



## A Passion for Palaeontology

David Evans, Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the ROM

**“I hope my research will ultimately provide a better understanding of the causes and consequences of mass extinctions in general, and give insights into the biodiversity crisis that we face today—a mass extinction event induced by human activity.”**

LIKE MANY KIDS IN ONTARIO, David Evans first fell in love with dinosaurs at the ROM. A couple of decades later, he’s still eager to know more about these magnificent creatures—how they lived and reproduced, and what ultimately led to their disappearance from the planet. David got his dinosaur-hunting chops working as a field technician for the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta while he was in graduate school. His doctoral dissertation analyzed skull growth and evolutionary relationships in crested hadrosaurs. Since the ROM has one of the best collections of these dinosaurs in the world, it was natural that David chose to do his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto.

As one of the ROM’s youngest and most accomplished curators, David regularly blogs and tweets while he’s in the field searching for and collecting dinosaurs and other vertebrate fossils. While in South Africa in 2006, he played a key role in discovering the oldest dinosaur nesting site—a major find that made headlines around the world. He has conducted fieldwork in Alberta,

Mongolia, Saharan Africa and even the Canadian arctic—where he had a dramatic run-in with a polar bear. David is a world-recognized authority on duck-billed dinosaurs, and has published extensively on dinosaur anatomy, evolution, and functional morphology. And he thinks there is so much more to learn—he predicts that as the arctic ice recedes, we will see a boom in dinosaur discoveries in the Polar Regions: “There are huge areas of Mesozoic age rocks that are becoming more easily accessible with climate change and improved logistics,” he says.

### Tales from dinosaur digs

David Evans will present *In Search of African Dinosaurs: Discoveries from South Africa & Sudan* on November 25, 2012, as part of the ROM’s Dinosaur Hunters Speaker Series. For tickets visit [rom.on.ca](http://rom.on.ca)

Top left: David Evans in Mongolia.  
Top right: David Evans behind the scenes at the ROM.

## Bearing Witness

A dark chapter in Cambodia’s history

The Institute for Contemporary Culture (ICC) presents *Observance and Memorial: Photographs from S-21, Cambodia*, featuring over 100 photographs developed from original negatives abandoned by the Khmer Rouge in January 1979, at the S-21 secret prison in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Curated by Photo Archive Group, and Dr. Carla Shapiro from the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, this exhibition calls attention to the atrocities in Cambodia in the 1970s and human rights issues. It runs from September 22, 2012–March 17, 2013.



Special thanks to Susan Crocker and John Hunkin, Ron Graham, the Honourable William C. Graham and Cathy Graham, Deanna Horton, Richard W. Ivey, and Sarah and Tom Milroy for their generous support of this exhibition. For information on how you can support *Observance and Memorial* or to make a donation to the ICC, please contact Britt Welter-Nolan at 416.586.5579 or [brittw@rom.on.ca](mailto:brittw@rom.on.ca)

## Inside Scoop

• The ROM’s signature fundraising event **Fact? or Fiction?** returns on October 16, 2012. Match wits with clever curators to determine the true nature or purpose of mysterious artifacts and objects from the ROM’s vaults. The answers will be revealed during a gala dinner with ROM experts. Reserve your table today for this lively event in support of ROM research and educational programs. For more information, visit [rom.on.ca/factorfiction](http://rom.on.ca/factorfiction).



• **Run for the ROM!** Join your colleagues, family and friends for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Group Charity Challenge on October 14, 2012. Register to raise funds in support of the ROM’s highest priorities, including the future gallery of Early Life. For more information contact Keiko Okutsu at 416.586.8064 or [keiko@rom.on.ca](mailto:keiko@rom.on.ca).

• The ROM’s **BIG** exhibition opens November 3, 2012 in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume. The installation showcases objects that, in one way or another, are BIG: big in size, big in historical significance, created by a big name artist or, simply, carry a big price tag.

Cover image: “Water sleeve” evening gown, Vivienne Tam, Jade Collection Fall 2011. Gift of Vivienne Tam. © Thomas Kleitecka.

Unidentified prisoners from secret prison S-21. Images: Courtesy of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Photo Archive Group.

## RUN FOR THE ROM!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2012  
TORONTO WATERFRONT



For more information, please call Dianne Lister at 416.586.5660 or visit [rom.on.ca/support](http://rom.on.ca/support)

Royal Ontario Museum Governors  
100 Queen’s Park, Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M5S 2C6



# ROM INSIDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ROM GOVERNORS  
FALL/WINTER 2012

## BIG PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES AT THE ROM



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Larger than life: A BIG exhibition opens at the ROM in November
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- Unearthing buried treasures with the ROM’s top palaeontologists



## Inside the ROM Governors

Summer at the ROM has been a whirlwind of activity. Exciting new initiatives such as Friday Night Live and our family weekend programming have been extremely popular and we have seen many new visitors and partners come through our doors. Also hugely successful has been our groundbreaking exhibition *Ultimate Dinosaurs: Giants from Gondwana*, which pioneers the use of Augmented Reality and includes the largest dinosaur ever mounted in Canada.

