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NEWS LOCAL

Dinosaur museum on schedule of fall opening

Jacob recognized by Alberta Venture



By Jocelyn Turner, Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune
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George Jacob, president and CEO of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum has been named as one of Alberta's 50 most influential people by Alberta Venture magazine. Photo supplied

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is making headlines again, this time highlighting its president and CEO George Jacob.

Jacob was recently recognized by Alberta Venture as one of the 50 most influential people in Alberta. While he has not yet seen the article as he is out of town, Jacob said it's humbling to be acknowledged.

"Any establishment of an institution like this (museum) is essentially a public service and the decisions that you make will eventually influence and shape many minds and many lives. Museums are not built every day so every establishment of a new institution is making history and adding a new destination in Canada," he said. "I think that is quite gratifying to be able to be associated with the formation of such an institution, put some systems in place and establish a vision that would continue to serve our communities for times to come."

Other exciting news for the museum is the progress with exhibit installation. Jacob said as of Thursday, the work is about 55% complete; right on schedule for the museum's September opening.

"We earlier stated of establishing some of the millwork... and doing all the ground (work) for the bone bed. These things, they take more time than others and all those elements are in place, and (in) 55 to 60 days would be where the other elements of the exhibits come in," he said. "Currently, we have all the articulated skeletal elements installed."

The next phase of the exhibit installation comprises all the multimedia, audio visual and special effects and graphics.

"The next 60 days is going to see the completion of the entire exhibit experience so we're kind of excited about that process," said Jacob.

"This is exactly where we need to be at this stage... Our soft opening is in 61 days, Sept. 3, so every day counts and the crews are working after hours and also on the weekends."

Also in the works is the design for the display at the Edmonton International Airport (EIA) as well as a display at the Grande Prairie Regional Airport.

"... They (EIA vice presidents) are zeroing in on an area called Bridge 56... the area between Gate 54 and Gate 58. It's a considerable stretch of space and we're in the process of (designing) that area to actively establish a (museum) presence," he said.

"The presence at the GP airport, we're in the process of making sure we have a visual experience there prior to the Tour of Alberta bicycle tour."

For more information about the museum and its programs, visit www.dinomuseum.ca.

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