

An illuminating exhibit

Showcasing the Incomparable Diamond



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The 407.48-carat Incomparable Diamond.
Photo: Asher Wilens

When the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) opened its Nature of Diamonds show last month, it was almost certain that it would attract a lot of attention. The highlight of the exhibit is a colossal 407.48 carat, flawless kite-shaped stone named the Incomparable Diamond, which is said to be the world's third-largest. Naturally, the first question that comes to mind to anyone who sees it is: "How much could it possibly be worth?" The problem is that there are no ready answers.

"Pieces like the Incomparable Diamond are extremely rare," said

Derek Teevan, a spokesman for De Beers Canada. "Most fall into categories of their own, as they are...well, incomparable. Because they have unique properties, they are exceedingly difficult to evaluate. All I can say is that we are very happy to have the piece as part of the exhibit."

The De Beers Canada-sponsored event, on display until March 22, 2009 at the ROM's Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall, highlights the nature and uses of diamonds in Canada.

The Incomparable Diamond is just one of a stunning array of jewels from around the world that comprise the museum's walk-in "gem vault." Other famous pieces include the Princess Mathilde Corsage — a 19th century floral design set with 250 carats of diamonds — as well as a spectacular array of brooches, tiaras and necklaces.

The Historical Galleries section illuminates the cultural and historical significance of diamonds, including their role in adornment. Meanwhile, an authentic recreation of a kimberlite mine tunnel gives visitors a sense of the conditions diamond miners face around the world.

"We wanted to give visitors a sense of the history of diamond activity," said Teevan. "But we also wanted to demonstrate tangibly why diamonds have so piqued the imagination of our ancestors."

He also said that it is the company's way of giving back to the community. "The opening of two new De Beers mines in Canada — Snap Lake in the Northwest Territories and Victor in northeastern Ontario — has

helped cement this country's position as the third-largest global producer in value terms, behind Botswana and Russia," explained Teevan.

Sponsorship of such a prestigious event represents a sizable commitment for De Beers Canada, which is only just starting to generate revenues from the more than \$2 billion it has invested in its Canadian mining operations. "This initiative is designed to help position De Beers as the premier diamond company locally and internationally," said Teevan. "It is also an opportunity to reemphasize our commitment to Canada and to our ongoing program for further diamond discoveries."

Of course, the Nature of Diamonds show will almost surely generate significant additional benefits beyond the goals set out by De Beers. The irresistible allure of seeing these spectacular jewels up close and personal will almost surely stimulate additional demand for these sparkling gems and help boost Canada's diamond industry. **CIM**



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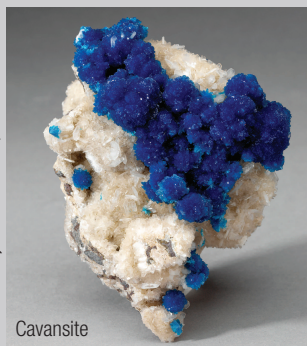
Tip of the Iceberg ring features a natural, uncut 2.78-carat diamond from the Ekati mine.

by Peter Diekmeyer

Other earthly treasures

More than 2,300 samples will be featured in ROM's Teck Suite of Galleries

© Royal Ontario Museum, 2008




Cavansite

Diamonds aren't the only minerals that will be on display at the Royal Ontario Museum. Starting in late December, the ROM will devote 6,700 square feet on level two of the Weston Family Wing to showcasing a massive collection of minerals, rocks and gem samples, hailed as one of the finest in North America.

The displays, sponsored by Teck, will comprise three parts: the Vale Inco Gallery of Minerals, the Gallery of Gems and Gold and the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery. These exhibits will be enriched by the addition of key information on the Canadian mining industry, displayed on 40 interactive touch screens.

Don Lindsay, Teck's president and CEO, said that sponsorship of the event represents a clear demonstration of the company's commitment to social responsibility. "As a proud Canadian mining company, we believe in the importance of understanding our natural resources," said Lindsay. "Everything in our daily lives actually comes from only two sources: it is either grown and harvested, or it is mined from the earth. The Teck Suite of Galleries will help people learn more about the key minerals that support their lives."

According to Royal Ontario Museum sources, Teck's contribution to the Renaissance ROM campaign was the largest corporate gift in the museum's history. 

Speak up!


MiHR launches mining industry Speakers' Bureau

To address the labour shortage in the mining industry, the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) has launched the Explore for More attraction and recruitment campaign. An important component of this endeavour involves classroom and community outreach through speaker presentations. To this end, MiHR is hoping to entice representatives who are passionate about the mining industry to share their valuable insights and experiences with potential career-seekers.

"MiHR receives requests for classroom presentations on a regular basis," explained Ryan Montpellier, MiHR's executive director. "In order to meet these demands, we need a team of enthusiastic volunteers from across Canada who can share information about the interesting and challenging opportunities in our sector. Providing

real insights and exposure to the modern mining industry 'debunks' old views and negative stereotypes. Changing these dated perceptions is an important step to building the next generation of workers for our sector."

By making presentations in the community — at schools, community and recreation centres, industry organizations, career fairs, etc. — speakers can play a vital role in raising awareness about the mining industry, promoting career opportunities and helping steer interested individuals to the appropriate resources. In turn, speakers, educators and members of the general public can use the resources available through the Speakers' Bureau to develop a presentation that suits their needs.

If you are interested in joining MiHR's Speaker's Bureau, visit www.acareerinmining.ca 

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