

## EXHIBIT BACKGROUNDER

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator  
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# Dinosaurs & Company

Sat OCT 17, 2009 - Sun JAN 31, 2010

The Galt Museum & Archives presents the family-friendly travelling exhibit "Dinosaurs & Company" this fall, to allow local and area residents to discover the dinosaurs that lived in Alberta over 75 million years ago, their environment, living conditions, diet, and the animals they coexisted with.

Dinosaurs existed on earth for 165 million years, from 230 million before present to 65 million BP. This exhibit focuses on the specific time period 75 million BP and on a specific location - what is now Alberta. A series of interactive stations will shed light on theories of their disappearance, and on the scientists who are uncovering this ancient history.

There have been a number of major finds recorded in this area, including dinosaur bones and other fossils by George Mercer Dawson and others in 1874 during the Geological Survey of Canada; the *Albertosaurus sarcophagus* in 1884 by geologist and explorer Joseph Tyrrell [Dinosaur Provincial Park was created in 1955, and the Tyrrell Museum opened in 1985]; an *Edmontonsaurus* named in 1917; an extensive nesting site of Hadrosaur [duck-billed] dinosaurs in 1987 by Wendy Sloboda, a young girl from Warner, Alberta [Devil's Coulee Dinosaur Heritage Museum opened there as a result]; and, in 2009, the *Hesperonyx elizabethae* - the most diminutive North American carnivore yet: barely the size of a small chicken, with razor sharp, retractable claws.

Related exhibits are also planned, including *Dinosaur Finds!* highlighting the career of southern Alberta paleontologist Wendy Sloboda, in the Lower Level Gallery. *Archives Exposed... Dinosaur Country* showcases archival photographs throughout the main level meeting rooms.

Programs and events reflecting the dinosaur theme will be offered throughout the run of the exhibit, including a schedule of speakers at Café Galt, weekly family activities at Saturdays at 1:00, a special presentation of The Curator Presents... in November and a New Year's Eve Family Dinosaur Gala.

*Dinosaurs & Company* is a travelling exhibit produced by the Exhibition Production Centre of the Musée de la nature et des sciences de Sherbrooke, the Montreal Planetarium and the Musée de Paléontologie et de l'Évolution, and made possible in part by the Quebec Ministry of Culture and through a grant from the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

## GRAND OPENING

Sat OCT 17 | 11:00 am

A Red Ribbon Affair held as part of Museum Community Day



COPRODUCTION:  Musée de la nature et des sciences de Sherbrooke

 PLANÉTIARIUM DE MONTRÉAL

 Musée de Paléontologie et de l'Évolution

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 Ministère du Patrimoine canadien  
Programme d'Aide aux musées  
Canadian Heritage  
Museum Assistance Program

 Ville de Sherbrooke

 Québec  
Ministère de la Culture et des Communications  
Programme Étalez votre science

## Exhibit includes:

- A NEST PLAY AREA WITH EGGS AND BABIES
- MODULES IN THE SHAPE OF HALF-NESTS
- SHOWCASES WITH SPECIMENS AND ARTIFACTS
- GAMES, INFORMATION CARDS AND AUDIO

### Discover answers to questions like:

- What makes a dinosaur a dinosaur?
- What are the closest living relatives?
- What are the tallest, smallest, longest dinosaurs ever found?
- What is a paleontologist?
- What is a fossil?
- What gives the colour to petrified wood?
- Where have scientists found dinosaur fossils?
- How do dinosaurs get their names?
- When did the dinosaurs first appear?
- Why did dinosaurs become extinct?
- How long could a dinosaur live?
- Did dinosaurs communicate?
- Why did they grow so big?
- Did dinosaurs lay eggs?
- What is the difference between the Triassic, Cretaceous, and Jurassic periods?
- Why weren't people alive when dinosaurs lived?
- Is it possible to clone extinct animals?
- In what ways were some dinosaurs like birds?

## RELATED EXHIBITS

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator  
tel 403.320-3907 | [waitkens@galtmuseum.com](mailto:waitkens@galtmuseum.com)

### Archives Exposed... Dinosaur Country

*MAIN LEVEL MEETING ROOMS*

Since cameras arrived on the western plains, photographers have captured exciting and dramatic subjects through their lenses. The images and documents on exhibit reflect the land in southern Alberta where dinosaur fossils are found, the people who dig and study dinosaur remains, and the fascination people have with dinosaurs - even the concrete variety. This exhibit represents a small selection of images and articles from the 1880s to more recent times, all from the Galt Museum & Archives.



Small boy on Ceratopsidae type dinosaur sculpture, ca.1975. Galt Museum & Archives 19760219081.

