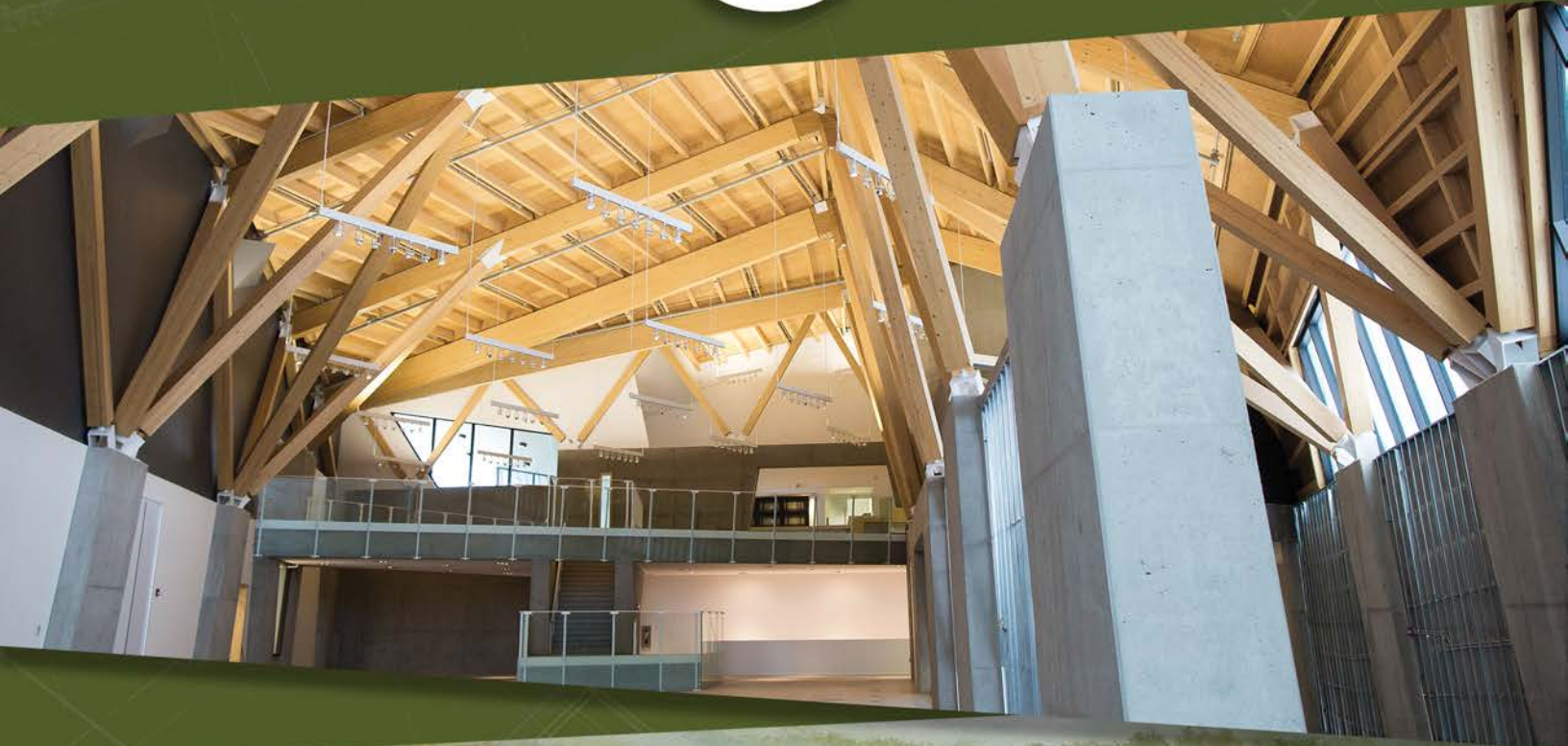


ISSUE 43

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NEWS SAUR



PHILIP J. CURRIE
DINOSAUR MUSEUM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Message from the President

Mighty Peace Teacher's Convention brought nearly 1000 teachers from the Peace Region to Grande Prairie. Following two presentations on upcoming school programs and opportunities at Composite High School, the museum staff hosted an Open House to the teachers on March 6th. The five hour interaction was well attended by hundreds of teachers who got a preview of smart classrooms, galleries, research labs and the Aykroyd Family Theatre where scaffoldings have gone up in preparation for a wrap-around mural. Laura Beauchamp and Laura Reilly led teachers through teaching materials, kits and activities being planned for the summer.

County Councillors visited the museum and were subsequently updated on the rapid progress and ground covered on multiple fronts in the last six months and apprised with upcoming deadlines. Keeping in mind the challenges of long-term sustainability of museum operations an IMAX feasibility study was concluded last month with preliminary recommendations under Board review.

Museum Paleontologists Robin Sissons and Dr. Matt Herne participated in the Alberta Palaeontological Society Conference and shared slides on the museum's progress and its exhibit experience. A second series of workshops with the exhibit design, content and multimedia teams were held to finalize numerous exhibit elements currently under production.

With Jonathan Hynes on board as the Building and Grounds Manager, hand-off, training and access protocols will soon be put in place to ensure smooth transition of critical functions including HVAC, Mechanical, Electrical, Fire and Security. Mark your calendars for a September 26, 2015 Amber Ball at the Entrec Centre chaired this year by Board Member Linda Side!

Stay tuned! Stay Connected.

George Jacob

In Memorium Roy Bickell 1930-2015

The board of directors and the staff of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum mourns the loss of Roy Bickell who passed away on March 21, 2015. His contributions and donations to the museum and our communities will be honoured forever with continuing exhibitions, education and research work with the extensive Bickell Collection bequeathed to this institution.



