



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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society (the “Society”) had a difficult, but productive, year. The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (the “Museum”) was closed to the public just over six months from March 17 – May 22, 2020, and again beginning December 12, 2020. This closure had a significant impact on the Society.

The Museum was open to the public from May 22 – December 12 and followed all Alberta Health Services guidelines. This included a reduction in the number of visitors allowed in the galleries and the Museum Shop. We would like to thank all visitors and staff who helped us maintain these guidelines.

During the months that the Museum was open, the Museum Shop had around 24,000 customers and sold just under \$922,000 in product. This is a significant decrease from the \$2.7 million in sales from the previous year. However, all net profit generated from the Shop was still held in reserve for future Museum projects, except for a small amount set aside for Society technological needs and improvements.

The Society used the time while the Museum was closed to get the online Museum Shop operating, worked on acquiring new and exciting product, and improve processes.

The online Museum Shop went live on December 7, 2020 with ~200 items available. By the end of the fiscal year, the online Museum Shop had 167 orders for ~\$10,500 in sales. The top three sellers thus far have been our Museum branded facemasks, exclusive *Dinosaurs Eat People Who Don't Recycle* reusable bags, and our in-house designed skeletal mugs.

New product is continually being added, so keep checking [www.tyrrellmuseum.ca](http://www.tyrrellmuseum.ca)! Don't forget that members receive a 15% discount both in-store and online. The online discount code is included in each bi-annual newsletter. Contact Membership and Donation Coordinator Jordyn Potter at [membership@tyrrellmuseum.ca](mailto:membership@tyrrellmuseum.ca) if you need the discount code.





During these trying times, the Society received ~\$30,000 in donations, honorariums, and grants in support of Museum and Society projects for which we are deeply grateful.

The Society would sincerely like to thank:

- The Calgary Foundation for grants received
- Mark Barrett, Pearl David and family in memory of Bill McPheeters, Jenny Flansberry, Owen Fujimoto-Pihl, Joseph Herman, Lys and Hugh Laurence, Derek Lichti, David Lindo, Guy Masson, Mary Miller, John Parker, Elaine Piwin, Alana Reid, James Skinner, Stephanie Stock for Darin Hellowell, Doug Tweddle, Edward Wheeler, Claudia Yueng, Christine Zaynacz, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, and several anonymous donors for their generous contributions
- The Executive Members: Penny Dekeyser, Cory Edlund, Rebecca Hobbs and Glen Cuming, Samuel Huang, Yasser Hussein, Daniel Jones, Jack Lucas, Elaine Piwin, Munish Sharma, Andrew Williams, and all other Society members for their continued support

The Membership Program sold 267 memberships this year, which is remarkable considering the economic situation. All memberships that were active during the month of March 2020 had their expiration date extended by two months when the Museum reopened in May. All memberships that were active in December 2020 had their expiration date extended by an additional 12 months in June 2021. Please contact the Membership and Donation Coordinator if you have any questions.

The Society was pleased to receive a large gift of product from Lisa Baumgartner, Founder and CEO of MyFunkins Ltd. We were happy to regift the items to the Drumheller Community Learning Society, which is a local charity supporting literacy in our town.

