

## The Mississippian Salt Deposit at Malagash, Nova Scotia— An Epitaph

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### ABSTRACT

*The salt deposit at Malagash, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia was discovered serendipitously during drilling for water in 1912. A mine was opened in 1918 and remained in operation until 1959, when the operation was moved to the newly-discovered deposit at Pugwash, a few miles distant. The deposit is Mississippian in age, contained within an evaporite sequence in the Basal Windsor Group (Viséan). It occurs within an uplifted fault-block within the Malagash anticline, and the halite mass is extensively deformed. Bedding dips generally to the south, but two overturned folds complicate the structure, which is characterized by a regime of similar folding.*

*The salt is more than 100 meters thick, and most of the production came from two seams—the Lucas and the McKay—which varied between one meter and thirteen meters in thickness. Potash mineralization, mainly sylvinite, occurred in several discrete horizons within the sequence. The Malagash deposit bears a notable resemblance to nearby deposits at Pugwash and Wallace, consisting as it does of halite, some anhydrite and abundant interbedded or finely-dispersed, fine-grained, grey and brown clastic material. The thickness of the deposit and the purity of much of the section exposed in the mine indicate that sedimentation occurred subaqueously from a body of brine of substantial depth.*

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