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## NEWS LOCAL

Soft opening targetted for August: O'Toole

# Dinos to make museum home



By Kieran Markle, Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune Staff  
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An artist's rendering of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. (Supplied)

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in Wembley will soon welcome dinosaurs into its midst.

City councillor Kevin O'Toole, who is on the museum board, said starting next week they'll be preparing to have dinosaur exhibits brought in.

"The dinosaur museum was built with the opportunity to put some exhibits in on a permanent scale and the bases will be coming in, they're unloading the truck about nine o'clock tomorrow morning. That process will last a little more than a couple weeks. Then once that part gets done it's all ready to go with other stuff. So everything is (done in) a timely manner, there's not going to be five trucks, it's going to be one truck, when it gets done and unloaded another truck will come in. So that process is happening, there will be some electronics that needs to be done, some lighting, some wiring, all that kind of good stuff," said O'Toole.

The museum will have multiple mini-openings to introduce new exhibits on feature.

"We're going to have numerous 'soft openings,' sort of cordon off certain areas, like the laboratory will be basically out of bounds for most of the stuff but there's going to be numerous soft openings... probably at least six or eight for sure," said O'Toole.

According to O'Toole, the museum has "less than 100 days, more like 90 days, until things start happening". Landscaping is ongoing around the building to prepare for the new exhibits. They also have some other features being put in. "We've got a fish aquarium that is absolutely huge... and that will be something to see. The gift shop is a fantastic gift shop. The other thing that's going in, and we're just shortening the tenders here now, is the kitchen and patio.

"One of the other things I'm pretty proud of is the promotion of the museum is taking place. We're pretty proud that we're going to have some little mini-documentaries that you can take in, that last about 20 to 22 minutes and you can sit in there and there's be two or three different films each day. So if you're there for all day or part of the day you'll get to see three different movies." said O'Toole. The playground, visible from the highway, is also ready for action starting.

The soft openings will begin in a little over three months.

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