



2015

# PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT



## NATURAL HISTORY

**YOUR MUSEUM. YOUR IMPACT.**

We are pleased to share with you the impact of your investment in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), which helps us connect people to their world and to each other.

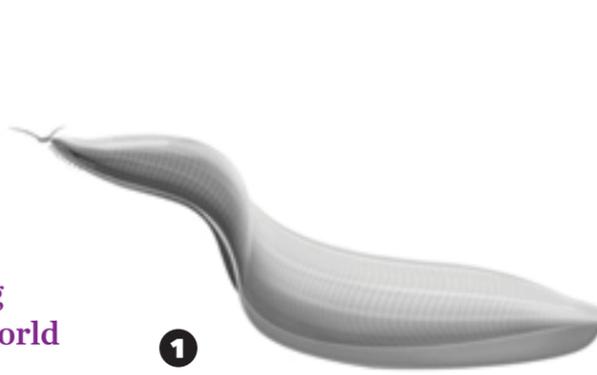
# UNEARTHING IMPACT

How donor support is transforming our understanding of our natural world

**A**t the ROM, people of all ages are able to immerse themselves in the wonder of our natural world. Your support enables diverse audiences to learn about the dawn of life on Earth, the interconnected web of biodiversity that sustains us and the amazing treasures of our natural history.

Highlighted here is a selection of our latest research, exhibitions and programs that you have made possible. For more up-to-the-minute impact stories, follow us on Twitter at:

 @ROMBiodiversity @ROMEARTHSCI @ROMPalaeo



## 2014/2015 BY THE NUMBERS

**20,117 VISITORS**

Interacted with specimens at ROM Revealed Weekend

**106 ROM RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS**

Shared with the global scientific community

**20,493 MINERALS & ORES**

Acquired through the Kirwin Collection

**3,743 SCIENTIFIC CITATIONS**

Referenced the work of ROM Researchers

### 1 PUSHING SCIENTIFIC BOUNDARIES

Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron, Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology at the ROM, is a world leader in the study of early life and Canada's Burgess Shale, one of the most important fossil beds on Earth. Recently published in *Nature*, his study of the second earliest known fish in the fossil record, unlocked the secret to a key innovation—the evolution of jaws (a story that will be featured in our future Dawn of Life Gallery)!

### 2 INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Long-time ROM supporters, James and Louise Temerty, generously donated \$3.25 million to ROM Fossils & Evolution. This extraordinary gift established the James and Louise Temerty Endowed Chair of Vertebrate Palaeontology and the James and Louise Temerty Research Fund for Vertebrate Palaeontology. The ROM can now grow its globally-renowned dinosaur research program and generate new knowledge through its vast collection of dinosaur specimens and amplify educational programs in fossils and evolution.

### 3 EXCITING FIELD RESEARCH

The death of nine Blue Whales, caught in the ice off the coast of Newfoundland, sparked global headlines in spring 2014. The largest animal on the planet, the Blue Whale has a heart the size of a Smart car. A team from the ROM recovered two whales, with thousands of people watching their back-breaking and often smelly work on social media.

Enabled by your generosity, the bones and heart will be displayed at the Museum during Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017. Once accessible to the public and the global research community, it will further our understanding and conservation of these endangered animals. Generously supported by Nita and Donald Reed and Jean M. Read.

- 1 ROM team salvaging two Blue Whales
- 2 A 3D rendering of *Metaspriggina*, the earliest known fish in the fossil record
- 3 An artist conceptualization of newly-discovered dinosaur species, *Wendiceratops*
- 4 A white, spiky scolecite specimen from the Kirwin Collection
- 5 Dr. David Evans, James and Louise Temerty Endowed Chair of Vertebrate Palaeontology

### 4 CURATING WORLD-CLASS COLLECTIONS

ROM Earth & Space now proudly houses the Kirwin Collection, a global assortment of more than 20,000 ores and minerals, assembled over a lifetime by geologist Douglas Kirwin. Its arrival at the ROM signifies a rebirth of geology at the Museum and our ability to teach and to inspire our audiences with new insights into our remarkable planet. The Kirwin Collection represents the largest single acquisition of ROM Earth & Space, now held in trust for the people of Ontario.

