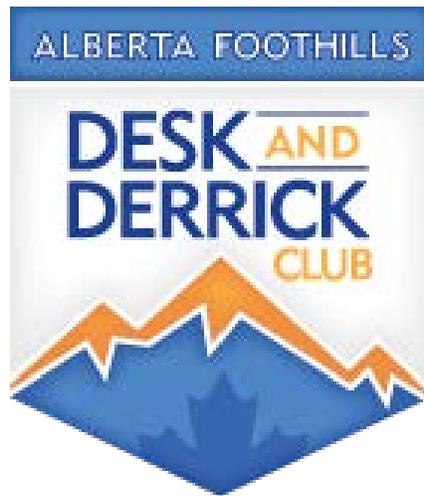


Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club

# MOUNTAIN MESSAGES



September 2016

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Sincere thanks to all contributors. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for clarity and space.

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### Reservations

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### Fundraising:

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### Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs

**Motto:** Greater Knowledge – Greater Service

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Desk and Derrick Club is to promote the education and professional development of individuals employed in, or affiliated with, the petroleum, energy and allied industries and to educate the general public about these industries.

**Mission Statement:** To enhance and foster a positive image to the global community by promoting the contributions of the petroleum, energy and allied industries through education, by using all resources available.

Web site: [addc.org](http://addc.org)

### 2016 Region VII Director

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## IN THIS ISSUE

June Membership Meeting notes .....	4
June Membership Meeting photos .....	5
ABFDDC President's letter .....	6
Region VII Director's Letter .....	7
ADDC President's letter .....	8
Events / Birthdays .....	9
ADDC Change of Address form .....	10

### Region VII Meeting Reports

President's Report .....	12
First Timer's Report .....	13
Investing in our Canadian Oil & Gas Industry .....	14
Creating Your Vision Board .....	14
Royal Tyrrell Museum .....	15

### Mountain Messages

Submission deadline for October issue:  
September 29

Send submissions to:

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[addc.org](http://addc.org) > Members > ADDC Insight

Send submissions to:

Helen Trujillo: [htrujillo@rlbayless.com](mailto:htrujillo@rlbayless.com)

### Membership information

All member contact information is for our members only and not to be shared outside of Desk and Derrick.

All membership changes must be submitted to the Membership Chair on the ADDC Change of Address form, as the completed form needs to be provided to the ADDC office. The blank form is available at the end of this newsletter.

Send membership changes to:

Naomi Reid: [naomic.reid@gmail.com](mailto:naomic.reid@gmail.com)

### ADDC Membership Application Form:

[addc.org](http://addc.org) > Members > ADDC Forms >  
Membership Application – ADDC12

## INSPIRATION

*Presented by Lorna Myers at the June dinner meeting*

When I was . . .

Four years old: My Daddy can do anything.

Five years old: My Daddy knows a whole lot.

Six years old: my Dad is smarter than your dad.

Eight years old: My Dad doesn't know exactly everything.

Ten years old: In the olden days when my Dad grew up, things were sure different

Twelve years old: Oh, well, naturally Father doesn't know anything about that; he is too old to remember his childhood.

Fourteen years old: Don't pay any attention to my father; he is too old-fashioned!

Twenty-one years old: Him? My Lord, he's hopelessly out-of-date.

Twenty-five years old: Dad knows a little bit about it, but then he should because he has been around so long.

Thirty years old: Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he's had a lot of experience.

Thirty-five years old: I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.

Forty years old: I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise and had a world of experience.

Fifty years old: I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him.



# Minutes of the 149th Membership Meeting of the Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club

June 8, 2016 at the International Hotel, Calgary

President Tracy Fillmore called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., and welcomed 12 members and 2 guests. Our guests were: Shellie Cunningham from Baker Hughes, guest of Allison Rosland and our speaker for the evening, and Gisele Mayer.

Lorna Myers gave Invocation.

## Announcements:

- Lena Myers is being moved home for therapy to make her stronger for a chance at a transplant in Pittsburgh.
- Val Blanchard (Region III) had a liver transplant and is doing well.
- Region VII Director Elect Joyce Henkin's appointment has fallen through because of lack of company support. Deb Porath, Nomination Committee Chair, is asking for volunteers to step forward for this position. She has sent an email to all Region VII clubs, asking for nominations. The Alberta Foothills Club has provided the Region VII Director for the past two years and we would look to another Club to take on this responsibility for 2017.

