

# Dino museum to finally open fall 2015

## ‘The ball is rolling,’ says museum president and CEO

By Elise Mumert

The Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur museum will open in September 2015, says museum president and CEO George Jacobs.

Jacob adds that the County council has “very proactively” made finishing the displays available following its last budget meeting, and that things are moving very quickly to jumpstart display fabrication. In its 2015 interim capital budget the County has set aside \$6.2 million dollars for the museum displays, landscaping and kitchen area of the museum, plus an additional \$880,000 for display fabrication Request for Proposals.

Jacobs states this money has two aspects: the specialized casting of specific molds and bone casts, and the main production of permanent exhibits.

The County has contributed \$19.3 million dollars in total to the Phillip J. Currie Museum, including covering the museum’s initial operating costs like wages, insurance, overhead, and utilities while it is readying for the grand opening in fall 2015.

Jacob is confident that after it opens, the museum will be able to support itself.

“The aim is to have a viable institution that can sustain itself,” he states. “The first nine months are preparation for the opening. From 2016 on, the museum will be striving for more sustainability.”

Since Jacob arrived at the museum this summer, the museum has made steady steps forward.

The museum’s new website has been launched, which Jacob reports “follows a new branding, a very distinct line taking off from the museum itself.”

At curriemuseum.ca, viewers can see a listing of museum programs, graphic renderings of the exhibits, learn about the museum’s research, and more. Jacob adds that the website will soon be fully bilingual with English and French components.

Jacob reports that the building itself is 99 per cent complete and is just waiting on inspections. He says the building is in the process of being handed off to the museum, and hopefully by January 5th the museum staff should be able to move in. “After Christmas vacation, we should be in a fairly strong position... Once we have occupancy our staff can move in and actively work towards finishing the interior – the exhibits, restaurant, gift shop, theatre,” he states.

The construction of the building was worth the wait. Earlier this month PCL Construction won the 2014 Alberta Construction Award for the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in the under \$50 million category.



(Above and below) Graphic renderings depict what the museum’s interior will look like when it opens next fall. George Jacob (bottom) has worked hard since he came on board last summer to promote the Phillip J. Currie museum brand.

(Photos submitted)

