



June 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Bob Wright Centre,  
University of Victoria  
Victoria BC, Canada

**REGISTRATION OPEN**  
**ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED**



VICTORIA  
PALAEOLOGY  
SOCIETY



### Circular # 2, February 2023

Organizers of the 14th British Columbia Paleontological Symposium welcome presenters and attendees to register for this 4-day, in-person Symposium where professionals and avocational individuals meet to network, share research, and hear the latest news and breakthroughs in paleontology in British Columbia and beyond.

### KEY DATES:

February 2	Call for Registration & Abstracts begins
March 3	Abstracts due
March 3	Final Day for early registration (15% discount)
March 28	Final Call for fossil displays
April 1	Final Day for Rene Savenye award nominations
April 15	Registration closes
May	Final schedule to be confirmed

Tours, workshops, keynote speakers, awards dinner, silent auction, fieldtrips and more events are detailed on the Symposium website: [14th British Columbia Paleontological Symposium 2023 Victoria – Victoria Palaeontology Society \(vicpalaeo.org\)](https://www.vicpalaeo.org). Recent activities below:

### THE FIRST ABSTRACT HAS ARRIVED:

Thank you and congratulations to **Dr. George Mustoe Research Associate, Geology Department, Western Washington University** for submitting the first abstract for Symposium2023:

***Nature's Rainbow: A new look at Cretaceous fossils from precious opal deposits at Lightning Ridge, Australia.***

Dr. Mustoe's abstract arrived within 24hrs of our initial call for abstracts and we look forward to many more abstracts for oral presentations and posters. Abstracts should be no longer than 500

words excluding title, author(s), name(s), address, and email address. They must be [submitted online](#) by 11:59 PST, March 3, 2023. The duration of each talk and their follow-up question period will be decided once the full program is established. Poster dimensions must not exceed 4' by 4'. Display boards and pins will be provided.

**Note:** Of special interest is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; presentations or posters which speak to paleontological responses to the DRIPA are welcomed and encouraged, as are presentations on other changes significant to the field of paleontology.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONFIRMED:

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>: *'The Burgess Shale Fossil Deposit of Marble Canyon in Kootenay National Park: Retrospective of the Last 10 Years of Research'* with **Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron, Richard M. Ivey Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto**. Dr Caron will speak to how the Burgess Shale biota changed through space and time in response to ecological, evolutionary and environmental factors.

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>: *'Tracking Vertebrates from Two Eras on Two Continents'* with **Dr. Charles Helm, Research Associate at the Tumbler Ridge Museum and at the African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa**. Dr, Helm will share a range of insights on Pleistocene vertebrate tracks in South Africa (including hominin tracks and traces) and Cretaceous vertebrate tracks in northern British Columbia.

Further details are available on the [website](#).

### INITIAL TOURS CONFIRMED:

Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, the following tours are confirmed and free with registration:

- Chemical, analytical and isotope facilities (e.g., <http://web.uvic.ca/~icpmslab/>) within the Bob Wright Centre that have been applied in paleontological research projects.
- Advanced Microscopy Facility tours (<https://www.uvic.ca/research/advancedmicroscopy/>), with examples of applications in paleontology.
- Tour(s) of the paleontology collections and related facilities at the Royal British Columbia Museum (<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/collections/natural-history/palaeontology>).

Pre-registration is required. Further tours may be added; check the [website](#) for updates.

### SILENT AUCTION (NEW!):

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> the Awards Dinner will include a silent auction featuring books, paleo art, fossil replicas, dinners and an array of other items. Visit our website to view the gallery of auction items; new donations will be posted as they arrive. The on-site bidding process will be confirmed at check-in on June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.