Dinner was served.

Allison Rosland introduced our speaker, Shellie Cunningham, who presented *Oil 101 – Understanding the Primary Concepts*, about the state of the industry in the new economic environment. Linda Topolinsky thanked Shellie and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

## MOTION

### Preamble

At the Board of Directors meeting held on May 25, 2016, the members discussed the timing for this summer's meetings and events, and we recommend that the July and August meetings be waived. In the past we have had Bar-B-Qs, golf tournaments and other events in lieu of the July meeting, but this year we have decided to plan a field trip in June.

### Motion

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club of Calgary waive the July and August general membership dinner meetings for this 2016 season, only.

Proposed by: Roseline Cyr

Seconded by: Donna O'Neill

Motion carried

## NOTICE OF MOTION

(to be voted on by email July 11, 2016)

### Preamble

In accordance with ARTICLE XVI – REPRESENTATION, which reads as follows:

*Representation at conventions of the Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs or other meetings requiring the presence of an official Club representative shall be by a delegate or alternate, or both, recommended by the Board and voted on by membership at any general membership meeting after thirty (30) days prior notice to membership. Funding is to be in accordance with Article XXI, Section 7.*

The Board of Directors hereby recommends that we send both our Club Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the ADDC Convention, which will be held in Denver, Colorado, from September 21 to 24, 2016.

### Motion

BE IT RESOLVED that the President, Tracy Fillmore, of the Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club, be the official Delegate and that Naomi Reid be the alternate Delegate at the Convention to be held in Denver, Colorado, from September 21 to 24, 2016. Also, that the Delegates' legitimate expenses as outlined in Article XXI, Section 7 of the bylaws, be borne by the Club.

Proposed by: Roseline Cyr

Seconded by: Theresa Schultz

The following Years of Service milestones were announced, and Laura Schmidt was presented with a Certificate of recognition:

Laura Schmidt – 35 years

Loreen Jensen – 30 years (absent)

Jo Laird – 15 years (absent)

New member cards and pins from ADDC were presented to Kiki Aderibigbe and Julia Ermisch.

Committee Reports were presented by Donna O'Neill (Treasurer), Roseline Cyr (Parliamentarian), Allison Rosland (Programs / Field Trips) and Connie MacRae (Communications).

Marilyn and Brain Carter will not be able to attend Convention and host the Hospitality Suite. The Denver Club is looking for volunteers to help out with this.

Next Board meeting: June 29

50/50 draw winner (\$40.00): Theresa Schultz

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Closing quote from President Tracy:

*Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak.*

*Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen*

–Sir Winston Churchill

Tracy Fillmore

Tracy Fillmore, President



June 8, 2016 Membership Meeting Photos



Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club

**Letter from the President**

Tracy Fillmore

September 2016



Dear Members:

The 2016 Fire & Ice Energy Excursion to Iceland was an amazing adventure. Starting at the Blue Lagoon, doing the Golden Circle Route, to touring around the island, stopping at waterfalls, museums, a geyser, national parks, glaciers, Myvatn Lake and other points-of interest. Tours and talks at Geo-thermal plants, at the new Reykjavik University, and luncheon with the Women of Energy group to seeing the lava fields stretch for miles and miles.

The island has a large variety of bird species including swans, eagles, hawks, owls, ducks, seagulls, puffins, etc. Other animals include a very large sheep population, Icelandic horses, dairy cattle, two reindeer (caribou) and no predators such as coyotes.

To Dave Heron and the organizing committee, a huge Thank You for a job well done!

With summer behind us and holidays enjoyed, family visited and celebrations held, we can embrace September as we are getting back on track and back to our daily routines.

Ahead on the horizon is Convention, a time to reconnect with friends, make new friends and be inspired by all that Convention has to offer in the way of field trips, seminars and social events. I am looking forward to Convention and all of the education options to be attended by the club members, so that we all can broaden our horizons thorough attendance or reading the articles in the next issue of the Mountain Messages.

Keep our quest for “Greater Knowledge – Greater Service” alive by inviting friends or colleagues to the next meeting; we are still having the guest’s dinner and member’s dinner covered for first time attendees with a completion of the survey.

