



THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

JANUARY 2018

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Jack Bauer

Our 2017 Christmas Party Fundraiser was a huge success, we had 40 registered guests. We have to thank Canad Inns for being so accommodating, by setting up 5 extra place settings, in our cozy Ambassador room. The food was good and everyone looked like they had a fun time.

A big THANK YOU goes out to our generous members, for making it the success that it was, as we raised \$1,541.00! Some auction items included; Kunzite on Albeit and quartz matrix, Green Fluorite from England, Lapis Lazuli specimen from Nunavut, set of 4 custom painted plates, some Flood way Selenites, a salt lamp, home made knitted mitts, a small 4" work of art under glass, created from pieces of crushed gem stones and with incredible detail, an assortment of Mineral related books and more. All of your items were greatly appreciated.



Lisa successfully bid on the Smoky Quartz



Thomas with the prized green fluorite sample from England

We also have to give a special THANK YOU to **Tony Smith** for hosting our 2017 live auction and Christmas party. The bidding was lively, with a few notable bidding wars, the first being between Russ and Brigitte over the excellent Kunzite specimen, with Brigitte winning it with a bid of \$320.00. The rare Green Fluorite specimen from England generated some heated bidding, with Thomas Epp winning with a bid of \$200.00. Lisa won the fine Smoky Quartz specimen with a bid of \$150.00.

The Executive of the Mineral Society, would like to wish everyone happiness over the Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous NEW YEAR!

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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The Mineral Vein is published monthly from September to June.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May inclusive at the Manitoba Museum in room P47 on the Planetarium level. They begin at 7:30 PM and feature announcements, an invited speaker and a raffle. Members are encouraged to bring along any new, interesting specimens, or specimens appropriate to the speaker's topic.

Field Trips take place from May to September to interesting sites in Manitoba or neighbouring provinces and states.

Membership: A single membership is \$15 while a family membership is \$20. Memberships run from October to October.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3, 2018: MSM regular monthly meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitoba Museum. Our guest speaker will be **Mike Beauregard**, Resident Geologist with the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Division for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in Nunavut. His topic will be "Canada, Land of Big Ice. An Arctic imaged glaciation presentation on how to tune into the gestalt of continental ice-sheet landscaping .

February 7, 2018: MSM regular monthly meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitoba Museum.

Guest speaker to be announced.

March 7, 2018: MSM regular monthly meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitoba Museum.

Guest speaker to be announced.

April 4, 2018: MSM regular monthly meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitoba Museum.

Guest speaker to be announced.



Founded in 1971, the Mineral Society of Manitoba is dedicated to promoting the study of minerals, rocks and fossils for their scientific and recreational value.

The Mineral Society of Manitoba hosts monthly meetings covering a variety of mineral related topics. In addition, the Mineral Society organizes summer field trips to collecting localities, and hosts educational exhibits about minerals and fossils.

ON THE ROAD WITH JOSH

By Josh Myers – Copied from Manitoba Rocks!

On November 8th I stopped by the Child Life Department, Children's Hospital, Winnipeg, on behalf of the *Manitoba Rocks!* program. What a great time of hands-on rock and mineral exploration and gold-panning. I first met children and teachers in the Child Life classroom. Everyone enjoyed the display of unique rocks, minerals and fossils from around the province and finding out about all the stuff a geoscientist carries around in his backpack in the field.

Next, gold fever took over with NoName the puppet, who interviewed me 'live' on Children's Hospital Television (CHTV). I connected with more kids on wards via the TV program and have to say, NoName sure was good peppering me with questions, including asking about the coolest rock I've ever found. Next, kids and family members caught up with me in the Child Life play room for more gold panning fun. Throughout the day, kids appreciated receiving *Manitoba Rocks!* 'surprise' bags, including polished rock samples of green quartz, tourmaline, hematite, labradorite and more.



Josh panning for gold with some young rockhounds.



