



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Roy Bickell Fossil Collection opens to the public

Currie Dinosaur Museum honours late local fossil collector with new exhibit

March 28, 2017

WEMBLEY, ALBERTA – The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will open the Roy Bickell Fossil Collection – its newest temporary exhibit – to the public today, Tuesday, March 28. The exhibit features nearly 100 fossils contributed to the museum by the late Roy Bickell, an avid amateur fossil collector from the local region and a key proponent of the museum’s establishment.

“The exhibit is a great teaching tool for the budding amateur fossil collector,” says Derek Larson, the museum’s assistant curator. “It showcases the types of fossils that you might find in your own backyard.”

Having begun collecting specimens in 1962, Bickell eventually amassed thousands of fossils from all over the region, the majority of which he donated to local museums and institutions. Prior to his passing in 2015, he donated over 3,000 specimens to the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, many pieces from which are included in this new exhibit named in his honour.

Though they never met in person, Larson feels that he has come to know Bickell better in cataloguing his donated collection. “He had a passion for finding fossils and about learning about the fossil history of the area,” says Larson.

The exhibit will be on display as one of the museum’s special exhibits and accessible to all visitors.

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum – a 41,000 square foot world-class facility named for Canada’s preeminent palaeontologist and highlighting the rich fossil resources of Northern Alberta – opened its doors to the public on September 26, 2015 just outside of the City of Grande Prairie as Canada’s second devoted dinosaur museum.

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