

Dinosaurs from Dinosaur Provincial Park

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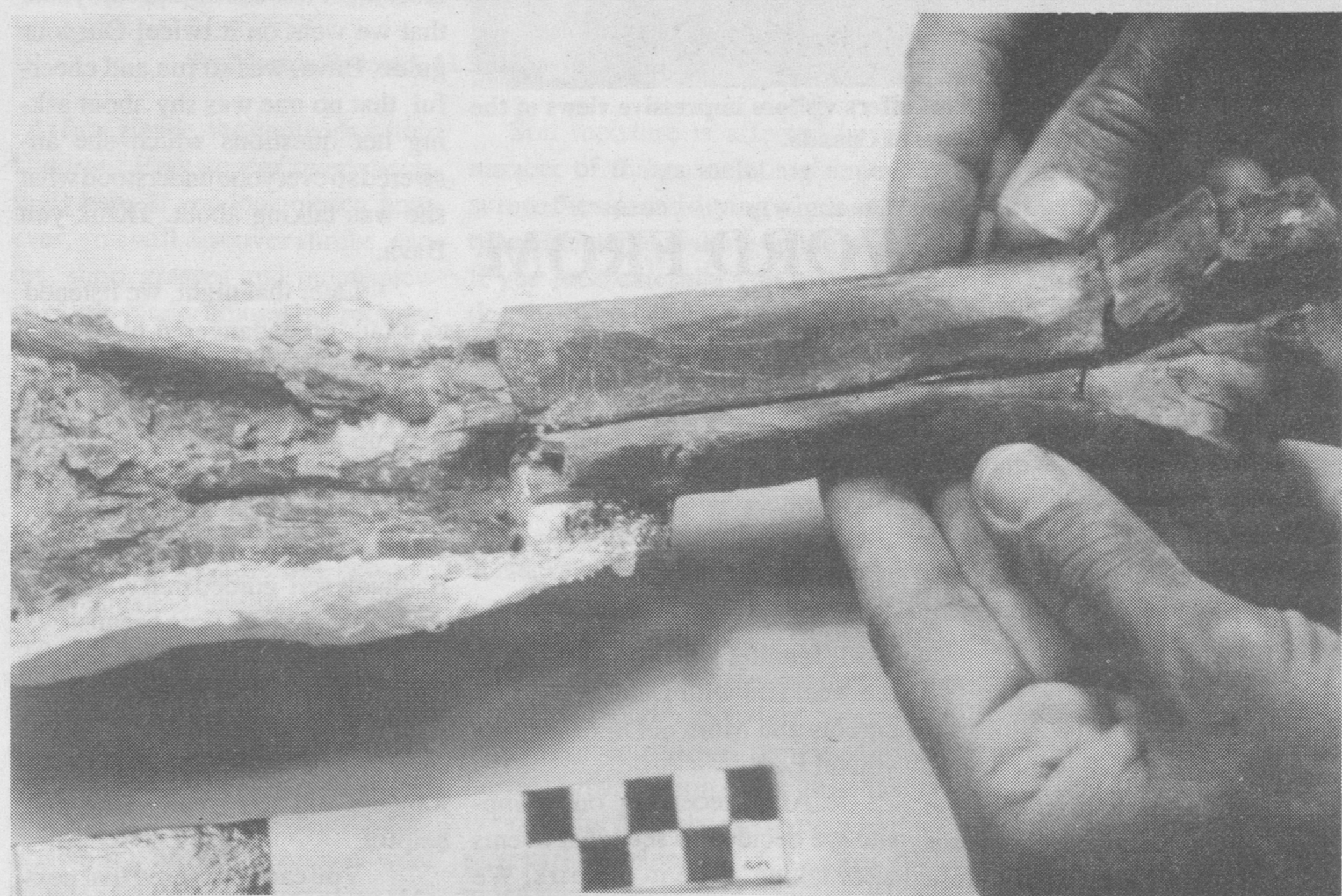
Collecting dinosaur bones is just the beginning of a long process for most specimens. All fossils collected in Dinosaur Park are catalogued and carefully curated at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Some of the nicest ones go on display in either Drumheller or Dinosaur Park. For example, an almost complete specimen of Albertosaurus was collected in 1991. This significant specimen is a half grown individual that is being prepared for display in 1994 at the Tyrrell Museum.

However, the scientifically most important ones are not necessarily the prettiest specimens. Part of a skull of a small, meat eating dinosaur known as Troodon was collected in Dinosaur Park in 1986. It is only the size of a clenched fist, and to the uninitiated it looks like a lump of bone shot full of holes. The fossil consists of the bones that surround the brain and the ears, and preservation is so exquisite that even the

semi-circular canals in the inner ear can be studied. The remarkable thing about the specimen is that it has become an important key to understanding the relationship between dinosaurs and birds. Although its significance was recognized when the specimen was collected, the scientific paper describing it will only be published later this year in an international scientific journal.

Research continues on other specimens from Dinosaur Park, covering everything from teeth to whole skeletons, distribution of skeletons and bone beds to speculation on dinosaur behaviour. At any time, there are probably more than a half dozen scientists and students around the world working on specimens or data from Dinosaur Provincial Park. This is only one reason that the park has remained one of the best windows for looking into the fascinating world of the dinosaurs.

In "Dinosaur Provincial Park Times",
Spring 1993, p. 3.



Found by technician Wendy Sloboda, this is the bone of the flat of the foot of Troodon formosus. This small carnivorous dinosaur stood about two metres tall and had a relatively large brain, at least by dinosaur standards!