

May 18, 2010

## Royal Tyrrell Museum celebrates 25th anniversary

### ***New exhibit opens May 22; 10-millionth visitor expected this summer amid official celebrations***

*Drumheller...* The Royal Tyrrell Museum turns 25 this year, with plans for a major birthday party, a special new exhibit and the anticipation of hitting a new attendance milestone.

To kick off its 25th anniversary season, a new exhibit, *Alberta Unearthed: 25 stories of discovery*, will showcase 25 of the museum's most significant specimens and the intriguing stories of their discoveries.

"The Royal Tyrrell Museum has been making Albertans proud for 25 years," said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. "The entire museum staff is committed to the highest standards of scientific excellence, with an equally strong commitment to sharing Alberta's wonderful heritage of palaeontology with the world."

The museum invites the public to participate in anniversary celebrations September 17-19 in conjunction with Alberta Arts Days. The official Royal Tyrrell Museum birthday party will be held Saturday, September 25.

Sometime this summer, the museum is also looking forward to welcoming its 10-millionth visitor – a worthy milestone for this very special year.

The anniversary exhibit, *Alberta Unearthed: 25 stories of discovery*, is about the people, places, and pieces at the heart of Canada's world-renowned dinosaur museum. Amazing stories, extraordinary illustrations and photographs, and spectacular specimens come together in this tribute to a quarter century of scientific success.

Selecting 25 specimens from a collection of 130,000 fossils was a challenging task. "The specimens we chose tell the story of the Royal Tyrrell Museum while highlighting some of the most significant discoveries in modern science," said Andrew Neuman, the museum's executive director. "The result is an incredible exhibit, featuring everything from a stunning *Tyrannosaurus rex* named 'Black Beauty' to an exquisite piece of amber, to a flying turtle from China."

Complementing the exhibit is *Alberta Unearthed: the game*. Hosted in the museum auditorium, this free 30-minute game show focuses on specimens from the 25th anniversary exhibit and challenges the audience with images, video clips, puzzles and multiple-choice questions. *Alberta Unearthed: 25 stories of discovery* opens May 22 and continues until September 2011.

Operated by the Government of Alberta, the Royal Tyrrell Museum is located six kilometres northwest of Drumheller on Highway 838. For more information visit [www.tyrrellmuseum.com](http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com) or call 403-823-7707 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access in Alberta).

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## **Royal Tyrrell Museum Opened in 1985**

*Only museum in Canada dedicated exclusively to palaeontology*

The Royal Tyrrell Museum opened in 1985 and houses one of the world's largest collections of dinosaurs. Named after geologist Joseph Burr Tyrrell who discovered a 70-million-year-old dinosaur skull near present day Drumheller, the museum received the "Royal" appellation in 1990.

Originally intended to serve as a scientific research facility, the museum's mandate evolved to include a series of exhibit halls that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually from all corners of the globe. As the only museum in Canada dedicated exclusively to palaeontology, it has become world renowned for its ground-breaking research, engaging exhibits and innovative public education programs that bring prehistory to life.

Specimens from the Royal Tyrrell Museum are currently on display in Paris at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle as part of an international exhibit entitled *In the shadow of the Dinosaurs (Dans l'ombre des dinosaurs)*. For information on the exhibit, visit [www.dinos.mnhn.fr](http://www.dinos.mnhn.fr)

Royal Tyrrell Museum educational programs are being delivered within the province and across the globe from the ATCO Tyrrell Learning Centre, via distance learning. Students throughout North America, as well as those in the Netherlands, Mexico, and Honduras are discovering Alberta's dinosaurs.

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