Regards, Tracy

2016 ABFDDC President

[fillmore677@gmail.com](mailto:fillmore677@gmail.com)

403-837-8720



## Region VII Director's Letter



Region VII Director  
**Cori Peever**

[cpeever@fishingsolutions.ca](mailto:cpeever@fishingsolutions.ca)



September 2016

Well, the 5th Alberta Foothills Desk and Derrick Club Energy Excursion was a huge success.

We had 10 days jam packed with adventure and learning . . . not all of it energy related . . . but learning nonetheless.

We visited a Viking museum, a volcano museum, rode Icelandic ponies, also visited the largest waterfall in Europe, saw humpback whales, puffins and reindeer (all 3 of them).

We saw the meeting place of the Eurasian and American tectonic plates, and some of us even saw it underwater! The plate boundary crosses Iceland from South to North and is spreading at a rate of approximately 2 centimeters per year. The country literally gets bigger every year! We were very near the Katla volcano which is currently under watch for eruption. Did you know that in Iceland, a volcanic eruption is a tourist event? I'm not kidding!

We visited the Blue Lagoon, then learned all about geothermal power at the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant, where we were served warm bread (cooked using geothermal heat) and even tasted Icelandic schnapps.

We also visited the Iceland School of Energy, where Project Manager, Randall Morgan Greene (Morgan), explained why people go to Iceland to study energy and introduced us to 4 students who presented outlines of energy projects they are currently working on, one of which is determining whether hydraulic fracturing is a viable option for increasing production in geothermal wells.

We also had a luncheon with Women in Energy – Iceland, who are a relatively new association, but a kindred spirit in that their objective is to encourage women into the field of energy.

So, after being home a few days and having time to recover from jet lag, I'm now turning my thoughts to Convention and am sure that any of us who were fortunate enough to participate in this excursion will have loads of stories to share.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cori Peever".

Cori





## Board of Directors

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If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself  
– *Henry Ford*

The 65th Annual Convention of the Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs is almost here and the GAC committee is working very hard to make sure your time in Denver is educational and an enjoyable time in the Mile High City of Denver, Colorado. There are several field trips and seminars that will increase your knowledge of this ever changing industry. I look forward to seeing everyone in Colorado.

We still have a mountain to scale to get our membership back up and to navigate these troubled waters during this downturn in our Industry. There are signs of a comeback starting to surface but as each of you know these comebacks come slowly and take time and patience. As I have said so many times, nothing is impossible as long as we are in it together.

I appreciate the opportunity to lead this Association in 2016 as your President but know that I could not nor would not do it without each one of you, the members, and I am honored to be your humble servant. We covered much ground during this year and we are not finished yet. We still have so much to do but together it will become a reality.

Convention is a wonderful time of seeing old friends and making new ones and learning more about what is offered in the Denver, Colorado area. It is a beautiful state and the Rocky Mountains are majestic as they rise to reach new heights each day as we should strive to do as well. Not only in our Association but in our day to day goings and comings.

Thank you all again for your commitment and service. I appreciate each and every one of you.

Go forward with resolve and remember to recruit, renew and rejuvenate for the future.

**Connie Harrison**  
2016 ADDC President



# Events

## Alberta Foothills

### August Board Meeting

August 31, 5:00 p.m.

CNRL offices

Banker's Hall – West tower

### September Membership Meeting

September 14

Registration / networking 5:30 p.m.

Dinner / meeting 6:00 p.m.

International Hotel

220 – 4 Avenue SW

### September Board Meeting

September 28, 5:00 p.m.

CNRL offices

Banker's Hall – West tower

### October Membership Meeting

October 12

Registration / networking 5:30 p.m.

Dinner / meeting 6:00 p.m.

International Hotel

220 – 4 Avenue SW

### October Board Meeting

October 26, 5:00 p.m.

CNRL offices

Banker's Hall – West tower

## ADDC (Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs)

### [2016 Convention](#)

September 21 – 24, 2016

*Plant Knowledge Through Education*

Hosted by the Region VII Clubs

Denver, Colorado

[Registration Packet](#)

### 2017 Convention

Hosted by San Antonio Club (Region IV)

San Antonio, Texas

### 2018 Convention

Hosted by Tri State Desk and Derrick Club (Region II)

Evansville, Indiana

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

## July

Tracy Fillmore

Naomi Reid

Joanie Jarvis

## August

Allison Rosland

## September

Theresa Schultz

Lisa Smolka

Loreen Jensen

## October

Roseline Cyr

Kathi DesChene

Sandra Fitzpatrick

Joanne Riggall



CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Mail to: Association Distribution Office
5321 S. Sheridan Rd., Ste. 24, Tulsa, OK 74145
Email: ado@addc.org

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Please update my membership information to reflect the following changes. If you are a Club President, ADDC Committee Chairman or Representative, fill out this section.

