



Saddle Hills steps up to sponsor museum research space

Saddle Hills County funding hub of dinosaur research in the region

News Release

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Saddle Hills County has announced they will be supporting the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum with a \$150,000 contribution to sponsor the museum's Palaeontology Research Centre (PRC).

"Saddle Hills County Council believes that the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will be a huge asset to the region, and for that reason, we are honoured to sponsor the Palaeontology Research Centre," said Reeve Alvin Hubert on behalf of Saddle Hills County Council.

"The County of Grande Prairie is pleased that Saddle Hills County recognizes the importance in playing a role in the further development of the museum's PRC," said Leanne Beaupre, County of Grande Prairie Reeve. "Saddle Hills County supporting this project truly shows the strength, meaning and value of what regional collaborations accomplish for the region. The benefits of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will extend far beyond the County boundaries. We look forward to the multitude of opportunities the Museum will provide to our region."

The PRC will be the hub for year-round, ongoing research for the in-house palaeontologists and the base of operations for those visiting from other institutions around the world.

"The PRC will allow us to work with a great range of specimens – from smaller than your fingernail to weighing over a ton; from a single bone to entire skeletons," said Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative (PCDI) head palaeontologist Dr. Matthew Vavrek.

The 3,550 sq. ft. Centre will house palaeontological equipment including air scribes, dust extractors, a fume hood for chemical preparations with molding and casting, and microscopes for the smallest specimens. There will also be an office and long-term storage space in the Centre.

The Centre will also have windows so that museum visitors can look in from the side, as well as a birds'-eye-view from up above to observe palaeontologists preparing fossils that may later be used in museum displays.

"The PRC is a good fit for Saddle Hills County," said Hubert. "Fossils have recently been found within Saddle Hills County, and we believe it is important to further examine and research the area and bring awareness to the rich history of Northwestern Alberta. This facility will also provide incomparable educational opportunities in our region that will help to educate future generations for years to come."



About the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum and the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative

Presently under construction, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is scheduled to open its doors in December 2014. It will be a 41,000 sq. foot, world-class facility highlighting the rich fossil resources of Northern Alberta. Named for Dr. Philip Currie, Canada's preeminent palaeontologist, the museum, located in Wembley, AB will serve as a hub of education and science in the area. The Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative is the omnibus term for the project team tasked with the realization of the museum.

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