

Transcribed from handwritten notes
Tweed Site Day

Tumbler Ridge - Carolyn Golightly

Tumbler Ridge mine closures led to housing sale which brought me there in 2000. That same month, 2 young boys fell off a raft in a creek and found a dinosaur track. After contacting scientists @ the Royal Tyrell Museum, U of A footprint expert Richard McCrea was dispatched to TR to authenticate the footprints. He did confirm and excavate 27 ankylosaur tracks and soon thereafter found a bone - only BC's second recorded bone discovery. By the following summer, a major bone bed containing at least 76 bones had been discovered.

I just became president of the TR Museum Foundation when Rick approached me with the idea for dino camp. The MF did not have the infrastructure or resources to initiate such a program but in my role as CE coordinator at NLC allowed me to take it on as a CE project. The district, although supportive, was focused on other initiatives and helped in peripheral ways, like tradeshow marketing.

Concept: Cost recovery 5 day camp for kids on the science of paleontology and geology mix of class and field work. We started with 6 weeks, 10 kids/week and graduated 76 kids the first summer. Last summer we expanded the program and while we fell short of our high expectations - graduated 114 kids. The program is marketed jointly by NLC + TRMF on both websites and by the DTR. It has brought incredible attention to the community - 1st year, 75% local kids, 2nd year 25%. Local increase in scientific knowledge - 15-60%

- Added a second level for repeat students.
- Used otherwise empty college facility and encourage the next generation of science students
- NLC currently looking at expanding the idea to junior ranger camps - cooperatively with SD#59 for the use of their Gwillim (sp?) Lake Lodge - in a week-long immersion camp to learn about soil, rocks, trees, insects, bird and wildlife habitat.
- Partners: TRMF, NLC TR/ch, SD #59, WNMS, TR Ornithology Society
- Huge opportunity for tourism (parents bring kids and stay for the week), increase in museum membership, promote post secondary education programs
- Downside: hinges on one person although it is a collaboration of several groups
- Natural capital - dinosaur footprints, pristine setting