



Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada

La Federation Canadienne des Gemmes et des Mineraux

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AMETHYST



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SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC

This is a separate entity of the GMFC. Since it's inception, it has accepted memorial donations for a scholarship fund. In 1993 the GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc. became operational with Tax exemption status. The first scholarship was awarded in 1994. In 2004, one graduate scholarship for \$1000.00 and four \$500.00 undergraduate scholarships were awarded. The following procedure is used for the graduate scholarship. Each GMFC member club is encouraged to nominate one of their members who has performed outstanding service to the Earth Sciences through his/her work for the hobby as a candidate for the Honorary Scholarship Award. The winner has the honor of selecting the Canadian University where the \$1000.00 Scholarship will be awarded in his/her name to a student working on a Master or Doctoral degree in one of the Earth Sciences.

The \$500.00 scholarships are awarded to a first year student at a Canadian University, College or Technical Institute. To qualify, a student must have been a member of a GMFC club for 5 years or the child or grandchild of a member who has been in good standing for at least 5 years. If the parent or grandparents are deceased, he/she must have been a member for five years prior to death. Each spring, application forms are sent to each GMFC member club.

GMFC Scholarship Foundation

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Newsletter exchanges, reprint requests and contributions may be forwarded to the GMFC secretary. The articles published in the GMFC newsletter may be reprinted for non commercial purposes provided credit is given to the author. Articles may not be edited or re-written to change their meaning or substance without the authors prior written approval.

About the GMFC

The Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC) was founded in 1977 as an organization to assist its members by various means to promote the earth sciences, to protect collecting sites, to educate collectors, and to foster goodwill, friendship and rapport among all. The federation currently consists of 55 member clubs across Canada.

Member clubs benefit from comprehensive third party liability insurance provided to members. Our federation also provides assistance to member clubs by loaning multimedia materials (such as slides and videos) for meetings, and a directory of member clubs, individuals and dealers is published yearly. An interest-free loan is provided by the GMFC to the host club of the annual show. GMFC members adhere to a Code of Conduct for Canadian collectors respecting the earth sciences, and the federation keeps its members informed of government legislation on collecting sites

Annual Show & Convention

Each year the GMFC and a host member club organizes a national gem, mineral and fossil show within Canada. Demonstrations, field trips, dealers, displays and speakers are featured at the annual shows. The annual meeting and committee meetings are held in conjunction with the annual show.

Membership

We accept new members anytime. Federation dues are normally collected during the fall. A newsletter is included with the membership. Please contact the GMFC if your club would like to become a member.

Presidents Report – Darlene Itcush

As 2007 begins, we are not only starting a new year, we are celebrating 30 years of the GMFC. It is an honor to be the president for this milestone year. Over the years, we have seen a lot of changes in our way of life as well as our organization. We now send our mail via the internet and our newsletter is not printed and mailed – it is e-mailed and then printed. However, the one thing that has not changed is our love of the hobby and the fantastic people that we call rockhounds.

We have a volunteer who is interested in becoming our Newsletter Editor. That will mean that this Newsletter will once again be published at regular intervals. We request that each club make a point of sending in articles. They are the heart of our publication.

I look forward to meeting some of you at the BC Gem Show in April and the Calgary Show in May. At the present time, we do not have a time or location for our Annual Meetings & Show. We hope to have something in place by early spring.

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GMFC Annual Meeting - Maureen Wade, Secretary

Hello to All:

Once again the GMFC held the Annual Meeting in Regina in conjunction with their annual show. Both events were really great. Thank You Regina Club for having us and treating us so well.

The Directors held their meeting on Wednesday and our Esteemed President, Bruce MacLellan and some of the other directors visited Souris Gravel Pit on Thursday. There are some perks for being a Director on the GMFC, even if that day was cold and wet.

After a marvelous dinner the Annual Meeting was opened at 8PM by Bruce MacLellan, who thanked everyone for being there and thanked the Regina Club for hosting the GMFC.

John Hausberg remembered fellow rockhounds who have passed on and talked of Maxine Lewis, who was a GMFC director and secretary for many years. She contributed a lot to our hobby.

The various reports were read: (Highlights)

- Mal McMurdo appointed as Auditor.
- Membership about the same as last year.
- We all need to promote the GMFC everywhere. There are too many new members at the club level who have no idea who we are or what we do. This information need to be put out there all the time.

