

BCPA Website: Members Only Access

The BCPA website: Public and “Members Only”

The BCPA website bcfossils.ca has many informative pages available to the public, i.e., anyone on the internet who can reach the website.

The website also has a “Members Only” area that contains an archive of BCPA newsletters and other material. Access to this area is limited to members of the regional societies that make up the BC Paleontological Alliance. A member of such a regional society typically pays an annual membership fee. Following a regional society’s annual general meeting (AGM), the society forwards the list of their members to the BCPA and the membership fees to the BCPA financial director. At this point, the BCPA website administrator uses each paid up member’s email address to configure “Members Only” website access for them.

This involves:

- Removing access to the website’s “Members Only” area for someone who is no longer a paid member.
- Verifying access to the website’s “Members Only” area for someone who continues as a paid member.
- Granting access to the website’s “Members Only” area for a new paid member.

No notice is sent to a person that is losing or retaining access.

A new member is sent an email informing them that they must configure a logon password to obtain the access they have been granted.

New Member Walk Through

As an example, let’s create a new member on the BCPA website, and see what things look like from the new member’s perspective.

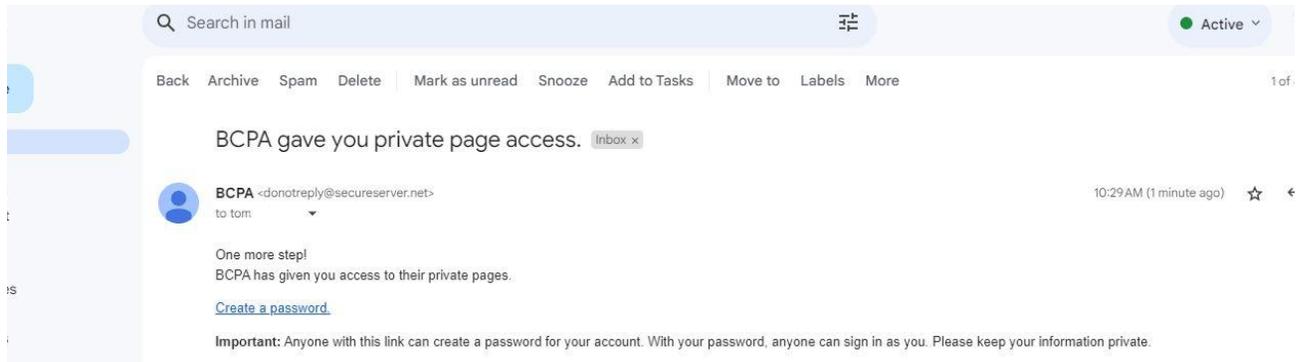
For this example, we’ll use these details:

Member Name	T. Rex
Email id	tom.r@outlook.com
Phone number	2505559999
Member’s organization	VicPS

The BCPA website administrator creates this new member's entry, and grants access to the "Members Only" area of the website. All of this is behind the scenes and invisible to you. We'll talk about this new member as if they're you from here on.

The Invitation

You now receive an email as shown below. In this case, you've forwarded the email from your Outlook account to your Gmail account.



That "private page access" in the subject is access to the "Members Only" area. There's a link labeled "*Create a password*". It all looks good.

But wait! You need to have a bit of paranoia about unsolicited emails. The sender is donotreply@seureserver.net. Let's check that seureserver.net is legitimate. To do this, it's worth knowing that the BCPA website bcfossils.ca is hosted by [GoDaddy](#).

Who is GoDaddy? They're a pretty big company that's been in the internet website hosting business for a long time. You can search and find lots and lots of info from their own sites, or read up about them on [Wikipedia](#). We know them to be legitimate, safe and secure.

OK, so do a whois lookup on "seureserver.net".

www.whois.com/whois/secureserver.net

BLACK FRIDAY SALE Get

Whois Identity for everyone Domains Hosting Servers Email

Domain:	secureserver.net
Registrar:	Wild West Domains, LLC
Registered On:	1998-03-30
Expires On:	2021-11-01
Updated On:	2023-11-02
Status:	clientDeleteProhibited clientRenewProhibited clientTransferProhibited clientUpdateProhibited serverDeleteProhibited serverTransferProhibited serverUpdateProhibited
Name Servers:	a1-245.akam.net a11-64.akam.net a20-65.akam.net a6-66.akam.net a8-67.akam.net a9-67.akam.net cns1.secureserver.net cns2.secureserver.net

Registrant Contact

Organization:	Go Daddy Operating Company, LLC
State:	Arizona
Country:	US

Much information about status and name servers, but most important to you is that the registrant contact is GoDaddy. So the originating “donotreply” email came from a server registered to GoDaddy.

