

Issue 63

February 2017

NEWS SAUR



PHILIP J. CURRIE
DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Fieldwork Preview

The museum has been busy preparing fieldwork plans for this summer. The museum will be working with the University of Alberta (U of A) and the Northern Alberta Dinosaur Project (NADP) to maximize the number of fossils we can collect over the summer months. As the potential for new discoveries in the area is very high, we will be working collaboratively to cover as much ground as we can. For the summer of 2017, the museum will be very active at the Pipestone Creek bonebed, continuing the collection of Pachyrhinosaurus and other bones from this incredibly dense site. The museum will also help the U of A and NADP teams prospect for and explore new localities. One new site that has a great deal of potential is called the DC bonebed. This site has already produced a number of exciting but small bones that are rarely preserved at other sites, including a fossil turtle skull that our museum palaeontologist, Derek Larson, is currently working collaboratively with the U of A and NADP to describe. We can't wait to see what new discoveries are waiting

Roy Bickell Exhibit

The museum would not exist without the dedication of so many community members. Our next exhibit at the museum will focus on someone who left an indelible mark on the museum and palaeontology education in the region. Roy Bickell, amateur fossil collector and former River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society Board member, donated his collection of thousands of area fossils to the museum in 2015. This month, the museum is proud to announce it will be putting some of those fossils on display in our Rotary Room. Roy had a keen eye for fossils of the area, and we hope by displaying part of his collection we can educate and inspire the next generation of fossil hunters.



Photos: February lecture series speaker, Dr. Aaron Leblanc.

Lecture series 2017 Continues

Dr. Jason Donev from the University of Calgary closed out our 2016 lecture series on a cold Saturday in December with his talk on energy and climate change. The kickoff for our 2017 lecture series was an all-day affair, with Fossil ID Day immediately preceding back-to-back lectures from Royal Tyrrell Museum preparation lab supervisor Dr. Lorna O'Brien and Royal Tyrrell Museum post-doctoral fellow Dr. Caleb Brown. The fossil ID Day was the busiest we have had so far, and the talks focused on exciting new Alberta finds, many of which had not been previously shown to the public. The 2017 lecture series is shaping up to be very exciting, and we hope interested members of the public will join us for this excellent line-up of speakers.

Our upcoming FREE lecture series talks include:

Feb. 11, 2017 3pm Dr. Aaron Leblanc "The better to eat you with: taking a look inside the teeth of dinosaurs"

Mar. 18, 2017 1pm Fossil ID Day – Bring your own rocks and fossils into the museum for free identification with our staff palaeontologist, Derek Larson

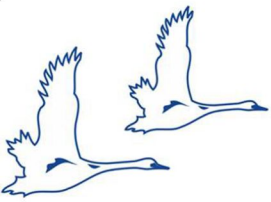
Mar. 18, 2017 3pm Dr. Brian Chatterton "The ins and outs of trilobites, around the world"

Apr. 8, 2017 3pm Dr. Rich McCrea "The Six Peaks Dinosaur Track Site"

Apr. 8, 2017 4pm Dr. Lisa Buckley "Dinosaur tracks and behavior: an ichnology view into the lives of dinosaurs"

Photo: Dr. Corwin Sullivan, incoming Philip J. Currie Professor in Paleontology at the University of Alberta and Robin Sissons, researcher with the Northern Alberta Dinosaur Project.





Swan City
Rotary



Club of Grande Prairie

Swan City Rotary Partnership Continues

This past month Swan City Rotary partnered with the Museum to bring a second group out for a day trip. Participants from Rotary House were treated to a guided gallery tour and a National Geographic film. The Museum and Swan City Rotary look forward to bringing more groups out in the future. If you are a not-for-profit group that would like to attend the museum but may not be able to due to financial constraints, we may be able to help. Funding is available to assist with transportation, museum admission and potentially a program. Interested groups are encouraged to contact Jewels Goff at jgoff@dinomuseum.ca or call 587-771-0662 ext 406 for more information.

Summer Plans in the Works

Currently we are working on planning out all of our summer programs. Our ever popular Bonebed Tours will be available at the end of June until end of August. If you have not had a chance to visit our Pachyrhinosaurus lakustai site yet make sure you get out there this summer. It's a fantastic family friendly opportunity to enjoy nature while learning about the mysteries of Cretaceous Alberta. Bonebed Tours are available for school bookings during the month of June. Book early to reserve your spot as space is limited. In addition to Bonebed Tours we will be offering summer programs at the museum for children of all ages. Details of our summer programs schedule will be released by mid-May.

Are you a post-secondary student looking for work this summer? The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will be looking for students in multiple positions. Students must meet the qualifications as stipulated by the funding grants. Job postings and details on how to apply will be on our website mid-February. This is a great opportunity to gain experience helping teach; this opportunity would also make for an amazing summer, with our fun staff, amazing volunteers, and great students you are guaranteed to have the best summer.



THE
**LAST
LIONS**

Now Playing 'The Last Lions'

The gripping real-life saga of Ma di Tau, her cubs, the buffalo, and the rival pride unfolds inside a glaring reality: lions are vanishing from the wild. Are Ma di Tau and her young to be among the last lions? Or will we as humans, having seen how tough, courageous, and poignant their lives in the wild are, be moved to make a difference. This 90-minute feature length film will be playing weekly on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon.

What's going on the Fossil Lab?

Lucky visitors to the museum in January may have noticed an increase in activity in the Fossil Lab which can be seen from observation windows in the museum gallery. January marked to start of the museum volunteer fossil preparation program. Volunteers have started the slow process of cleaning the rock off of fossils and gluing broken pieces of fossils back together. Our volunteers have been working on material from the nearby Pipestone Creek bonebed, slowly bringing the secrets of a herd of Pachyrhinosaurus dinosaurs to light. We have a huge amount of gratitude for our volunteers and all of their hard work!

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in our Fossil Lab, please visit

<https://dinomuseum.ca/programs/public-programs/fossil-preparation-lab>
/ for more information and a schedule of volunteer times.



Spot the Dino

Have you seen our mascot around town? Have been wondering what it is all about? Spot the Dino Friday's will be taking place twice a month at different locations every time. Follow the steps below to be entered to WIN!



1. Find Aluk, our dinosaur mascot
2. Take a picture with him (don't worry he is a friendly dinosaur!)
3. Upload your picture to social media
4. Tag our museum @curriemuseum, the location we are at, and #spotthedino



Be sure to check out our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/curriemuseum/> for more information, dates, hints and location reveals.

Volunteers Needed

Are you an education student? Or do you just LOVE palaeontology? We are looking for an Educational Program Assistant to assist in preparation work for our Education programs: Tuesday – Thursdays 10:00am – 3:00pm. This would be an opportunity to embrace your creative side; or an experience to work with school aged children and our knowledgeable educational programmer. Applications can be filled out on our website.

Upcoming Events

Feb 3: Spot the Dino Friday 6-7PM

Feb 11: Free Lecture Series: Dr. Aaron LeBlanc 3PM

Feb 17: Spot the Dino Friday 7-8 PM

Feb 20: Family Day: Museum Open 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Dine-O-Saur

The Dine O Saur is now offering daily lunch specials! Everything is homemade and made fresh daily.

Call (587)-771-0662 ext. 402 for more information



Check us out on Facebook to find your favorite lunch specials! <https://www.facebook.com/DineOSaur>

www.dinomuseum.ca

New Staff

Amber Moss
Ticketing Clerk



Erin Weeks
Visitor Service Coordinator



Minji Kang
Ticketing Clerk



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