### Dinosaur Finds!

*LOWER LEVEL GALLERY*

This exhibit highlights Wendy Sloboda's life as a dinosaur hunter and a local paleontology heroine! In 1987, she discovered the first Canadian dinosaur eggs in southern Alberta. Ten years later, she located a fossilized dinosaur dropping containing the remains of bone from a T rex meal. And in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, Wendy found what may be a new type of legless lizard. She even has a new species of dinosaur named after her because she was the first to find its footprint!

## EXHIBIT RELATED PROGRAMS

MEDIA CONTACT: Leslie Hall,  
Community Programs Coordinator  
tel 403.320-4700 | [leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com](mailto:leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com)

### Museum Community Day: Dinosaurs & Company

Sat OCT 17 | 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Free admission and activities throughout the day celebrating the new exhibit:

**ALL DAY** face painting, hands-on fossil presentation station from Devil's Coulee

**10-3:00** Fossil Casting

**11:00** Exhibit grand opening

**noon | 1:00 | 2:00 | 3:00** Film Screening: *Pond Scum* Discover how Alberta's rich fossil record fuels today's resource industry in this award-winning documentary. *25 min*

### Café Galt: Dinosaurs

*Monthly evening program | Exhibit opens at 6:00 pm for viewing prior to program at 7:00 pm | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | free refreshments*

Wed OCT 21 Wally's Beach Archaeological Site at St. Mary's Reservoir

Join Shayne Tolman to learn the background, discovery, and scientific investigation of what is rapidly becoming one of the most significant prehistoric sites in North America, the Wally's Beach site in the lake-bed of the St. Mary Reservoir. Over the past decade, Wally's Beach has yielded jaw-dropping discoveries that are changing how we view our prehistoric past, including a suite of extinct animal remains such as mammoth, horse, muskoxen, camel and, most recently, sabre-tooth cat.

*Shayne Tolman is currently conducting research at the DhPg-8 Wally's Beach site near Cardston, Alberta as one of four principal investigators. He discovered the site on a family outing in 1996, and has amassed a collection of over 3000 artifacts from the surface of the dry lake bed of the St. Mary reservoir. Born and raised in Hill Spring. Tolman completed his Bachelor of Education at the University of Lethbridge, landing a teaching career with the Westwind School Division in Cardston where he has taught for the past 23 years. He is passionate about the work at Wally's and is currently completing a 3-year leave from teaching duties. He maintains that his most significant contribution has been raising four energetic kids to adulthood with his precious and very patient wife Linda.*

Wed NOV 18 Mega Extinction

At the end of the last Ice Age, some 15,000 years ago, the Great Plains of North America was home to herds of mega fauna including the mammoth, steppe bison, wild horse and camel. The ancient people of the Plains hunted these animals for thousands of years until their eventual extinction. There exists a debate on whether many species died out because of human agency or environmental factors. Join **Chrissy Foreman** as she reviews the archaeological, paleontological and geological evidence for both sides of the argument. She will explain how archaeologists believe human hunters were able to take down these large animals and how the human species may have altered the ecosystem of the entire continent.

*Chrissy Foreman obtained her B.A. in Archaeology from the University of Lethbridge where she is presently working on her M.A. Her thesis work relates to the 2,500 year old Fincastle Bison Kill Site located near Purple Springs, Alberta. Originally from Calgary, she has lived in southern Alberta all her life. Her interests are in Plains history and archaeology, as well as the geography, geology and palaeontology of the region. She is a long time volunteer with the Galt Museum & Archives.*

Wed DEC 09 Alberta Dinosaurs with Wendy Sloboda

Wendy Sloboda will discuss fossils she has found, collected, and prepared in Alberta over the years. She also invites people to bring their fossils in and she will identify the fossils for them after the presentation. *Wendy is currently doing contract work for Museums, Universities and Private Collectors preparing fossils and working on finds from Alberta, BC, NS and China.*

Wed JAN 20 *The Lost World* Behind the Scenes & On the Screen

In 1912, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote the seminal dinosaur adventure novel, "The Lost World". In 1925, after seven years of preparation, tests and filming, the story came to the silver screen as the first feature-length dinosaur film. Cory Gross takes you through the fascinating process of bringing "The Lost World" to life, and then sit back for the screening of the historic movie.

*Cory Gross received his BA in Museum and Heritage Studies from the University of Calgary in 2005. In addition to paleontology, archaeology, Western Canadian history, natural history and travel, he also has an interest in Victorian-Edwardian Scientific Romances and early cinema. His website devoted to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" has been in operation since 1997.*

## Saturdays at 1:00: Dinosaurs & more

Saturdays | 1:00 - 2:00 pm | *family program [adults required to attend with children | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required*

Through DEC 19 | JAN 02-30

This interactive program is designed to bring our exhibits and collections to life for children of all ages!

OCT 24 **Dinosaur Bingo Race** to identify different dinosaur shapes and words when you play dinosaur bingo and win a prize!

