

ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

In Alberta
403-823-7707

In North America (toll free)
1-888-440-4240

2014/15 MUSEUM FACTS

MUSEUM OVERVIEW



The Royal Tyrrell Museum is one of the world's premiere palaeontological research facilities and Canada's only museum dedicated exclusively to palaeontology.

The Museum:

- is situated in Midland Provincial Park
- is home to approximately 157,000 individual specimens, over 300 of which are holotypes (term used to describe an individual plant or animal that serves as the basis for the description of a species)
- adds thousands of specimens to its collection annually
- spans over 835,000 sq. ft. of the Alberta badlands. The main building is 120,000 sq. ft., which includes 45,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space. The ATCO Tyrrell Learning Centre provides an additional 16,500 sq. ft. devoted to Educational Programming.
- is operated by Alberta Culture and generates the highest economic output of all Alberta Government heritage attractions

ATTENDANCE & VISITORS

In 2013/14, the Royal Tyrrell Museum welcomed:

- over 380,000 visitors from 125 countries
- over 27,800 students participating in educational programs on site
- over 4,600 distance learning students

The Royal Tyrrell Museum houses a range of galleries and exhibit spaces that immerse visitors in the 3.9-billion-year-history of life on Earth.

CURRENT GALLERIES

Current galleries include:

- *Cretaceous Garden*
- *Alberta's Last Sea Dragon: solving an ancient puzzle*
- *Alberta Unearthed: 25 stories of discovery*
- *Cretaceous Alberta*
- *Science Hall*
- *Lords of the Land*
- *Burgess Shale*
- *Devonian Reef*
- *Dinosaur Hall*
- *Mammal Hall*

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ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Royal Tyrrell Museum offers a variety of programs designed to inspire the young and young at heart with creative, fun, and educational activities that bring the Museum to life. From award-winning school and outreach programs to innovative and adventurous summer public programs, the Museum makes palaeontology accessible for everyone.

For more information or to book a program, please visit:
www.tyrrellmuseum.com/programs

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCIENCE

It's the insatiable curiosity of the scientists at the Royal Tyrrell Museum that drives the research program. Their discoveries provide the basis for everything we do, from educational programming to exhibit development. Their work enhances our understanding of the evolution of life on Earth.

For introductions, bios, and recent publications, please visit:
www.tyrrellmuseum.com/research/our_scientists.htm

HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM

On August 12, 1884, Joseph Burr Tyrrell (TEER-uhl), a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, discovered a 70-million-year-old carnivorous dinosaur skull near present day Drumheller. Tyrrell's find was named *Albertosaurus sarcophagus* ("flesh eating lizard from Alberta") in 1905 by American Museum of Natural History palaeontologist Henry Fairfield Osborn.

So significant was Tyrrell's discovery that when the Museum opened its doors to the public on September 25, 1985, it was named the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Originally intended to serve as a research and scientific facility, the plans soon changed to include a large public gallery and display area that attracted over 500,000 visitors in its first year.

Since receiving the "royal" appellation in 1990, the Royal Tyrrell Museum has become world-renowned for its innovative public education programs, engaging exhibits, and ongoing devotion to the science of palaeontology.

The Royal Tyrrell Museum is dedicated to the collection, protection, presentation, and interpretation of palaeontological history, with special reference to Alberta's rich fossil history.

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2014/15 BEHIND THE SCIENCE

OVERVIEW

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For expanded scientist bios, visit our online research page at:
www.tyrrellmuseum.com/research/our_scientists.htm

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCIENCE

Andrew G. Neuman, M.Sc., Executive Director
andrew.neuman@gov.ab.ca

Andy's research focuses on Mesozoic Era fishes from western North America, including fossil sharks and teleosts from a fish fossil-rich area in Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park.

STORY IDEAS:

- New freshwater fish from Western Canada (Triassic of B.C., Cretaceous of Alberta)
- International exhibit partnerships

Donald B. Brinkman, Ph.D., Director, Preservation & Research
don.brinkman@gov.ab.ca

Don's research focuses on how ancient animals, and turtles in particular, lived in their ancient environments.

