
'We want to make it even better'

Supporting the museum means a more vibrant community, say Sargents

News Release

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GRANDE PRAIRIE – With its recent contribution of \$100,000 to the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, the Ken and Teresa Sargent Family Foundation will bring to life the Interactive Dig Wall – one of the facility's most interactive, entertaining exhibits.

"I loved dinosaurs when I was a kid, so did my brother, so did my Dad, my Mom loved fossils ... I'm pretty sure that's something that never goes away," said Sean Sargent, on behalf of the Foundation. As a family, he said, they wanted to support the project in a tangible way. "We thought the dig wall sounded really neat – something interactive that kids will love."

There was no question they'd support the museum project, Sean said. "It's going to bring a certain vibrancy to Grande Prairie and it will certainly ante up the cultural level. It's also going to be a huge boon for the economy."

The dig wall, which will bear the name of the Sargent Family Foundation, is a hands-on re-creation of a palaeo excavation. Visitors will use tools to excavate and remove authentic replica fossils. The bones will contain digital barcodes that can be scanned for further information on the dinosaur and where it came from.

"I think it's great that we would be included in the outstanding list of community projects that have been supported by this family foundation over the years," said Brian Brake, executive director of the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative. "Their focus on children will be personified by their choice – the Interactive Dig Wall will bring many hours of fun and education to thousands of kids."

"The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is poised to play a very important role in our region's economy and in sharing this part of our history," said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "This generous contribution by the Sargent family will help bring this story to life for our younger generations in a way that's very unique and memorable."

It was an easy decision for the Sargents to support the museum, said Ken Sargent, the family patriarch. "We've been long term business people in Grande Prairie, approaching 70 years, and I've always believed in giving back to the community. The dinosaur project was of special interest to us, it's just a great thing to do for the City and County."



“We’ve always had a strong commitment to the community and a long tradition of giving back,” said Scott Sargent, of their family business and the foundation, which was started as a legacy for their mother Teresa when she passed away in 2004. “Grande Prairie’s the best place to live in the world, in my opinion. We just want to make it even better.”

Helping the dinosaur museum is a part of that, said Sean. “In the big picture we think it’s a great project that’s going to enhance life overall and we’re proud and honoured to be a part of it.”

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About the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum and the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, scheduled to open its doors in Fall 2014, will be a 41,000 sq. foot, world-class facility highlighting the rich fossil resources of Northern Alberta. Named for Dr. Philip Currie, Canada’s preeminent palaeontologist, the museum, located in Wembley AB will serve as a hub of education and science in the area. The Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative is the omnibus term for the project team tasked with the realization of the museum.

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