



Bulletin of the MPE

Major renovations at the laboratory!

If you follow our activities on Facebook, or if you read the emails we send you from time to time, you cannot be unaware of the fact that we have undertaken major renovations to improve the *Laboratory for Conservation and Research - MPE* this fall of 2014.



The new room at the *Laboratory for Conservation and Research - MPE* with its new high-density mobile storage system. The mobile trolleys were custom made to accommodate our "Bankers Cabinets," which had been given to us by the Canadian Museum of Nature, a few years ago.

This involves first an increase in the size of the space, going from 500 to 750 square feet, followed by the installation of a high density mobile storage system, manufactured by Montel, which will allow us to install all our 28 metal "Bankers cabinets" in the laboratory, while still having extra space. These first two phases are now complete. What remains to be done is the installation of a humidity/temperature control system (driven by a thermopump) which will be located just outside the building. There will also be temperature and humidity log recorders that will keep statistics on conditions in the laboratory. With this, we will be in line with modern conservation standards.

(continued)



Major renovations at the lab !

(cont.)

Remember that we continue to have a significant amount of fossils and some literature in Mario and Nathalie's garage, which is adjacent to the laboratory. Also, don't forget that we have exhibition material and large trace fossils located in the basement of the Pointe-Saint-Charles Daycare. With your help, we are now able to move around in the lab without accidentally hitting fossils.



Alexandre Guertin-Pasquier prepares the floor structure of the laboratory's new space.

Regarding the costs of the project, they were expected to reach \$ 22,384. However, "structural" costs, that is to say, the materials for the expansion of the laboratory, were somewhat higher than expected. On the other hand, we got a better deal than expected for the equipments: the mobile storage system and the thermopump. The estimated total cost thus remains around \$ 22,000.



David Beaudriault (left) and Didier Thomas (right) are busy installing drywall sheets.



Stéphane Perron (left) and Michel Deschênes (right) transfer a cabinet to- the laboratory.

Regarding revenues, 4 "notorious" members and friends promised and actually gave \$ 9100. The rest of our members and friends (37 donors in all) have given to date \$ 7,622. There remains \$5,300 to be raised.. Don't worry, we have taken steps to ensure that our collection is not seized by the bankruptcy trustee!

We were pleasantly surprised to see that our friends do not hesitate to open their wallets when it comes to supporting their favorite project. Since 2008, I have seen three fundraising campaigns and the enthusiasm of our supporters never waivers, especially when the goal of the campaign is clear and well identified.



Major renovations at the lab !

(cont.)

Whenever we discuss opportunities for assistance with the opening of the Museum with various organisations, all are very surprised to see the amount of support we get from members and friends. As lucky as we may be, there still remains money to raise in order to attain our goal. Have you forgotten to make a contribution? Take this article as a reminder. You have friends who are interested to join or contribute? Do not hesitate to tell them. Again, thank you for your help! J.-P. G.

