

## CHAPTER 7

# The villain is . . .

### The story so far . . .

When Trevor, Nick and Robyn visit the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller with Hailey Ross and the rest of their class, it sets off more than an avalanche of dinosaur bones.

A chain of mysterious events leads them to wonder what's going on with a new paleontology dig that Hailey's mother is working on.

With the danger of funding running short, the kids decide to stage a school carnival to raise money to keep the site operating.

After Robyn sets up a fortune-telling booth at the carnival, she gets more than she predicted when some of her goofball prophecies

actually come true.

During cleanup of the carnival, Trevor and Robyn come across plastic bags of fossils labelled from the University of South Dakota hidden in a filing cabinet near Mr. Joe's desk.

The kids wonder whether Mr. Joe might have stolen them from the university, but before they can investigate, the fossils disappear.

Meanwhile, Robyn has predicted another fortune that comes true — this time for Hailey.

Is Robyn really psychic? Are the missing fossils somehow linked to the closing of the new dig site? And will these kids ever learn to tell the difference between a chicken bone and a dinosaur bone?

Join Trevor, Nick and Robyn and find out in *The Fraud Squad*.



MICHELE MARTIN BOSSLEY

I walked up to Robyn's locker in the crowded hallway the next morning at school.

"Hey," I said. She jumped a mile. "Holy geez, Trevor!"

Robyn clenched her hands, scrunching the piece of paper she was holding into a ball. "You scared me!"

Her breath came in gasps. I stared at her in surprise.

"What's the matter with you? You'd think I was wearing a vampire costume or something."

Robyn gave a nervous laugh. "You just . . . surprised me, that's all."

She stuffed the paper into the pocket of her jeans and reached for her books.

"I have to hurry. I need to see Mr. Joe before class."

She slammed the locker door shut, locked it, and strode off.

I watched her go. "Weird," I said, shaking my head.

"What is?" Nick joined me. "Robyn," I answered.

"Well, yeah. That's obvious. You haven't figured that out before?"

"No, I mean, she's acting weird. She ran off, like she was avoiding me or something."

"Well, your breath is kind of bad," Nick joked. "When's the last time you flossed your teeth?"

I frowned.

"She also said she needed to talk to Mr. Joe before class, but she just went the opposite direction, away from the classroom."

I watched Robyn at the end of the hallway snaking through knots of kids, glancing furtively from side to side.

She ducked through the doors leading to the stairwell into the basement.

"Let's follow her," Nick said suddenly. "She's definitely up to something. Maybe she has a lead on the missing fossils."

"If she has a plan to catch somebody, we could be messing it up if we go after her," I answered.

"Yeah, but Trev, you know Robyn. She should be getting herself into more than she bargained for. I say we stick together."

"OK," I agreed. "Let's go."

We hurried through the hall to the same stairwell door we'd seen Robyn disappear through.

Some of the kids were heading to class, but we still had a few minutes before the bell.

We let the door shut behind us softly and crept cautiously down the stairs.

These stairs weren't used often — the only time students went to the basement was to use the locker rooms for gym, and they were located at the opposite end of the building.

After a silent descent, we reached the bottom. A closed door led to another corridor, but a sudden movement under the stairs caught my attention.

I nudged Nick and peered into the dim light. A familiar form emerged, clutching something with both hands.

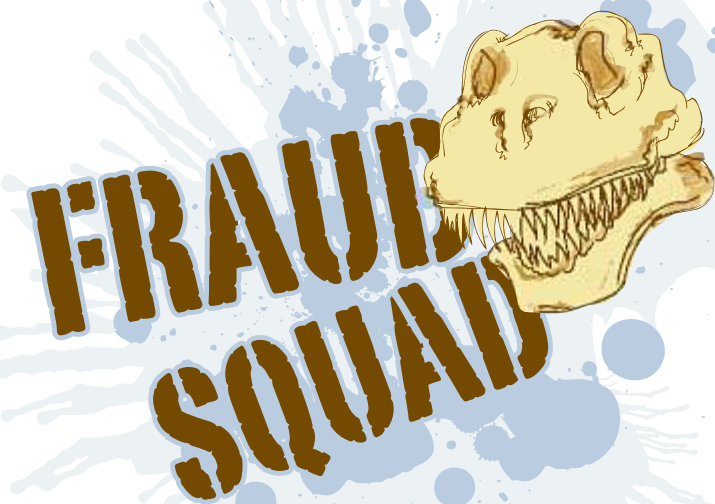
"Robyn?" I said uncertainly. "Trevor?" Robyn's voice shook.