The Coloring Books and our Website are ways to promote the GMFC. The Cookbook is waiting in the wings as another means.

- John Hausberg and Mal McMurdo are keeping the newsletter alive. They are looking for someone to take this over. If there is anyone out there who may be interested please let us know. They are also asking for reports and news of club happenings. So please let them know. They need these happenings and news from all the clubs to keep the newsletter happening. Editors from club newsletters, pass your newsy tidbits on to John and Mal.

- We are getting information and costs for Director and Officers Insurance Coverage. This is to look into the need and cost of protecting our Directors and officers in this day of lawsuits.
 - Our Historian of many years, Margaret Lowe has resigned. Anyone looking to volunteer please let us know.
 - 2007 show and annual meeting. Looking into the possibility of Lethbridge or Medicine Hat in Alberta This will be the GMFC's 30th Anniversary.
 - 2008 show and annual meeting. BC it is your turn this year.
 - The GMFC Website is up and running.
- The Executive for 2007 was elected.
 President - Darlene Itcush - Regina.
 1st Vice President - David Barclay - BC
 2nd Vice President - John Hausberg
 3rd Vice President - Peter Hagar - Regina

The Scholarship Annual Meeting followed the GMFC Annual Meeting.
 President Don Fabrick opened the meeting with his report. Over the year there had been many memorial donations which help in achieving our goal or awarding scholarships to worthy graduates of our members. The undergraduate winners for this year were Nicholas Brown from Golden, BC and Terri Stortz of Welland On. They each received \$500. The Grey Fox Award In memory of Del Novlan was awarded to Thomas Whitesell from Red Deer Alberta.

The Recipricant of the Ken Dewerson Honorary Scholarship award was at the meeting to accept her award.
 -the motion to have Mel McMurdo as Auditor was passed..
 - The motion from 2005 that was tabled was moved by Pauline Zeschuk Part of the AFRC.
 The GMFC give a member the opportunity to sponsor a niece or nephew for a scholarship. Seconded by Lavern Novlan. A number of people spoke against the motion, including John Hausberg, one of the founders of the Scholarship Foundation. As well as the members that were present there were also a number of proxies sent by other members. The motion was defeated, 154 nays, 42 yays.
 -Lavern Novlan made Motion #2 -That childless couples, who are members in good standing in their own provincial club, be allowed to submit the names of their nieces and/or nephews for undergraduate scholarships. Seconded by Maureen Dowler. As with the previous motions a number of people spoke against the motion. The Motion was defeated 152 nays, 42 yays. Abstention. One person had to leave before the vote was taken.
 John Hausberg withdrew the proposed motion that he was going to make. It did not adhere to the objectives of the Scholarship Foundation.

Three Directors were elected. For the next two years. Don Fabrick, Ken Dewerson, Alice Clarke.

The Post Graduate Scholarship was awarded to Nadine Pearson, University of Sask., Saskatoon Campus, by Ken Dewerson, who was the Honorary Scholarship awarder. She was very appreciative of the honor and the scholarship.

The meeting adjourned at 10PM.

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GMFC Scholarship Foundation Report

I thank John and Mal for their work on the newsletter

It has been a busy year, many donations have been received from numerous clubs and members. Thank you to all who have donated; it helps us in achieving our goal in getting out more scholarships.

A special thanks to The Grey Fox Associates Inc. for their donation of a scholarship in memory of Del Novlan. Hopefully we will get students from AB this year.

The Ken Dewerson /GMFC Honorary Scholarship award is to be finalized.

There will be two student scholarships awarded for \$500.00 each as well as one for the Del Novlan Memorial Scholarship.

The candidates will not be known until the forms are sent in.

There was mention of allowing nieces and nephews to be eligible for scholarships. This is, in my opinion, not a good idea at this time. We are getting a good number of applications 8 to 12 and to open it up further would be a nightmare to go through 20,30 or more applications to pick 3. Also for the entrants getting rejected would tend to lose the anticipation of winning and may cause a loss of interest.

Also there was talk of a change to the \$1000 award although there may be some complications with the bylaws and the constitution.

If anyone needs forms please contact me.

Thanks and have a great summer.

GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

And the scholarship goes to . . .