President of: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDC Committee Chairman of: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDC Committee Rep of: \_\_\_\_\_

Check ALL that apply:

- 1. Name Change (Previous Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_)
2. E-Mail Change
3. Mail information to HOME instead of Office.
4. Mail information to OFFICE instead of Home.
5. Home Address Change
6. Company Address/Name Change
7. Employment Change: \_\_\_\_\_ (Job Title)

NEW OFFICE ADDRESS

NEW HOME ADDRESS

Company Name

Company Address

City State Zip

City State Zip

New Office Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

New Home Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

New Office Fax :(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

New Mobile Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

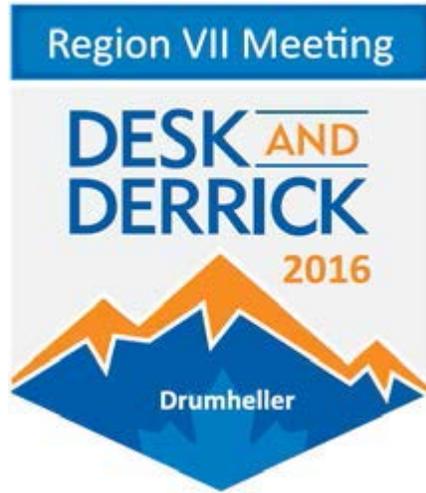
New Primary E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New Secondary E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

IF APPLICABLE:

- 1. I Transferred from Desk & Derrick Club of \_\_\_\_\_ in Region \_\_\_\_\_ to Desk & Derrick Club of \_\_\_\_\_ in Region \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I desire to withdraw my Membership.





## Inspired to Action



## President's Report

Submitted by Tracy Fillmore

I was looking forward to Regional in Drumheller and I enjoyed the drive to Drumheller after work. The Region Meeting is to consist of a Field Trip day, Seminar and Entertainment day and, finally, the Business of the Association day.

Thursday was to be the Field Trip of all field trips, and I'll let you decide for yourself. Breakfast was early, as the bus was leaving at 8:15 a.m. sharp. The bus turned out to be a 1920 style GMC Trolley (so cool). First stop was the Royal Tyrrell Museum for a behind-the-scenes look at the Suncor dinosaur, excavated in 2008, and other artifacts, along with time to view exhibits on display in the museum.



Next was a stop at the ghost town of Rowley. There are 6 people living full-time in Rowley to act as tour guides and the caretakers of the buildings and grounds. There is an amazing

collection of artifacts and antiques within the buildings that brought back many happy childhood memories. Lunch was catered by Boston Pizza at the Saloon.

We then toured the site of the Canadian Badlands Passion Play, an awesome little amphitheatre where there is not a bad seat in the house. The seating and set are permanently erected for summer performances held in July each year.

On to the next stop: a hay ride at the bison ranch – yee haw! – where we learned about the raising of bison. Their growth is slower than cattle; they are kept for 3 years before they are ready for market. Hair is very soft and can be used for spinning and making socks and jackets. Bison jerky and pepperoni were available for purchase at the ranch house.

Next we visited the Atlas Coal Mine, a reminder of how hard people worked and how living then was a lot different from now. We enjoyed a ride in a small steam powered train.



Next up was a view of the Hoodoos, where we had a group photo taken, before heading to the Last Chance Saloon in Wayne for dinner and Karaoke, and a visit to the candy / souvenir shop beside the haunted hotel. The saloon was full of locals enjoying the down home cooking along with a cool beverage.



Who knew we have several stars among our Desk and Derrick members who can belt out a tune and rock the heck out of them – hey Ms. Director! Such a fun

time for all. With supper done and singing completed, we boarded the Trolley for the ride back to the hotel.

The first seminar on Friday was *Tips and Tricks for Investing in our Canadian Oil and Gas Industry*, presented by Debora Rice-Salomons. Debora provided an update on some of the companies we had heard about in an earlier presentation at one of our membership meetings, to see whether they were still a good bet to invest in. Deb also gave some tips on how to research and investigate companies you are interested in investing in.

