

The Awards Selection

Any individual or organization, resident in Alberta, may submit a nomination. Award winners are not required to be members of Museums Alberta. All nominations are adjudicated by an Awards Jury, consisting of three randomly selected Individual Members of Museums Alberta. The Awards Jury recommendations are forwarded to the Museums Alberta Board for ratification.

It is with great pleasure that Museums Alberta presents the successful Award recipients for 2004

Lieutenant Governor's Award



DR. PHILIP CURRIE

Drumheller

Nominated by the Board of Museums Alberta

Dr. Philip Currie's fascination with dinosaurs began as a young boy. He made his first fossil find at age six and at age eleven decided that he wanted to search for dinosaurs. During his youth, his father took him on several trips to the badlands of Alberta to expose him to their fossil treasures. By the time Philip entered university he knew that he wanted to study dinosaurs.

Dr. Currie's formal education began at the University of Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1972. During his studies, he volunteered in the vertebrate palaeontology labs and rubbed shoulders with leading palaeontologists. Philip's next stop was McGill University in Montreal where he graduated with Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees in palaeontology.

While completing his PhD, Dr. Currie was hired by the Provincial Museum of Alberta as a curatorial assistant in 1977. In addition to other curatorial duties, he was also responsible for collecting and researching dinosaur specimens in the province. From 1977 to 1980, he led several field expeditions to collect dinosaur fossils throughout Alberta including Dinosaur Provincial Park, Big Valley, Milk River Canyon, Peace River and South Saskatchewan River.

During this time, Philip also assisted with the redesign and renovation of the Museum's Dinosaur Gallery and curated the *Discovering Dinosaurs* feature exhibit.

In 1980, the Alberta Government decided to build a new research and display facility for dinosaurs in Drumheller and Dr. Currie was recruited to work on the project. As Assistant Director of the new facility and co-chair of the Planning Committee, Philip was instrumental in the development and construction of what was to become the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology.

As a member of the Display Coordinating Committee, Philip was also responsible for script and artifact review of all palaeontological galleries at the Tyrrell Museum and the Tyrrell Museum Field Station. When the museum opened in 1985, he became Head of the Dinosaur Research Program and Curator of Dinosaurs.

Over the past twenty years, Philip has led more than thirty field expeditions in Alberta to collect specimens for the Royal Tyrrell Museum. The resulting finds have formed the basis of the Museum's world-renowned collection and have attracted attention and acclaim from scientists around the world.

From his base at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, Dr. Currie has been associated with a number of initiatives at the provincial level. Philip has assisted with the Edmonton Space and Science Centre's (now the Odysium) dinosaur programs, a museum mobile exhibit at the Provincial Museum of Alberta and at the Glenbow Museum, and exhibits at Dinosaur Provincial Park. Dr. Currie is also an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Calgary and has supervised or co-supervised twenty-four MSc and PhD students since 1976.

Nationally, Dr. Currie has led and participated in field expeditions in Axel Heiberg, Bylot and Ellesmere Islands of Nunavut and British Columbia.

On the international stage, Dr. Currie is highly regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on dinosaurs. He has conducted close to twenty field expeditions on several continents including expeditions to Argentina, Australia, China, and Mongolia. In 1998, Philip was co-leader of the

Canada-China Dinosaur Project, the largest dinosaur expedition ever undertaken. His finds include the oldest known dinosaur foot prints, the first evidence of feathered dinosaurs, dinosaur eggs and embryos, evidence of dinosaurs hunting in groups and a number of new dinosaur species.

In addition to his impressive fieldwork, Dr. Currie is also an accomplished author and public speaker. To date, he has published seventy-six scientific articles, eighty-four popular articles and twelve books. Although the majority of his work is of a scholarly nature, Philip has also created dinosaur trading cards and written children's books to help interest youth in palaeontology.

Not surprisingly, he is always eager to share his passion for dinosaurs and his love of the Alberta badlands. Dr. Currie has given more than 200 lectures in Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the United States.

Dr. Currie's contributions and achievements have certainly not gone unnoticed. He has appeared in more than six hundred newspaper, magazine, radio, film and television articles and programs. These include Canadian Geographic, Equinox, National Geographic, Time Magazine, New York Times, NBC's Today Show, PBS's NOVA series, a CBS primetime report on dinosaurs and a weekly dinosaur report on the Discovery Channel of Canada.

In 1998, Maclean's magazine listed Dr. Currie as one of twelve Canadians on its Honour Roll. He has also received a number of awards during his career including the Sir Frederick Haultain Award for scientific contributions to science in Alberta (1988), the Commemorative Medal of Canada's 125th Anniversary (1993), and Fellow of Royal Society of Canada (1999).

Despite a career that has put him at the forefront of global dinosaur research, Dr. Currie shows no signs of slowing down. He continues to search the Alberta badlands and other sites around the world for new evidence on dinosaurs and to study his findings at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Alberta is very fortunate to have a world class scientist and international ambassador in Dr. Philip Currie.