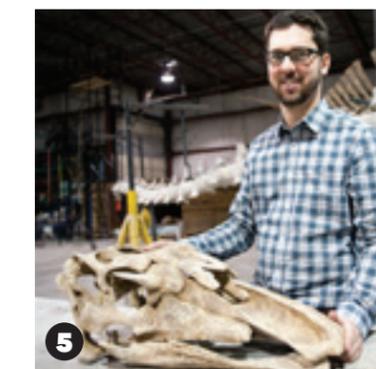
“The Kirwin Collection is an incredible resource for cutting-edge research, post-secondary teaching, and public display. Many of the outstanding pieces in this remarkable collection are from mines that have closed or have become inaccessible.”

**Dr. Kim Tait**  
ROM Curator of Mineralogy and Teck Chair in Mineralogy

The acquisition of the Kirwin Collection was made possible by the generous support of AMC Consultants, BMO Financial Group, the Bogden Family, Scott and Ellen Hand, Hatch, Douglas Kirwin, the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, Rock of Ages Gala 2011, Francine and Robert Ruggles, Christopher Wansbrough, Women in Mining Toronto, and Yamana Gold Inc.

### 5 EXHIBITING NEW DISCOVERIES

A new species of dinosaur that lived 79 million years ago was just the latest in a series of finds by Dr. David Evans, James and Louise Temerty Endowed Chair of Vertebrate Palaeontology, as part of the Southern Alberta Dinosaur Project. The dig that uncovered *Wendiceratops*' remains was featured on the HISTORY Channel's *Dino Hunt Canada* and a full skeleton reconstruction was mounted in the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs. Published in PLOS ONE, Dr. Evans' paper



on *Wendiceratops* has been viewed or downloaded more than 21,870 times! This amazing acquisition was made possible by the support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust.

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



## SHARING A CANADIAN STORY

Visitors took a deep dive into the mystery behind the Franklin Expedition, which saw Sir John Franklin's two ships, the *HMS Erebus* and the *HMS Terror*, vanish 160 years ago on an Arctic voyage. This pop-up exhibition featured a stunning 3D-printed replica of the bell recovered from the *HMS Erebus*, made by Edward Burzynsky, to tell this historic tale. Special thanks to Lead Exhibit Patron, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, as well as the Government of Canada; Isles Foundation Incorporated—The John E. Irving Family; Andrew and Valerie Pringle; The WB Family Foundation; and an anonymous donor for generously supporting this project.



## INSPIRING WONDER

An acquisition made possible by the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, Eugène Séguin's *Insectes* portfolio is an extraordinary example of the crossover from natural history specimens to the world of fine and decorative arts. Now visible to the public in the ROM Library, this work is highly regarded for its scientifically accurate depiction of insects, as well as its innovative designs for fabrics inspired by nature.



## WILDLIFE EXPLORATION

Your support resulted in over 425 members of the public joining forces to document life in Canada's largest urban nature network, as part of the 2014 BioBlitz. ROM researchers and "citizen scientists" documented 1,560 species in the Humber River Watershed over a 24-hour period. This annual ROM program has grown to include 15 community-led BioBlitzes! Get involved at [ontariobioblitz.ca](http://ontariobioblitz.ca).



## HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY

Last year's ROM Game Jam invited programmers, musicians and visual artists to develop video games based on biodiversity. Held in partnership with Gamercamp and the University of Toronto, this innovating program bridges the gap between Generation Y and environmental awareness, creating new avenues to showcase ROM collections and research.

**Thank you for believing in the transformative power of the ROM.**

For explorers and inquisitive minds of all ages, your support helps connect them to their world and to each other.