



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fundraiser attracts outpouring of support for Dino Museum

October 19, 2017

WEMBLEY, ALBERTA – Over 300 attendees filled the Pomeroy Hotel on Saturday, September 30 for the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum annual fundraiser – this year dubbed “A Night for the Museum – Everybody Rock the Dinosaur,” in support of the organization’s educational programs and technologies.

“This year’s fundraiser was an immense success,” said Susan Hunter, the museum’s executive director. “We are so grateful to everyone – the board, the guests, the volunteers, and the staff at the Pomeroy who helped make this amazing event possible. The commitment of the organizing committee was impressive and much appreciated.”

The fundraising event was highlighted with a tribute to Dr. Philip Currie, for whom the museum was named, for his recent acceptance of the prestigious Romer-Simpson Medal. Both he and his wife Dr. Eva Koppelhus addressed the crowd.

Attendees enjoyed gourmet dining followed by dancing to the live music of Groove N Tonic. The most popular attraction was a games room, complete with carnival-type excitement, dancing dinosaurs, and prizes. The organizers exceeded the promise of less fuss and more fun.

A wide collection silent auction items drew the attention of many. Live items sold that evening included trips across the globe accompanied by iconic Canadian musicians and Olympic athletes, as well as entertainment and sporting packages in both Canada and the US. The Maveraffle draw was made at the event sprinkling even more fun on an already energy-charged evening.

True to form, the local business community was present by helping fund the event through various areas of sponsorship. An example of that support was GP Auto Group presenting representatives of the museum with a generous cash donation of nearly \$30,000.

“The citizens of Grande Prairie and the Peace Region have been very supportive of the Grande Prairie Auto Group,” said the company’s president Wes Kaban, of the donation. “It is our absolute pleasure to give back to our community.”



PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM

“I am passionate about the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum,” Kaban continued. “It has contributed in putting Grande Prairie on the map. It provides exceptional learning opportunities for the youth of our community and visitors from near and far. I am proud and honoured to have the opportunity to be a small part of a museum of this magnitude.”

To date, the Grande Prairie Auto Group has donated a total of \$119,700 to the museum. “I am personally looking forward to spending more time at the museum with my grandson, taking advantage of everything the museum has to offer,” Kaban said.

The culmination of the evening’s fundraising initiatives translates to over \$165,000 to be directed towards the continuing development of the educational programs for the museum and research.

“We are very pleased with this year’s event. Like all not-for-profit endeavours, we need to be actively coming up with creative ways to engage our partners, whether that be through awareness, research funding, financial support, community involvement, or volunteering,” said Linda Side, chair of the board and the fundraising committee for this year’s event. “Pride of ownership of such a regional gem is the secret ingredient to long-term commitment and engagement. You could feel it in the room that night! Stay with us as the evolution of this attraction continues.”

Though now just over two years old, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum has already been recognized internationally for its innovative approach to fossil preservation, prehistoric research, and education programming, as well as for its award-winning architectural design.

School attendance program visits to the museum have increased over last year and the museum is preparing for its participation in the Alberta Summer Games, having been the chosen site for the opening of the games, with attendance anticipated at several thousand spectators and participants.

“This is an extremely exciting time for our organization,” said Hunter. “We are continuing to see just how impactful the support of our investors and stakeholders is as we invite visitors from Alberta and beyond through our doors to learn, grow, and celebrate with us.”

About the museum

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.



PHILIP J. CURRIE
DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Attached photo information

Pictured: (Back row, left to right) Susan Hunter, Margaret McCuaig-Boyd (Alberta Minister of Energy), Dr. Eva Koppelhus, Dr. Philip Currie; (Front row, left to right) Ryan Blais (emcee of the event), Jeremy Budde (GP Auto), Troy Collinge (GP Auto), Linda Side, Wes Kaban (GP Auto)

Photographer: William Vavrek

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