## FIELDTRIPS CONFIRMED:

Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> features three fieldtrips. Pre-registration is required. Departures and details to be provided closer to the date. Fieldtrips are weather dependent. If cancelled, refunds will be issued:

### *Fieldtrip 1: The Collision Zone Beach Tour—with Marji Johns*

**Exploration of the Cenozoic Carmanah Group sedimentary basin at the collision zone between the Wrangellian, Pacific Rim and Crescent terranes (west coast of Vancouver Island): How paleontology helped to unravel this geological history.** This all-day tour (approx. 13 hrs) will take you on a very scenic coastal trip with views (on a clear day) of the Olympic Mountains across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Visitors will learn from Marji Johns, retired BC micropaleontologist & geoscientist, about the geological evolution of the SW west coast of Vancouver Island with a specific focus on the Carmanah Group (CG) sediments (~36–25 Ma) and two island (Pacific Rim and Crescent) terrane collisions with Vancouver Island (Wrangellia). It will include stops at several sites along the way. The sites are all within parks, therefore fossil collecting will not be permitted. Participants must be capable of hiking several kilometres along rocky shorelines and trails. Transportation, box lunch/snacks, water, and field guide will be supplied.

### *Fieldtrip 2: Muir Creek Research Tour—100 Years On*

The Cenozoic Carmanah Group is also exposed at Muir Creek, located just over an hour from Victoria. Here you will find exposures of the Sooke Formation, which is the youngest component of the Tertiary sediments along southwestern British Columbia in the Carmanah Group. The exact age of the Formation is estimated to be approximately 25 myrs (late Oligocene) based largely on the abundant molluscan fauna and microscopic fossils called foraminifers. A comprehensive study of the Sooke Formation fossils (collected mostly in the Muir Creek area) was carried out by Clark and Arnold 100 years ago in 1923. Conservative and selective collecting along this stretch of public beach is permitted. Participants must be capable of walking on uneven ground. Transportation, box lunch/snacks, water, and field guide will be supplied.

### *Fieldtrip 3: Chemainus River*

Cliffs along the deep canyon of the Chemainus River expose the grey, fossiliferous concretionary mudstones and siltstones of the Haslam Formation. Evidence provided by foraminifera, trace fossils, and macrofossils suggests deposition of these sediments took place in marine outer shelf and upper slope environments during late Santonian to early Campanian time. This shallow sea environment was populated by molluscs, fishes, and giant marine reptiles. Some fossils, such as clams and snails, are similar to modern relatives. Others, such as the extinct ammonites, have no direct modern counterpart. This provides an excellent opportunity to explore changing life and environment over geological time. Participants must be capable of climbing moderate inclines and fording streams. Transportation, box lunch/snacks, water, and field guide will be supplied.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN:

Nominations for the Rene Savenye Award are welcomed to honour an amateur paleontologist who has demonstrated outstanding service to the science of paleontology or to paleontological education in British Columbia. If you would like to nominate a non-professional for this award,

please review previous award recipients of the [Rene Savenye Award](#) and contact the British Columbia Paleontological Alliance using the contact information provided on their website.

### **CALL FOR DISPLAYS:**

Secure space is available to showcase fossil collections of all sizes. Please contact [vicpalaeo@gmail.com](mailto:vicpalaeo@gmail.com) or 250-812-3970 if you are interested in sharing some of your finds!

### **TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION:**

Registrants are responsible for their own accommodation reservations. Suggestions and links are available on the Symposium 2023 [website](#).

### **OFFERS OF SUPPORT:**

This Symposium is funded by membership fees and donations; offers of support, both monetary and in-kind, are appreciated to help defray costs. Further information regarding sponsorship is available on the Symposium [website](#).

### **STAY INFORMED:**

Visit our website [Victoria Palaeontology Society | We dig deep \(vicpalaeo.org\)](#)

For specific inquiries email [vicpalaeo@gmail.com](mailto:vicpalaeo@gmail.com) or contact Jerri Wilkins at 250-812-3970

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A third circular will be issued with updates and a reminder of key dates and deadlines.

**JUNE IS BEAUTIFUL IN THE LAND OF THE [LEKWUNGEN](#).  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU.**