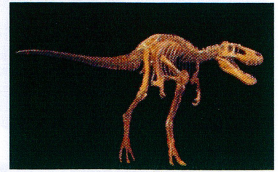


QMA Meets at Research Casting International

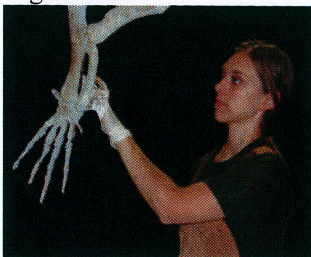
October 29, 2008—Travel to a world where flying dinosaurs hang from the ceiling, where art science and craftsmanship meet, where the skeletons of seven-ton animals dominate their surroundings as they did when they were alive. This is Research Casting International (RCI) in Trenton.



This one-of-a-kind business is where craftsmen and artists restore and preserve the world's rarest and most valuable paleontological specimens and artifacts. Their customers are museums, universities, and theme parks all over the world. They currently have projects on their floor destined for Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the U.S., and Canada. Founded in 1987 by Peter May, Research Casting International operates out of a 45,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility with a height clearance of 25 feet. RCI could be located anywhere in the world, but May chose Trenton.

"I started out with the Royal Ontario Museum and we do a lot of work in Ottawa, Toronto, New York, and Chicago," says May, "I chose Trenton because it is equidistant from all of those. Plus, I like the view. The Quinte area has a spectacular quality of life."

RCI can accommodate dinosaur restoration and mounting commissions and other museum exhibit projects of any size and complexity. Their facility is the largest of its kind in the world. They have a foundry to extend and apply the company's molding and casting capabilities to bronze and aluminum. With a pour capacity of 900 lbs and in-house sculpting, molding, waxes, ceramic shell, sandblasting, chasing and patinating facilities, RCI offers world-class bronze casting services.



RCI employee working on a display model

To complement the foundry, RCI maintains a metal shop with machining, cutting, bending, rolling and welding equipment for custom metal fabrication and a gas and coal forge for custom blacksmithing – presently applied to mounting fossil skeletons. In addition, the blacksmith shop can produce ironwork to meet any design requirement and RCI has been commissioned to produce other metal custom exhibit fixtures such as architectural detailing, ornamental ironwork, fabricated sculptures, railings, metal frames and decking. Of particular interest are their 3-D scanners and printers.

They scan a fossil, then print it out as a three-dimensional copy in plaster or acrylic. It is quite stunning to hold a 1/10th sized plaster Tyrannosaurus Rex skull in your hands and stroke those murderous teeth with your fingers. Because RCI has packed and moved more fossils than anyone else in the world, they are often commissioned by museums to move their priceless collections. Their custom exhibit fabrication includes rock work, trees, environments, timber framing, sculpture, dioramas, themed environments and specimen mounting. One such project was to construct an Egyptian Glass Kiln using the traditional method of making mud bricks and assembling them to form the kiln. They then took what they built traditionally and molded and cast the kiln with modern materials. This process allowed them to create a more durable light-weight exhibit that kept the traditional appearance while meeting present day fire codes.

They have recently formed another company, Exploration Playgrounds, to build safe and appealing climbers, swings, and slides that accurately resemble dinosaur skeletons. In addition, they will produce themed dinosaur digs that enable children to play the role of paleontologist, archaeologist, or treasure hunter. Parts of the skeleton protrude from the sand it is buried in to grab the attention of children who then start digging.

These dinosaur digs can include a 35 foot-long, 13 foot-wide T-Rex. A plaque next to the site identifies the individual bones and maps their location so children can uncover a complete skeleton. The plaque also includes a brief history, the location where it was found, and the museum where the original dinosaur skeleton resides.



City of Quinte West Mayor John Williams and others taking in the life size Tyrannosaurus Rex skeletal display

RCI has grown since Peter May worked on projects in his spare time, from two employees in 1987, five employees in 1995, and now 20 employees in 2008. Quinte is proud to have this little-known but world-class company in our area, and we wish RCI continued success.