The next seminar, presented by Gail Cunningham, was about creating a Dream Board. This is a fun and great idea to keep your hopes and dreams front and center, so if you are having a bad day you can just look at this Dream Board to reinforce what you are working towards. Yes, some days are going to be hard and unpleasant to deal with, but in the large picture it is only a tiny moment in time. We scanned through magazines to find images to create our own Dream Boards. With accents of foam lettering or flowers; they were all very creative and inspiring to see.

For me, this was followed by the President's lunch meeting, with training for the business meeting on Saturday and discussion of the Open Forum topic. The Open Forum session was informative, lively and an emotional exchange of ideas and opinions from all clubs, after which we had a better understanding of the issues at hand for Region VII.

The Trolley then transported us to the Rosebud Dinner Theatre's presentation of *Outside Mullingar*. We had time for a bit of shopping at the eclectic group of Artisans' shops. The buffet dinner was a sight to see – wow, what a selection!

After dinner we had a brief Club meeting to discuss the Motion to be voted on in the Business session Saturday. All agreed that we would not disband or inactivate the Region and join another Region.

Across the street we assembled in the theater for the most excellent and entertaining play I have seen in years. Huge kudos to the cast of *Outside Mullingar*, simply spectacular! Back to the hotel by Trolley; so much fun tonight.



## President's Report

– continued

Saturday's itinerary consisted of the ADDC Business session, luncheon with ADDC President Connie Harrison as Keynote Speaker and the evening Banquet with Nancy Robinson Masters as Keynote Speaker, with a Photo Shop for a little fun mixed in.

Lunch with Connie is always a treat, and this time was no exception as she tied in her speech *Lollipops and Leadership* with the play from the night before *The A.I.M.E.E.'s* were then handed out followed by Elise and Joyce, of Denver, being treated to the White Hat ceremony because it was missed at the airport upon arrival. Helen Turgeon of the Edmonton Club presented the Memorial for our members who left us this past year: Jean Maybush, Gladys Pearl Wells, Margret Moser, Edna Fleming, and Elizabeth (Betty) Smith.

Cori Introduced the members of GAC Committee, and Linda Topolinsky announced the Fort McMurray Fundraiser would continue until after dinner (over \$750 was raised).



Our dinner Keynote Speaker has a previous tie to the Desk and Derrick organization; as a youngster her family received help from a Desk and Derrick club which provided school supplies. She regaled us with stories from her life which included her husband, a flight instructor. Volunteers assisted with the presentation, and in the end all of the plane's parts were working in unison to keep the fight in the air – success!

Goofy glasses and hats sparkled in the President's photo, and friends near and far also sported tiaras and boas for their fun in the photo studio later on in the evening. This was an educational and fun filled Regional Meeting. Great job by the GAC headed up by Linda Topolinsky.

## First Timer's Report

Submitted by Donna O'Neill

The fun started with a drive to Drumheller on Wednesday afternoon. In the evening we attended a relaxing reception where I met many Desk and Derrick members from Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Denver. I felt very welcome being a first timer.

Thursday morning we headed out on an awesome field trip with Don Johnston of Wild West Badlands Tour. The first stop was at the Royal Tyrell Museum where following a presentation we had a behind-the-scenes tour. The paleontologist, Dr. Henderson, who supervised the excavation of an Ankylosaur skeleton at Suncor Energy's Millennium Mine site, told us about the excavation process and showed us the skeleton, which to date has taken over 8,000 hours to prepare for display in the coming year.

We then headed to the town of Rowley, which has been used for on-location filming of many western movies including *Unforgiven*, *Legends of the Fall* and *Bye Bye Blues*. We had lunch at Sam's Saloon and toured the town.



Following lunch we travelled to a working buffalo farm, where we were treated to a hayride inside the paddock with the buffalo herd.

Our next stop was the site of the Canadian Badlands Passion Play, the Hoodoos, and the Atlas Coal Mine. The Hoodoos are unique geological formations that were created by wind and water erosion.

The mine tour was an above-ground tour, which included access to original mine buildings and a ride on the Mantrip Locomotive. The mine is a National Historic Site and is currently being restored. Our day ended with a stop at the Last Chance Saloon in Wayne for a delicious steak dinner and Karaoke.

