



The Timeless Royal Ontario Museum Turns 100

8/1/2014

Our provincial museum comes to life for its 2014 Centenary

Its artifacts may be ancient, but the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) sure is looking good for its age! Back 100 years ago in 1914, its grand doors were first thrown open and our wondrous cultural and natural history museum was born. As a passionate ROM volunteer and history lover, this PlayOLG blogger is especially excited to get you excited about this magnificent milestone, the museum's illustrious history and the cornucopia of exciting events and collections coming up!

Some curiosities on Charles Currelly, the founding father

The man behind it all was an only child – like me – from Exeter Ontario. In the late 19th century, Charles Trick Currelly graduated with a Master's Degree in humanities from Victoria College, University of Toronto. After a brief stint as a Methodist Minister and a collector of information on First Nations life in early Canada, he headed to London, England. It was there that he happened to meet the famous Egyptologist Flinders Petrie while perusing the collections at the British Museum. Known for his personal charm and charisma in addition to his drawing skills, Currelly made a good impression on Petrie right away, and was offered an assistant position with the Egypt Exploration Fund (EEF). It wasn't long before the young would-be ROM founder was overseeing a dig in Egypt at the cenotaph and tomb of Ahmose 1, first pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. There are, in fact, many important pieces in today's ROM collection that come directly from Currelly's early days in the 1900s digging with the EEF in the area of Thebes, Egypt.



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The Timeless Royal Ontario Museum Turns 100 - Continued.

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While in Egypt, Currelly discovered his talent and love of collecting and began to collect for people in Canada including Edmund Walker, the father of one his school friends. Currelly was appointed official collector for the University of Toronto, leading eventually to his initiative in 1914 to launch the museum at Bloor and Avenue Road that we know and love today.

But enough of the history lesson. So what sort of super cool stuff is happening at the ROM in 2014?

ROM ReCollects: A History of the ROM as told by its Visitors

This is kind of neat: ROM goes like you and me are now being invited to give their recollections, photos and spoken thoughts on the website. By logging into [ROM ReCollects](#), you can share your fondest memories, funniest stories or most interesting moments at the museum.

Party time

Not surprisingly, you can get decked out for a number of big-time birthday celebrations, for kids, for grownups, for patrons and members – and just about everyone. There will be a black-tie gala in November 2014, hipster Friday Night Live events and, of course, there will be kids and school group parties which will entail lots of sitting on the floor eating cake and ice cream.

The Book of ROM

In collaboration with The Walrus Foundation, the ROM will be publishing in book form a collection of essays from some of Canada best and most influential writers, offering contemporary perspectives on the ROM collections and the way people relate to them.

Treasures from the Forbidden City

From March to September, ROM will be hosting a mesmerizing collection from Inside the Palace Museum of China's Emperors. More than 250 precious objects – 70 of which have never traveled beyond the walls of the Forbidden City – will be on display. Like an 18th century throne of jade ivory and lacquer, and a ceremonial silk robe worn by a 6 year old emperor and other spectacular objects from the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Forbidden City, incidentally, is the name given to the sprawling official residence occupied by China's emperors from the mid-14th century to the fall of 1911. This will be one special exhibition you will not want to miss!

So put a few trips to the museum into your calendar this year... and be amazed, enriched and join in the celebrations of our proud provincial seat of culture. And when you do stop by, you may just catch this ROM blogger -- who is also a volunteer Gallery Interpreter – upstairs near the mummies, chatting up a storm about canopic jars!