THE GOLDEN ROCK and Fossil Club is pleased to announce that for the second year in succession, an applicant, sponsored by the club, has been successful in obtaining a \$500 scholarship from the Gem and Mineral Foundation of Canada. Each year three winners from across Canada are selected, on the basis of scholastic achievement and citizenship. Nick Brown, was selected as a scholarship recipient. Nick is the son of Duncan and Thelma Brown (right), who is also a club member. Sharon Pearson (left) presents Nick with his scholarship. Nick is attending the University of Victoria, and club members wish him every success in his studies.



AMETHYST - FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE

The gemstone Amethyst is the Birthstone for February. Amethyst is the purple variety of the mineral quartz and has widespread availability. The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was perhaps due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like color of some stones that they may have encountered. Its color is unparalleled, and other more expensive purple gemstones are often compared to its color and beauty. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades.

Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six sided pyramid at either end or can form as druzes that are crystalline crusts that only show the pointed terminations. As a mineral specimen, amethyst is popular for its color and nice crystal shapes that produce a handsome, purple, sparkling cluster.

Amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce amethyst that is unique to that particular region or even to that particular mine. Experts can often identify the source mine that a particular amethyst came from. The key to this is the specimen's color, shape of crystal, inclusions, associations and character of formation.

Following is a listing of some of the more noteworthy localities and some of the attributes that characterize the amethyst found in each:

- **Vera Cruz, Mexico** -- very pale, clear, prismatic crystals that are sometimes double terminated and have grown on a light colored host rock. Crystals typically have a clear quartz interior and an amethyst exterior. Some are sceptered and phantomed.
 - **Guerrero, Mexico** -- dark, deep purple, prismatic crystals that radiate outward from a common attachment point. These amethyst have a purple interior with a clear or white quartz exterior and are some of the most valuable amethysts in the world.
 - **Bahia, Brazil** -- crystals form in druzy crusts that line the inside of volcanic rock pockets or "vugs". Vugs form from trees that were engulfed in a lava flow millions of years ago or are just gas bubbles in the lava. The crystals that form are usually light to medium in color and only colored at the tops of the crystals. Most clusters form with gray, white and blue agate and have a green exterior. Calcite and inclusions of cacoxenite are common.
 - **Maraba, Brazil** -- large crystals with unattractive surfaces that are of a pale to medium color and often are carved or cut into slices.
 - **Thunder Bay, Canada** -- a distinct red hematite inclusion just below the surface of the crystals is unique to this locality. Clusters are druzy crusts that line the fissures formed in ancient metamorphic rocks.
 - **Uruguay** -- crystals are dark to medium in color and form in druzy crusts that line the inside of volcanic vugs with a gray or brown exterior. The crystals are usually colored throughout, unlike the Brazilian crystals, and form with a multicolored agate that often contains reds, yellows and oranges. Often amethyst- coated stalactites and other unusual formations occur inside these vugs.
 - **Africa** -- crystals are usually large but not attractive, The interior color and clarity are excellent. Polished slices, carvings and gemstones are prized and admired.
 - **Maine, USA** -- Dark druzy clusters that are not widely distributed today.
 - **North Carolina, USA** -- Druzy clusters that have a bluish-violet tint.
- Pennsylvania, USA** -- druzy clusters that filled fractures in metamorphic rocks. They are generally a brownish purple and patchy in color.

Colorado, USA -- druzy clusters form crusts inside of fissures in sandstone, often on top of a crust of green fluorite. Crystals are dark but rather small.

- **Italy** -- Vera Cruz like crystals, although not as well defined, and large parallel growth clusters with even distribution of color.

Germany -- associated with colorful agates that form a druzy light-colored crust.

- **Ural Mountains, Russia** -- a very clear and dark variety that is cut into fine expensive gemstones, natural uncut clusters are rarely on the market.

Amethyst gems are often graded using the terms: Siberian, Uruguayan or Bahain; to represent high, medium and low grade respectively regardless of the actual source. Because of the unevenness of the color distribution in the crystals, Amethyst is commonly cut as round brilliant cuts to maximize the color.

The color purple is traditionally the color of royalty and amethyst has been used since the dawn of history to adorn the rich and powerful monarchs and rulers. Amethyst is an affordable gemstone that is available in a wide variety of cut and uncut stones that we can all possess and admire.

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Men Are Just Happier People.....