31 **Halloween Around the World** Participate in our international Halloween activity and learn about how other people celebrate Halloween, and win a prize!

NOV 07 **Feather Brain** Join author Maureen Bush for a reading from her book *Feather Brain* where a kid's dinosaur model comes to life and participate in an exciting writing (or drawing!) activity with the author.

14 **The Bird Connection** Meet some feathered friends from the Birds of Prey Centre and learn about the connections between birds and dinosaurs.

21 **Secrets of the Lost Quarry** Journey into the Canadian Badlands and uncover an excavation site forgotten by palaeontologists almost 100 years ago without leaving the museum in this exciting video conference program from Royal Tyrrell Museum.

28 **Make-A-Saurus pt 1** Start to make your very own dinosaur model using Brian Cooley and Mary Ann Wilson's book *Make-A-Saurus*. Learn how artists work with scientists to make life-like dinosaur models for museums.

DEC 05 **Make-A-Saurus pt 2** Complete your very own dinosaur model!

12 **Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-a-Long** Learn Christmas, Chanukah, and other festival of light songs to play or sing. Bring your own instrument (or play one of ours) and take home a CD of the sing-a-long.

19 **Multi-Cultural Holiday Cards and Decorations** Make a card or decoration of your own inspired by what we have in the collections here at the museum and learn how other cultures celebrate their winter festivals of light.

JAN 02 **Build a Model Dinosaur Skeleton** Use craft foam to make your own model dinosaur skeleton from scratch. Take home the pattern and make another one of any size.

09 **Fossil Casting** See and touch real dinosaur fossils and make your own fossil cast.

16 **Jr. Palaeontologist** Become a junior palaeontologist when you dig for fossils and learn to map a dig site using real bones and artifacts in this brand new outreach program from Devil's Coulee Heritage Museum.

- 23 **Dinosaurs in the Movies** Discover how the portrayals of dinosaurs in movies and our scientific understanding of them evolved together as you journey through movie history with a series of film clips in this Royal Tyrrell Museum video conference program.
- 30 **The Reptile Connection** Meet some reptiles from Petland in this hands on presentation and learn about different reptiles and their relationship to dinosaurs.

## The Curator Presents... New Fossils, New Ideas

Wed NOV 04 | 7:00 pm | *admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | refreshments*

Join Donald Henderson, a specialist in Vertebrate Palaeontology & Biomechanics, for a Curator's Tour of the exhibit *Dinosaurs & Company*, followed by a presentation on our changing views of dinosaurs and how they lived. The past 30 years have seen great changes in our ideas about dinosaurs and their ways of life. Dr. Henderson will suggest that even *T. rex* had feathers at some time in its life. The presence of feathers gives us important clues about things that don't fossilize such as dinosaur body temperature. It is now clear that feathers and feather-like structures first evolved for other uses, and only later were adapted for flight.

**Guided Tours** of *Dinosaurs & Company* or of the permanent exhibit are available for groups and classes: call Belinda Crowson, Museum Educator to book. 403.320-4248 | [belinda.crowson@galtmuseum.com](mailto:belinda.crowson@galtmuseum.com).

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## EXHIBIT RELATED SPECIAL EVENT

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Harasem,  
Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator  
tel 403.320-4219 | [lori.harasem@galtmuseum.com](mailto:lori.harasem@galtmuseum.com)

## New Years Eve Family Dinosaur Gala

Thu DEC 31 | 6:30 pm | *Tickets go on sale NOV 1 | More information available OCT 15*

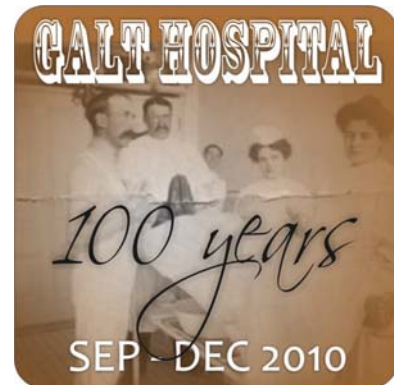
Our one-of-a kind, entertaining New Year's Eve event is a unique way to spend this exciting night with your family and without huge crowds! You will enjoy:

- the *Dinosaur & Company* exhibit
- a buffet with foods your kids will love
- games and activities for all ages
- a bar for the adults

If you have a dinosaur fan in your family, you won't want to miss this one!

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## 2010 EXHIBITS



FEB 13-MAY *Treasures & Curiosities: Community Favourites from our Collections*

JUN-AUG *Kaahsinnooniksi Aotoksisawooyawa*  
*[Our Ancestors have come to visit]: Blackfoot Shirts*

SEP-DEC *Galt Hospital: 100 Years*

For additional information and high resolution images please contact:

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