

RCI CONSTRUCTING LARGEST DINOSAUR EVER DISPLAYED IN CANADA

Royal Ontario Museum's new dinosaur exhibit set to open Dec. 15

Caitlin den Boer — The Trentonian

BUSINESS

Imagine a puzzle 15 feet high and 75 feet long and you will find yourself at Research Casting International (RCI) in Trenton.

Forgotten in storage for 45 years at the Royal Ontario Museum, one of the largest dinosaurs ever to walk the earth was rediscovered this fall. It was brought to RCI at the end of October.

When they finish, the Barosaurus will be the largest dinosaur ever displayed in Canada and the only mounted Barosaurus in the world built with actual fossils, rather than castings.

The daunting task, however, is not new to RCI's president Peter May.

"We mounted our biggest (dinosaur) last year in Berlin," said May, adding that this was the second Barosaurus the team has constructed.

The time line to this one, however, is a bit pressed. Six-and-a-half weeks to be precise.

The team of 15 is working 12-14 hour days to get the job done, by Dec. 11, the day the structure is set to head to the ROM.

"We're cleaning off all the stone and rock to expose the bone," said May. That's before the team builds the armatures that help link the structure and then assemble it.

The Barosaurus, will be part of the ROM's set to be reopened dinosaur exhibit. The exhibit, which shut down three years ago was originally opened in 1975.

The colossal structure will accompany three others on the long trip to Toronto.

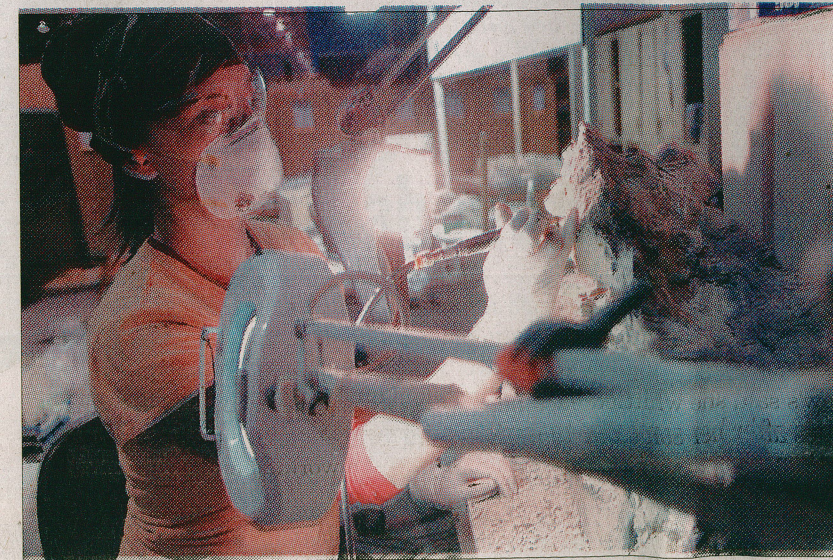
"This one with just cap everything off," said May.

The entire project is being filmed for a Daily Planet special on The Discovery Channel.

The Barosaurus will make his public debut on Dec. 15, when the ROM opens the James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs on the second level of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal. It will stretch out along the building's Bloor Street side, and be visible from the street through the Crystal's oblique windows.



Research Casting International President Peter May stands in front of the Barosaurus the team is frantically assembling at the Trenton plant for the re-opening of the Royal Ontario Museum's dinosaur exhibit on Dec. 15. Caitlin den Boer photos



Jessica Wilson removes rock and stone from the Barosaurus's vertebrae.

Ward Edward mounts armatures to a piece of the Barosaurus's vertebrae.