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# the NEWS SAUR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

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PHILIP J. CURRIE  
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SINCE 2011

## Saddle Hills sponsors museum research space "This facility will provide incomparable educational opportunities."

By Erika Sherk

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," says 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 in-



photos by Laura Beauchamp

**Robin Sissons, PCDI Palaeontology Assistant, works in the project's temporary donated lab space preparing a plesiosaur vertebrae. The fossil was found on the Smoky River by locals and donated to the Currie Museum in 2013.**

stitutions 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."



## Executive Director's Note

Greetings from all of us at the dino project. It has been another month of progress with many exciting developments. We are pleased and excited to welcome Saddle Hills County into our list of municipalities who are providing funding support. They have sponsored the Palaeo Research Centre for \$150,000 - thank you Saddle Hills. We also have made great strides with the inaugural Mighty Peace Harley-Davidson (MPHD) ride for the museum. We have secured the donated 2014 bike from the MPHD and it is being converted into a dino bike, the raffle tickets for the bike are being prepared and the registration site for the MPHD Aykroyd Family Ride is being prepared.

We hope to launch everything on May 26. Dan Aykroyd will lead the ride to the site on August 9 on the Dino Bike which he will then autograph and draw the winning raffle ticket at the Amber Ball.

We have also received permission to pave the parking lot, and we have reviewed the design of the dinosaur playground. That's all the news for this report. Please have a great dino day.

Brian Brake  
Executive Director  
Pipestone Creek Dinosaur

# Where in the world do we find dinosaurs?



graphic by Andrey Atuchin

**Dinosaur fossils are found all over the world. This abelisaourid theropod lived in the Volga region of central Russia.**



Dinosaur fossils are found everywhere in the world, from one pole to the other, on every continent, even on the small Chatham Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. From *Cryolophosaurus* and *Antarctopelta* in the Antarctic, to *Pachyrhinosaurus* and

*Nanuqsaurus* in the Arctic, and everything in between, dinosaurs are found at all latitudes. The island of Madagascar brings us *Majungasaurus* and *Masiakasaurus*, while Australia boasts *Rapator* and *Muttaburrasaurus*.

Scores of species are described from China, Mongolia and Japan, while *Spinosaurus* is commonly found in Egypt, and the first of any described dinosaurs, *Iguanodon*, *Megalosaurus*, and *Hylaeosaurus*, were found in Europe. South America has the unique long-nosed dromaeosaur

group, the unenlagiines, including *Austroraptor*, while North America has been a treasure trove of dinosaur palaeontology for over a century, with such famous names as *Tyrannosaurus* and *Triceratops*. This is just a taste of the extraordinary diversity of dinosaur species that have been found worldwide in these locations and more. Where can you find a dinosaur?

Just look in your own back yard!

Ask a Paleo! by Robin Sissons.  
Have a question for Robin?  
Visit [curriemuseum.ca](http://curriemuseum.ca)



# From the roof to the walls...



photos by Karla Horcica

*Top, the classrooms, bottom left, the roof continues to go up, bottom right, the Dinosaur Gallery is slowly closing in.*

By Karla Horcica,  
PCL Construction

The concrete, steel, and wood structure of the building is now complete.

Crews continue to work on the roof and walls to make the building weather-tight, but at least now they get to work in warmer weather and sunshine!

Meanwhile, inside the building, the walls are being laid out and steel stud framing of the walls is underway.

Along with the starting of the walls comes the rough-in of all the mechanical and electrical piping and conduit.

While some of the pipes and conduits are put into the concrete slabs, a large portion is also run through the walls and ceilings.

First the drywaller will lay out the walls and put down the bottom tracks,

then the steel studs will be stood.

The mechanical and electrical trades run their pipes and conduits through the steel studs which have special cut-outs in them to allow these services to be run.

Checks are done to ensure nothing is missed within the wall cavity before the drywall is installed and the walls are

closed.

If something were to be missed, it would mean ripping out the drywall and redoing the work, which is something we all strive to avoid!

Quality control is very important at all phases of the job and this is just one aspect of checks that the team will do to ensure the construction is done right the first time.

## DINOSAUR OF THE MONTH *Sinoceratops*



graphic by Andrey Atuchin

By Robin Sissons

*Sinoceratops* is a large ceratopsian (horned) dinosaur from China.

It is unique in being the only confirmed ceratopsid (advanced ceratopsian) from Asia.

Although Asia has produced many primitive ceratopsians like *Protoc-*

*eratops* and *Psittacosaurus*, advanced members of the group like *Pachyrhinosaurus* and *Triceratops* were only known from North America.

It has large forward-curling spikes along the edge of its frill, and a single large horn above its nose.

## Top Dino Chefs to Battle!



photo by J. D Robert Wiebe Photography

The Top Dino Chef Competition is back for another round of no-holds-barred battling to win over tastebuds and minds! This time the region's five best chefs will duke it out for the title. The competition will take place at The Garden Party, a VIP reception on August 8, 2014, the day before the Amber Ball – a blow-out, celebrity-studded event to

celebrate the completion of the museum building.

With teams from Padrino's Italian Ristorante, Stonebridge Hotel, JAX Grill & Lounge, Middleton Food Services and Ric's Grill, the chefs will be pitted against one another to win the favour of those attending the reception – a crowd of about 75. This year's 'secret' ingredient is local honey.

Thank you to our funding partners, donors and sponsors!



Ken and Teresa  
Sargent Family  
Foundation