Josh Myers conducting field work with the Manitoba Geological Survey at Bigstone Lake, summer 2016.

Somewhere in between our activities, I almost forgot about lunch! Fortunately no one asked if the geologist was getting hungry, or I'd probably have told them I lost my *apatite*. I know, I know — silly joke. Anyway, you probably know, apatite is the name of a group of phosphate minerals and the main source of phosphorous, essential in the manufacturing of fertilizers. To learn more about fascinating rocks and minerals around our province, visit the Dig It! page of this website. Thanks for going on the road with me. *Keep on rock'in!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to wish everyone success for 2018, may it be filled with health and happiness.

2017 was a busy year filled with great speakers at our meetings, fantastic mineral trips and celebrating Canada's 150th with a Selenite dig at the floodway.

I hope your field trips in 2018 are fun and rewarding, see you at our monthly meetings!

Carrie Carino

THE GEOLOGY OF STAR WARS

By Jacques Bourgeois— using various sources

Not only the Force but Geology is strong in the successful Star Wars franchise. Spectacular landscapes, like glaciers in Norway, an active volcano in Sicily and the sand dunes of Tunisia act as a background for the struggles of our heroes against the dark side and epic battles with the empire.

The famous lightsaber battle on Mustafar in *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, was done by combining computer graphics with real footage of Mount Etna. The crew was filming in 2002 in Italy when just by chance Mount Etna erupted with spectacular lava fountains and flows, so they decided to film there. The fictional planet Mustafar displays a landscape covered entirely in dark rocks, igneous in origin as the many active lava flows and fountains suggest. Real science suggests that early Earth was pretty much a lava planet, with a thin crust of basalt covering a fiery ocean.



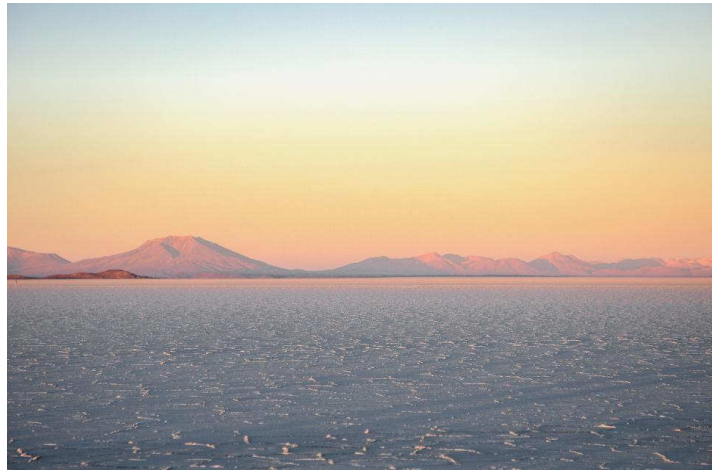
Mount Etna in eruption. Planet Mustafar in Star Wars.

The battle of Hoth, in *The Empire Strikes Back* was filmed on the Hardangerjøkulen glacier in Norway.



Hardangerjøkulen glacier in Norway. Planet Hoth in Star Wars.

The most recent episode, "The Last Jedi", also features some spectacular landscapes, like Salar de Uyuni, a dry lake located in Bolivia. The plain bottom of the lake is covered by common salt or sylvite. Halite, the mineralogical name for salt, can become dark red-brown when exposed to radioactive radiation. Sylvite, a potassium chloride (KCl), has a reddish color, that can become purple if exposed to radiation, but it's rare in nature.



Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia. Planet Crait in Star



Red sylvite and halite dust being lifted up in Star Wars.

The island of Skellig Michael, another spectacular location in Star Wars, lies 12 km off the coast of Ireland. The pinnacles rise to 218m above the Atlantic Ocean. The island itself is shaped from Old Red Sandstone .



Skellig Michael. Ahch-To in Star Wars.

It is currently solely inhabited by Luke Skywalker, although rumour has it he now has some company.