

# OSFS Statement

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Would  
you care  
for a jelly  
baby?

*Gravalymene bakeri*. trilobite

Image credit: Smith & Ebach

Tom Baker. the fourth Doctor

**Event Coordinator** – Hopefully there will be another OSFS dinner someday. We have a monthly OSFS newsletter called The Statement. If you would like to be on the e-mail list contact the [editor@ottawasfs.ca](mailto:editor@ottawasfs.ca)

**Editor's Blather:** So how are these pictures connected?

Read on.

Paleontologists in Tasmania have unearthed the fossilized remains of a previously unknown species of the genus *Gravicalymene* and named it after Thomas Stewart Baker, the fourth actor to play the title character in the television series ‘*Doctor Who*.’

“[Gravicalymene](#) is a small genus of [calymenid trilobites](#) that flourished from the Ordovician to the Devonian period and is relatively well-known from the ancient continents of Avalonia, Baltica and Laurentia (i.e., Europe and North America).

The newly-discovered species, named *Gravicalymene bakeri*, lived during the Late Ordovician epoch, approximately 450 million years ago. “During this time, Australia was part of the great landmass Gondwana, when complex marine ecosystems were starting to develop,” said [Dr. Patrick Smith](#) from the Australian Museum Research Institute and Macquarie University and [Dr. Malte Ebach](#) from the University of New South Wales.

“It was also a time when the first primitive plants were appearing on land.”

Several specimens of *Gravicalymene bakeri* were collected from the Late Ordovician shales of the Gordon Group in northern Tasmania.

“This is the first record of the genus *Gravicalymene* from the Ordovician of East Gondwana (Australasia),” the paleontologists said.

*Gravicalymene bakeri* was named after the actor [Tom Baker](#) for inspiring the study authors to develop careers in science.

“I’m not old enough to remember Tom Baker’s episodes which were originally aired in 1974-81,” Dr. Smith said.

“However, growing up as a teenager when the series re-aired in the early 2000s, I

followed the show religiously and became convinced that a career in science was guaranteed to improve the world.”

“It was the character of [Doctor Who](#), and especially the actor Tom Baker, that inspired me to explore the natural world,” Dr. Ebach added.

“So, it is a joy to name a trilobite in his honor. My sister-in-law has even knitted a replica *Doctor Who* scarf for the occasion.”

“I am delighted to be entitled at last,” said Baker, who is based in the UK.

“I hope the *Who World* will share my joy.”

“Will I be allowed to tack ‘Fossil’ on official correspondence?”

I hope the *Who World* will celebrate this fresh honor and will spread the news to those who live in remote places. Happy days to all the *Who* fans everywhere.”

The [discovery](#) is reported in the journal *Alcheringa: An Australasian Journal of Palaeontology*.”

**LOC**

Dear OSFen:

Many thanks for issue 498 of the Statement! I will see what I can say here, but looks like it's mostly my list of events...

No OSFS dinners, true. All I can suggest is everyone grab something at a restaurant, and eat outside. We got to do that once, but the weather probably won't allow for it. Any covered picnic areas in local parks? I am also not surprised about the hiatus of the Sunburst Awards. I guess there's not many ways to raise the prize money during this pandemic, so like everything else in this year, it's been postponed until who knows when. Usually, 2021 is announced as the new year, but I wonder... 2022? 2023?

And then, my list. It's no fun to make a list of cancelled events. The only shows that I know are happening are the Burlington Comic Book Show on October 25, and the Canadian ToyCon on November 15, both at the Holiday Inn in Burlington, Ontario. Everyone else, cancelled or postponed. Into 2021, who knows. Some conventions, like the Ottawa Geek Show, I think, has gone under completely. It's no fun, but I am hopeful that we can recover from all this and have some reunion conventions we can all enjoy.

I noticed a lot of Ottawa fans joining the MonSFFA Facebook group, almost all at once. Did Cathy P-L contact everyone and invite them over? (Seems so,, Ed)

Not much to say... Yvonne is busy making her wonderful Hawaiian-style shirts and masks, and I am making more jewelry, and doing more editorial work, and still job-hunting. Hope you are all busy, sane, healthy and hopeful. Let's hope something happens soon... a vaccine? See you all soon.

**COMING EVENTS** see above

**OF SOME INTEREST** (or just a spacefiller)

You may never become a Time Lord — but least you can learn to write in their elegant, intricate language. (Actually the language is plain enough; at least where it isn't. It is the script that “ellegant”. ed)



There's no "official" lexicon to the circular Gallifreyan script we've seen in *Doctor Who*, but Loren Sherman has a guide to writing in it. It looks cool, and it can be your own private code.

<https://shermansplanet.com/gallifreyan/>

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