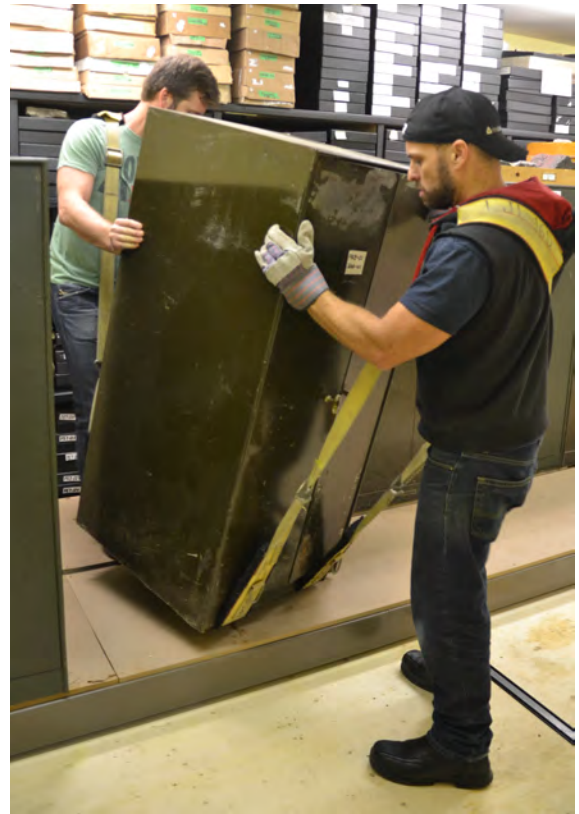


Photo above: The installers of the Prisma company make sure that the mobile trolleys are level. Photo at top right: Patrick Thibault (left) and Michel Deschênes (right) installing cabinets on the mobile trolleys. Photo at bottom left: Our members hard at work pulling off the old flooring (asphalt), from left to right - Michel Deschênes, Christophe Hellman, Mario Cournoyer, Ha-Loan Phan, Vanessa Jetté, Jose Quiroz and Didier Thomas. Bottom right photo: left to right - Anne Brochard, Jean-Marc Ethier and Nathalie Daoust transferring collections.





Our fundraiser "An expanding laboratory" is going well!

On March 20th, 2015, the MPE fundraiser reached \$ 16,722; that leaves a little more than \$ 5,300 to raise in order to reach the \$ 22,000 we hope for! We can only thank our supporters for their contributions and congratulate them for having supported us again.

Remember that this campaign serves to finance the expansion of the *Laboratory for Conservation and Research - MPE*. Our facilities had become too exiguous. They measured 500 square feet and we have brought them to 750 square feet. The goal was to increase the storage capacity for the growing number of collections that are being given to us, and especially in the expectation of a major university collection. We also had to find a way to control both the temperature and humidity. The estimated cost of the project: \$ 22,000.

The main expenditures are:

- costs of building materials for the expansion \$ 8,500
- purchase of the high density mobile storage system \$ 9,500
- Purchase of a humidity/temperature control system \$ 4,000

Several large donations have ensured that the fundraiser advanced at lightning speed! Regarding the last \$ 5,300, we appeal to all our friendly readers of this Bulletin: if you have never considered contributing to the campaign, now is the time to do it.

Liste of donors :

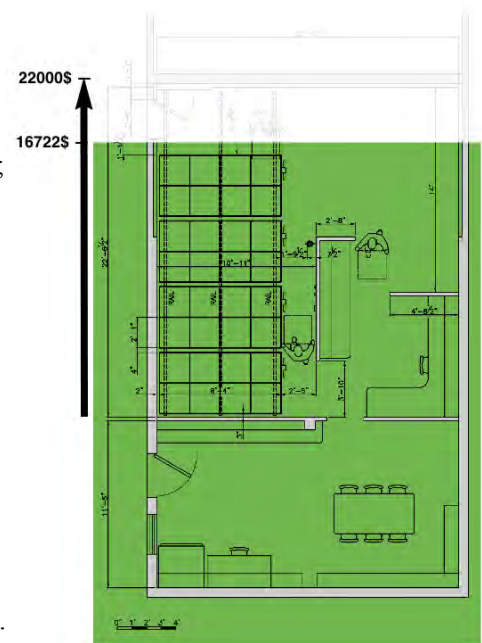
\$ 500 and higher

François Habets;
Jean-Pierre Guilbault, president of the MPE;
Mario Cournoyer, director of the MPE.
Francino et Michel A. Bouchard, members of the MPE;
Richard (Dick) Harington; Kevin Brett;
Pierre J.H. Richard, member of the MPE;
Jean-Marc Ethier;
Nathalie Daoust, member of the MPE.

