



## ROM Renaissance

If you're able to go to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto, it's definitely worth the visit. The revitalized ROM helps convey the excitement of studying Earth science.

Officially opened in June 2007, the new Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, named after Portland Holdings Inc. Chairman Michael Lee-Chin in appreciation of his \$30 million gift, presents a dynamic building design inspired by the museum's renowned gem and mineral collection. The five interlocking, self-supporting prismatic structures pierce the space around the older structure, challenging conventional ideas of architecture. Noted for its engineering complexity and innovative methods, the addition also underlines the use of mined building materials: roughly 3,500 tonnes of steel and 9,000 cubic metres of concrete went into the construction.



Aerial view of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal.  
Image courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum  
© 2007



View from the northwest of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal.  
Image courtesy of Royal Ontario Museum ©  
2007



On the inside, a \$10 million donation from Teck Cominco Limited is transforming the presentation of the ROM's extensive Earth science collection. This generous gift will establish the Teck Cominco Suite of Earth Sciences Galleries, the Teck Cominco Endowed Chair in Mineralogy and the Teck Cominco Digital Education Module in Earth Sciences, as well as create a new home for the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame at the museum.

"We will build three unique galleries within the Teck Cominco Suite, doubling the volume of ROM minerals and gems on display and opening up virtually limitless avenues for education," explained William Thorsell, the ROM's Director and CEO, in a press release earlier this year. "Our collections will be beautifully displayed in a restored space, showcasing everything from precious gems to meteorites to spectacular crystalline gold. With this donation, we not only meet our objectives for Earth sciences but also expand our scope, establishing a great future for education and research through a new endowed chair, by digitizing our collection, and by bringing the history of Canadian mining to the museum." The galleries are due to open in 2008.

Teachers can take advantage of ROM field trips designed to fit the Ontario Earth science curriculum. For details, go to [www.rom.on.ca/schools/index.php](http://www.rom.on.ca/schools/index.php)

**Discover Science** – Grades 4 to 8

Students learn stories behind the work of biologists, geologists, and palaeontologists as they examine our planet's history and its diversity of life.

**Rocks and Minerals** – Grade 4

Students investigate more than 50 rock and mineral specimens, identifying igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, studying their characteristics and properties, and performing identification tests.

**The Earth's Crust** – Grade 7

Students investigate the composition of the Earth's crust and the forces shaping the evolution of our planet, focusing on the relationships between rocks and minerals, their properties, and classification.

**Earth Materials** Grades 9 – 12

By seeing and handling a large variety of specimens, students learn to describe how the three major types of rock are formed, to distinguish between rocks and minerals, and to conduct tests to examine their properties. Students review the use of rocks and minerals in our everyday lives.



## **ROM Clubs**

[http://www.rom.on.ca/programs/rom\\_kids/index.php](http://www.rom.on.ca/programs/rom_kids/index.php)

Kids and teens will love the ROM popular Saturday Morning Club, Summer Club and March Break Camp, complete with gallery visits and hands-on activities in a ROM classroom.

The Explorers' Club is the ultimate experience for young Museum Members. Children receive their own passport, mailings and can attend special events.

ROMkids is aimed at children and youth 16 and under. For offerings geared to families, see family events.

ROM Family Weekends

This is the place to be! There is something for all ages.