County Councillors Visit Museum

The County of Grande Prairie No.1 Councillors visited the museum and got a full tour of the facilities. The visit brought to the fore some upcoming deadlines for the completion of the museum restaurant, kitchen, patio, landscaping and retail shop prior to the exhibit installation in the galleries. With the snow melting, work on paving the access road and exterior work is expected to pick up pace in the coming months.





Photo Credit: Tom Arban

Museum wins 3 awards

At the Wood Works! Prairie Wood Design annual award ceremony hosted at the Fairmont Macdonald in Edmonton on March 17, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum picked up three awards in categories focused on exceptional architectural design for extensive use of wood, engineering excellence and the Engineer Wood Advocate award for exemplary nomination and civic reach.

According to Paul Whittaker, Provincial Director of Wood WORKS Alberta, the awards recognize the innovative choices made by Canadian designers using wood for structural functionality, sustainability and beauty. Categories of awards include residential, interior, municipal, recreational, commercial, institutional and Jury's Choice. Jurors included highly accomplished Architects Larry McFarland, Daryl Procinsky and Vedran Skopac.

Stephen Teeple, Principal of Toronto-based Teeple Architects and President and CEO of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, George Jacob accepted the awards. Board Chair of the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society Ross Sutherland congratulated all. Hon'ble Minister of Infrastructure Manmeet C. Bhullar and Hon'ble Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs attended the ceremonies.

Daryl Procinsky, one of the Jurors, stated "I loved the mastery of execution by Stephen Teeple and his design team on this precious gem. The alchemy of a very tight funding model, ambitious program, and signature design has become a gift for Albertans." He lauded the complexity of the form inspired by new technology in developing connections of laminated and sculpted wood elements and how the structure manages to transfer loads to one point.

Mighty Peace Teachers Convention

Hundreds of Teachers from the Peace Region visited the museum for a preview of educational programs, activities and gallery tours on March 6 following presentations by CEO George Jacob and Education Program Lead Laura Beauchamp. With waves of teachers arriving in busloads through the afternoon, museum staff conducted over two dozen tours of the facilities. E-Learning & Education Programs Coordinator Laura Reilly interfaced with teachers with pamphlets outlining upcoming initiatives commencing this summer. The museum is also actively considering traveling exhibits and education kits that would be part of the outreach activities in the Peace Region. The Dino Bus from the museum will take students and visitors to the Pipestone Creek bonebed during the summer months.



Teachers from the Peace Region enjoying some of the programs that the Museum offers

IMAX Feasibility Study Tabled

The Board of the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society reviewed the recommendations tabled by David Hall and Ian C. McLennan on the prospect of adding an IMAX facility to the museum experience. With many museums across north-America and around the world adopting a business model incorporating an IMAX theatre for long-term sustainability, the museum is exploring the viability of such an addition to a low population base. This process would continue to be given further thought in the coming months.



George VanderBurg - MLA for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne, George Jacob - President & CEO Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, Stephen Teeple - Teeple Architects, Andre Lema - Western Archib Structural Wood Systems, Paul Whittaker Provincial Director of Wood WORKS Alberta



Summer Programs



Curious Critters (ages 3-6) and parents (any age!)

Wednesdays & Thursdays: 1pm-2pm

Cost: \$5.00 per child

Come learn about dinosaurs, work in an indoor dig, listen to a story, and make a Cretaceous craft to take home.

Location: Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum



Bone Clones (ages 7-12)

Wednesdays & Thursdays: 1pm-2pm

Cost: \$5.00 per child - 1 hour program

What are Fossils? Casts? Molds? And why are they all important? Visit the Museum and make your own fossil replica to take home as a souvenir.

Location: Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum



Friday Afternoon ART (ages 7-12)

Fridays: 1-2pm

Cost: \$5.00 per child

Dinosaurs meet Art on Friday afternoons in the Museum: trading art cards, murals big and small, sculptures paper and clay. Visit the Museum to make art and talk dinosaurs.

Location: Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum



Pipestone Creek Bonebed Tour (all ages)

Fridays: 5pm / Saturdays & Sundays: 10:30am and 3:30pm

2 hours, 2.5 km walk (round trip)

Cost: \$5.00 per person (minimum 4 participants for tour to proceed)

Location: Pipestone Creek Park

The tour consists of a walk from the main picnic area to the Pipestone Creek Bonebed. Tour participants examine real fossils and learn about the different types of dinosaurs found in Northern Alberta. The tour includes clues that culminate at an exciting examination of the Pipestone Creek Bonebed.

**Hiking shoes, water, sunscreen, bug spray and hat recommended. Children (under the age of twelve) must be accompanied by an adult. Safety waivers must be signed by all participants.*



Dinosaur Tales (all ages)

Saturdays and Sundays: 2pm-2:30pm

FREE Program

Enjoy a variety of events including interactive activities such as a sing-along, story time, or draw-and-tell, Cretaceous crafts, or a play bursting with mischievous dinosaurs.

Location: Pipestone Creek Park



Frills and Thrills:

Saturdays and Sundays: Different times between the tours and the tales.

FREE program - 15 min program

Join the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum summer staff for informal sessions on fossil identification, dinosaur puzzles, mysteries and trivia.

Location: Pipestone Creek Park

New Staff



Laura Reilly
E-Learning & Education
Programs Coordinator



Jonathan Hynes
Building and Grounds
Manager

Save the Date!



Sponsors