Less than \$ 500

Stéphane Perron, member of the MPE; Michel Chartier, member of the MPE;
Robert Holmes; Sergio Mayor, Board member of the MPE;
Jacques Letendre, member of the MPE; Richard Leveille;
Bernard Lauriol, member of the MPE; Pierre Bédard, member of the MPE;
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James C. Brower; Margareth Griffin; François Therrien;
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Isabelle Béchar; Gilbert Prichonnet, member of the MPE;
Sylvie Pinard; Jean Barbeau; Julie Talbot;
Ha-Loan Phan, Board member of the MPE; Paul Racicot;
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Alexandre Guertin, Board member of the MPE; David Marshall;
Raymond Auger; Bruno Landry, member of the MPE;
Elise Thierry, member of the MPE; Lucille Sylvain, member of the MPE;

M. C.





“Canadian Paleontology Conference” and “Canadian Society of Vertebrate Palontology” joint meeting at the Redpath Museum, McGill University

After the Acfas symposium in May 2014, the "Canadian Paleontology Conference (CPC)" propelled the MPE, for the second time in 2014, to the forefront of "sociopaleontological" activities. You will recall that in September 2012, the MPE made a strong showing at the Toronto CPC meeting, with three posters and one oral presentation. If your memory serves you well, you will also recall that the MPE was co-organizer of the 2006 CPC meeting, which took place in Montreal at the Redpath Museum. We were busy with the organization of two field trips, which were very popular with participants, as well as an open house at our laboratory, brand new at the time.

The CPC is held each year in a different city. Most of the time, distance and economics make it impossible for our members to participate. In September 2009, Mario Cournoyer and Jean-Pierre Guilbault were in Sudbury where they presented a poster. This last time, the CPC was returning to Montreal and we could not sit idly by.

A committee was constituted to organize the conference: Hans Larsson of McGill University, Christopher Cameron of the Université de Montréal and Mario Cournoyer and Michel Chartier of the MPE. The icebreaker was held on August 28th. It was a success, with about thirty people crowding into Mario's small backyard in front of the laboratory. It was the second public visit in 2014 after the one that took place during the ACFAS conference last spring.



Many meeting attendees gather during the icebreaker held in Mario Cournoyer's backyard, in front of the MPE laboratory.

On August 29th and 30th, there were 26 oral presentations and a poster session with 6 posters and a kiosk run by the young Elliott Seah, who came to show his new popular book about dinosaurs. This young 7-year-old (!) wrote all the texts, and was helped by Mrs. Christine Cade, who validated the content in addition to doing the graphics editing.



Colloque CPC & CSVP 2014 (suite)

The MPE did well by presenting a poster on an ecological association between two species of Ordovician crinoids from the Quebec City area. Late in the afternoon, on the 29th, one of the first meetings of the Canadian Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (CSVP) determined the rules and statutes of this new body. All this took place at the Redpath Museum.

Saturday night is traditionally chosen for the banquet, which this time, was held at McGill University's Thomson Hall. It marks the end of the conference, Sunday (August 31) being reserved for field trips. In the circumstances, the MPE had prepared two tours that were "cancelled because of rain." A long excursion would have led participants to visit classic localities of the Lorraine Group in the Montreal area and to make a brief visit to our exhibition "Quebec: a sea of fossils" at the Pointe-du-Buisson Archeology Museum. Another short field trip, for people who were going to leave early on Sunday, would have taken them to a geological tour of Mont Royal.



Marc Laflamme talking about his favorite subject, the enigmatic Ediacaran faunas.

As it turned out, we had a great opportunity to increase our public visibility and we saw people that we had lost track of in recent years. J.-P. G.



Hans Larsson (left), co-organizer of the joint meeting, Christine Cade (right) and the young Elliott Seah proudly showing his new book.



Marion Chevrinai (right) answers questions from Chris Cameron (bottom left) following her oral presentation. Chris Cameron is co-organizer of the joint meeting.