In addition, the URL underlying the “*Create a password*” link is <https://bcfossils.ca/m/create?e=tom.r%40outlook.com&id=6c746fb6-cd0c-4e93-b637-7a52676b7112&t=AswH9r1Fy1jpbADMeMFbQcuM35HBxMaaUQ&x=1702664905>

So it links to the bcfossils.ca website, and packs in your email id but no other obviously nefarious information.

You can conclude that you can trust this email. With confidence, click on that “*Create a password*” link.

Set Your Password

Now you are presented with a page on the BCPA website that

- Notes you’re signing in for the first time
- Provides the email id you used for your membership
- Tells you that you need to set a password



bcfossils.ca/my/create

HOME EVENTS WHO WE ARE CONTACT US MEMBERS' AREA

BCPA
British Columbia Paleontological Alliance (BCPA), paleontology, fossils

Set Password

You're signing in for the first time as tom.r@outlook.com, so you need to set a password.

Password

Confirm password

SET PASSWORD

Set a password. There’s no obvious way to display your password while typing it in, so be careful and patient and type it perfectly twice, once on each line. Then click on that “*Set Password*” icon at the bottom.

Set Password

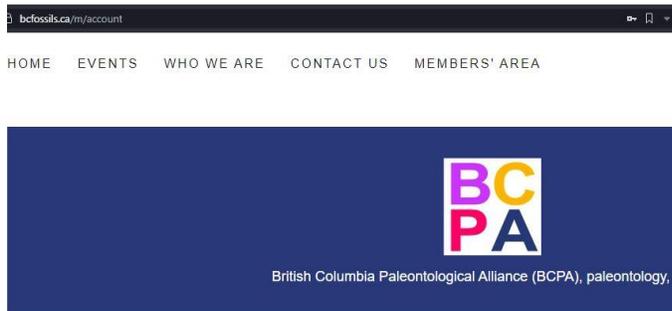
You're signing in for the first time as tom.r@outlook.com, so you need to set a password.

SET PASSWORD

BCPA Website Members' Area Access

The result is a nice acknowledgement that you're in. The *Edit Profile* link lets you change your name and phone number. Your association to a BCPA member organization is controlled by the website administrator, so that won't change unless you join another or different BCPA member organization in the years to come (it happens!).

You can now access the "Members Only" area using that top line menu item *Members' Area*. You now click on that.



Hello T

Account

Account Created, Congrats!

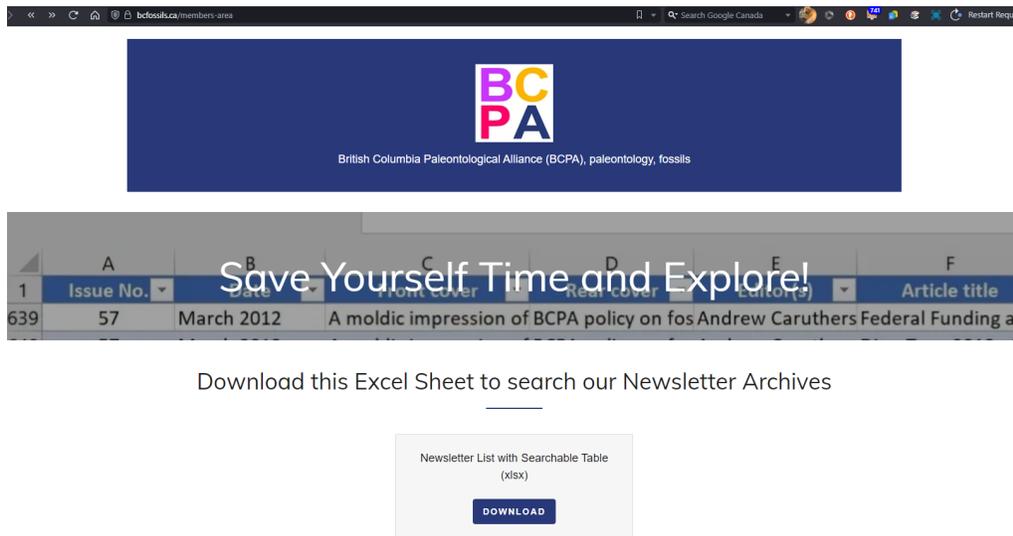
T Rex

Email
tom.r@outlook.com

Phone
2505559999

[Edit Profile](#)

The members area may appear slightly different from browser to browser, but it begins with the advice and a link to download a spreadsheet of what's available to members.



Scrolling down past this, you'll see the latest newsletter.



Further scrolling brings more and more material to whet your appetite and fill your brain.



