saskatchewan plains are more poorly represented. In fact, many of the accounts Peck uses to characterize bison behaviour in the plains area were recorded in the parklands rather than the plains. What would have strengthened this section is the use of historical accounts from traders, explorers and government officials operating out of Missouri River locations, to anchor human observations from the southerly part of his study area. Otherwise, he combed the Canadian documents carefully and provided cogent observations from them.

Chapters 5 and 6 present his work with dental cementum analysis as applied to both modern control samples and 19 Late Period archaeological samples from Alberta, Saskatchewan and northern Montana. While not all samples were large enough nor results definitive enough, they seemed to support his main thesis that bison wintered around the periphery of the plains and in large river valleys while summer sites were out on the plains. Dental cementum analysis is clearly an important element in the developing arsenal of tools that archaeologists can employ to determine seasonality, age and environment and it greatly enhances Peck's line of argument.

Chapter 7 is a wider-ranging discussion on landscape use on the north-
western plains. One of the topics he covers in it is a link between the Iniskim myth as allegorical of the Blackfoot seasonal round, which is a stretch here but an innovative attempt. He also presents a critical discussion of a model by Malainey and Sherriff which posits that bison could be found out on the plains in winter—an idea Peck dismisses as flawed because he feels the winter campsites used by the authors to indicate a plains winter occupation were actually in the parklands. While this may indeed be true, it should be noted that key definitions of “plains” and “parklands” are assumed more than overtly presented in Peck’s work, and this can cause problems. Other than comments which draw the reader’s attention to the difference between plains which are open areas in lightly wooded areas as opposed to the ‘large’ plains or plains proper, there is insufficient identification of what constitutes both zones and where he would locate them at the time period under discussion. While well-wooded large river valleys appear to have served as shelter in colder temperatures for both bison and human populations, it is perhaps not appropriate to conflate them with true parklands, although the use of them as winter habitat may be similar.

Peck returns to the historic accounts to obtain support evidence for the existence of intercept strategies by Old Women’s hunters because of the somewhat predictable seasonal migratory patterns of bison. That these were not entirely predictable speaks to the absolutely critical nature of human social connections by which information about bison and other important resources can be shared. The exact nature of the seasonal round employed by native inhabitants of the northern plains, however, still needs to be explained beyond the outline that Peck’s work suggests.

In all, this is an important and well-considered contribution to northern plains archaeology. Peck has done an excellent job of utilizing a variety of diverse data sources to bolster support for his argument that bison did indeed migrate in fairly predictable patterns and that native people did as well. He is able to synthesize data and draw novel interpretations from them (e.g., the connection of the rut and wallows). The work is well-written with only a minor number of typos. It should be a part of any plains archaeology personal library.

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Winter blizzards are nothing extraordinary to people living on the prairies. Indeed, get any group of Canadians around a table, drinking coffee and talking about the weather, and sooner or later the conversation will turn to reminiscences about remarkable storms. There are certain storms or weather