Visit of members of the Executive council of the City of Montréal, the movement "I see Montréal" and the future of the Museum

During the summer of 2014, the MPE received -four members of the Executive Council of the City of Montréal: Ms Chantal Rouleau, Karine Boivin Roy, Chantal Rossi and Manon Gauthier. They were all surprised to see the extent of our collections, the proper organization of the premises and the diversity of activities that take place there incidentally there was a student working in the laboratory at the time of the visit (Lyna Lapointe-Elmrabti), doing cataloging work. We explained the outlines of the project and we told them that we had, since the creation of MPE, always aimed at setting it up near the science museums of the City of Montréal, now called "Espace pour la vie". We showed them how the MPE, with its collections and knowledge base, would fill a gap that now exists with respect to the history of life on Earth and the concepts of evolution.

Impressed, Manon Gauthier, responsible for culture at the City of Montréal, and her colleagues, have taken upon themselves the task of ensuring that our project gets on track. For the first time in 20 years, the MPE has genuine support within the City of Montréal. During the late summer and fall of 2014, we did not have any other meetings with the City of Montréal. As you may have read in the preceding articles, we have been very busy with the organization of a symposium (CPC 2014) and the laboratory's extension.



From left to right: Chantal Rouleau, Chantal Rossi, and Manon Gauthier, all three members of the Executive Council of the City of Montréal, visiting the MPE collections. They are fascinated by explanations of our vice president Alexandre Guertin-Pasquier (right) and our director, Mario Cournoyer (rear).

In October, "I see Montréal" was launched. This movement, initiated by several organizations including the Bank of Montreal, aims at reviving the confidence and interest of Montrealers towards their city by supporting projects of an economic, social or cultural nature. It is the citizens themselves who are launching these projects as part of "I see Montréal". The City of Montréal, with its new mayor, Denis Coderre, has decided to become a facilitator by linking the various departments of the City with the leaders of various projects.





The future of the Museum (cont.)

In short, support from the City of Montréal led us to participate in "I see Montréal", knowing that this step would serve as a springboard for our museum project. Last fall, we asked some of you to go to the website of "I see Montréal," and to click your support for our/your project. Despite the fact that the website did not make this easy, 105 clicks in our favor were recorded, which propelled us to the fifth most popular project (out of 86) in the cultural category. And so it was that on November 17th 2014, during the "I see Montréal" grand event, at Place des Arts, we were there to defend our project. The MPE, you guessed it, proposed the creation of a museum of paleontology in Montréal. We were listened to and heard! We are now part of the 180 projects ultimately proposed at "I see Montréal" and we will receive assistance from various contributors to advance the MPE and ultimately bring it to life! We invite you to visit our page on their website: <http://jefaismtl.com/ouverture-du-musée-de-paléontologie-et-de-l'évolution>



Lors de l'évènement « Je vois Montréal » le 17 novembre 2014 à la Place des Arts, notre vice-président Alexandre Guertin-Pasquier (en haut à gauche), notre directeur, Mario Cournoyer (à gauche) et notre président, Jean-Pierre Guilbault (en bas à gauche), expliquent notre projet de musée à un groupe de participants composé de gens du milieu de la Culture.

On February 26th 2015, we attended a large meeting at Montreal City Hall, where "I see Montréal " was renamed "I make Montréal." The aim of this meeting was to make contact with key figures for the future of our project, which was accomplished.

Nothing is decided at this stage, neither the place, the budget or timeframe. Ideas were put forward; it remains unclear which are achievable. The next few weeks, perhaps the next few months will be busy trying to determine just what is possible. What is clear is that several key people at the City of Montreal are strongly impressed by various aspects of the MPE: we are still growing after 20 years of existence. The conservation or curation work on our collection is done professionally. We have many friends in academia, which is important if we want to involve universities. And finally ... drumroll ... they are very impressed with the financial support that we gather through socio-financing, that is to say, by begging from our members and friends (this includes all recipients of this newsletter) who love the history of life and science in general. It is clear that most of the funding will come from state and corporate sources, but the friends of the museum and the public will have to, at some point, demonstrate their enthusiasm. Do not be surprised to be, once again, solicited: this time, it will be the fundraising campaign to end all fundraisers.

