

ANNUAL REPORT
2019 – 2020



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

The Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society (the “Society”) had another interesting and successful year. We had some significant changes occur, such as implementing new software in the Museum Shop, relinquishing the Distance Learning contract, gaining the management of Badlands Science Camps, and hiring a new Post-doctoral Fellow.

The Society received approximately \$21,000 in donations, honorariums, and grants in support of the Royal Tyrrell Museum (the “Museum”) and Society projects.

The Society thanks:

- The Calgary Foundation for grants received
- James Skinner, Elaine Piwin, Warren Ragoonanan, John Parker, David Lindo, Bryce Nimmo, Arnold Grant, Elina Liehu, and several anonymous donors for their generous contributions
- The Executive Members: Heather Colberg, Rebecca Hobbs, Richard Hopkins, Samuel Huang, Summer Manca, Sachin Pendharkar, Elaine Piwin, Veronique Ram, Andrew Williams, and all other Society members for their continued support

The renovation of the Museum Shop and implementation of the new Point of Sale software were completed this fiscal year and many positive comments were received about the new Shop layout. The online Shop is currently being upgraded and we hope to have it up and running soon!

The Shop saw around 94,000 customers and we had another successful year with just over \$2,684,000 in sales. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown, the Shop was closed the final two weeks of the fiscal year. All net profit generated from the Museum Shop is held in reserve for future Museum projects, with the exception of a small amount set aside for Society technological needs and improvements.

Located in the Society Lounge, the new donation box, based on a ‘plinko’ machine, has proven to be very popular and donations through the in-gallery boxes doubled this year. All donations received by the Society through the donation boxes returns to the Museum for exhibit enhancements and development.



The Society is pleased to welcome Dr. Femke Holwerda in the position of the Betsy Nicholls Memorial Post-doctoral Fellow. Dr. Holwerda will be conducting research on dental microware in mosasaurs as an indicator of diet. For more information on her project, please visit the [Royal Tyrrell Museum's YouTube channel](#).

The Society contributed just over \$652,000 in support of the Royal Tyrrell Museum in research, exhibit development, and educational programming. Research projects supported included:

- Travel and accommodations for researchers, technicians, and collections staff within Alberta, and to Saskatchewan, Japan, Ireland, Mexico, as well as Illinois, Texas, North Dakota, and Montana. This allowed Museum researchers and personnel the opportunity to attend conferences, present scientific papers, collaborate with colleagues, conduct further research, and learn new techniques
- Provided funding for the skilled preparation of vertebrate material from the Pisces Point locality
- Travel assistance for an expert to travel to the Museum to train research staff on the operation of the Synchrotron and then funded travel for staff to go to the University of Saskatoon to use the equipment
- Provided funding for an expert in fossil plants to visit and identify specimens from the Coalspur Formation that are now on display in the *Fossils in Focus* gallery
- Funded three graduate-level projects through the Student Research Program including travel from England for two students to conduct research at the Museum

A number of palaeontological memberships, scientific publication costs, team building activities, and professional development opportunities for Museum personnel were also funded.

The Society hosted several group meetings held at the Museum including the Canadian Fossil Resource Planners, palaeontological technicians from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and Alberta Environment and Parks staff.



Dr. Holwerda

In support of Education, the Society purchased educational materials and paid for the cleaning and maintenance of the Museum's Cenovus Playground. We also replaced the sand in the *T. rex* sandbox, which is located near the playground.

The Society also administered and presented grants on behalf of the Drumheller Family, the Drumheller Fund, and The Calgary Foundation. This year's successful applicants, the Drumheller Curling Club and the Drumheller Learning Society, were the recipients of the Drumheller Fund and received a total of \$4500.

Two Royal Tyrrell Museum High Science Awards for local high school students were also funded, and honorariums were given to students who trained for the Badlands Science Camp Counselor-in-training positions.

Speaking of the Badlands Science Camp, the Society is happy to announce that we have assumed the management of this successful program. We are excited to move forward with the program once the Covid-19 pandemic is over and it is safe to do so.

The Society continues to sponsor the annual Speaker Series which is held in the Museum auditorium from January to April and is free to the public. This past year, we were going to bring researchers from around North America to speak about their research, but unfortunately, the Speaker Series was cancelled in March due to the pandemic. If you are interested in past presentations, please visit the [Royal Tyrrell Museum's YouTube channel](#).

The Society was happy to provide funding for *Jurassic World* artist Glen McIntosh to present a lecture and conduct an art workshop in the Museum galleries during last year's Alberta Culture Days. This class proved extremely popular and we are hoping to repeat the program in the coming months.

Our Membership and Donation Coordinator, Jordyn Potter, attended several local events including the Spring Expo, the Dinosaur and Comic Expo, and the Festival of Lights to sell memberships and represent the Society.

The Society also hosted the opening ceremonies for the new *Learning Lounge* at the Museum. This space features the keystone exhibit of a bronze *Albertosaurus*, which was purchased by the Society.



We are currently funding the renovation of the Cenozoic Gallery in the Museum. Keep an eye out for future developments!

The Society promoted the Museum throughout the province, and around the world, by sponsoring various endeavors including providing branded product for marketing promotions and protocol gifts, including the Calgary CBC's Food Bank Auction. We also contributed ~\$1900 in products from the Museum Shop to 17 local charitable fundraisers and events.

The Society continues to fund a fee assistance program for the underprivileged, contributing \$3500 that enabled 137 adults and 101 youths and children to visit the Museum.

Local promotion of the Museum included:

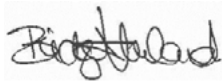
- Sponsorship of the 'Horseshoes Hole' at the western-themed Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce annual "Jurassic Classic" Golf Tournament
- Donated items toward welcome bags for the Drumheller Valley Secondary School international students
- Donated items toward the Drumheller Rotary Club's annual Radio Auction
- Provided items to hand out to spectators during the Drumheller Canada Day parade
- Hosted the annual Holiday Social

Also this year, the Museum's Executive Director, Andy Neuman retired after 33 years with the Museum, 12 years as the Executive Director. The board would like to thank Andy for all the support, thoughtfulness, and humor he brought to our collaborative relationship. We wish him well in all his future endeavors.

We would like to congratulate the Museum's new Executive Director, Lisa Making, and look forward to continuing our strong relationship for the betterment of both the Museum and the Society.

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

I would also like to thank our Business Manager, Patty Ralrick, and the Society's Board of Directors for all of their hard work. I look forward to another successful and productive year.



Bridget Unland

Chairperson, Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society