On Friday morning we attended two excellent seminars: *Tips and Tricks for Investing in the Oil & Gas Industry* presented by Debora Rice-Salmons, and *Creating Your Vision Board* presented by Gail Cunningham. In the afternoon Open Forum was held, which included a great discussion about the future of our Region. In the evening, we all boarded a trolley for the Rosebud Dinner Theatre, where we enjoyed a delicious buffet and the production of *Outside Mullingar*.

Saturday morning our Region VII Meeting started bright and early. It was very interesting hearing what the other clubs in the Region have been doing. At the Awards Luncheon ADDC President Connie Harrison delivered an inspirational message.

The evening concluded with the banquet. A lovely meal was served and the keynote speaker was Nancy Robinson Masters, author and inspirational speaker from Texas. She inspired us to work as a team to decide on the future of our Region.

Sunday morning saw us all packing up for the trip home after four days of education, fun and camaraderie.



## Tips and Tricks for Investing in our Canadian Oil and Gas Industry

Presented by Debora Rice–Salomons

Submitted by Kathi DesChene



On a lovely sunny morning in Drumheller, Alberta, Lucy Mulgrew introduced Debora Rice–Salomons, CFA/CBA, to the members of ADDC Region VII, who were anticipating a challenging presentation about Investing.

The ensuing hours went beyond all expectations as Debora revealed some of the "Tips and Tricks" for investing in the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry.

She exposed the attendees to some who's, how's and why's for making money, by leading them through Who's Who in Canadian oil and gas, analyzing different stocks, using internet programs to compare performance, research methods, gathering information, keeping up and focusing, using Indexes and Financial Ratios, Solvency and Strategies, and several other plans.

She advised that Desk and Derrick members have an advantage over the typical investor due to their exposure to better knowledge and their opportunity for better service to make better investments, resulting in better income and a better retirement.

Our sunny morning was expanded into a sunny future as Debora extolled, "When you are tired of working for your money, start making your money work for you" (you had to be there).

## Creating Your Vision Board

Presented by Gail Cunningham

Submitted by Donna O'Neill



Visualization is one of the most powerful mind exercises you can do! Based on the book *The Secret*, "The law of attraction is forming your entire life experience and it is doing that through your thoughts. When you are visualizing, you are emitting a powerful frequency out into the Universe."

A vision board is a collage of images, pictures, and affirmations of your dreams, goals, and things that make you happy. It can also be called a dream board, treasure map, or vision map.

Creating a vision board can be a useful tool to help you conceptualize your goals and can serve as a source of motivation as you work towards achieving your dreams.

Think about things you would like to accomplish in your life. Keep in mind the following: family and friends, health, finances, spiritual, community and recreational time, business (career / work) and legacy.

*The following are some of the inspiring quotations we reviewed before starting work on our individual vision boards. Everyone in attendance enjoyed creating and sharing their dreams and goals.*

*A Dream written down with a Date becomes a Goal.*

*A Goal broken down into Steps becomes a Plan.*

*A Plan backed by Action makes your Dreams come true.*

*My goal is to create a life I don't need a vacation from.*

*Open your mind, arms, and heart to new things and people; we are united in our differences.*

*Ask the next person you see what their passion is, and share your inspiring dream with them.*

*Travel often; getting lost will help you find yourself.*

*Some opportunities only come once, seize them.*

*Life is about the people you meet, and the things you create with them*

*So go out and start creating.*

*Life is short - live your dream, and wear your passion!*



## Royal Tyrrell Museum

Submitted by Claudia Mullis

Flintstones . . . meet the Flintstones; have a Yabba Dabba Doo time! What was your first time memory of seeing a dinosaur? Was it Dino from *The Flintstones*, or the *Jurassic Park* series? Or was it just in books at school with a ho-hum scenario? Kids think they are amazing and would love to see a real one someday. Our tour to the Royal Tyrrell Museum wowed the inner child in all of us with the opportunity to see the beauty of these animals that roamed our earth.

Drumheller is known as the dinosaur capital of the world because of the high concentration of fossils. Millions of years ago the area was tropical, which created a great environment for plant growth where the dinosaurs could flourish. After a cataclysmic event the dinosaurs were wiped out, leaving only their bones to be discovered millions of years later. In the 1880's J.B. Tyrrell came to the area looking for coal and found a dinosaur skull near the Red Deer River. That dinosaur became known as the *Albertosaurus*, which began the collection of the dinosaur remains that are sought after by museums all over the world.