J.-P. G. and M. C.



During the event, "Je vois Montréal" on November 17th, 2014 at Place des Arts, our VP, Alexandre Guertin-Pasquier (top left), our director, Mario Cournoyer (left) and our president, Jean-Pierre Guilbault (bottom left), explain our museum pro-



Student work at the lab during the summer of 2014

Last summer we hired a student to do work at the laboratory: Lyna Lapointe-Elmrabti. We were very lucky to have her! Our grant application to the "2014 Canada Summer Jobs" program was turned down: the first time in five years. Despite this, our president decided to provide funds to continue a tradition of hiring students during the summer season at the *Laboratory for Research and Conservation-MPE*, which has been ongoing since the summer of 2010!

During her visit, Lyna helped catalog fossils from recent donations or collections made in the field. In addition, she participated in the organization of the specimens stored in the cabinets. A big task accomplished by Lyna during the summer of 2014 was the cleaning, sorting and organization of nearly a ton (!) of fossils and rocks collected by Dr. Allen Petryk on Anticosti Island (Québec) in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Remember that these samples were given to us recently by the Geological Survey of Canada. M. C.



At left: Lyna Lapointe-Elmrabti surrounded by specimens to be cataloged.

At right: some of the many samples collected by Dr. Allen Petryk on Anticosti Island that Lyna had to clean before cataloging.

Below: part of the donation of the Geological Survey of Canada, which consisted of rock samples and fossils collected by Dr. Allen Petryk on Anticosti Island during the years 1977 to 1983. These samples were never unpacked, cleaned, or sorted. Here's the link to our website where you can view the photo gallery featuring some extraordinary fossils discovered by Allen: <http://www.mpe-fossiles.org/photos-2/index.html>





“Le Code Chastenay” TV show

The MPE was featured in a television clip in a popular science television show "Le Code Chastenay", Tuesday, January 20th, 2015 on Télé-Québec. The television clip entitled "Paleontologist for a day", follows Pascal Forget, television host, and the MPE members in the various aspects of the work of a paleontologist. Filming took place in early September 2014. You can replay over and over again that episode on the television show's website:

<http://zonevideo.telequebec.tv/media/19765/paleontologue-d-un-jour/le-code-chastenay>

We want to thank Pixcom productions, its director: Guillaume Sylvestre and chief director: Anne-Marie Simard, for having produced the clip. We also want to thank Mr. Daniel Renaud, of Hanson Bricks in La Prairie, for giving us access to their quarry.
M. C.



The filming crew at the laboratory (photo above) and at the Hanson brickyard in La Prairie (photo right).

New members and renewing the membership of the MPE

We would like to welcome our new members: Mrs. Catherine Lorrain, Mr. Michel Jébrak, Mrs. Élise Thierry, Mr. Philip Isotalo, Mr. Didier Thomas, Mr. Bernard Lauriol and Mrs. Deidre Potash.

In addition, we are pleased to announce the membership renewal for the following members: Mr. Reinhard Pienitz, Mr. Bruno Landry, Mr. Patrick Edward, Miss Kellyann Cournoyer, Miss Victoria Cournoyer, Mr. Sergio Mayor-Pastor, Mr. Pierre Richard, Ms. Isabelle Ruiz, Mr. Jean-Pierre Guilbault, Ms. Francino and Mr. Michel Bouchard, Mr. Jacques Lachance, Mr. Michel Chartier, Ms. Nathalie Daoust and Mr. Mario Cournoyer.

Being a member of the museum helps you stay informed on the advancements of the project, to be entitled to vote at the annual general meeting of the Museum, to participate in various activities (fundraising, conservation, library, etc.). Also, the membership gives a discount on fossil digs.

