



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

The Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society (the “Society”) has worked hard over the past year to create a three-year Strategic Plan. As part of that plan, we have updated our mission and vision statements.

Our Mission: We support the success of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, collaborating and contributing to provide funding that enhances the museum experience and its impact.

Our Vision: We have a transformative impact, excelling as a valued advocate in a shared vision of the Royal Tyrrell Museum as a centre of excellence.

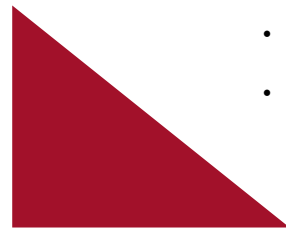
The Society and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (the “Museum”) both had a record-breaking year, with over 526,000 visitors to the Museum and the highest sales ever in the Museum Shop!

We believe that science should be accessible to everyone. The Society funded \$11,500 in open access fees for four scientific manuscripts published by Museum researchers. These papers included: research on a juvenile *Gorgosaurus* with the hind limbs of its prey preserved in its stomach; a geochronology of Late Cretaceous clays in Dinosaur Provincial Park; and dental microwear on mosasaur teeth as an indicator of feeding niches.

This year, the Society contributed \$207,000 in support of the Museum’s research, educational programming, and exhibit development initiatives.

Among the projects supported were:

- Funding for curators and Collections staff to attend conferences and conduct research at other institutions.
- Honoraria for various internships within the Museum.
- A second year of safety equipment rental and training for fieldwork in Dinosaur Provincial Park.
- Refreshments for a valued colleague’s retirement party, the Society’s 30th anniversary party, and a staff Mental Wellness seminar.
- Funding for Drumheller high school graduation scholarships.
- Museum playground cleaning and maintenance.
- The purchase of two new barbecue grills for staff use.
- Funding to cover travel and accommodation costs for visiting researchers.
- Specialty research software for a curator.



The Society funds the Fee Assistance Program that allows underprivileged adults and youths to visit the Museum for free. This year, the Society made it possible for 84 adults, 42 youths (aged 7 – 17), and one senior to visit the Museum.

We also administer the Drumheller Fund, presenting grants to the local community on behalf of the Drumheller Family and the Calgary Foundation. This year's grant was split between supporting the Drumheller Volleyball Club's application for \$10,515 to replace nearly 30-year-old equipment, and the Drumheller Rotary Club's application for \$6,000 to add coloured lights to the Rotary Spray Park's popular public fountain. The Society was pleased to be able to support both worthy projects.

The Society is currently recruiting for a new postdoctoral researcher to fill the position of the Dr. Elizabeth Nicholls Postdoctoral Fellowship.

The annual Speaker Series returned to in-person presentations this year. Scientists came from around the world to give presentations on their current research. The subjects were diverse, including discussions of dinosaur diets, Mongolian dinosaurs, fossil parasites, Romanian fossil vertebrates, and plant fossils as indicators of ancient climates. Closer to home, presentations discussed the fossils found thus far at the Springbank Reservoir Project near Calgary and the Livingston site in Calgary.

Presenters were from institutions such as the Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa, ON); the University of New England (New South Wales, Australia); Utrecht University (the Netherlands); The Ohio State University; the University of Colorado; and the Royal Alberta Museum (Edmonton, AB).



The Society-sponsored Badlands Science Camp sold out last summer, with 233 participants! Three 5-day junior camps (for campers aged 9 – 12) and three 7-day senior camps (for campers aged 13 – 17) were held in the beautiful badlands surrounding the Museum. Campers went on field trips to Horseshoe Canyon, Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park, and the Tolman Bridge badlands. They attended live lectures by Museum scientists and assisted in actual research projects by:

- Screen washing and sorting Late Cretaceous microvertebrate material.
- Identifying, measuring, and recording hadrosaur hand and foot elements.
- Measuring Ice Age wolf jaws.

The Society supported the *Bones & Brews* 18+ event held in January. Registrants participated in fossil trivia, identified fossils, and engaged in lively discussions with two Museum Educators.

There were 813 memberships sold this year. Thank you to all our valuable members for contributing to the success of the Society and the Museum!

The Society would like to thank our Executive Members for their continued support: Vito Bertuglia, Ethan Gaiser, Joerg and Nora Hannes, Pei-Hwa Huang and Daisuke Tanigaki, Samuel and Pearl Huang, David and Alicia Lillehei, Summer and Greg Manca, Colin and Kristin Matthews, Lisa Morrison, Elaine and Tony Piwin, Ann Stuart, Andrew Williams and Bonnie Presser, and Arden Zylla.

This year, the Society received nearly \$54,000 in donations, honorariums, and grants. We sincerely thank everyone who donated, whether directly, through the website, or by dropping coins in the donation boxes within the Museum galleries. We collected a record \$16,311.40 through the gallery donation boxes this year!

Thank you to the Ardrossan 55 Plus Club, Susan Butler, Evert Chandra, Jaime Comchi, Josh Curtis, Duncan Fitzpatrick, Michael Gibbins, Gerald Gish, Kevin Hovdestad, Bill Howell, Liam Kachkar, Makayla Laliberte, Andrew Leask, David Lindo, Zoe McKenzie, Lily Bach hue Nguyen, Alex Peirce, Elaine Piwin, Abimanyu Singam, James Skinner, Nicholas Stevenson, Yoshimi Takahashi, David Terrell, Logan Trumpf, Stephen Wong, the University of Calgary English Language Program, and several anonymous donors for their generous donations.



The Society donated Shop products valued at about \$3,000 to 21 local fundraising and charity events. We also administer the Drumheller Family Scholarships, awarding \$10,000 each to two local high school graduates toward their post-secondary education tuition and fees.

The Shop welcomed more than 106,000 customers and generated roughly \$4 million in sales, a 7% increase over the previous year! We sold over 291,000 individual products, including 29,400 plush animals, 31,300 T-shirts/hoodies, 10,500 mugs/water bottles, 7,000 postcards, and 5,000 hats. Our most popular products included the plush long-necked *Albertonectes* elasmosaur (1,530 sold), the “Black Beauty” *T. rex* adult hat (1,521 sold), and the adult “T-bone” *T. rex* skeleton T-shirt (1,363 sold).

Sales through the Online Shop remained steady, with 373 orders placed for a total of \$26,500 in sales. The highest sales occurred in November and December ahead of the holiday season, which coincided with the release of our plush ‘Snow *Triceratops*’ nicknamed “Lumpy.” Top sellers in the Online Shop included the “Dinosaurs Eat People Who Don’t Recycle” custom reusable bag, adult ball caps, and Lumpy.

We have added more than two dozen new items to the Online Shop, including the new *Anomalocaris* plush, four beautiful ombre ceramic mugs, two colour choices of ballcaps featuring an embroidered “Black Beauty” *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull, and much more.

All net profit generated through the Museum Shop is held in reserve for future Museum projects, except for a small amount that is set aside for Society technological needs and improvements.



The Society looks forward to being part of the *First Life* gallery opening this spring, and to hiring a new postdoctoral researcher and a Membership Coordinator. Both positions will help the Society fulfil our mandate of supporting the educational programs, research objectives, and gallery enhancement needs of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology.

I sincerely thank all Society staff, as well as Museum staff and management, for their ongoing hard work and collaboration over the past year. I would also like to thank our volunteer board members who, together with the Society's Executive Director, Patty Ralrick, continually strive to grow our relationships with the Museum, the Government of Alberta, the Town of Drumheller, and the surrounding communities. I look forward to another successful year.



Bridget Unland
Chairperson, Royal Tyrrell Museum Cooperating Society