What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can be President. You can never get pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to the water park. In fact, you can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom, because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut or a bolt. Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress: \$5,000.00. Tux rental \$100.00. People never stare at your chest when you are talking to them. The occasional well-

rendered belch is not only appreciated by your friends, but practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public.

Everything on your face stays it's original colour The same hairstyle lasts for years , maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. Your belly usually hides your hips. One wallet and one pair of shoes, one colour for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24th in 25 minutes.

No wonder men are happier!

Author an unknown **Male**.

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FRIENDSHIP THROUGH ROCKHOUDING

This is an article about how Harry Wetter of the Leduc Rock and Gem Club in Leduc, whom many of you know, has developed friendships with two individuals from the underside of the earth. While Harry was visiting his daughter and family in Australia in 1973, he went to a Rock and Gem show in Sydney. There he met a Denise Millington, a Canadian who makes her home in Australia. She was very interested in lapidary and if an opportunity arose to see Harry's rock collection she would do so. Denise was an ex Canadian Air Force person and when the Can. Air Force reunion was in Edmonton in 2001 she quickly arranged to come to Edmonton. She made sure she had one day to spend with Harry and his wife and see the rock collection. Denise and Harry had been communicating back and forth since 1973 and it was quite a surprise for Harry to see Denise in Leduc ready to see the collection! There is going to be an Air Women's Association of Alberta reunion in 2003 in Edmonton. Harry has a feeling he may be seeing Denise once again.

In 1965, on one of his many visits to Australia, through bargaining for Australian lapidary material Harry met Norman Donpon. Norman, a builder/machinist, is a prolific rock hound who also builds his own equipment. Apparently this equipment is state of the art which incorporates the latest "bells and whistle", ie. speed controls, etc. Harry said that Norman has 2 – 24 inch saws, 2 – 36 inch saws, many smaller saws and numerous other equipment to do his work in lapidary.

Norman keeps in contact with Harry through letters and he occasionally phones. Some of the things that Norman states in his letters applies to the Canadian scene also. Norman states, “ It seems the lapidary business is fading here like you say is in Canada. There are some people that are keen, but nowhere near the interest there once was. The cost of machinery, grits, diamond, etc. the cost of fuel and travel and also many places are closed and not many people are getting in to the hobby.”

Norman states that he gets many visitors from all over the world wanting to buy his material but he will not sell any. He says, “I get more satisfaction if I give a specimen to a friend who appreciates it.” This year Norman donated 400 of his best finished specimens and cases to a museum in Miles, Australia which is 100 miles away from Meandarra where Norman lives. He phoned Harry in the second week of September and said that there are visitors from all over the world coming to see the display. The word is getting around that the display is fantastic and a must see! A group from Europe has approached the museum to get permission to write a book on the display and include photos.

Norman makes a statement in a letter to Harry that probably applies to many rock hounds that you know. “It is good to look back on the good times of trips and material collected and to have the specimens displayed for people to look at. It must break some beginner’s hearts to see my collection and realize not every body has the opportunity and the time to put into collecting as I have”.

Harry Wetter has made lifelong friends with these two unique individuals and it all happened through a common interest, rock hounding. He is the 2005 honorary. Scholarship Award winner.

Ignorant, Sentimental and Metamucil

Or, everything I know about rocks, I learned in kindergarten. (courtesy of the BC Rockhounder)

Doc Rock*

Everyone knows there are three kinds of people in the world(people who can count, and people who can’t). but not a lot of folks know there are also three kinds of rocks - *ignorant, sentimental, and* . This goes contrary to all common experience, which says there are only two kinds of rocks in the world (those you can make money out of, and those you don’t).

Ignorant rocks are formed in fiery volcanoes and at mid-ocean bitches, which is why the sea is often called a cruel mistress. These rocks are formed from *palaver* that comes from deep down in the bowels of the earth, and is burped out of the ground in great molten blobs, like the cheese on pizza, only hotter. It can burn you just like melted mozzarella. Don’t ever walk up to a volcano when it’s burping, and especially, don’t breathe what comes out, because you’ll only do it once. Volcanoes are full of

stinky gas, just like the school kitchen. Sometimes, there’s so much gas that the palaver is filled with little bubbles, and cools like a rock sponge they call *punish*. Your mom probably has a piece of punish in her bathroom. She uses it for scraping the dead skin off her feet, only we never say things like that in polite company, says my mom.