Your membership to the MPE, and your donations, are our principal way of financing and are essential to the advancement of the museum.

THANK YOU for your continued support over the years!

M. C.



"Québec: a sea of fossils" Exhibition at Pointe-du-Buisson, Québec Archeology Museum

Many of you may have already had the opportunity to see our exhibition "Québec: a sea of fossils" at the Pointe-du-Buisson Museum. But many others have probably not had that chance. It was planned that the exhibition would remain open during the winter until the end of February, when it would close for March and April because of accessibility problems during the snow melting period, and then reopen in May. The same schedule was to be repeated next winter. However, the exhibition has been closed since the end of October and will only reopen in mid-May. The reason: the Pointe-du-Buisson Archeology Museum could not find sufficient funding to stay open all winter. This would have required a significant amount of money for heating, in addition to the employees' salary. They therefore decided to close for the winter, as they have always done in the past.



As a result, you are invited to come and see the exhibition starting on Victoria Day weekend. We remind you that our agreement with Pointe-du-Buisson is for our exhibition to remain until the end of 2015, with an option to renew until the end of 2016. The extension will be decided during the fall of 2015. We hope that by then, the Pointe-du-Buisson Museum will have found generous sponsors.

J.-P. G.

A preview of the "Québec: a fossil sea" exhibition. Here we see the introduction section to the exhibition.

Participation in the 83rd congrès of Acfas (Rimouski, May 2015)

We do not have the means to have a significant presence at the 83rd Acfas Congress, which will be held in Rimouski at the Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR) from May 25th to 29th 2015. The distance in itself is a major obstacle... However, we still want to make an appearance. Two of our members, who are employed by Acfas will be present at the scene, but given their function, they cannot act as representatives of the MPE. So we plan to put up a kiosk where some of our fossils will be on display. The Miguasha Park and the Biology Department of UQAR will provide vertebrates fossils, while we will supply invertebrates. The material will come mainly from Quebec and neighboring provinces. We could also provide some explanatory panels. The animation will be the responsibility of the Biology Department of UQAR.

J.-P. G.

24 hours of science - fossil dig at La Prairie

Saturday May 9th 2015, the MPE will once again organize a fossil dig at the Hanson quarry in La Prairie, for the general public. This activity will be held as part of the annual "24 hours of science" event. The event is held every year in the spring over a period of 24 hours (even overnight). Its goal is the outreach of science for the public. We invite you to participate in great numbers in this family activity. For more details, please visit the website (program to come):

<http://science24heures.com/>

M. C.





We continue to receive donations of fossils

Donors continue to express their enthusiasm for the MPE. Since the last newsletter, we received three major donations.

The first donation is from an anonymous donor. This is not his first donation and it seems that it is not going to be the last. This time, he gave us a collection of very fine specimens from the Silurian age of Anticosti Island, plus several fossils from classic localities around the world. In particular, there are nice specimens of petrified wood of various origins. Also, there are some fish, amphibians and reptile replicas, and dinosaur models



Top row: a sauropod dinosaur model; a Precambrian stromatolite from Schefferville; a trilobite of the genus *Trimerus*, from the State of New York.
Middle row: various petrified woods from North America; many ammonites from Europe and the United States
Bottom row: a replica of the Jurassic ichthyosaur skeleton; a replica of a skull of *Smilodon*, a sabro-toothed cat.



We continue to receive donations of fossils (cont.)

A second donation comes from Mr. Dave Sangster, a collector from Ontario. He wanted to get rid of his collection (can you believe that?), and he thought of us. It includes a wide variety of dinosaur teeth, plus a number of very beautiful specimens coming from classical localities such Solnhofen, Green River and Morocco. There are also several fossils from the Paleozoic North Eastern North America, especially trilobites. As well, some prehistoric stone tools from Mali. Particularly important to us are nine fish specimens from Miguasha , including an *Eusthenopteron foordi* (yes, finally, we have our very own!).