This month, it is a great pleasure to welcome Robert Pierce as the new chairman of the Board of Governors. As a long-time volunteer, Board member for more than 12 years, and supporter of the ROM, Rob has served in a leadership capacity on several philanthropic committees and initiatives, including the Renaissance ROM Countdown to Completion Task Force, the Finance and Investment Committee, the Museum’s signature fundraising event, Fact? or Fiction?, and the Royal Patrons’ Circle (RPC) Committee. Over the past decade, Rob has led by example, generously supporting the ROM’s highest priorities and philanthropic projects.

We are also pleased to have Elyse Allan, Salvatore Badali, John Bianchini, Robert Keilty and Thor Eaton as new Board members. This newly re-energized Board and an enhanced partnership with the ROM Board of Trustees will enable us to help bring the Museum’s strategic plan to life.



As we prepare for the ROM’s centennial in 2014, we aim to help the ROM become a more public-focused institution that will give our patrons and donors better access to our world-class research and curatorial expertise. A key fundraising priority will be the future gallery of Early Life. This gallery will showcase the ROM’s impressive collection of fossils that come to us from coast to coast across Canada. Read on to discover more about this exciting project and the people working to bring it to life.

Dianne Lister  
President & Executive Director  
ROM Governors



## New YPC Chair: Anna-Maria Kanefff

The Young Patrons’ Circle (YPC) is pleased to welcome Anna-Maria Kanefff as its new Chair. Anna-Maria joined YPC in 2008 and is involved in numerous charities; she is Director of the Credit Valley Hospital Foundation Board and is a founding Board member of the Grassroots Reconciliation Group in Uganda, serving as its CFO and a Director of its board. She is Vice-President of the Commercial Division for the Kanefff Group of Companies, a private Peel-based real estate company that develops and manages commercial, residential and golf properties in Southern Ontario.

Anna-Maria is honoured to take on the role of YPC Chair. “I see it as an opportunity to work with fantastic ROM staff, enthusiastic patrons and interact with curators in an intimate setting,” she says. “YPC lets young professionals engage in the life of the ROM through special behind-the-scenes events. It’s a great way to meet people who have similar interests, want to learn about science and history, and discover a different side of the ROM at night with a glass of wine in hand.”



## Solving the Evolutionary Puzzle

Jean-Bernard Caron, Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology at the ROM

MOST BOYS DREAM ABOUT BEING AN ASTRONAUT or a cowboy when they grow up. Jean-Bernard Caron knew by age 10 that he wanted to be a palaeontologist. By that time he had already collected and curated his personal fossil collection in his native France. As a young man, he jumped at the chance to join Desmond Collins, then Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology at the ROM at the famous Burgess Shale fossil deposit in British Columbia.

Jean-Bernard was hooked: he went on to study *Banffia constricta*—one of the most bizarre animals known from this fossil bed—for his Master’s thesis. His doctoral research focused on the taphonomy and palaeoecology of the Burgess Shale community. Today he is Canada’s leading expert on the Burgess Shale.

Jean-Bernard is currently discovering new fossils for a variety of research projects touching early animal evolution in the Burgess Shale vicinity. Recently, he worked at Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve in Newfoundland and Labrador where he led a project to create a giant cast of the rocky coastline full of soft-bodied sea creatures that date back 565 million years. Many of these deep-sea fossils will find their way into the gallery of Early life, scheduled to open at the ROM in late 2014.

Working with the virtual Museum of Canada, Jean-Bernard spearheaded the making of an interactive website on the Burgess Shale, launched less than a year ago ([burgess-shale.rom.on.ca](http://burgess-shale.rom.on.ca)). The innovative site shows animations of bizarre creatures like the large predatory animal *Anomalocaris canadensis*. In 2010, Jean-Bernard was given the Pikaia award from the Canadian Geological Association in recognition of his research accomplishments and contribution to the profile of Canadian palaeontology.

**Small worm, big story:** Jean-Bernard made headlines in May of this year when he co-authored an article in the British journal, *Biological Reviews*, confirming that *Pikaia gracilens*—a Burgess Shale worm—is our earliest known ancestor. “It’s very humbling to know that swans, snakes, bears, zebras and, incredibly, humans all share a deep history with this little creature no longer than my thumb,” he told the Calgary Sun.

