

ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

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Andrew Neuman



Dr. Donald Brinkman



Dr. Donald Henderson



Dr. François Therrien



tyrrellmuseum.com

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Story Ideas: Behind the Science

OVERVIEW

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 expanded scientist biographies, visit:

www.tyrrellmuseum.com/research/our_scientists.htm

Andrew G. Neuman, M.Sc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

STORY IDEAS:

- New Cretaceous, Jurassic, and Triassic freshwater and marine fishes from Western Canada
- Importance of cultural tourism to the diversification of Alberta's economy and the role of the Museum

Donald B. Brinkman, Ph.D.

DIRECTOR, PRESERVATION & RESEARCH

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

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
- The 60-million-year old, large, mammal tracks exposed by the 2013 floods that we mapped last year (a full technical description of them will be appearing in the RTMP 30th anniversary issue of *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*)
- The Castle River hadrosaur
- Small, theropod trackway moulding on the St Mary River

François Therrien, Ph.D.

CURATOR OF DINOSAUR PALAEOECOLOGY

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 (e.g., carnivorous dinosaurs, crocodiles, sabretooths)
- The sense of smell in theropods (mainly carnivorous, bipedal dinosaurs) interpreted from the shape of the brain
- Biodiversity and environmental changes at the end of the Age of the Dinosaurs, particularly as it relates to the Cretaceous-Palaeogene mass extinction

ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM



Dr. Craig Scott



Dr. Dennis Braman



Dr. David Eberth



Dr. James Gardner



Dr. Caleb Brown



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Craig S. Scott, Ph.D.

CURATOR OF FOSSIL MAMMALS

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
- Evolution of the earliest primates
- 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 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

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
- Radiometric ages of dinosaurs and dinosaur bearing units in Western Canada

James D. Gardner, Ph.D.

CURATOR OF PALAEOHERPETOLOGY

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'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 dinosaurs) 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

CONTACT

The Museum works with media and film crews year-round. To arrange a media visit or to brainstorm ideas for a story you would like to develop, please contact:

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