I could see the fear in her eyes. And in her hands were plastic bags filled with bulky objects.

I could see clearly through the transparent bags.

Robyn held the missing fossils.

MICHELE MARTIN BOSSLEY IS THE AUTHOR OF 16 JUVENILE NOVELS. NINE OF THOSE TITLES HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE FOR THE OUR CHOICE LIST. BOSSLEY DIVIDES HER TIME BETWEEN WRITING AND PARENTING HER THREE YOUNG SONS AND NEW BABY BOY.



Watch for Chapter 8 in the Herald on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

## BOOK REVIEW



Just Works: Lawyers in Alberta looks at the province's legal system, as well as contributions to society by lawyers.

# Law society marks 100 years of contributions to Alberta

DAVID FINCH  
FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

Just Works: Lawyers in Alberta, 1907-2007, is a new book that tells the stories of the men and women who have served Alberta society in many ways.

It lists the laws in the West in the 1840s, which included a prohibition against running bison on the Sabbath. First-time offenders had their saddle and bridle cut up, repeaters next lost their coats and third-time rebels were flogged.

James Lougheed, Alberta's first lawyer, arrived in Calgary in 1883.

"Lawyers played a role in civic society," says Louis Knafla, professor emeritus of history at the University of Calgary, a contributor to the book. "You find their names on hospital foundations, youth clubs, churches, charitable organizations," a side of the law most people don't see every day.

Lawyers participated in society from its early days because they were well educated. They demanded culture in their adopted home in the West and became active to "bring the cultural milieu which they came from to where they were making their home."

But Knafla shows how the West also influenced the lawyer.

Charles Conybear migrated to Lethbridge from England, built an enormous house, but had trouble keeping partners. His office had five chairs, "one for Charles," says Knafla, "and one chair for each of his four dogs."

He finally found a law partner in William Carlos Ives, who had been raised on a ranch and once quipped that "living with four dogs is no worse than living with four horses."

Famous lawyers also appear in this book, of course.

In 1897, R.B. Bennett arrived with 2,200 kilograms of books and started



This stamp was issued to mark the Alberta law society's centennial.

the legal library for the land that became Alberta in 1905. He also went on to become Canada's prime minister.

Knafla wants us to remember that lawyers "give of their time and give of their lives and . . . that is what law brings to society."

Justice Jack Watson was "the shepherd of the book," according to Everett Bunnell, who contributed two chapters.

"Albertans are a remarkable species of Canadians," says Watson, "with a high level of communitarian feeling. We see ourselves as part of a greater whole."

Unlike Americans, who are often very individualistic, "Albertans have been very self-reliant . . . but very much associated with what's better for everybody. More generous. It profoundly influences the way the law developed in Alberta."

Still, Albertans have been careful to protect what is ours and the chapter called How the West Was Won reviews the struggle to gain control over our natural resources in 1930.

No topic is more in the news these days, and this historical review informs the tough decisions now being made by the Alberta government.

Alberta benefited from the oil and gas resource boom in the 1930s and then again in the 1950s and 1970s.

Ottawa's attempts to wrest some of that financial control during the last

major boom was not welcomed by Alberta.

When world oil prices fell in the early 1980s, Alberta and Ottawa worked out an agreement to "restore balance in federal-provincial relations" according to authors Peter W. Hogg and Mark Heerema.

"With a different history, it may be that some sharing of resource revenues with the non-producing provinces, perhaps in the form of a new kind of equalization program, could have been agreed to by Alberta. Now, nothing of the kind can even be contemplated, and no responsible politician suggests it."

However, the rebalancing of the sharing of resources revenues between the oil industry and the Alberta government is open to debate.

Alberta's darker side appears in this book, too, with a review of the Sexual Sterilization Act under which 2,822 "mentally unfit" patients were sterilized between 1928 and 1972. Few were men of Anglo-Saxon background. The act was widely supported at the time.