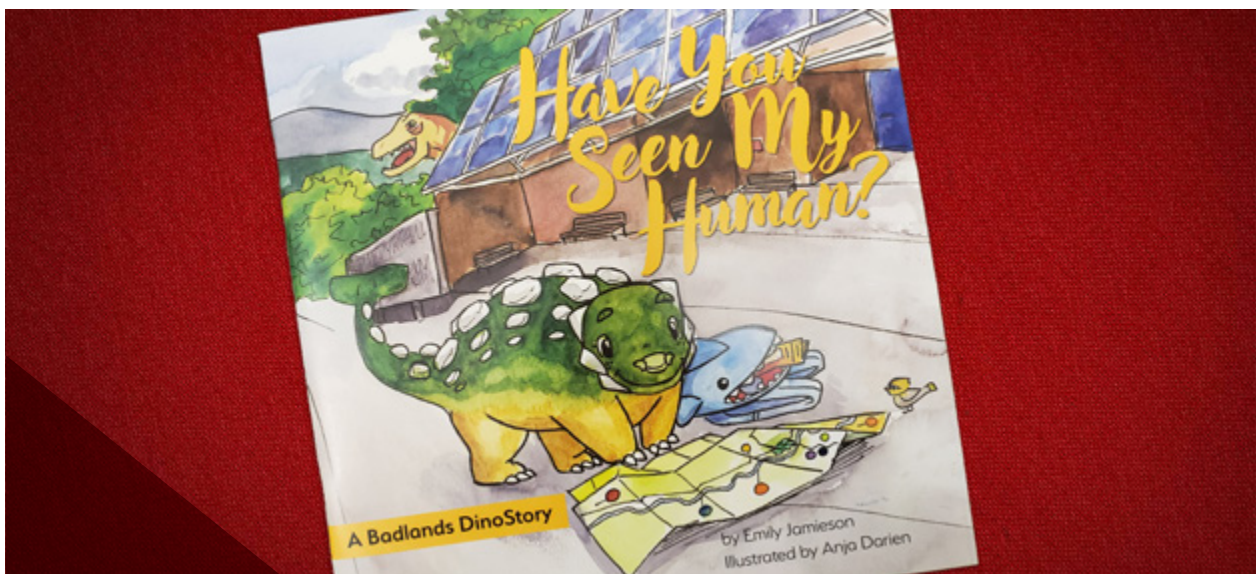


The Society contributed just under \$225,000 in support of the Royal Tyrrell Museum for research, exhibit development, and educational programming. Research projects supported included:

- Providing funding for open access and oversize publication fees for two scientific papers written by Museum researchers
- Professional membership fees were funded for several researchers
- Registration costs were paid for three Museum technicians to attend the virtual Association for Materials and Methods in Paleontology conference
- Provided funding for equipment for research projects including support for a photogrammetry project being conducted in the Preparation Lab
- Funded a graduate-level project through the Student Research Program studying the feasibility of utilizing drone technology in palaeontological research

Dr. Femke Holwerda, the Society's Dr. Betsy Nicholls Post-Doctoral Fellow, made great strides in her research studying the feeding niches and mechanisms of mosasaurs (marine reptiles) despite the barriers that the Covid restrictions erected. Along with her regular project, she assisted with three trips to an Ammolite mine near Lethbridge to collect marine reptile fossils, attended two virtual conferences, and gave three presentations. Dr. Holwerda also collaborated with the Distance Learning Studio with two "Up Close and Palaeo" presentations to school groups, completed two "RTMP Behind the Scenes" videos for the Museum's YouTube channel, participated in the children's series "Dino Dana" that is organized by the National Girls Collaborative Project, and continues to be active on Twitter and Facebook (see #FossilFriday and #MosasaurMonday).

The Society also administered and presented grants on behalf of the Drumheller Family, the Drumheller Fund, and the Calgary Foundation. This year, the DinoArts Association was the successful recipient of the Drumheller Fund grant and received a total of \$13,075. The funds will be used to create a new dinosaur statue for the Town of Drumheller based upon the book *Have You Seen My Human? A Badlands DinoStory* by Emily Jamieson. Funds raised from book sales support community-based projects and programs offered in Drumheller.





Unfortunately, due to pandemic restrictions, Badlands Science Camp was cancelled in the summer of 2020. However, we are excited to offer Badlands Science Camp in a day-camp format during the summer of 2021. Please see the Museum's website for more information.

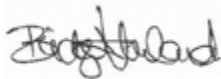
The Society continues to sponsor the annual Speaker Series, which is free to the public and is usually held from January to April at the Museum. This year, the format was changed to a virtual series with great success! Researchers from as far away as Germany and England presented on such interesting topics as stegosaurian dinosaurs, the use of amber to investigate dinosaur habitats, ice age fossils from Medicine Hat, Alberta, relocating lost dinosaur quarries from the early 1900s, and fossils from the Burgess Shale. People attended the Zoom presentations from the United States, Mexico, Argentina, England, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, Russia, Germany, Malaysia, India, and elsewhere.

If you are interested in past presentations, please visit the [Museum's YouTube channel](#).

Over the past two years, the Society contributed over \$500,000 towards the total renovation of the Museum's *Cenozoic: The Rise of Mammals* gallery that discusses the evolutionary pathways that mammals took after the time of the dinosaurs. We look forward to when you can visit and experience the new space!

On behalf of the board, I would like to recognize all Society staff for their hard work during this unusual and trying year. Thank you for your continued loyalty and dedication.

I would also like to thank the Museum's Executive Director, Lisa Making, for her support and collaboration over the past year, and our dedicated board members who, together with our Business Manager, Patty Ralrick, continue to maintain a strong relationship with the Museum, the Government of Alberta, the Town of Drumheller, and surrounding communities. We look forward to a resumption of operations and another successful and productive year.



**Bridget Unland**

*Chairperson, Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society*

