

# Paleontology

## focus

AFTER THE  
GREAT  
DINOSAUR RUSH

WHO WORKED TO PROTECT THE FOSSILS AND  
CREATE THE WELL-KNOWN DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL  
PARK? READ THE STORY BELOW.

## 50 Years of Protecting Alberta's Heritage



After the "Great Dinosaur Rush" it became a hot topic of who should be allowed to hunt for fossils, keep the fossils and what should be done to the Badlands area to protect them.

Dr. W. G. Anderson was a local homesteader who became a supporter for a national park being established in the badlands. He strongly believed that by making the badlands a national park, that this area would be looked after and protected.

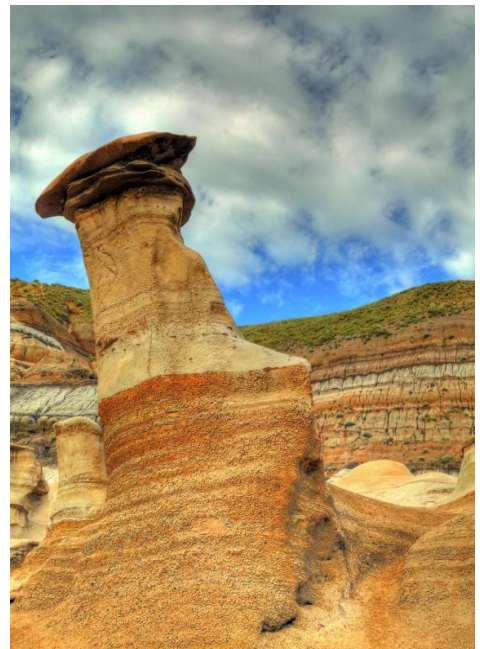
Dr. Anderson's wish came true, when the Alberta government created the Steppenwolf Dinosaur Provincial Park, in 1955 (later renamed Dinosaur Provincial Park.) This area was now a

natural preserve, meaning that it is a protected area of importance for its geographical features and landforms. The Badlands are known for their breathtaking landscapes and geographical features including flat plateaus and many river valleys full of cliffs. Up to 300,000 tourists visit the badlands each year.

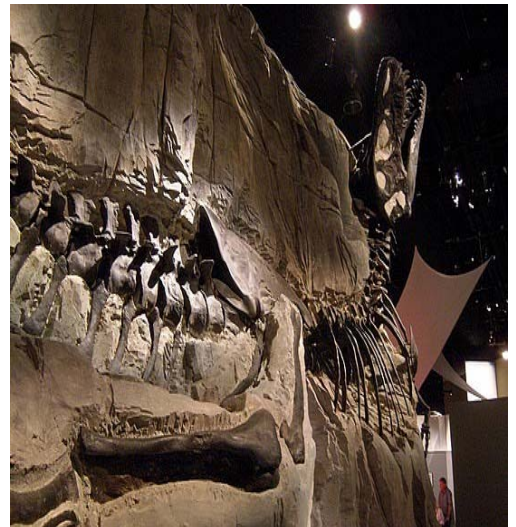
Now, the fossils cannot be removed without permission from the government— as the government recognizes the immense value these bones have on our shared Albertan history.

The United Nations recognized the highly valuable and unique character of the badlands area, and in 1980 declared the Dinosaur Provincial Park a World Heritage Site.

Further, in 1987, the Alberta government opened the Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology. This is a working museum, where paleontologists gather fossils from around the province and work with other scientists to study dinosaur bones here in Alberta, rather than shipping them off to other parts of Canada or around the



<http://atlasobscura.com/place/hoodoos>



world.

Knowing how rare and valuable dinosaur bones are, Albertans around the province watch out for these strange fossils, and quickly report their finds to the museum who send their trained staff to collect and study new fossils to add to the knowledge Albertans are sharing with the world.

## Royal Tyrell Museum



The Royal Tyrell Museum is Canada's only museum that is devoted to paleontology, the study of fossils. This museum contains the world's largest collection of dinosaur fossils that go as far back as 3.9 million years ago. This museum is visited by more than 300 000 visitors each year. The Royal Tyrell museum provides information about the fossils and the paleontologists who discovered them, going from the tiniest of insects to the largest of dinosaurs. The museum was named after Joseph Burr Tyrell, a geologist who found dinosaurs fossils.

Times have changed since Mr. Tyrell's day. No longer do people race to find and take the bones of these great creatures that once roamed our earth. Fossils are kept here in Alberta, not sold but rather, they are studied. In fact, the museum is world famous for the work they do in learning about the lives of dinosaurs.

The Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta and the Badlands area is unique in the world. Come and share this fascinating experience by visiting this breath taking, protected area!