



The Telephone City Crystal



The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2007

Executive

President :
Phyllis Czarnowski
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Vice President:
Gary Bechtel
519-752-8292

Treasurer:
Ernie Edmonds
519-583-1957

Secretary:
Maddie Lavender
905-634-1758

Show Chair – 2007:
Jenny Jones
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Newsletter Editor:
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519-442-6542

Social:
Deborah Jackson
519-770-4502
Program:

**Field Trips
and CCFMS Rep.:**
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519-426-8409

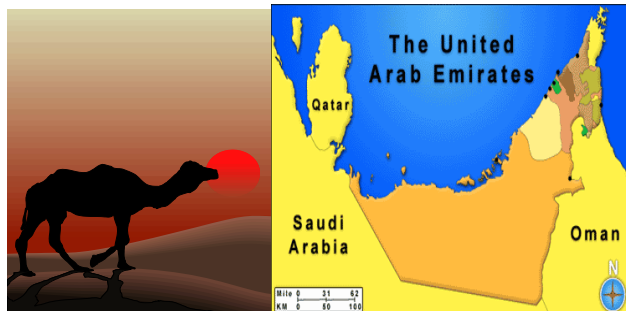
Librarian:
Russ McCrory
905-389-6525

Workshop:
Brad McClelland
519-751-3141

Monthly Programs

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.

April Meeting: April 20, 2007
Speaker Ernest Edmonds:
"Experiences in the
United Arab Emirates
– Persian Gulf"



Note: Ernie is one of our founding members who held many executive offices including president throughout the clubs history. Ernie will tell us about some of his collecting and adventures during the time he spent teaching radiology at a new university in the Middle East.

Location: Woodman Park Community Centre - 491 Grey St. Brantford.

May Meeting: May 11, 2007 (note date change)
Speaker: Stuart Collier
Topic: "Fossils"
Location: Woodman Drive Community Centre



June Meeting: June 15, 2007

We will meet at Robert Hall Originals, 138 Sugar Maple Road St. George (Bob & Betty Parry's Pewter Studio and Rock Shop) for a program. We will be serving a lunch of roast beef on a bun provided by Jenny, but please bring a salad. The Parry's will provide drinks.

June 16: Be prepared for a great invitation by a local quarry. Rumour has that an open house is in the works. Details to follow.

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Reports and Business

President's Message

As president I would like to thank all members who attended our March meeting presented by Don Oliver on "rhodocrosite". The video gave us an insight on the process and difficulties of mining this mineral in the Colorado area and the magnificent crystals found. Our April program is "Experiences in the United Arab Emirates – Persian Gulf" by one of our founding members Ernest Edmonds.

I would like to welcome new members; Julie and Jennifer Siriski, Deborah Jackson, Lisa Smith, Catherine Reid, Alison Laforme, Paula Newcombe, Jean Moser, Susan Wakeley and Gail Whitlow. We hope you enjoy our club and it's activities.

I would like to thank Jenny Jones as the 2007 show chair. The show was very impressive in it's new layout and improvement to attendance. The mini mine was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and also adults who attended the show. Thanks to Russ, Carl and Brad – all bags were sold! As president my overall impression was that the people were very impressed by our show.

Phyllis

Jenny Jones would like to thank all the club members who donated their time and effort to make the 2007 show a success. Thank you to all the members who helped at the door, looked after the mini mine, helped with the silent auction, demonstrated and generally gave their expertise. The public attendance during the weekend was approximately 1500.

Our new member, Deborah Jackson has eagerly volunteered to be our social convener...thank you Deborah.

A reminder about our workshop at Woodman Community Centre for members to use our lapidary equipment. The workshop is open each Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for a fee of \$8.00.



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Peter Russell diligently demonstrates the cleaning and preparation of fossils.



Gary B. instructs member Shirley Archer on the finer points of silent auction bidding.

The Gem and Mineral Show 2007 revisited.

Highlights:

- 1. Great silent auction.**
- 2. Successful mini mining adventure**
- 3. Great attendance**
- 4. Super Show....thanks to Jenny**

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Coming Events

Apr 20-22 Fri., 3-10 Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5

22nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show of the Club de Mineralogy de Montreal Center Pierre-Charbonneau 3000 Viau St. (Viau Metro) Montreal, Quebec Admission: Adults - \$8.00 Children 6-12 - \$4.00 Contact 450-964-8472 or website www.salonminerauxmtl.com/

April 27-29 Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5

Toronto Gem and Mineral Show presented by 3416798 Canada Inc. Oriole Community Centre, 2975 Don Mills Rd. West, North York, On Admission: Adults - \$8; Seniors- \$7, 12-18 - \$5; under 12 free with adult. Contact 514-989-9800 or website torontogemshow@CANADA.com

May 4-6

Canadian Micro Mineral Association 44th Annual Symposium Brock University, St. Catherines, On. Speakers Bill Lechner and Dr. Henry Barwood Contact: Bill Lechner at 416-438-8908 or bill.lechner@rogers.com

May 4-6 Fri., Sat. & Sun. 10-5

Open House – Robert Hall Originals Pewter Studio and Rock Shop 138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George, On. 519-448-1236 Features: Expanded 2500 sq. Ft. showroom to appreciate a vast collection of minerals and also a wide array of pewter, beads and lapidary supplies. Contact : Robert Parry rhparry@hotmail.com Website: <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com/>

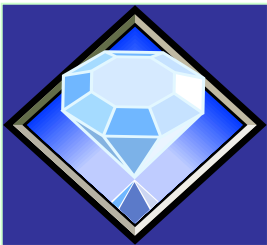
May 5 Sat. 10-4

Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show and Swap Waterloo Community Arts Centre (aka "The Button Factory", 25 Regina St. S. Waterloo On. Free admission Contact Gary Winkler kwgemandmineralclub@hotmail.com

June 16-17

GEO-VENTURE: Niagara Peninsula Geological Society Gem, Mineral And Fossil Show - Beamsville Fairgrounds, Beamsville Ont.

