



Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MORE GREAT FOSSIL DISCOVERIES IN MORDEN!

MORDEN, Manitoba – A major fossil excavation by the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre continues in 2011.

In 2010, the Centre served notice that a massive *Xiphactinus* fish and *Mosasaur* skeleton were being unearthed at one of its palaeontological dig sites. The excavation of these skeletons continues with great success and has led to a number of other significant fossil discoveries in 2011!

“This dig site continues to be extremely productive, with the appearance of even more fossils than anticipated,” explains museum curator Anita Janzic. “Our excavation of the *Xiphactinus* and *Mosasaur* skeletons from 2010 has allowed us to find another *Mosasaur*, a Squid and some *Ichthyornis* (bird) fossils. We are finding layer upon layer of exciting fossil discoveries.” It is amazing how one small dig site is producing such an abundance of diverse fossils.

The scientific information being generated from this dig site could have far reaching global impact for the palaeontological community. The dig site is providing a high quality and isolated look into the detailed passage of time during the late Cretaceous period.

“This dig site is showcasing the most exciting five inches of rock that I’ve ever witnessed,” remarks assistant curator Joseph Hatcher. “This small layer of rocks is suggesting a rapid change in the paleoecology and environment of prehistoric Manitoba. There is great science emerging from this dig site that has our team very excited!” The rock units at this dig site are also of increasing interest to the Manitoba Geological Survey, with the appearance of a previously unseen rock layer for southern Manitoba.

The scientific impact of the dig activities of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre has grabbed the attention of the Discovery Channel’s – Daily Planet program and is referred to as ‘one of the most exciting palaeontological finds in Canada right now!’ This news

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coverage can now be viewed on YouTube, at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CdnFossilDiscovery>.

The ironic element of this dig site is that the most provoking skeleton, the *Xiphactinus* fish, might be the last set of fossils to be removed from the site. This excavation continues to unearth other new & exciting fossil discoveries, in the rock layers above the fish skeleton, which must be properly processed first. The new discoveries include another mosasaur, two unidentified fossils, squid fossils and bird fossils. The two unidentified fossils are of great interest to the palaeontologists on staff at the Centre.

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre is able to provide media access to this dig site for a limited time, following the issue of this Press Release. A Press Kit is available at, <http://www.discoverfossils.com/media.html>.

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre houses the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada, including a 43-foot long mosasaur named “Bruce”, the largest mosasaur in the country. Housed in the Morden Community Centre, the CFDC is working towards building a new state-of-the-art facility in the Manitoba Escarpment.

The general public is invited to get their hands dirty at one of our fossil-rich sites through our Fossil Dig Adventure Tours this summer. More information is available at www.discoverfossils.com.

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