

ANNUAL REPORT

2017
– 2018



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

The Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society (the “Society”) celebrates another successful and productive year. The Society contributed just under \$235,000 to support the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (the “Museum”) in research, exhibit development, and educational programming. The Society received just over \$11,500 in donations, honorariums, and grants in support of Museum and Society projects. In addition, the Society received a \$46,500 National Geographic Society grant in support of research on the Suncor nodosaur, *Borealopelta markmitchelli*.

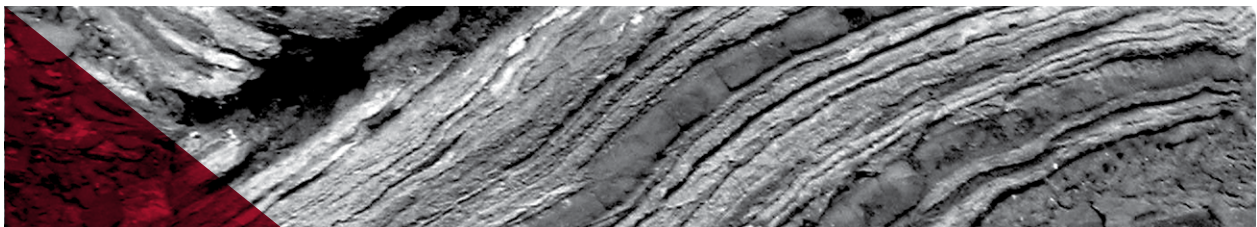
The Society thanks:

- » The National Geographic Society, ARC Financial Group, The Esker Foundation, and The Calgary Foundation for grants and honorariums received
- » James Skinner, Barbara Nobel for Dorothy Hobbs, Rebecca Hobbs and Daileas Cuming, John Parker, David Lindo, Doug Shore, Christopher Villacorta, and several anonymous donors for their generous contributions
- » Current Society members for their continued support

Through the dedication of the exceptional management and staff, the Gift Shop had another prosperous year with just over \$2,782,600 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 technological needs and improvements.

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

- » Travel and accommodations for researchers, technicians, and collections staff within Alberta, and to Los Angeles, California and Lincoln, Nebraska. 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 scientists to conduct research on select projects, including researchers from as far away as England and Australia
- » Travel and accommodation for a photogrammetry expert to visit the Museum and train technical staff on the proper techniques for utilizing this research tool



The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology annual conference was held in Calgary, Alberta this year and the Society funded a field trip to the Museum, as well as, a luncheon reception for the delegates. Additionally, the Canadian Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology annual conference was held in Dinosaur Provincial Park near Brooks, Alberta, and the Society provided Museum branded product to all participants.

The Society continues to fund the Betsy Nicholls Memorial post-doctoral fellowship position, and also funded two projects through the Student Research Program, which commits \$10,000 per year in support of graduate-level research.

Museum exhibit development was supported by providing funding for the opening ceremonies celebration for the new *Grounds for Discovery* exhibit.

A number of palaeontological memberships, scientific publication costs, team building activities, and professional development opportunities for Museum personnel, including the attendance of Communications staff to the “Museums and the Web” conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, were also financed. In addition, the Society purchased a new bank of lockers available for use by all personnel.

In support of education, the Society continues to manage the contract for the Distance Learning Program including the updating of programming and equipment.

In addition, the bi-annual Interpretation Canada Conference was held in the Museum’s Learning Centre and the Society funded the registration costs for the Distance Learning educators, Museum branded product for all participants, the Welcome Reception, and refreshments during coffee breaks.

The Society also administered and presented grants on behalf of the Drumheller Family, the Drumheller Fund, and The Calgary Foundation. Funding was provided for two Royal Tyrrell Museum High Science Awards for local high school students, and honorariums were given to students who trained for the Badlands Science Camp positions and a Marketing assistant internship.

The Society continues to sponsor the annual Speaker Series, which is free to the public. This year, the Society brought in researchers from around Alberta, as well as, British Columbia, Ontario, and several cities within the USA. The Speaker Series was well attended by members of the public and the videos of the presentations located on the Museum’s YouTube channel continue to be popular.



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.

In celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, the Society funded the Museum's participation in the Calgary Stampede Parade and was thrilled that the float won *Best Overall* as well as *Most Creative Entry*!

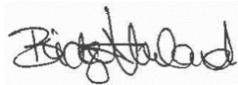
The Society continues to fund a fee assistance program for the underprivileged which enabled 92 adults and 106 youths and children to visit the Museum.

Local promotion of the Museum included:

- » A hole sponsorship at the Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament
- » The Mini-chucks for Charity Fundraiser
- » The Museum's parade float in the Drumheller Canada Day parade
- » The Museum's holiday social in December
- » A booth at the Town of Drumheller's Festival of Lights event
- » Contribution of just over \$2,400 in Gift Shop product and Royal Tyrrell Museum passes to 26 charitable fundraisers and events

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 Business Manager, Patty Ralrick, continue to maintain a strong relationship with the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, the Government of Alberta, the town of Drumheller, and surrounding communities. We look forward to another successful and productive year.



Bridget Unland

Chairperson, Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society

