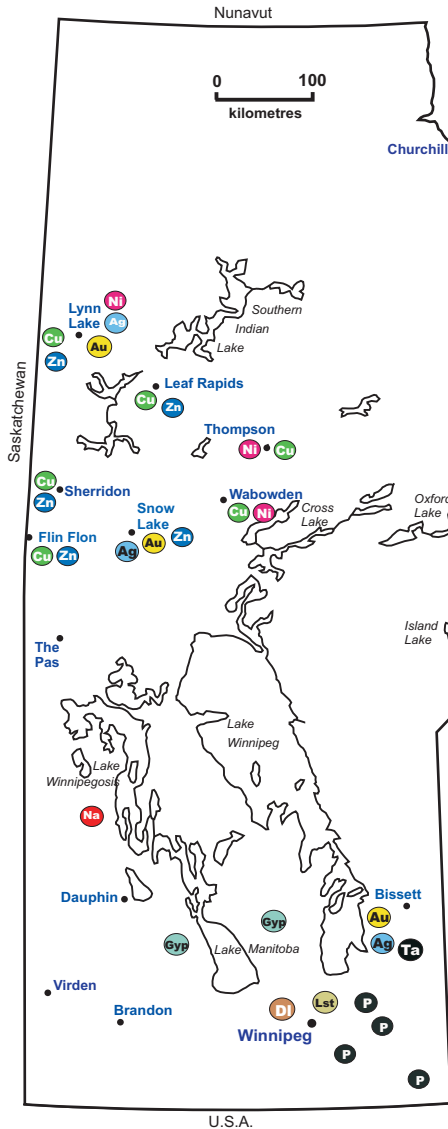


Manitoba Mining: a rich history



Mining is Manitoba's second-largest primary resource industry, employing about 3,800 workers directly with another 11,000 in spin-off jobs. The principal minerals and metals produced in Manitoba are nickel, copper, zinc, gold, tantalum and cesium. Manitoba's mining communities include Flin Flon, Thompson, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Snow Lake and Bissett. The minerals and metals industry is important to Manitoba, with annual production values of approximately \$1 billion.



Manitoba has been in the mining business for hundreds, if not thousands of years. Aboriginal people who settled in Manitoba used to quarry red ochre/hematite from the Red Cliff area on what is now called Black Island. This deposit became a valuable resource for many tribal rituals, as the red rock was crushed to make a pigment used in body decoration and rock paintings.

In the early 1800s, salt was an important commodity for the fur trade industry. Salt from brine springs along the west side of lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis became the first commercially developed mineral in Manitoba. Commercial salt operations continued in Manitoba until 1978.

Manitoba has a long history of aggregate production dating back to our earliest communities. Aggregate is produced mainly in southern Manitoba. Sand and gravel and dolomitic crushed stone supply many construction projects. A major crushed stone source for the Winnipeg Capital Region is located east of Stonewall.

The discovery of gypsum in the Interlake area during the 1850s led to the first gypsum plant in 1901. Present production comes from Harcus on the west side of Lake Manitoba.

In 1830, a type of limestone (later called Tyndall stone) was used to build the bastion of Lower Fort Garry. In 1895, the first commercial quarry was opened in the Garson district. Tyndall stone can be found in our Provincial Legislative building.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Ni Nickel | Ag Silver |
| Dol Dolomite | Ta Tantalum |
| Cu Copper | Na Salt |
| Zn Zinc | Gyp Gypsum |
| Au Gold | Lst Limestone |
| P Peat | |

(cont...)

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
 360-1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2
 (204) 945-6569 or 1-800-223-5215 or minesinfo@gov.mb.ca

Visit our website at www.ManitobaRocks.info

Cette information existe également en français. Composez le (204) 945-6569.



Manitoba Mining: a rich history (cont...)



Manitoba's first documented gold discovery occurred in 1911 at Rice Lake in southeastern Manitoba. In 1933, gold production commenced at the prosperous San Antonio Mine in Bissett and continued to 1968. Harmony Gold Canada operated the Bissett mine from 1998 until the fall of 2001.

In 1922, a copper-zinc deposit was discovered north of Flin Flon at Cold Lake that later became the Sherridon Mine. As the ore at Cold Lake would be exhausted by 1951, Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited decided to transport the entire mine facilities and townsite of Sherridon to Lynn Lake. From 1946 to 1953, 208 buildings were moved 265 km by tractor train over winter ice and trails.

Peat moss has been harvested in southeastern Manitoba since 1939 for the horticultural and agricultural industries.

The Nor-Acme gold deposit was discovered in 1925 on the northeast shore of Snow Lake and produced gold and silver from 1949 to 1958. The New Britannia Mine in Snow Lake produced gold from 1995 to 2004. Snow Lake is currently home to Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Co., Limited's Chisel North zinc and copper mine that opened in 1998.

In 1956, Inco announced the discovery of the major Thompson nickel-copper deposit and built the first fully integrated nickel operation in Manitoba that mined, concentrated, smelted, and refined in one complex. Nickel production at Inco's Thompson operation totals approximately 100 million pounds per year.

Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Co., Limited (HBMS) has been exploring and mining in Manitoba for over 70 years. Its first commercial operation, the Flin Flon Mine, was developed from a large copper-zinc deposit. In 1993, HBMS discovered another large copper-zinc deposit right below the City of Flin Flon called the 777. The 777 Mine reached full production in 2004 and is expected to operate until 2016. HBMS' mining operation in Flin Flon uses the latest technology to reduce gas emissions by 90% at ground level and is also home to the world's first two-stage zinc pressure leach plant.

In the 1960s, copper and zinc deposits were found at Fox Lake southwest of Lynn Lake and at Ruttan, east of Leaf Rapids. The Fox Mine operated from 1970 to 1985. The Ruttan Mine began production in 1973 and closed in 2002.

In 1969, the first and only North American tantalum mine was opened at Bernic Lake. In 1986, the Bernic Lake Mine became a producer of spodumene concentrate that is used in ceramic cookware. In addition to spodumene and tantalum, the mine also produces cesium products.

Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
360-1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2
(204) 945-6569 or 1-800-223-5215 or minesinfo@gov.mb.ca

Visit our website at www.ManitobaRocks.info

Cette information existe également en français. Composez le (204) 945-6569.

Manitoba 