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Club Member News



Welcome back to all the lucky members who travelled to warm climates in the south and were fortunate to visit some of the Gem and Minerals Shows in Tucson, Quartzite and Deming to mention a few. I heard tales of exotic minerals, great lapidary workshops, friendly RV camps and a dear Brantford member getting into shorts on occasion. We are glad that all arrived home safely!

CCFMS Fieldtrips

May 12

CCFMS Spring Quarry Trip, Part 1- Nelson Aggregates, Beamsville, ON

This trip is open to all CCFMS members in good standing. Current 2007 Club membership cards need to be shown at the quarry gates prior to entry.

Arrive at 8:30 a.m. Sign in as soon as you arrive. Safety talk at 8:45 sharp.

Safety gear must worn including a safety vest, long pants and steel-toe shoes.

A tag-in, tag-out policy is in effect. Liability waiver must be signed.

Collectors need to be 16 years old. Contact Jim Glen jrglen@sympatico.ca

May 13

CCFMS Spring Quarry Trip Part 2 – Lafarge Quarry, Dundas ON

Same time and rules as above apply.

Note from the editor: This is my first attempt to publish the newsletter. Your assistance with info, articles, news, and comments would be appreciated. If any of our members would like to submit a little autobiography about their mineral or lapidary interests please send an email or submit it in writing.

Let us remember that we have always had a fantastic club. The club has always been a source of knowledge, longtime friendships and a great deal of fun. We should not forget our history and our long time members who have continued to keep our club a success over the years. Let us work together to keep the club going for another 43 years.
Editor's E-mail: roger.camp@sympatico.ca

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Some Surefire Signs You're a Rockhound

You're probably a practicing rockhound if three or more of these signs apply to you...

If ten or more apply you are advised to seek professional help immediately!

- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- Your kids bring you a "pretty stone" they've found, and you contrive to steal it. And you know you've done it. Don't lie.
- You care more about what happened to the diamond in the movie "Titanic" than the people.
- Your son hits his hand with your rock hammer, your wife screams it broken, and you reply it's a fracture, it has good cleavage, and has produced some unusual streaks in your son's underwear.
- Your spouse asks how the soup tastes and you reply, "variable color, greasy surface, low specific gravity, texture smooth with bits of ductile material."
- When you lick a dirty rock to show off the wonderful colors, without stopping to realize that you are the only rockhound in the group.
- Someone talks about cleavage and you don't think about women.
- Your family puts the birthday candles on a slab of amethyst instead of cake.
- A truck throws a rock into your windshield and you examine the rock first.
- Considering the purchase of a spectacular specimen at a mineral show, you wonder if all three of your kids really need to attend college.
- You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
- You think the primary function of road cuts is tourist attractions.
- You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
- You associate the word "hard" with a value on the Mohs scale instead of "work".
- The rockpile in your garage is taller than you are.
- Your wife has ever had to ask you to move flats of rocks out of the tub so she could take a bath. (ref. Bob's Rock Shop -internet)

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Workshop:

How to Clean Geodes



There are many different ways to clean geodes. You must be careful when using these methods not to destroy microscopic crystals. When using chemicals to clean geodes make sure you use proper protection.

CAUTION: Before doing anything, visually inspect the inside of the geode and check for microscopic minerals, for example, goethite, millerite, or kaolinite. These are very tiny and easy to overlook. Some small crystal inclusions will be damaged by scrubbing and/or chemicals. Smythite, siderite, goethite, millerite, and strontianite are a few hard-to-come-by crystals that are most times destroyed by the rockhound when cleaning the specimen with a brush and water. If the geode, when opened, has iron oxide stain (brown mud coloring), these crystals in all probability have already been destroyed.

- **EASY METHOD:** Simply wash the geodes in plain water with a bit of laundry detergent (or dish soap), then let them soak in a tub of water with 1/4 cup of ordinary household bleach for two days.

This cleans most of the heavy grit off the geodes. Finally, clean the geode with a regular or electric toothbrush and ordinary denture cleaner, carefully covering all the crevices with the denture cleaner and brushing until all the grit is removed and the crystals are clean and bright.

- **WOOD BLEACH (OXALIC ACID) METHOD:** This method is preferred if there is iron staining in your geode. First, rinse the geode using a high pressure spray, removing all mud and dirt. Make a solution of oxalic acid, 1/8-cup oxalic acid per 5 liters of water is suggested. Soak the geode in wood bleach; at first, only soak for a few hours to avoid any damage to the geode. If the geode is still stained after the initial bath, soak longer or increase the concentration. When the geode is finished soaking, wash thoroughly with warm water. Add baking soda to the wood bleach before disposing to neutralize the solution. **CAUTION:** Wood bleach can harm calcite crystals and carbonates. If you know or think you have either, you can brush on some diluted wood bleach solution, and immediately after the geode is clean wash and soak with warm water.

WARNING: Wear eye protection, gloves, and a NIOSH-approved respirator mask to avoid injury. Do not use wood bleach in metal containers; it is corrosive and will eat through metal. (Ref. Mama's Mineral – Internet Site)

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