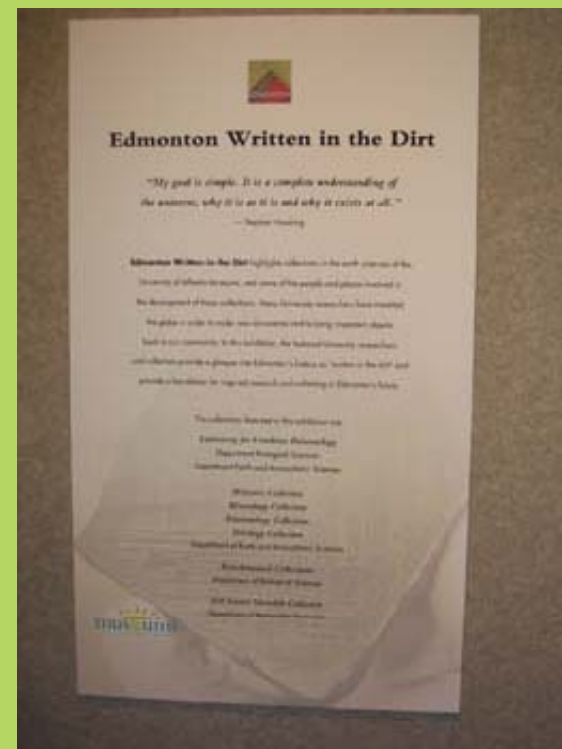


Soil Monoliths Collections

Photo Gallery





Not Just Dirt?

Soils are natural bodies in the landscape. A soil sample that gets stuck on your boots is only 'dirty' because it is out of context.

However, in nature, we have to note the following:

1. Soil is the foundation of the life support system of planet Earth. The skin of the Earth is called the "Pedosphere" and is the interface of the interaction of water, air, organic matter, organisms, and inorganic parent materials.
2. Soils are individuals because they develop under many influences (e.g., parent material, climate, etc.). This is the basis for the soil classification system. Each individual soil can be identified within different soil orders, Great Groups, Subgroups, and unique soil series and a soil series name (e.g., Malmro Sils Lamm).
3. To see the soil, you have to dig deep. One has to know the soil forming factors and the horizon sequence of the soil to understand how it functions. Soils cannot be identified based on one horizon; all horizons influence the behavior of the soil.





FRANK WYATT



Dr. Frank Wyatt moved to Alberta from the United States in 1918 to assist in building an oil industry in southern Alberta as well as to head up the new Department of Soil and Climatology of Alberta. Working through much of Alberta's wilderness, Dr. Wyatt and his fellow researchers found some evidence for mapping and identifying the soil types of Alberta and Canada. Dr. Wyatt and Dr. J.D. Macdonald were helped found the University's Weather Plot in order to research soil moisture forming processes and produce the 1925 "Soil Survey" which found in southern Alberta's soil types. "The Weather Plot, 75 years old and still unique in Canada, has withstood almost every



Soil is often referred to as the skin of the earth. It is the thin layer of soil that covers the earth's surface. It is made up of tiny particles of rock and organic matter. It is the soil that provides the nutrients that plants need to grow. It is the soil that holds the water that plants need to survive. It is the soil that makes the earth a place where life can thrive.

Skin of the Earth



