

'Monster' donation from Alliance Pipeline

By Erika Sherk

Alliance Pipeline presented the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum with a \$250,000 donation in March to help fund the museum's Education Centre.

A contingent of Wembley Elementary School Grade Four students was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of all the children who will benefit from the museum's education programs in the years ahead. The school's Grade Fours have had a special relationship with the museum project over the last three years as the kids have collected cans and bottles to make an annual donation.

"I'm really excited because I can't wait to learn about all kinds of dinosaurs," said Kenadi Jones, 10, who was braving the wind with her Grade Four classmates at the museum site. "I like them because they're all different in their own little ways."

There will be a lot of learning happening at the museum, there's no doubt of that. The planned Education Centre will be a vital part of operations, with two fully-equipped Smart technology classrooms and the 70-seat theatre. The Alliance Pipeline name will now be displayed at the Centre to recognize the company's contribution.

The Education Centre funding is a good fit for Alliance Pipeline, said Trevor Loberg,



LeLeft to right, Peter Wilkins, Colleen Holler - Deputy Mayor of Wembley, Samantha Ballard, Haven Metcalf, Trevor Loberg - Grande Prairie Area Manager, Alliance Pipeline, Dr. Matthew Vavrek - Head Palaeontologist, Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative, Amber Marth, Jackson Parkin and Kenadi Jones.

Alliance's Grande Prairie Area Manager, who was at the site with the donation cheque and an armful of dinosaur toys for the students. "It's an exciting project from our perspective. The educational aspect is really important to us - we're glad to be able to support educational opportunities like this not just for our young people but for the entire community."

"I'm pretty excited to see what the dinosaurs are and what they can do," said Jackson Parkin, 9, who was holding a toothy toy *Ceratosaurus* - a gift from Alliance Pipeline. "They've been

extinct for a really long time!"

A full slate of original, curriculum-based programs has already been developed for the museum classrooms, for kindergarten to Grade 12 as well as several all-ages programs for the public. They're fun and chock-full of things to learn. The educational components are worked in through puppetry, song, 'adventure walks,' crafts, scientific experiments and art. No one is ever bored in one of these programs! The theatre will similarly be multi-use, for public education purposes including palaeontology

talks, scientific presentations, educational films, conferences and more.

"We share Alliance's enthusiasm for the educational component of this museum," said Brian Brake, Executive Director, Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative. "We have an excellent program roster prepared and validated, and Alliance's contribution is certainly going to help us make it a reality."

Construction on the museum began in June 2013 and it is progressing beautifully and scheduled for opening in December 2014.



Executive Director's Note

Greetings from all of us at the dino project.

This past month has been very exciting with construction focused on the roofing.

The building is really taking on a visual character which demonstrates why AZURE Magazine selected us as one of the Top 10 architectural projects in the world to watch in 2014. Keep an eye out for NUVO and MUSE magazines this month - the museum is mentioned in both.

Plans for the summer are coming together with confirmation of the palaeontologists arriving from around the world in July for a two-week exploration of local bonebeds and the shoring up of our list of celebrities for the Amber Ball on August 9.

In March we received a substantial contribution of \$250,000 from Alliance Pipeline for the Sponsorship of the museum's Education Sector thereby allowing us to move closer to our objective.

We have some sponsorship opportunities remaining in the museum so give us a call. Tables for the Amber Ball are also available, please call (780) 532-2362 to purchase.

Bye for now, stay tuned and have a great Dino Day.
Brian Brake
Executive Director
Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative

Were there really dinosaurs with **four** wings?



graphic by Sergey Krasovskiy

Microraptor may not have been the most powerful flyer but could likely glide like a flying squirrel.



Many of the small theropod dinosaurs found in recent years are preserved with feathers beside the bones, especially from certain sites in Asia.

This illustrates the close relationship between modern birds and certain dinosaurs.

The evolutionary transition from dinosaur ancestors to bird descendants was not a simple and

straightforward one however, and many strange and interesting animals have been found in the fossil record that details a period of experimentation in flight.

One of these interesting groups were the microraptors.

The group's namesake, *Microraptor*, was found in Cretaceous rocks of China, and was preserved well enough to show long flight feathers extending from the arms and legs!

Other members of this group have been found preserving long feathers on their legs as well as arms. There is even some

evidence that the famous *Archaeopteryx* may have had long feathers on its legs to help with flight.

These 'four-winged' dinosaurs may not have been very powerful flyers, or even capable of powered flight at all.

But most certainly the large surface areas created by these elongated feathers would have helped them to glide through the air in a controlled way, much like flying squirrels do today.

Ask a Paleo! by Robin Sissons.
Have a question for Robin?
Visit curriemuseum.ca

Spring at the construction site

Time to get roofing the Currie Museum



photo by Erika Sherk

The roof is coming along and the unique shape of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is starting to become more apparent. This iconic building has been getting more attention lately, with its architectural design being mentioned in NUVO and MUSE magazines.

By Tony Dib,
PCL Construction

Spring is here, and construction at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum project has been quite the adventure throughout the winter months.

With the structure nearing completion, the building is starting to take shape.

Now that the concrete, structural steel, and wood timber framing is almost complete, construction on

the roof has begun. The roof is composed of two separate components that form the desired slopes, one of these components being a metal deck, and the other being glue laminated wood panels.

There are definitely challenges that are faced when two very different components meet to form a roof, however the accuracy of the surveying and layout is very important to

ensure a smooth transition between the two components.

Once the base of the roof is completed, an air/vapour barrier membrane can now be installed, which prevents any air or water from entering into the building from the top. Completing this stage of the roof is a very important part of the project, as it will allow us to begin working on the interior

finishes inside the building.

The next two stages of the roof composition is the insulation and the metal cladding.

Once the cladding is installed, the building will look noticeably complete from the outside.

People will begin to really get a good impression as to what this building will look like once it is completed.

DINOSAUR OF THE MONTH

Anzu wyliei



graphic by Mark Klingler

By Robin Sissons

Anzu is a type of oviraptorosaur dinosaur which was recently described in March 2014 from fossils found in North and South Dakota.

'Anzu' is derived from Mesopotamian legends of a feathered demon of that

name. Although it was found in 1998 and has been known for years, and even displayed in museums, it is only in this last month that it was named as a new species. It is the largest known oviraptorosaur from North America.

Palaeovolunteers wanted!



photo by Erika Sherk

There are many ways you can help out at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. We'll fill you in on various ways in the coming Newsosours but first, let's talk palaeovolunteering!

If you are interested in the fossils themselves, we have recently been running volunteer preparation sessions, where you can sit with our palaeontologists and learn how to prepare fossils.

All you need to bring is yourself, we will provide all the tools and teaching you need.

If you enjoy the process of working with fossils, we will also need help during summer field work, and will be looking for keen volunteers for this as well.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer preparation, please send an email to mavrek@countygp.ab.ca

Thank you to our funding partners, donors and sponsors!