Ignorant rocks look different, depending on whether they cooled quickly or slowly. Some lava forms *obstetrician*, which is really smooth and black. Stone Age people made arrowheads and spearheads out of it, because they hadn’t invented guns and bombs yet. The neat thing about obstetrician is that it can be made so sharp, it will cut anything, even the side of an elephant, which is why there are no elephants in Canada. Nowadays, doctors use special obstetrician scalpels to cut you open when you are sick and want to get better.

Granite is also an ignorant rock, but unlike punish and obstetrician it does not come to the surface, but stays in the plutons, which are hot pools underground. Because the pools are surrounded by cold rocks, granite hardens slowly, and this lets all the little *quartz* bits to get together, and all the *hornblowers* to get together, and all the mikes. In this way, the birds of a feather flock together, and granite looks like salt and pepper, and not smooth and black like obstetrician or like *bullshit* (which is another ignorant rock). Bullshit rocks make up most of the ocean floors, so they are the most common rocks on Earth. That’s why they say there’s more ignorance on the planet than hydrogen, and it has a longer shelf life.

Everything about rocks is old. I mean, really, really old. You think your dad is old, but compared to rocks, he is a spring chicken. Rocks are totally old. The Earth is over 4 billion years old, and the Sun is even older. If you write out 4 billion in numbers, it has 9 zeros and 3 commas, which is one BIG number. There are still some really old rocks around, but the problem is they keep being washed away into the sea. This is called corrosion, and it's happening everywhere, all the time. Tall mountains like Mt Everest are corroding away at a huge rate, and pretty soon will be flat as a pancake, which is why so many people are trying to climb it now, while it's still 9 kilometres high.

Sentimental rocks are the result of all that washing away. They are very clean rocks, of course, because of all the washing, and they are carried to the sea by Gravity, which is what makes things fall, especially water. Every day, millions of tons of sand and gravel and silt and mud are washed to the sea, carried there by rivers. Of course, when you look at a river, all you can see is the smooth top, but underneath, it is full of sand and gravel and mud and silt rolling down to the ocean.

Apart from Hollywood, where you can't believe anything they tell you, all sand and gravel and silt and mud sinks to the bottom, where it forms layers. Every year, there is another layer formed. Year after year. Layer after layer. My dad says it's like governments, except these layers are thin. But they add up over millions of years, and when they do, the sand at the bottom starts to get squished by the weight of all the sand on top, and slowly the sand turns into *sandstone*. And the silt turns into *siltstone*. And the mud turns into *mudstone*. You can see that geologists are very imaginative when naming rocks.

The cool thing about sentimental rocks is that's where you find fossils. Fossils are animals that turned to rock, like the Rolling Stones. The first person to figure out that fossils were stone animals was Leonardo da Vinci, but he wrote it all down in a left-handed mirror writing, and then his diaries were lost for 250 years, so we didn't know that. Instead, we had to wait for someone else not so famous to realize that. For the longest time, fossils were thought to be the work of the Devil.

The best fossils are made from hard things, like bones and especially teeth. Teeth are much harder than bones, and make great fossils. Watch your dog chew a bone, and see which disappears first - the teeth or the bone. On the other hand, your skull is a really soft bone, like a watermelon really, and that's why you should always wear a helmet when you ride your bike. Whenever your head meets a brick, the brick wins, because it's harder. It's a strange thing, but we often find fossil shark teeth, but we never find fossil shark bones. This is not because sharks go to a big bone yard in the sea, but because sharks don't have bones. And they are not made of Jell-O either. Instead, they have *cartilage*, which is pretty soft. We have cartilage in our noses and ears. Without cartilage in our ears, they would flop like a dog, and we'd look funny. Hard things like bone and teeth make good fossils, and that's why museums are full of dinosaur bones and dinosaur teeth. You hardly ever see dinosaur skin, because it's soft, and doesn't fossilize. As a result, scientists just make up what they think dinosaur skin might have been like. Some think dinosaurs were scaly; others think they are feathered; still others think they were hairy. My mom thinks they were pink, like pigs. I'd like to go to a museum and see a dinosaur with pink skin.