Clockwise, five fish from Miguasha; a group of marine fossils (ammonites, bivalves, etc.) from the Cretaceous of North Dakota; several teeth and bones of dinosaurs, fish and reptiles of Morocco; fossils of fish, shrimp and brittle stars from Solnhofen (Germany); three fish from Messel (Germany) and footprints of birds, from the Eocene of Utah.



We continue to receive donations of fossils (cont.)

Thirdly, we got a donation from the most famous collector of this generation in the province of Québec: Pierre Gonin. Pierre gave us countless fossils from various sources, but the highlight is a collection of quaternary shells, partially cemented, from the Raguenu area near Baie-Comeau. These Québec fossils, collected in a very methodical manner, are exactly the kind of material we are seeking to fill a vital part of our mission: the conservation and enhancement of the fossil heritage of Quebec.



Clockwise: four ammonites from France; Also from France, a slab filled with sea urchin fossils, with their spines (see enlarged view in the inset); several shells, fish bones, parts of crab shells and brittle stars, all preserved in nodules, from the North Shore of Québec (Goldthwaith Sea); fossil fish, ammonites and crinoids from Lebanon.



We continue to receive donations of fossils (cont.)

Finally, we must mention “a donation that isn’t” but is rather a purchase at a fire sale price. Maurice "Ron" Gratton, collector from the Valleyfield area, sold us his collection, which consists essentially of Ordovician fossils from well-known localities in Quebec and Ontario. Included is a set of fossils from the Sintra quarry at Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm, near Joliette. Ron collected them from the quarry floor with a care and patience that we are not capable of: it was a very good acquisition. .
 J.-P. G.



Clockwise, starting with the photo on the left: an edrioasteroid of the genus *Isorophusella*, Ontario; a trilobite of the genus *Pliomerops*, Laval (Québec) a trilobite of the genus *Isotelus*, Ontario; a trilobite of the genus *Ceraurus*, Ontario; a crinoid of the genus *Hybocrinus*, Laval (Québec); an edrioasteroid of the genus *Streptaster*, Ontario. The last two photos show fossils completely cleared of the rock, from the Sintra quarry at Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm (Québec) Below right, a collection of gastropods; left, 6 almost complete cephalopods. All fossils on this page are of Ordovician age.



Descriptive card of the specimen

Specimen number:	MPEP715.1		
Identification:	Complete individual	Genus and species:	<i>Eusthenopteron foordi</i>
Age:	Upper Devonian	Locality:	Miguasha, Gaspé Peninsula, Québec

Eusthenopteron foordi is a typical fish from Miguasha. Its age is Upper Devonian (about 380 million years ago) and it comes from the boundary between freshwater and saltwater. It is a bony fish of the sarcopterygians class, whose only modern living representative is the coelacanth *Latimeria* from the Indian Ocean. Devonian sarcopterygians were abundant and diversified. Their main characteristic is that their fins, instead of having the fan shape typical of other bony fish, - had the shape of a paddle. More interesting is the fact that, inside this paddle, are the ancestral forms of the bones (humerus, tibia, metatarsals, etc.) that constitute the legs and feet of all modern tetrapods, from frogs to humans. Thus, the ancestors of all tetrapods, including members of the MPE, were probably Devonian sarcopterygians. Before the discovery of *Elpistostege* more than a year and a half ago, *Eusthenopteron foordi* was the most remarkable sarcopterygian from Miguasha. It was a predator similar to a small pike. The MPE finally has its own *Eusthenopteron*!



Memberships

Just as at the beginning of every year, we wish to inform you that your membership must be renewed. Attached to this newsletter, you will find a copy of the membership renewal form. Remember that you can also make a donation; the Museum is a charitable organization duly registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (No. 890282445RR0001) and therefore authorized to issue receipts for income tax purposes.

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