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BUILDING YOUR MUSEUM

Museum on the Move Transition Plans

During the next few years, the museum will embark on a move of *mammoth* proportions. There are countless moving parts associated with this undertaking. Each component of the move is large and complex with multiple challenges.

The first major change throughout this time of transition will be the need to ramp down and eventually close the galleries at our current site. The good news is there is still one more year to visit!

Why close the galleries?

Well, to give you a sense of the magnitude of work that must take place, I'd ask you to hearken back to the building of the *Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture*. This undertaking was a 5 - 8 year project to develop a 10,000 square foot gallery. The transformation of the *Habitat Gallery*, now the much beloved, *Wild Alberta* gallery was a 2 year project. That too is about 10,000 square feet.

The task before us is to populate a 419,000 square-foot building which encompasses more than 82,000 square feet of gallery and exhibition space and to do so in just 3 years! Of course, this means our current galleries will turn into construction zones as specimens, artifacts and dioramas are removed.

Oh... and to top it off, we don't anticipate getting the keys to the new building until sometime around the summer of 2016. Of course, once we do get those keys we need to install exhibits, carefully pack and move tens of thousands of objects, fit-up a café, fit-up a gift shop, safely move laboratories and equipment, move offices, and move staff. On and on it goes! Imagine moving a house scaled up a thousand times! This truly is a move of mammoth proportions.

The Royal Alberta Museum is on the move! Join us in celebrating our final year at our current location in Glenora!

2015 will mark the final year of operation at the Glenora building, allowing staff to focus on the work of transitioning to the new, downtown museum. Staff will dedicate hundreds of hours to creating new galleries that will inspire and educate visitors in the expanded new facility. Once construction on the new building is complete, staff must begin the careful task of moving, conserving, and installing thousands of objects that will be on display in the new museum.

September 8, 2015 - December 3, 2015

- Open Friday through Sunday 9 am - 5 pm. **Regular Admission.**
- Pre-booked schools only on Thursdays.
- Reception and phone service available daily 9 am - 4:30 pm.

December 4 - 6, 2015

- Closing Activities. **Free Admission.**

December 7, 2015, and onward

- Galleries closed.
- Reception and phone service. Weekdays 9 am - 4:30 pm.
- Facility rentals - business as usual.

Construction of the building is anticipated to be complete in 2016 at which time museum staff will begin gallery installation.

We will be in a position to know an opening date once building construction has concluded. Our hope is that the new museum might be able to open in late 2017 or early 2018, depending on construction.