The third (and final) kind of rock is called **metamucil rock** because it's been churned up inside to make it change. How do you change a rock (apart from putting a fresh diaper on it)? Heat and pressure change rocks. Just like you. If they put you in an oven and cooked you for a thousand years, you would change. And if an elephant sat on you during recess, you would change - so much your mom would not recognize you. It's the same with rocks. If they are cooked or squished, they change into something else. Sometimes the rocks change into wonderful things that are very expensive, like gemstones.

Gemstones are usually very hard. A German scientist named Fred Moo discovered rock hardness, and made a scale from 1 to 10. Anything that's a '1' is really soft, like soapstone, which doesn't have any soap in it at all. It's called soapstone because it's slippery like soap. Soapstone is so soft you can scratch it with your fingernail. It's made of the mineral *talc*, that is really baby powder. Of course, when you go to the store and buy baby powder, its small talk in a pretty bottle with roses or lavender added to make it smell nice, because talk by itself doesn't smell of anything.

The only other kinds of rocks there areare space rocks.

At the other end of the Moo Scale is '10', which is a diamond. Your mom might spend a thousand dollars to buy a ring with a diamond in it, but I'll bet she wouldn't spend that on a ring if it had talk in it, because talk is soft and wouldn't last a week. A diamond, on the other hand, will last almost forever, and when she dies, your mom will leave it to her daughter, and when she dies, she'll leave it to her daughter, and when she dies....well, you get the picture.

One of the coolest metamucil rocks is jade, which is green and comes from British Columbia. In fact British Columbia has more jade than the rest of the world, which is why people in Vancouver often looked green and jaded. Jade is really a rock fibre that has been changed into a gemstone. The Chinese have been carving it for 5,000 years, and there are lots of Chinese sayings that include jade. For instance, if a teenager has nice skin, they say "she has skin like jade". This doesn't mean she's green, it means her skin is glowing, just the way jade does.

We all know that at the Olympic Games the medals are bronze, silver and gold, but long before the Olympics, the Chinese awarded ivory, gold and jade as prizes. They considered jade to be more precious than gold. Jade is also very tough. In fact, it's the toughest rock in the world, which is why it makes such great tools, like axes and stuff. Before they discovered jade, ancient people used flint and obstetrician, but once they found jade, they never looked back, because a jade axe will last for generations, but a flint one won't.

The only other kinds of rocks there are, apart from ignorant, sentimental and metamucil, are space rocks. These are meteorites that fall out of the sky. Lots of people think that they are rare, but scientists have discovered that about 20,000 tons of meteors fall onto Earth every year. The Earth is putting on weight. The reason we don't all wear helmets when we go outside to play is that they mostly burn up in the sky, and fall as dust, which is a good thing, because the only thing that has ever been killed by dust is my granny, every time she visits.

If you were out in the street, riding your bike, and you suddenly heard a huge roar and then the ground in front of you exploded, and you put your bike down, and went to the lip of the crater, and look in, and saw a big rock at the bottom of the hole in the ground, and you climbed down into the crater and touched it, what would it feel like - hot or cold? Lots of people think it would be hot, because it's just been burning through the atmosphere, but the truth is that the inside would be the temperature of space, which is really, really cold. That's why you must always wear your woolies when you go into space, otherwise you'll catch your death, so my mom says. Anyway, a meteor might be hot or cold. The smart thing is not to touch it. Not at first, anyway.

Meteors fall all over the world, but most fall in the sea, so they are lost. On land, you'd think the most meteors would fall on Russia, because that's the biggest country in the world, but the truth is, the most meteorites are found in Antarctica, because it's covered in ice. When a meteor falls, it sinks into the ice, and then gets carried away towards the sea on the glacier. When the glacier melts, all the meteors are dropped in a small area where it's easy to find them. A Japanese scientist discovered this 20 years ago, and now there's a big race to find the most meteorites.

Why? Because meteorites help us to understand space. There are two ways to learn about space. Either you spend 5 billion dollars on a rocket, and hope it works, or you get a bicycle and ride around, looking for space rocks. In Canada, they don't even give you the bicycle - you have to buy it yourself.

Doc Rock has been teaching basic earth sciences to K-grade 5s for the past 14 years, and has heard everything. He has recently retired.

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Disclaimer

Letter, articles and editorials in this newsletter express the opinions of the author and not necessarily that of the GMFC. While all articles are verified to the best of our ability, the GMFC, its directors and officers, the publication and its staff assume no responsibility for the contents of this publication. The editor reserves the right to accept, edit or reject all materials submitted for publication.

