

*The ROM Welcomes Gordo the Barosaurus*

David Evans

Associate Curator

Vertebrate Palaeontology

Royal Ontario Museum

*[Animated ROM logo appears with sound sting]*

*[David Evans, standing in the James and Louise Temerty Gallery of the Age of Dinosaurs]* This is really an amazing day, it is definitely one of...one of the coolest things that I've ever really been a part of, I mean to see this sort of go from an idea, a couple of months ago to a full skeleton, mounted, um, behind me *[view zooms out to show a group of workers putting the finishing touches on the Barosaurus skeleton behind David]* within just a matter of weeks, is really incredible to sort of pull this animal out of the drawers, and dusted it off, only...two and a half months ago, to see it being put together *[group of workers carrying a section of the Barosaurus ribs]* basically in one day, in front of your eyes, is really incredible, and it's umm...*[Sparks fly as workers begin to weld the Barosaurus rib section beside the partially installed specimen]*...its a really special day, I mean, this is the largest dinosaur, um, ever to be put on permanent display in Canada, and it's something that the ROM is going to be known for a long time *[Shot of David, standing in front of the partially installed Barosaurus]*. So it's really special to be right here, as it's happening, to watch, sort of, the birth, I think, of a really important piece for the Museum.

*[A group of workers use a ladder to install a rib section of the Barosaurus]* Behind me the crew is installing the dorsal ribs, the section of ribs that attach to the vertebrae between the hips, and the shoulders. Now this part of the animal, the trunk part, is in fact, the shortest part of a sauropod. *[David standing in the Temerty Galleries, with the installation happening behind him]*. The neck and tail, are by far the longest part. If you look at the total length *[panning view of a still, panoramic image of workers adding finishing touches to the Barosaurus skeleton installed in the Temerty Galleries]* ...the length of the trunk, between the neck and the tail, *[David, standing in the Temerty Galleries, with the installation happening behind him]* occupies something around fifteen to twenty percent of the length of the entire animal...the neck and the tail, both stretch well over thirty feet, whereas the trunk itself, is maybe only ten feet long.

*[Workers lift a section of bones, flip and rotate it before moving it into position with the skeleton]* The mounting the *Barosaurus* poses a number of challenges, the same challenges that are part of mounting any dinosaur, except on a much larger scale just because *Barosaurus* and other sauropods are just so much larger than every ...most every other dinosaur. They contain same...basically the same number of parts, or the same number of bones, each individual component is just, um, much larger *[Overview of workers fixing the rib section to the spine]*. than normal dinosaurs, and therefore, those problems associated with dino—mounting dinosaurs, are that much bigger for mounting a *sauropod*.

*[Close-up of David, in the Temerty Galleries]* This skeleton, this *Barosaurus* skeleton was originally collected in 1914 *[Panning view of archival photograph of a man and a team of horses excavating fossils]* by crews from the Carnegie Museum. *[Close-up of*

*David]* It was acquired by the ROM in 1962 through a trade organized by Dr. Gord Edmund [*archival, black and white photograph of Dr. Edmund*]. It was acquired, I believe, with the intention of putting it on display in the 1970s gallery renovations, and it was acquired, actually, in the same trade as we got our *stegosaurus*, for we sent [*view of Stegosaurus skeleton installed in the 1970s Dinosaur Galleries*] a few duck-bills, a few duck-bill skeletons to the Carnegie, and they us up the *Stegosaurus* and the *Barosaurus*. Um, the *Stegosaurus* got mounted immediately and was a familiar part of the old ROM galleries, um the *Barosaurus* had become forgotten over the last few decades, and it wasn't until um [*overview of a drawer with a selection of fossils*] just a few weeks ago, in um, September 2007, um, [*view of several large fossilized vertebrae on a table*] that we realized really, what we had with this skeleton that ah [*still image of David, laying on a white sheet beside a fossilized Barosaurus bone*] ...all of the bones that had become scattered throughout the collections [*David, standing in the Temerty Galleries*] and thought of just to be isolated sauropod material, um we discovered they were all part one, single, individual skeleton... [*Still view of completed Barosaurus skeleton on display in the Temerty Galleries*] and it was a skeleton of a rare sauropod, *Barosaurus*.

*[Podcast ends with animated ROM logo and sound sting]*