

# 1992 Fieldwork, Dinosaur Provincial Park

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Fieldwork by staff of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Dinosaur Provincial Park was seriously hampered by rain in 1992. Nevertheless, in all the years I have worked in the park, I would have to count 1992 as one of the most successful, second only to the 1991 field season. Only one large excavation (Quarry 206) was undertaken. Because of its location, next to the road, the specimen is being considered for an in-situ exhibition. The half excavated hadrosaur was covered up until 1993 to allow enough time to plan for this exciting new display.

Numerous good specimens were recovered in 1992, including a partial pterosaur skeleton, an ankylosaur Euoplocephalus skull, a Centrosaurus skull, a skull of an unknown crested duckbilled dinosaur and an uncrested duckbilled dinosaur Prosaurolophus skull. The

last specimen was found in 1980, when a small part of the skull was excavated. The quarry was reopened in 1992 when it was noticed that more of the skull had become exposed and the excavation was completed in 1992.

The partial pterosaur skeleton was a very important find, because these animals are extremely rare. This specimen is the most complete one ever found in Canada, and represents a flying reptile that had a wingspan of more than six metres. When the specimen was being preserved, it was noticed that there were many toothmarks on the bones. Pterosaur bones are hollow and have very thin walls, and have sometimes been compared to cardboard mailing tubes. On one of the long and thin bones a small meat-eating dinosaur that was scavenging the cadaver, broke one of his teeth and left the tip imbedded in the bone! This speci-

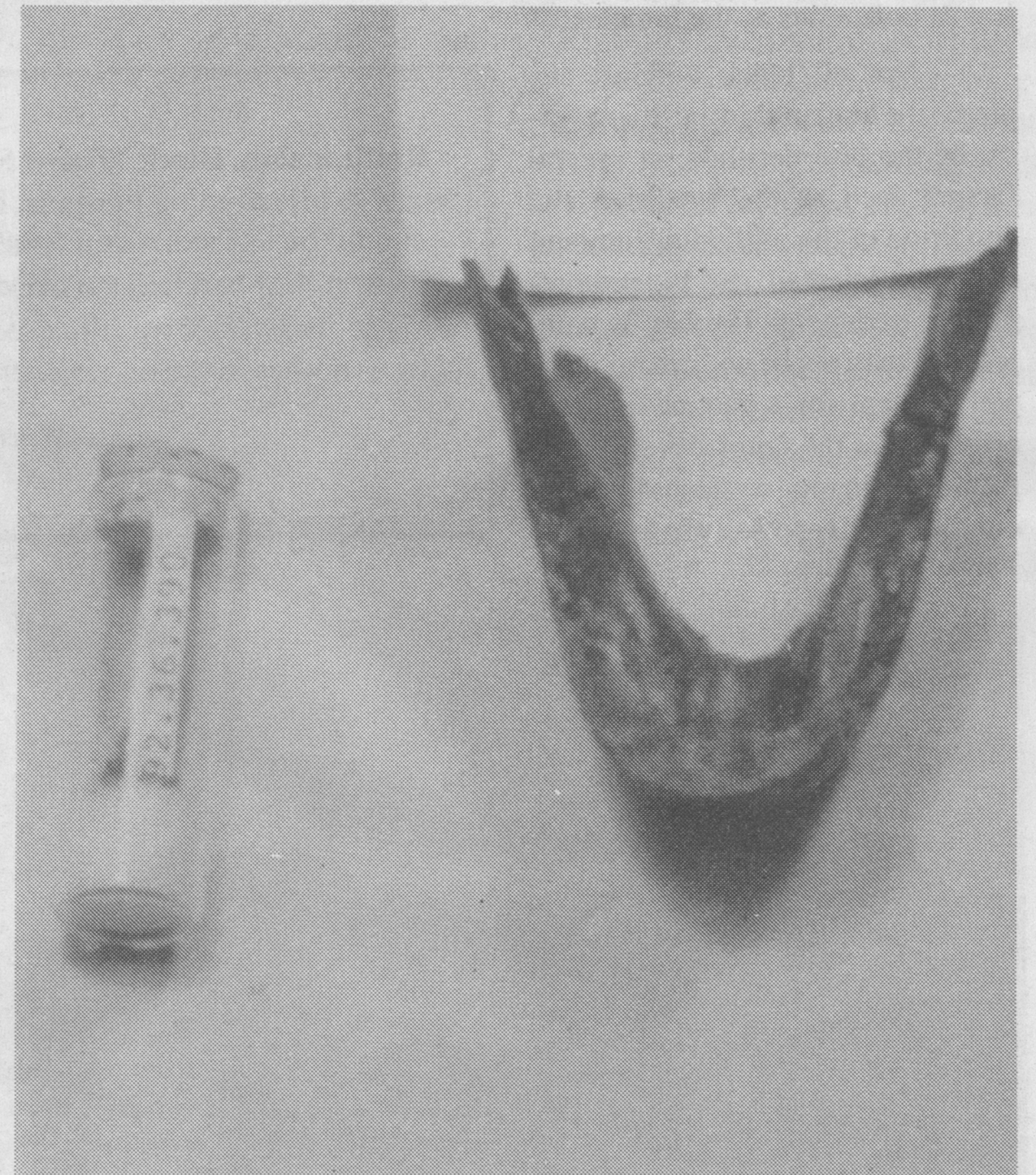
men is being studied for two scientific articles and will be put on display at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller sometime over the next year.

Other significant specimens collected in 1992 in Dinosaur Park include the skull bone of an unknown meat-eating dinosaur, the well preserved lower jaws of the rare and toothless dinosaur, known as Caenagnathus, and the first complete and uncrushed metatarsus (flat of the foot) of a large-brained, bird-like dinosaur known as Troodon.

Nine new dinosaur skeletons were discovered during the summer of 1992 in Dinosaur Park and test excavations were done on two of them. Two of these skeletons (an Albertosaurus and a well preserved ostrich-mimic dinosaur) will be given the highest priority for excavation in 1993.

As always, the Royal Tyrrell Museum crew was assisted by volunteers. In 1992, these people came from Alberta, Ontario, Denmark, England, Germany and the United States.

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Not all dinosaurs had teeth! In 1992 the lower jaw of a rare toothless dinosaur called Caenagnathus was discovered in the park.