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EDITORS DESK

This edition of your Newsletter has again been prepared by the two amateur interim editors John Hausberg and Mal McMurdo. We hear that a new editor has surfaced and are more than happy to resign from this high paying volunteer job and turn it over to an expert editor. Our objective for the editions we have put together has been to get information about and concerning the GMFC out to the members. We wish the new editor success with all the upcoming editions.

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2007 GMFC ANNUAL SHOW

**** Location - Winfield, BC. ** Dates - GMFC Meeting Thursday Aug 16th.**

Show set up Friday Aug 17th * Show Sat 18th 9am-5pm Sunday 19th 10am-4pm**

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GMFC Teleconference April 22,2007 at 1:00 PM Alberta Time

FOSSILS,

A new dating technique (for fossils, not humans) has resulted in the rethinking of the age of some fossils. It is thought that as an animal decomposed the porous bones absorbed surrounding ground water which contained specific levels of rare earth elements. But as the ground water changes, it in turn, changes the concentrations of the metals that stamp the bones with a unique chemical signature thus giving a more accurate geologic time of death.

In particular the fossils of “Titanis Wallen” a flightless bird is thought to be two million, no 10,000 years old. Paleontologists from the Florida Museum of Natural History think this terrifying carnivore roamed the Americas having hopped to North America by way of the islands that now the Isthmus of Panama.

Titanis was seven feet tall and weighed in at 330 pounds. It had a speedy stride and a deadly bite that enabled it to chomp down on dog sized prey with no difficulty.

From – Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Clubs “Bugle”

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G.M.F.C. SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC.

RR 5 Site 26 Comp 21

Prince Albert SK S6V 5R3

E-Mail rdrunr@sasktel.net

OBJECTIVE:

To provide undergraduate scholarships in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (500.00) to first year students at accredited Canadian universities, colleges and technical schools. The scholarship money is to be used exclusively for tuition and books.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. (a) The applicant must be the child or grandchild of a G.M.F.C. member who has been in good standing for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of scholarship application or
 - (b) had been a member in good standing for at least five (5) years prior to the date of death and died within the preceding five (5) years.
 - (c) Any member in good standing for at least five (5) preceding, consecutive years may apply for a scholarship.
2. The applicant must be in the process of graduating (or have graduated) from a secondary school which is accredited by the provincial Department of Education in the province where the applicant resides.
3. The applicant must be accepted as a full-time, first year student at an accredited Canadian university, college or technical school.
4. A resume must be submitted with the application.
5. The application form must be obtained from the Club to which the applicant, parent or grandparent belongs (or belonged).
6. The applicant can qualify under section 1. (a), 1. (b) or 1. (c). All other sections apply to all applicants.
7. Prior to being forwarded to the G.M.F.C., the application must be signed by the President of the local Club.

G.M.F.C. SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC.

Scholarship Application Form

(For students who are starting their first year of secondary education.)

Please Print

Name _____ **Surname** _____

Full given names

Address _____

Town or City _____ **Province** _____ **Postal Code** _____

Phone _____ **Birth Date** _____ **S.I.N.** _____

School attended _____

Location _____

Institution to be attended _____

Location _____ **Faculty** _____

Degree, Diploma or Certification sought _____

Attach Official High School Transcript of your marks.

(Consult the Eligibility listed on the page 13 of this journal prior to answering the next questions.)

Are you _____ **Your parent(s)** _____ **Your grandparent(s)** _____ **Current members of a Club affiliated with G.M.F.C.?**

Name of member _____

Name of Club _____

Has the person indicated above been a member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of this application? _____ **Dates of membership** _____ **To** _____

If the person named died within the past five (5) years, give the date of death _____ **And dates of his/her membership for five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding his/her death.**

Attach a Resume which should include any extra-curricular activities, community activities, work experience and any hobbies.

Date of application _____ **Applicants signature** _____

To be completed by the G.M.F.C. Affiliated Club.

Do you verify the Club affiliation of the applicant? _____ **Do you endorse this application?** _____

I hereby certify that the answers given to the eligibility of the applicant are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date _____ **Club** _____

President _____ **Signature of President** _____

Application must be submitted by July 31st to the address listed on the back page.