



CURATORS CIRCLE

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who attended our behind-the-scenes event at the Museum in April. We hope you enjoyed your after-hours adventure in the fossil preparation laboratory and the exhibit design studio. "It was truly a pleasure to meet Museum supporters and to give them a preview of the exciting new developments underway in the Earth History Gallery," said **DR. GRAHAM YOUNG, Curator of Geology & Paleontology**. Guests were treated to a close-up look at a remarkable pliosaur fossil from southwestern Manitoba, and a life-size 3-D reconstruction of the fossil, both of which are scheduled to be unveiled in August of this year. The *Dino Dig Discovery Room* that Program Developer Anya Moodie-Foster provided a preview of is now open for aspiring paleontologists of all ages to explore.

If you are not yet a supporter of the Manitoba Museum at the Curators Circle level, please consider joining this group dedicated to shaping Manitoba's future by expanding knowledge, sharing stories, and encouraging discovery.



Earth History Gallery redevelopment featuring pliosaur fossil and life-size 3-D reconstruction opens August 11, 2016.

BEHIND THE SCENES



Curators Circle members Sanford and Debbie Riley peruse documents and a photograph while daughter Jessica (right) and Dr. Roland Sawatzky (left) look on.

On Thursday, May 12, 2016, the Museum honoured H. Sanford Riley at its 12th annual Tribute. **DR. ROLAND SAWATZKY, Curator of History**, and Nancy Anderson, Curatorial Assistant, hosted the Riley family in our history laboratory to view three artifacts donated to the Museum's collection by Sanford's aunt, Frances M. "Dime" Riley (nee Aikins).

The Riley family viewed a wedding dress (1911) worn by Myrtle Clint Aikins; a Japanese testimonial scroll (1929), sent to James Albert Manning Aikins by colleagues to mark the 50th anniversary of his call to the bar; and a Privy Council dress uniform (ca. 1870), belonging to James Cox Aikins.



Myrtle Clint Aikins wearing the wedding dress now housed in the Manitoba Museum collection.

Dr. Graham Young addresses guests in the Earth History Gallery at April 28 event.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR NEW EXHIBITS



The Berens Family Collection exhibit

The Manitoba Museum took home an Award of Outstanding Achievement at the Canadian Museums Association's annual award ceremony on April 14, 2016, in Halifax.

We Are All Treaty People / The Berens Family Collection won the Exhibitions – Cultural Heritage category (for institutions with an annual operating budget over \$1M). The jury was unanimous in its decision, noting that the project was nationally significant and exceeded the current standards of practice by going beyond the conventional approach.

DR. MAUREEN MATTHEWS, Curator of Ethnology, led the team that created the exhibits. Receiving the award, she noted, "These exhibits illustrate the necessary ingredients required to develop timely, relevant exhibits with an Aboriginal focus and demonstrate what is possible with understanding, mutual respect, persistence, and courage."

BLOGS



The fragrant, sexy flowers of the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) attract graceful moths for a moonlight rendezvous.

CANADA'S SEXIEST PLANTS AND FUNGI

DR. DIANA BIZECKI ROBSON, Curator of Botany, counts down five of Canada's most...exciting... plants and fungi in her most recent blog. From sexiest plant-pollinator relationship, to sexiest international plant – after reading this blog, you'll never look at plants and fungi the same way again!

"The most common species in Canada is *Phallus impudicus*. I'll never forget the first time I encountered a species of *Phallus* in the wild. I was really excited to finally see one of them in the 'flesh' but, I have to admit I was disappointed that it was so small."

BEADWORK THEN AND NOW

AMELIA FAY, Curator of the Hudson's Bay Company Museum Collection, describes one of her favourite aspects of curatorial work – interacting with researchers from other organizations. Check out her blog to learn about the steps a local artist followed to make a beaded dog blanket – using one of the objects in the Museum's collection as inspiration!



Detail of beaded dog blanket (early 20th century).

For more information about Curators Circle, or to arrange a private tour of *We Are All Treaty People / The Berens Family Collection* exhibits, contact Heather Laser, Director of Philanthropy, at 204-988-0656 or hlaser@manitobamuseum.ca

We Are All Treaty People exhibit



SAVE THE DATE!

Watch for your Curators Circle invitation to the home of **Jeoff Chipman**, Past-Chair of the Manitoba Museum's Board of Governors, and Chair of our *Bringing Our Stories Forward* Capital & Endowment Campaign, for our next exclusive event on **September 15, 2016**.