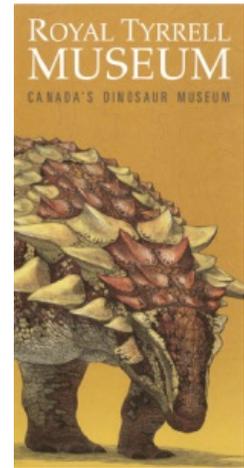
Starting our tour was rather unique – we went in style in a genuine trolley car. It really set the mood as we started our quest to find the dinosaurs. In typical Desk and Derrick fashion we did not want to go from point A to point B without seeing

everything in between. It was like the guide knew us and he proceeded to give us our history lesson as we rumbled along the streets. Along the way we saw an abundance of sculptures provided by the Drumheller DinoArts Association, a volunteer group that fundraises to maintain dinosaur-related artwork sculptures throughout Drumheller and the surrounding valley. Last winter local decided to dress up / warm up the pieces and made various scarves and throws to adorn them. They were quite the photo opportunity.

Our first stop was at the giant T-Rex that towers over the parking lot of the Tourist Information centre – another perfect photo opportunity. This was a project by the local Chamber of Commerce that cost \$1.2 million and is considered to be the world's largest dinosaur statue. It costs \$3.00 a person to climb up the 106 stairs inside this great beast to see a magnificent view of the local area. I was thinking, "Wow, that is a very expensive exhibit", but it was paid for in 5 years. I think that gives us an idea of just how popular Drumheller and its dinosaur are. Visitors come from all over the world to visit this area to discover what we had started out to do: find dinosaurs!

Next stop was the Royal Tyrrell Museum. I had been a visitor with the Desk and Derrick Club years ago and was astonished in how huge and diversified it had become. It was amazing to browse through the grounds with all the sculptures and plant life which lead us to the main museum, and a whole new world of paleontology opened up to our inquiring minds and eyes. The group was introduced to Donald

Henderson, the curator of the museum, who provided a brief history. The museum's main mandate is to educate the public, especially students, with programs for Kindergarten to Grade 12, including Digging Dinos, Cretaceous Crime Scene, Fossil Casting, Dinosaur Picnic, Dinomechanics, Secrets of the Lost Quarry and Raptors in Action, just to name a few. What better way to learn than diving right into the workings of the museum? Reading a book about these discoveries pales in comparison to the hands-on approach. The technology that is being used to bring the museum to school classrooms via video conferencing is outstanding. There is also a Paleontology course for Grades 10 to 12 that is connected to the schools in Alberta, which is Canada's first credited high school paleontology course. This just proves how forward thinking the mandate of the Royal Tyrrell Museum is as they preserve the history and artifacts of the area and ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to keep the dinosaur legends alive.



Next stop was to learn about the dinosaur skeleton discovered at Suncor's open pit mine near Fort McMurray. On March 23, 2011, a drag line operator spotted something out of the ordinary. He stopped his unit to investigate, and discovered a fossil bed of bones of an *Ankylosaurus*. The operator had just recently visited the Royal Tyrrell

Museum and wondered if his unit had ever unearthed anything valuable. It was a fortunate discovery since they were digging in a fringe area of the site. The operators would have been moving at least a billion yards of rock at the time, so the find was classed as a one-in-a-million chance of discovery. Operations at the site were shut down and the museum team moved in to process and ship the pieces. A lot of the items were covered in plaster and burlap for protection. The job took 17 days, with an estimated 400 man-hours of work.



## Royal Tyrrell Museum

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Many things had to come together to facilitate this discovery: if the operator had been working at night he would not have seen the structure on the wall; the dinosaur was a land animal that must have been swept out into the ocean and died intact, lying on the sea floor. Then one day, millions of years later, a Suncor operator digs him up intact in his working pit - how crazy is that?! Unfortunately, on his first pass of the drag line the operator did remove part of the tail, which could not be found in the spill pills that were hauled away in the dump trucks.

After our orientation we toured the museum and actually got to go into the working labs where the workers chisel out the secrets of the fossils. This is a very tedious job so hats off to those who discover the secrets within. We did in fact get to see the Suncor dinosaur up close, as they still learn more about him. After a stop in the gift shop to help the local economy our group was on their way to the next leg of our journey.

The tour of the museum was definitely a hit, and I was wondering if the items come to life at night like in the movie *Secrets of the Museum*. Hmmm – maybe you will have to try the overnight stay to check that out.

Have a Yabba Dabba Doo Day!