To learn more about the future gallery of Early Life or to support early life initiatives at the ROM, contact Patricia Page at 416.586.7946 or [ppage@rom.on.ca](mailto:ppage@rom.on.ca)

Top left: Jean-Bernard Caron at the Burgess Shale, BC. Bottom right: *Pikaia gracilens*, a primitive chordate from the Cambrian era, Burgess Shale. © Marianne Collins

## Oh, Canada!

What makes Canada unique? Maple syrup, hockey and multiculturalism are just a few things that come to mind. Our country is also known for its beautiful rivers, mountains and animals such as the beaver, the loon and the Canada goose.

But Canada is also a ‘hotbed’ of fossil deposits, with discovery sites from British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador. Our oldest fossils are between 2.5 and 3

**“The gallery of Early Life will inspire Canadians to see their country in a new way (imagine the Rockies at the bottom of an ancient ocean!), and will contribute to our sense of national identity and place.” —Janet Carding, Director & CEO, ROM**

billion years old and the “youngest” are less than 10,000 years old. These represent a window into our collective past and offer clues to how life began on Earth—long before dinosaurs came onto the scene. ROM curators are world leaders in the research and excavation of these fossil beds. They are also responsible for building some of the largest and most impressive collections of fossils anywhere, and adding to our understanding of the evolution of early life.

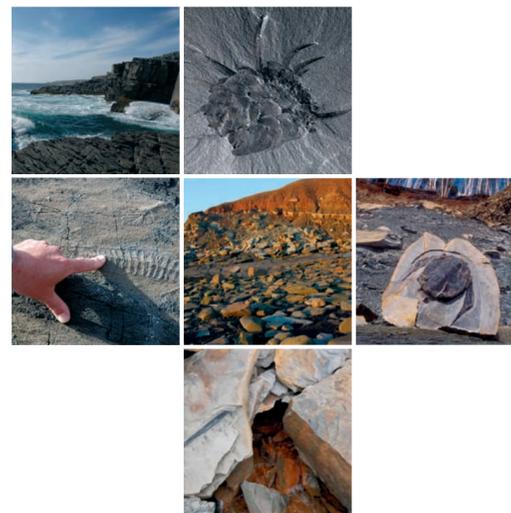
“The gallery of Early Life will allow us to share treasures that have never been shared—with Canadians and with the rest of the world,” says Jean-Bernard Caron, Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology at the ROM.

Key fossils sites from across the country including the Burgess Shale (British Columbia), Miguasha National Park (Quebec), Joggins (Nova Scotia), and Mistaken Point (Newfoundland) have contributed spectacular fossil specimens to the ROM’s early life collection. The first three have been deemed UNESCO World Heritage Sites for their outstanding value to our natural heritage. Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve—home to the world’s oldest, largest and best preserved examples of early

marine multicellular life forms—is now on the cusp of being declared a World Heritage Site as well.

Over the past century, ROM researchers have built the world’s largest and most definitive Burgess Shale fossil collection and Jean-Bernard is considered a leading expert on the Burgess Shale. His ongoing work informs our growing understanding of the origin and early evolution of animals, and his passion for the subject matter will be vital to creating an evolving gallery of Early Life.

Are you a fossil fanatic? Join the ROM’s Friends of Palaeontology group to become part of a community of individuals who are fascinated by fossils. Members enjoy free lectures and invitations to events highlighting the research, fieldwork and discoveries of ROM palaeontologists. Follow our palaeontology experts on Twitter @ROMpalaeo or visit [rom.on.ca](http://rom.on.ca) for more information.



Top row: Mistaken Point, NL (left), the Burgess Shale soft-bodied fossil *Wiwaxia corugata* (centre). Centre row: Ediacaran fossils at Mistaken Point: *Fractafusus misrai* and *Bradgatia linfordensis* (left). © David Rudkin. Fossils from Joggins, NS (centre), fossils from Miguasha, QC (right). Bottom row: Fossil from Joggins.

## The Life Aquatic



### A transformative gift from the Schad family comes alive at the ROM

IN 2006, THE SCHAD FAMILY GAVE a leadership gift of \$12 million to the ROM to build the Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity. This interactive gallery houses some 2,500 specimens and conveys three core themes: life is diverse, life is interconnected, and life is at risk.

The ROM’s coral reef is teeming with life. Located in the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity, the tank holds around 60 aquatic species that range from corals to fishes to sea stars. The colours contained inside this 900-gallon ocean look almost unreal. And looking entirely at home in the swaying coral fronds is a little clownfish that looks like it swam straight out of Finding Nemo. A rare glimpse of the coral reef at night reveals coral extending their feeding tentacles for microscopic organisms or sea cucumbers and crabs foraging for food.

