



Story Ideas

The Characters of Tumbler Ridge

Dr. Charles Helm - not your typical small town doctor

This South African transplant arrived in Tumbler Ridge in 1992, and has become the town's champion and pacesetter. He has written four books on the Tumbler Ridge area, and just co-edited "The Forgotten Explorer: Samuel Prescott Fay's 1914 Expedition the Northern Rockies", which documents the exploration - beyond Jasper - of the true northern Rockies.

Soon after arriving in Tumbler Ridge, Charles and wife, Linda, began to unearth the history of this little-known corner of Canada and to explore its mountains and valleys. Always an explorer, Charles was a founding member of the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society in 1995. Following the 2000 discovery of dinosaur tracks just below Tumbler Ridge by two boys - one of which was his 8 year old son, Daniel - he founded the Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation. Funnily enough, Charles did not believe the boys when they thought they had discovered dinosaur tracks!

Charles Helm is also known to do mountain runs before work in the morning, and is an active promoter of Tumbler Ridge's half marathon, the Emperor's Challenge, which runs up and over a mountain. In his "spare" time, this energetic man runs the other 37 plus trails in the Tumbler Ridge area and is often out blazing new ones. (During the Olympics, this was also a destination of the Canadian Women's Hockey Team who did tryouts in this area in July 2009, prior to the Olympics)

Daniel Helm - Dino Boy

In the summer of 2000, eight year old Daniel Helm and eleven year old Mark Turner capsized their inner tubes while floating the rapids along Flatbed Creek. After swimming to the far shore, the two boys climbed onto the bank of the river and discovered strange hollow spots on the rocks. Both boys immediately recognized them for what they were - Dinosaur Footprints!

Not giving in to "parental scepticism", over the next winter, Daniel and Mark got in touch with Rich McCrea, one of North America's top dinosaur footprint experts, who was based in Edmonton, AB. Rich agreed to visit the next summer, and Daniel fretted that the tracks would be eroded away by the winter's snow and ice.

Vindicated! When Rich arrived, he confirmed that the boys had discovered the longest dinosaur

trackway that he had ever seen in that type of rock, made by an ankylosaur. Rich was hooked on Tumbler Ridge, due to Daniel's diligence.

Since then, Daniel has assisted with palaeontological work, and has found countless dinosaur footprints and bones. Although he is a student at the University of Northern British Columbia, he comes back each summer to work at the Peace Ridge Palaeontology Research Centre.

Rich McCrea and Lisa Buckley - Dino Podiatrist and Dentist

Considering themselves "kids who never grew up", Rich and Lisa were all ears when an excited boy contacted them about some tracks in stone. Naturally curious and open to 'see for themselves', the discovery put into their hands British Columbia's most exciting dinosaur finds!

Rich is one of Canada's foremost dinosaur footprint experts, and Lisa's area of specialty is teeth, leading to her nickname as the "Dinosaur Dentist". Together, they pulled up their roots, and made Tumbler Ridge home, after finding not only ample scientific reason to spend their career there, but the community support to entice them to settle.

They're kind of cute, kind of geeky, kind of in love, and all about DINOSAURS. Their energy has lead to the development of the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery, a hands-on centre to explore and understand the dinosaur history of the Tumbler Ridge region.

Contact: Tartan Group 250-592-3838 **Trisha Lees** Trisha@tartangroup.ca
Kate Rogers Kate@tartangroup.ca or 604-682-881