STORY IDEAS:

- Comparison of fossil turtles from Asia, North America, and Mexico
- Using microfossil assemblages to study vertebrate distribution and the effect of climate change on communities of the past.

Donald M. Henderson, Ph.D., Curator of Dinosaurs
don.henderson@gov.ab.ca

Donald's primary focus is dinosaurs and marine reptiles, and the use of mathematics to study dinosaur locomotion. He is especially interested in how extinct animals functioned as living organisms.

STORY IDEAS:

- *Albertonectes*, a new species of elasmosaur, and the feature specimen in *Alberta's Last Sea Dragon*
- The armoured dinosaur discovered in the Suncor mine
- Dinosaur size and biomechanics

François Therrien, Ph.D., Curator of Dinosaur Palaeoecology
francois.therrien@gov.ab.ca

François' specialization is palaeoecology: the study of the lifestyle and behaviours of extinct animals and what the world they lived in was like.

STORY IDEAS:

- Feeding behaviours of extinct predators
- The sense of smell in theropods (mainly carnivorous, bipedal dinosaurs) interpreted from the shape of the brain



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THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCIENCE

Craig S. Scott, Ph.D., Curator of Fossil Mammals

craig.scott@gov.ab.ca

Craig's specialty is Palaeocene age (66 – 55 million years ago) mammals and the evolution of mammals during the end of the Age of Dinosaurs and the beginning of the Age of Mammals.

STORY IDEAS:

- The rise of mammals after the extinction of dinosaurs
- The Gao Mine locality near Red Deer—a snapshot of an ancient ecosystem
- Evolution of early Palaeocene mammals from the Calgary area

Dennis R. Braman, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Palynology

dennis.braman@gov.ab.ca

Dennis specializes in the study of organic-walled microfossils like plant spores, pollen, algae, and fungal spores.

STORY IDEAS:

- Fossil pollen and spores, the most abundant fossils found in the badlands
- The Cretaceous/Palaeogene extinction event in Alberta

David A. Eberth, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Sedimentary Geology

david.eberth@gov.ab.ca

Dave studies the ancient environments of fossil-bearing rocks and participates in dinosaur-related projects all over the world. He is particularly interested in how dinosaur ecosystems evolved worldwide during the last 15 million years of the Age of Dinosaurs.

STORY IDEAS:

- Origin and significance of dinosaur bonebeds
- Dinosaur environments of Western Canada, Northern China, and Southern Mongolia
- Creationism, science, and evolution

James D. Gardner, Ph.D., Curator of Palaeoherpetology

james.gardner@gov.ab.ca

Jim's research focus is the study of fossil amphibians (such as frogs and salamanders) and reptiles (particularly turtles).

STORY IDEAS:

- The albanerpetontid amphibians, a little known group of amphibians.
- Using a micro CT scanner to study a pea-sized braincase

Caleb M. Brown, Ph.D., Betsy Nicholls Postdoctoral Fellow

caleb.brown@gov.ab.ca

Caleb's research investigates the diversity and biology of herbivorous dinosaurs. He is particularly interested in the anatomy and evolution of display structures (horns, frills, and crests), and the diversity and preservation of small-bodied dinosaurs.

STORY IDEAS:

- Small dinosaurs from Western Canada — what kinds are there? Were they rare?
- Ceratopsian (horned dinosaur) bonebeds and what they can tell us about the biology of these ancient animals.
- Diversity of horned dinosaurs and how their signature horns and frills change through time.

