

The Lethbridge Herald  
Friday A, Friday, December 23, 2005, p. a8

[Editor: With the recent discovery of several meteorites in rapid succession in Manitoba that has been reported in the national press, I wished to comment on my 1988 paper, The Deposition of Pleistocene Meteorite]

Editor:

With the recent discovery of several meteorites in rapid succession in Manitoba that has been reported in the national press, I wished to comment on my 1988 paper, The Deposition of Pleistocene Meteorite Placer Deposits Located in North America (Proceedings of the 51st: Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society, July 1988, Arkansas).

I predicted there could be meteorites found in North America and Russia that could be found in the same concentrations and numbers as have been found along the south edge of the Trans-Antarctic Mountain Range. There have been over 30,000 meteorites found in the Antarctic over the last 30 years and they estimate they might recover over 100,000 in total including the next 30 years in Antarctica. The Antarctic meteorite recovery program is called the "Poor Man's Space Program" and in southern Alberta and Western Canada, I predict they might, if researchers looked in the potential same geologic former glaciated locations as meteorites are found in the Antarctic, find as many meteorites as have been found in the Antarctic.

When I was 24, I found a lunar sample on the Antarctic Polar Plateau when I was part of a team that found 700 meteorites while traversing 1,100 kilometers on the south side of the Trans-Antarctic Mountain Range. The first physical evidence of life on Mars was found in a meteorite that was recovered in the Antarctic in a year subsequent to when I was in there.

It would be very inexpensive in the scheme of things to send out teams of students, even high school or undergraduate students to locations in southern Alberta. The area of Antarctica I was in even had chinook winds of up to 120 km/h in force. That is how the ice is scoured off and the meteorites are exposed in a similar manner to driftwood on an ocean, except in Antarctica it is an ocean of frozen ice.

Would it not be really neat to have a lunar meteorite in the atrium of the Lethbridge City Hall that might be found somewhere in southern Alberta?

AUSTIN MARDON

Edmonton

Category: News  
Length: Short, 282 words

© 2005 The Lethbridge Herald. All rights reserved.