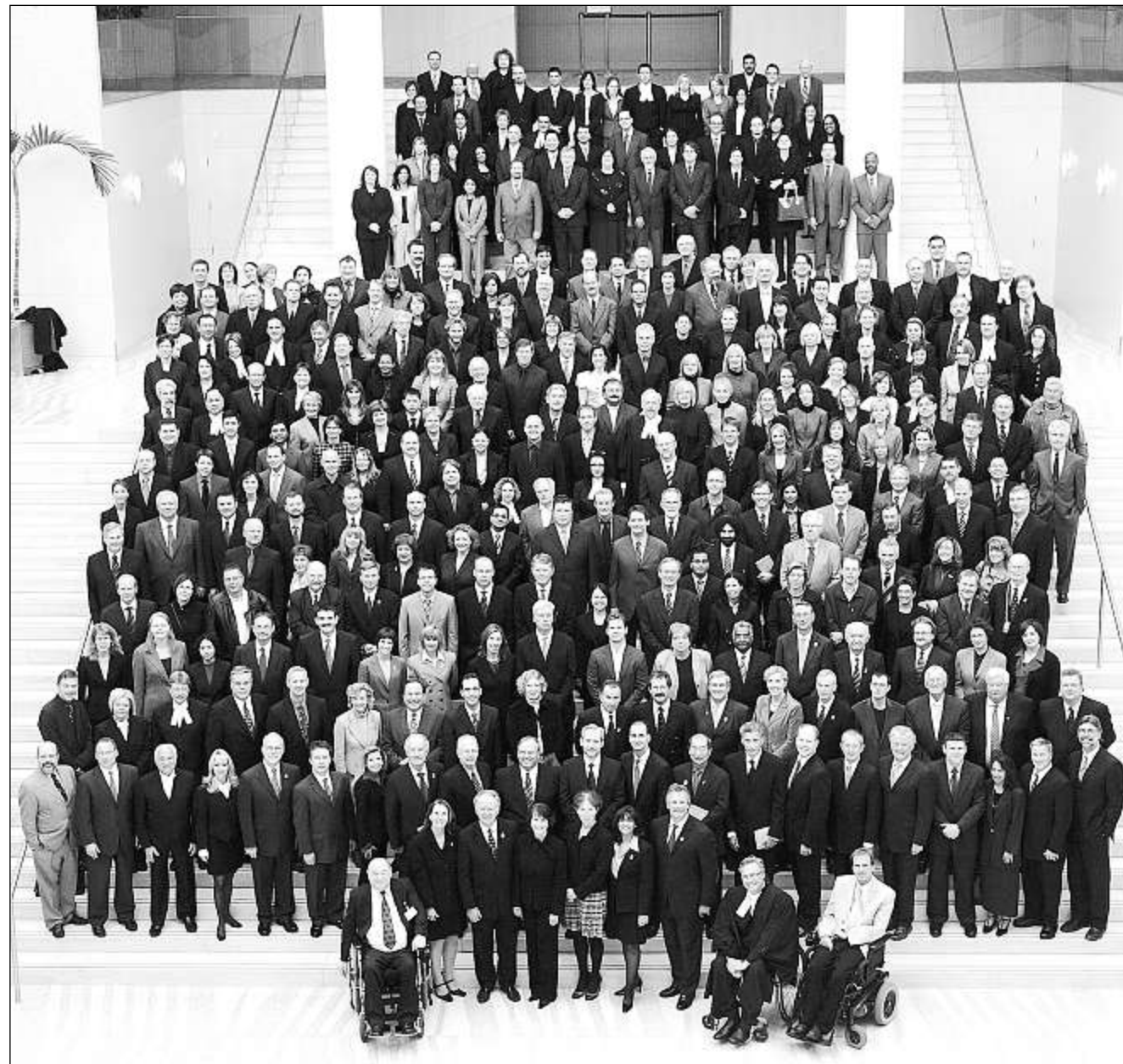
Hundreds more stories fill this book, covering many topics which are unknown to the people of Alberta.

But it is these stories that reveal the rule of law in Alberta and how, as law-abiding people, we have created a strong civil society.

For more information, go to [www.lawsocietyalberta.com](http://www.lawsocietyalberta.com) or ask your bookseller to bring in a copy. Priced at \$100, it belongs in schools, libraries and career counsellors' offices.

If you know someone considering a career in law, this is probably as important a resource as a study guide to the LSATs.

DAVID FINCH IS A CALGARY HISTORIAN AND THE AUTHOR OF PUMPED: EVERYONE'S GUIDE TO THE OIL PATCH, PUBLISHED BY FIFTH HOUSE PUBLISHERS OF CALGARY



The justices of the Alberta Court of Appeal, Court of Queen's Bench, along with provincial court judges and lawyers gathered last month for this group photo to mark the 100th anniversary of the Law Society of Alberta.

Chris Schwarz, CanWest News Service