

SUPPORTING THE SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND
PUBLIC OPERATIONS OF THE ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT
2015 - 2016

The Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society (the “Society”) celebrates another successful and productive year. The Society contributed just under \$178,000 to support the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (the “Museum”) in research, exhibit development, and Distance Learning program development. The Society received just under \$9,000 in donations, honorariums, and grants to support other Museum and Society projects.

The Society thanks:

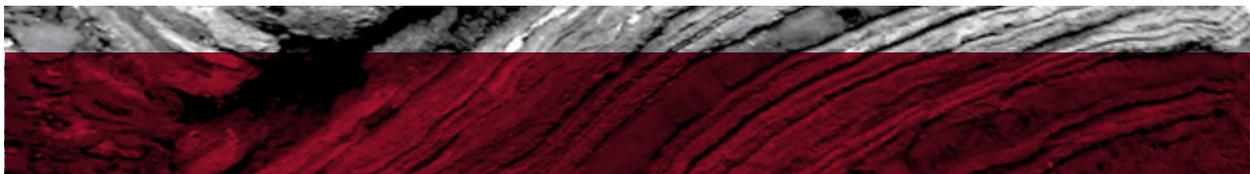
- Salazar Films, The Royal Astronomical Society, The University of Bonn, and The Calgary Foundation for grants and honorariums received.
- David Lindo, Alexis Yu, Daileas Hobbs, Robert Sinclair, Jon Moller, and several anonymous donors for their generous contributions.
- Current Society members for their continued support.

Through the dedication of the excellent management and staff, the Gift Shop had another prosperous year with just over \$2,639,200 in sales. All net profit generated from the Gift Shop is held in reserve for future Museum projects, with the exception of a small amount set aside for Society technology needs and improvements.

The Society assisted the Museum by supporting numerous research projects including:

- Travel and accommodations for researchers and technicians within Alberta, and to British Columbia, North Carolina, and Colorado. This support afforded Museum researchers and personnel the opportunity to attend conferences, present scientific papers, collaborate with colleagues, and conduct further research and study.
- Travel and accommodations for visiting researchers to work on select Museum research projects, including researchers from as far away as St. Petersburg, Russia.
- To offset the publication costs of scientific papers published in the journals *Current Biology*, *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* and the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.
- The processing of matrix in search of conodont specimens.

The Society continues to fund the Betsy Nicholls Memorial post-doctoral fellowship position, hosts the Royal Tyrrell Museum FTP site for the upload and download of research files, and provides funds to purchase research-related supplies and materials. This year, the Society funded three projects through the Student Research Program, which commits \$10,000 per year in support of student research.



The Society also supported the new *Foundations* exhibit by providing funding for the touch-table display, the development and purchase of three videos, and the opening ceremonies celebration. Society personnel also helped with installation of the exhibit.

Society memberships were given to a number of Museum volunteers in appreciation for the numerous hours spent in the field, preparation lab, and collections department. The Society also financed a number of palaeontological memberships, supported two health and safety seminars, and funded summer accommodations at Dinosaur Provincial Park for Museum researchers and field crews.

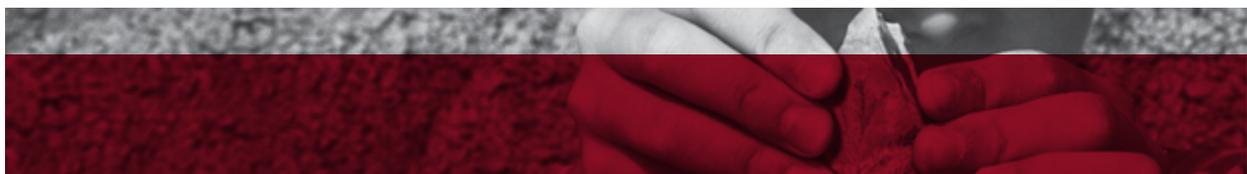
In support of education, the Society continues to manage the contract for the Distance Learning Program. In addition, the Society administered and presented scholarships on behalf of the Drumheller Family and The Calgary Foundation. Funding was provided for two Royal Tyrrell Museum High Science Awards, and honorariums were given to students who trained for Encana Badlands Science Camp positions. Also, the Society continues to be the major sponsor for the annual Speaker Series, and several professional development opportunities for Museum personnel were supported.

The Society promoted the Museum throughout the province, and around the world, by sponsoring various endeavors including providing branded product for marketing promotions, protocol gifts, and other local events. Funding was also provided for Museum staff to participate in the Drumheller Canada Day and Calgary Stampede parades. The Society continues to fund a fee assistance program to enable underprivileged adults to visit the Museum.

Local promotion of the Museum included:

- A hole sponsorship at the Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament and team sponsorship for the Passion Play Golf Tournament
- The Museum's parade float in the Drumheller Canada Day parade
- The Museum's holiday social in December
- Contribution of just over \$2,300 in Gift Shop product and Royal Tyrrell Museum passes to 23 charitable fundraisers.

This year, new Membership and Donation software was purchased to replace the over 10 year old software. Also, a new Membership and Donation Coordinator was hired to enhance the Society's ability to support the Museum in future endeavors.



Finally, the Society supported the Museum's 30th Anniversary celebration held in September. The Society congratulates the Museum on 30 successful years and is looking forward to continued fruitful collaboration in the future.

On behalf of the board, I would like to recognize all Society staff for another productive year. Thank you all for your continued hard work and excellent contributions.

I would also like to thank the Museum's Executive Director, Andy Neuman, for his collaboration and patience, and our dedicated board members who, together with our Acting Business Manager, Patty Ralrick, continue to maintain a strong relationship with the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, the Government of Alberta, and Drumheller and surrounding communities. We look forward to another successful and productive year.



Elaine Piwin
Chairperson, Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society