Regional Society Presentation & Field Trip Schedules 2022

<p>2022 VicPS Calendar of Events (pdf)</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>	<p>2022 VIPS Calendar of Events (pdf)</p> <p>DOWNLOAD</p>
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Members' Area Content

Current and Back Issues of the Newsletters



Enjoy our collection of current and back issues. Many articles that explore what incredible discoveries have been made in your back

Symposium Abstracts



Our professionals and amateurs have been collaborating for a very long time! The symposium abstracts are a great example of

Symposium Field Excursion Guides



Field Excursion Guides show great details about the locations and discoveries!

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Site Content

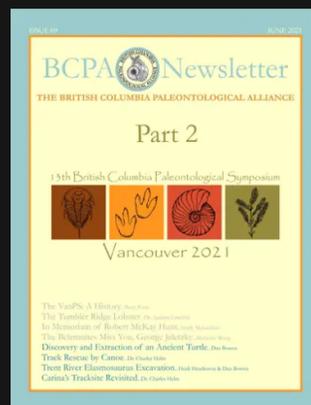
Issue 70 - October 2021



Issue 69 - (Part 1) June 2021



Issue 69 - (Part 2) June 2021



Issue 68 - October 2020



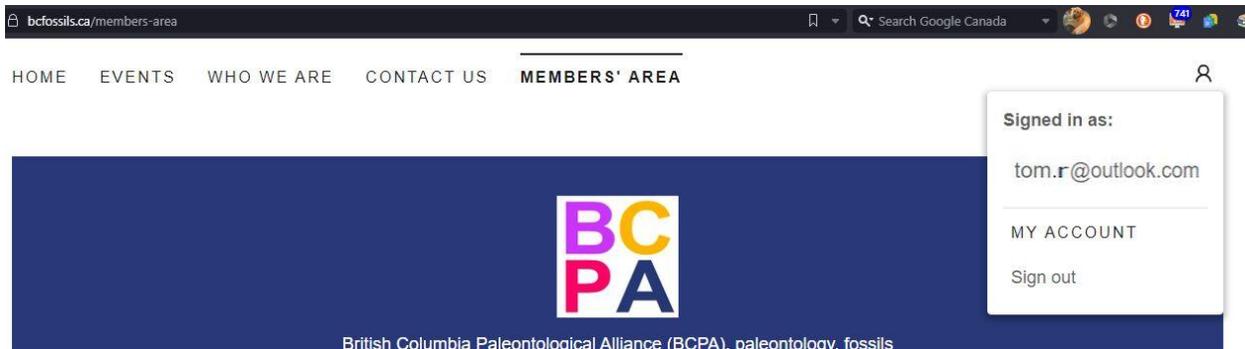
Issue 67 - July 2020



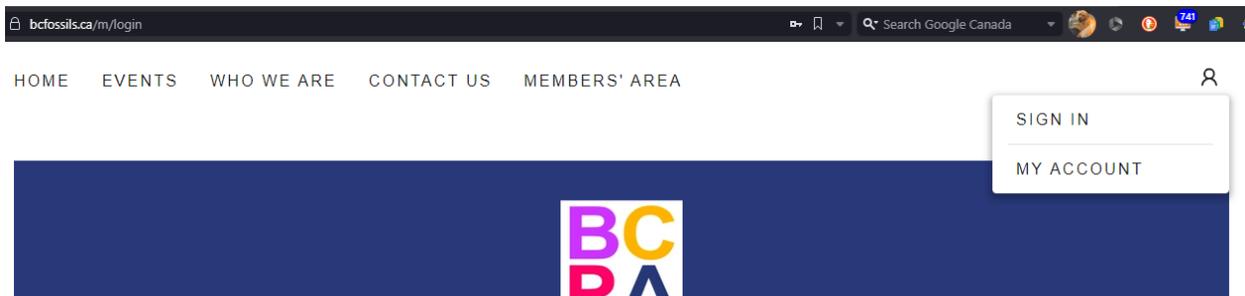
Issue 66 - March 2020



When you're ready to leave, you can close your browser window and your session will eventually time out and be closed by the server; or you can sign out using the person icon atop each page.



Once you've signed out, and want to sign in again, that same icon will give you a sign in link. Use that...



...and you'll see a page as below. Add your logon credentials, and you'll have access once again to the "Members Only" area of the BCPA website.

Note the link at the bottom to reset your password, should that be needed.



Account sign in

Sign in to your account to access your profile, history, and any private pages you've been granted access to.

SIGN IN

[Reset password](#)

Conclusion

By now, if you've followed along, you've seen how to set up access to the BCPA website's "Members Only" area, once you've received that initial email to do so.

Should you have further questions or issues regarding BCPA website access with which you'd like help, please use the form on the [Contact Us page](#) to provide us details, and the suitable person at the BCPA will respond.