

ISSUE 45

JUNE 2015

NEWS SAUR



Photo Credit: Gebrige Jacob



Photo Credit: Candice Popik



PHILIP J. CURRIE
DINOSAUR MUSEUM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May has been an exciting month of many firsts!

FIRST visit from the senior staff of the Royal Tyrell Museum led by President and CEO Dr. Andrew Neuman. The visit was particularly important for the museum as we were in the final stages of negotiating loans of specimens that require utmost care- both in transit and during installation stages.

FIRST Board Training at the museum was led by Mary Case, former Chief Registrar of the Smithsonian Institution, Executive Coach and the Founder of the widely acclaimed National Building Museum Conference in its 13th year of operation.

FIRST group of 60 francophone 8th graders arrived at the museum for an educational tour from Montreal. This provided the education staff to experiment with the pilot group and engage them constructively through the primary content areas.

FIRST launch of the museum's e-shopping services on-line. Limited merchandize is now available on our web-site including coffee mugs, hats, T-Shirts and dino pins.

FIRST museum theatre in Canada to enter into a long-term partnership agreement with National Geographic. This is indeed a significantly positive development that would provide a tremendous platform enabled by an unmatched global brand of academic excellence.

FIRST truck with installation crews arrived on site last week and will continue to work on site for the next 100 days! This marked the substantial completion of a very complex and fast paced exhibit design-build process.

FIRST group of student interns joined us from the University of Toronto, University of Victoria and University of Alberta. The museum provides valuable work experience in areas of interpretive planning, exhibit design, collections management, education, outreach and destination development.

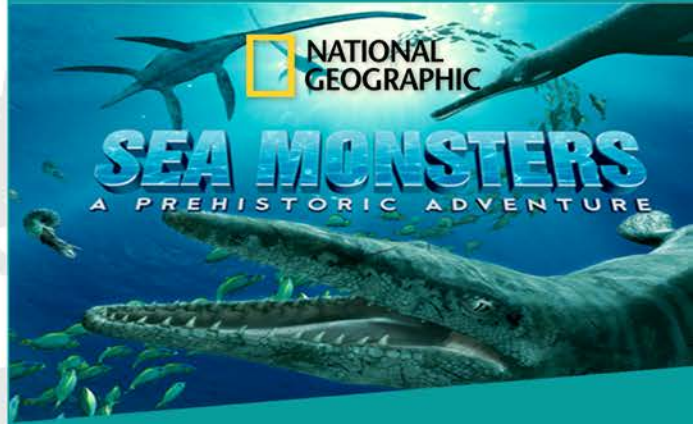
The coming months will see many exciting developments as we begin the count-down for a grand opening. Membership campaigns, fundraising events, facility rentals, visitor services and community activities will see enhanced museum involvement. The Society Board has stepped up its support and leadership to make this museum a memorable and vital institution in times to come.

Stay tuned! Stay Connected.

George Jacob

National Geographic Steps In!

In a significant development, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum became the ONLY museum in Canada to accommodate a National Geographic Theatre venue. In a five year collaborative agreement, the museum will be allowed to screen National Geographic films and documentaries at the 70 seat Aykroyd Family Theatre. While custom mural work and museum's own documentary production is underway, the museum will begin opening the facility for special events and rentals prior to the Fall 2015 grand opening.



The Rotary Club of Grande Prairie Awards \$100,000

Following multiple presentations by the President & CEO to various Rotary clubs in the city bringing the community up to speed, President Pam French of the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie announced the award of \$100,000 towards sponsoring the Special Exhibits Gallery at the museum that will host traveling exhibits. The grant will be utilized for developing exhibits that would travel to other museums, institutions and locations including the airport in Grande Prairie. The award will be released in two installments over 2015 and 2016. The first exhibit to debut in the Special Exhibits Gallery will be the Ice Age Mammals from the Canadian Museum of Nature.



Provides Specimen Loans

Strengthening collaborative ties, the Royal Tyrrell Museum Executive Director Andrew Neuman visited the museum with Director of Preservation & Research, Don Brinkman and Collections Manager Brandon Strilisky. Following extensive discussions on exhibit requirements and optimal conditions needed to store and secure priceless specimens, the museum will be receiving materials on loan from Drumheller. Specialist museum paleontologist Dr. Matt Herne was instrumental in providing the necessary coordination in realizing this milestone.



Board Members with Mary Case

Former Chief Registrar of the Smithsonian, Mary Case Leads Board Training

Mary Case, the former Chief Registrar of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC was in Grande Prairie in early May to lead the first ever Board Retreat. Extending over a full day, she engaged Board Members through gainful discussions and insights into Governance, Fundraising and Extending Civic Reach. The discourses focused on sustaining the museum beyond the immediacy of opening and strategize on building an endowment to sustain the operations of the museum given its limited population base and climate-based cyclical challenges. The Board members also got a visual update on the progress of the exhibit design-build work and reading material on best practices on museum ethics, policy and the complexity of creating a museum experience.



Left to Right: Don Brinkman, Brandon Strilisky, Andrew Neuman, Robin Sissons, Matt Herne & George Jacob



Guests search for fossils in 2014 at the Pipestone Creek Bone Bed

First French Exchange School Group Arrives

On Friday May 8 the Grade 7 students of Grande Prairie's Mother Teresa Catholic School entertained their Montreal French Exchange guests at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. Activities included a tour of the building, the creation of fossil casts, and dinosaur foot print murals. Assorted dinosaur hats provided ample opportunity for memorable photographs Ruby Dilawari, Emma Fanning, Jewels Goff, Laura Reilly, and Robin Sissons ensured that the 57 students and 7 supervisors had a fun educational experience. This tour is the first of many that the staff of Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum have planned for the students of North Western Alberta.

Board Member Improves Accessibility at Pipestone Creek Bone-bed Site

Following up on Dr. Phil Currie's request from 2013-14 to assist in providing access to the Pipestone Creek bone-bed. Board Member Tim Powell took on the challenge to donate time, equipment and effort in widening access, egress and work path to the Pipestone Creek bone-bed site. The over-burden is carefully being removed in consultation with specialists and the work will conclude by June first week providing access to even those visitors in wheel chairs. The museum hopes to start bone-bed palaeo tours as early as in June.



Laura Reilly instructs a class of Grade 7 students

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)

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



Emma Fanning
Education Department Intern

On-Line Shopping Launched

Limited merchandise is now available on sale on the museum's e-shop. Please visit www.dinomuseum.ca Gift Shop to for some interesting designerware. Your purchases go towards supporting the mission and mandate of the museum.



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