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2014/15 EXHIBIT FACTS

EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

The Cretaceous Garden

The ancient Alberta landscape was much different from what you see today. Dinosaurs and other animals lived in a lush, coastal environment dotted with swamps, ponds, and marshes. Wander through this recreated indoor landscape, filled with plants found in the fossil record.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- A fossilized dinosaur footprint found only steps from the Museum!
- A three-tonne fossilized tree stump, Alberta's provincial stone
- Two *Ginkgo* trees, often called living fossils because they have barely changed in over 270 million years

Alberta Unearthed: 25 stories of discovery

Features our 25 most significant specimens.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- A stunning *T. rex* named "Black Beauty" with rare darkened bones tinted by manganese during fossilization. "Black Beauty" is one of only two *T. rex* specimens ever discovered in Alberta
- The young marine reptile *Mosasaurus* specimen that reveals the rare fossilization of soft tissue and its last meal
- The braincase of the small, meat-eating dinosaur *Troodon* that eventually helped to confirm the bird-dinosaur connection

Lords of the Land

Showcases some of the Museum's most rare, fragile, and significant carnivores as works of art.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- The partial skull of *Atrociraptor*, a holotype specimen (the first of its kind to be found anywhere)
- One of the most complete and best preserved *Gorgosaurus* specimens
- An enormous 13.7-metre long *Tyrannosaurus rex*

Perspectives: The Palaeoart of Julius Csotonyi

A photographic exhibit featuring the artwork of Canadian scientific illustrator Julius Csotonyi. Using traditional techniques and digital media, Csotonyi works with palaeontologists and museums around the world to bring the prehistoric past to life.



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2014/15 AMENITIES

OVERVIEW

The Royal Tyrrell Museum is in the heart of the Canadian Badlands, located 6 km northwest of Drumheller in Midland Provincial Park. The building covers more than 120,000 sq. ft. with more than 45,000 sq. ft. devoted to displays.

PARKING

Parking is free of charge. Spaces are designed for cars/trucks, recreational vehicles, buses, and motorcycles.

AUDIO GUIDES

Available for rent in English, French, Spanish, Japanese, Dutch, and German.

ACCESSIBILITY

Museum exhibits and indoor programs are accessible by wheelchairs and strollers (strollers available for rent at a nominal fee).

FOOD SERVICES

The Cafeteria, with seating for 150, offers grill selections, snacks and refreshments. In the summer, visitors can enjoy their meals on the patio, surrounded by the scenic badlands, or at the picnic area located on the southeast corner of the Museum grounds.

GIFT SHOP

Operated by the Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society, the Gift Shop specializes in apparel, giftware, souvenirs and books, and features exclusive lines of logowear and books produced by the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

All proceeds from sales help to support the Museum's exhibits, research, and educational activities.

HIKING TRAILS

You set the pace when you walk the trails of Midland Provincial Park. Explore the badlands on your own along a special self-guided interpretive path near the Royal Tyrrell Museum. With an approximate walking time of 50 minutes, the 1.4 km lookout trail features interpretive signs describing points of interest.

PLAYGROUND

The Cenovus Palaeo Play Park is an area of outdoor adventure for ages 3–12. Your kids will have a ball burning off energy while climbing through the impressive play structure and digging for discoveries in our life-size *T. rex* excavation site!

COMMON DISTANCES

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From Museum to:	Kilometres	Miles	Time
Banff	246	163	3 hr
Brooks	138	85	1 hr 30 min
Calgary	135	84	1 hr 30 min
Drumheller	6	4	7 min
Edmonton	280	174	3 hr
Lethbridge	302	188	3 hr 15 min
Medicine Hat	251	156	2 hr 30 min
Red Deer	169	105	2 hr

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2014/15 CONTACT INFORMATION

MARKETING

Need help with a story? A FAM trip? General Museum help?
Contact our Head of Marketing & Public Relations:

Carrie-Ann Lunde
carrie.lunde@gov.ab.ca
403-820-6208

IMAGES

Looking for a specific image of the Museum for your story?
Or an image of a specific size?
Contact our Visual Assets Coordinator:

Sue Sabrowski
sue.sabrowski@gov.ab.ca
403-820-6282

BOOKINGS

Booking a group tour or arranging for an FIT visit?
Contact our Bookings Coordinator:

Wendy Laughlin
wendy.laughlin@gov.ab.ca
403-820-6226

CONTACT US

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