



Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 13, 2012

CFDC ACHIEVES FOSSIL COLLECTION MILESTONE

MORDEN, Manitoba – Canada’s largest collection of marine reptile fossils just grew even larger as the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre recently celebrated a landmark event, as the one-thousandth specimen was formally accessioned into the fossil collection. “We had another tremendous field season in 2011 resulting in many new fossil discoveries being brought in,” noted paleontologist Joseph Hatcher. “We spend part of the winter formally cleaning and accessioning new specimens into our collection database. This year we had enough brought in to push our collection over the 1,000 mark.”

A ‘specimen’ can consist of a full large mosasaur skeleton, which may be made of 200 or more individual fossils, or it can be one single fossil or tooth not associated with a larger skeleton, depending on when, where, and how it was collected. In the past two years, the CFDC has collected three large skeletons, two partial incomplete skeletons, and many smaller isolated specimens discovered by public participants on fossil dig programs. “The geological framework that we have been investigating the past few seasons has not only led to some new and exciting fossil skeletons being recovered, but also we have two new large excavations planned for 2012 at sites previously identified by our field crew,” said Hatcher. “The pursuit of a new state-of-art- museum can’t come fast enough for the growing fossil collection, because while these discoveries are exciting for science and the public at large, the fact is that 18 foot long fish and 40 foot long mosasaurs require lots of storage space, which becomes more and more of a commodity in our small collection room with each major discovery we collect.”

The specimen which had the honor of being accessioned as the one-thousandth specimen at the CFDC was that of a newly discovered and remarkably preserved *Xiphactinus* fish skeleton from an outcrop near Notre Dame de Lourdes. The majority of the excavation is planned for the 2012 dig season.

“A Recommended Top 5 Travel Destination” – Macleans Magazine

111-B Gilmour St. ■ Morden MB R6M 1N9
Phone: (204) 822-3406 ■ Fax: (204) 272-3303 ■ www.discoverfossils.com ■ info@discoverfossils.com

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.

-30-

For more information contact:
Anita-Maria, CFDC Acting Executive Director
(204) 822-3406

“A Recommended Top 5 Travel Destination” – Macleans Magazine

111-B Gilmour St. ■ Morden MB R6M 1N9
Phone: (204) 822-3406 ■ Fax: (204) 272-3303 ■ www.discoverfossils.com ■ info@discoverfossils.com
