

# ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM



## 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 home to approximately 130,000 individual specimens, 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 over 2,000 specimens to its collection annually.
- site spans over 77,500 m<sup>2</sup> (835,000 sq.ft.) with the actual building being 11,200 m<sup>2</sup> (120,000 sq.ft.), and houses 4,400 m<sup>2</sup> (45,000 sq.ft.) of gallery space.
- is operated by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, and generates the highest economic output of all Alberta Government heritage attractions.

### attendance & visitors

#### IN 2010/11, THE ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM WELCOMED:

- over 375,000 visitors
- over 26,000 students who participated in Museum educational programs by visiting the Museum in person
- over 8,000 who visited virtually through video conference connections to schools across North America (hosted from the Distance Learning Studio in the ATCO Tyrrell Learning Centre)

### current galleries

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 INCLUDE:

- *Alberta Unearthed: 25 stories of discovery*
- *Cretaceous Alberta*
- *Science Hall*
- *Lords of the Land*
- *Burgess Shale*
- *Devonian Reef*
- *Cretaceous Garden*
- *"I think..." (Charles Darwin, 1837)*
- *Dinosaur Hall*
- *Age of Mammals*

### 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.

## 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](http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com/research/our_scientists)

## 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 Queen's "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.



[www.tyrrellmuseum.com](http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com)

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