This idyllic slice of sea life functions as a teaching tool for ROM staff who have a serious message to get across. “The live coral reef is a symbol of what a healthy coral reef looks like,” says Dave Ireland, Managing Director of Biodiversity Programs. “Up to 90 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef has been bleached, 50 per cent of all coral reefs all over the world are critically endangered, 10 per cent are dead—and the primary threat to corals are human activities.”

The ROM’s pristine reef has been untouched by elevated carbon dioxide levels which lead to acidification of our oceans. Climate change can also lead to warmer temperatures that cause changing patterns in species composition. “We understand less about the oceans than we do the moon,” says Dave, “and yet oceans govern our climate, feed billions, and are losing species at unprecedented levels.”

To learn how you can support biodiversity initiatives at the ROM contact Ashley Downey at 416.586.7908 or [ashleyd@rom.on.ca](mailto:ashleyd@rom.on.ca)

The United Nations declared 2010-2020 the decade for biodiversity, with marine biodiversity as the theme for 2012. The ROM kicked off its year of ocean-related programming on World Water Day in March. Children learned about sustainable technology in the Earth Rangers Studio and how modern engineering can reduce water consumption.

In April, the ROM partnered with WWF-Canada to bring *Canada’s Oceans and You* to the 2012 Green Living Show at the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto. Presented

by Loblaw Companies Limited, the exhibition featured a 3D installation with more than 50 marine specimens and models, including the “unicorn of the sea”, the mysterious narwhal of Canada’s Arctic Ocean.

The ROM also welcomed Rob Stewart, acclaimed documentary filmmaker of *Sharkwater* for an event called *Ignite a Revolution* on June 8, 2012. Held on World Oceans Day, attendees had a sneak peak of Rob’s new movie *Revolution* followed by a multi-media talk.

To bookend the year of ocean programming, leading academics including ROM Associate Curator Dr. Claire Healy, will discuss the state of Canada’s oceans at a November 16-17 National Symposium. This ocean meeting, presented in partnership with the Vancouver Aquarium, is intended for both a public and an academic audience and will address new discoveries, sustainable seafood choices and new ways to communicate science.

## A dinosaur-sized sponsor impact

A KEY VALUE FOR THE PEOPLE OF RAYMOND JAMES is giving back into the communities in which they live and serve clients across Canada. One area of focus is support for cultural and arts activities that enrich, educate and inspire. This is why investment dealer Raymond James Ltd. chose to partner with the ROM as presenting sponsor of *Ultimate Dinosaurs: Giants from Gondwana*.

Meticulously curated, designed, and produced by the ROM, *Ultimate Dinosaurs* is a superb reflection of the combined strengths of the Museum’s in-house research and curatorial teams. ROM Patrons were among the first to see this stunning exhibition at the Patrons’ Preview.

“We congratulate all of the tremendously talented employees and volunteers at the ROM for creating this important exhibition,” says Paul Allison, Chairman and CEO, Raymond James Ltd. “We look forward to experiencing this spectacular journey and are proud to partner with the ROM to create fascinating and fun memories for dinosaur explorers of all ages.”

**RAYMOND JAMES**

## Supporting school programs

AS ONE OF CANADA’S LARGEST extra-curricular educators, the ROM welcomes more than 150,000 students each year from more than 3,000 elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools in Toronto and across Canada. The generous support of our donors and corporate sponsors help us give children magical and meaningful learning experiences at the ROM.

Since 2006, Linamar Corporation has supported the Linamar School Visits Bursary, enabling elementary and high school students from Guelph and Centre Wellington communities to experience the Museum’s unique curriculum. Education is at the core of the ROM’s mission and we are delighted that Linamar Corporation has renewed its commitment to the Bursary for another five years. “Students who come to the ROM enjoy memorable, hands-on learning experiences that stay with them for



years to come,” says Linda Hasenfratz, CEO of Linamar Corporation and ROM Governors Board member. “The Linamar School Visits

Bursary means students who live outside of Toronto can also enjoy these rich educational opportunities.” The Slight Family Foundation has also generously invested in the Slight Family Foundation Aboriginal Youth Engagement Program and the Ada Slight School Visits Bursary. This gift will help in part to develop sustainable outreach programming for Aboriginal youth as well as non-Aboriginal students. “We’re very pleased to help more First Nations schools and communities gain better access to the ROM,” says Gary Slight, President and Chief Executive Officer of Slight Communications Ltd.

Sincere thanks to our generous corporate sponsors of the ROM’s School Visits Bursary, including HSBC Bank Canada, Great West life, Imperial Oil Foundation, Loblaw Companies Limited and KPMG Foundation. For information on how you or your organization can support educational initiatives at the ROM, please contact Sara Zerehi at 416.586.5546 or [saraz@rom.on.ca](mailto:saraz@rom.on.ca)