



The Telephone City Crystal



The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

BLMS INC

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

2008 Executive

President :

**Bill Boone
519-442-7543**

Vice President:

**John Moons
519-752-9756**

Treasurer:

**Karen Ward
905-525-0779**

Secretary:

**Kathy Campbell
519-442-6542**

Show Chair – 2008:

**Jenny Jones
519-750-0953
2009 – Bev Anderson**

Newsletter Editor:

**Roger Campbell
519-442-6542**

roger.camp@sympatico.ca

**Social: Susan Wakeley
519-752-7690**

Program:

**Phyllis Czarnowski
519-752-8276**

Field Trips

**Gary Bechtel
519-756-8298**

CCFMS Rep.:

**Blair Batty
519-426-8409**

Librarian:

**Russ McCrory
905-389-6525**

Workshop:

**Brad McClelland
519-751-3141**

WE WILL HAVE A POTLUCK SUPPER AT

**Place: Woodman Drive Community Centre
491 Grey St. Brantford, Ont.**

Date: Fri. December 19, 2007

Time: 7:00 pm (N.B. time change)



This is a potluck supper please bring a salad, cold plate, hot plate, buns, casserole, relish tray or dessert. Please bring plates and cutlery. The club will supply coffee and beverages.

THIS WILL ALSO BE OUR MEMBER'S SALES EVENING.

If you have any lapidary items, rocks, minerals or fossils or any non-related lapidary crafts that you have made, please feel free to bring them to the meeting and sell them to other members or guests. This is a chance to get a special Christmas gift or an opportunity to show off your talents with a profit.

A number of members requested that we hold our members sales because they had purchased many wonderful gifts for Christmas at last years sale.

We will also conduct our elections this month. We were unable to complete this task in November because of insufficient attendance.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO ALL THE BRANTFORD SOCIETY
MEMBERS AND TO ALL CCFMS CLUBS.
WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ALL THE
BEST IN 2009.**

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3 (mailing address)

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LAPIS LAZULI – The Blue of the Andes

Lapis Lazuli (blue stone) is a semiprecious stone composed of at least 14 different minerals, most prominent of which are: lazurite, giving it its characteristic blue color; wallostonite and calcite, which are responsible for the streaks of gray and white; and pyrite, that gives it its golden highlights.

HISTORY AND MEANING

The intense and exclusive blue color of lapis lazuli has always been a symbol for purity, health, elegance, luck and nobility. It is for this reason that man has used this splendid semi-precious stone for more than 6000 years to highlight its creations.



The Sumerians, Babylonians, Syrians and Egyptians gave splendor to their best jewels, by using lapis lazuli mined in Afghanistan, from the same mine that is still exploited today.

In some Biblical verses the stone is described as a sapphire. The Greeks also attributed to the stone healing properties against fevers and melancholy. The Egyptian Pharaohs used lapis lazuli in their thrones and funeral masks; Cleopatra used its dust as eye-make up; the Buddhists attributed to it peace of mind; the Chinese added it to their garments and hair ornaments, assuring that the stone brought them health and good luck.

During the Renaissance period, lapis lazuli powder has also been used as a fade resistant blue pigment. Leonardo da Vinci, Fra Angelico and Albrecht Dürer, among others, used the "blue gold" for their most valuable paintings. In those times, its value per gram was equal to that of gold. By the end of the 18th Century, Carl Fabergé added lapis lazuli to his most precious jewel creations, and recently, Paloma Picasso included it in hers.

In the Americas, the Incas, Molles, Diaguitas and other pre-Columbian cultures have, for over 2000 years, used lapis lazuli to ornament masks and other artifacts. This was done by extracting the stone from the same deposit located at 3600 meters above-sea-level in the Andes Mountains in the area of Ovalle, Chile, and which today is named LAS FLORES DE LOS ANDES S.A.

In 1851, the location of this deposit was mapped, and in 1894 Las Flores de Los Andes was officially registered as a mining property of Chile. In 1950, its commercial mining was begun, and in 1989, the company Las Flores de Los Andes S.A. built a 60 km. access road, that allowed for the transport of machinery to the mine in order to start the extraction of material in larger quantities and sizes.

CLUB NEWS

- 1. We are wishing Pres. Bill a speedy recovery after a bit of ill health.**
- 2. Glad to hear Russ our librarian is doing well after some health issues.**
- 3. Apologies to Teresa LeBlanc for an incorrect name in the last newsletter.**
- 4. DUES ARE NOW DUE.**
- 5. We need a few more nominations for our election. Please call Phyllis C. or Sue Wakeley if you can volunteer your time to be on our 2009 exec. (Phone no. on Page 1)**
- 6. Wanted – Rock Tumbler – Phone 519-753-0237 – Vern Pich**



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How to Choose Mineral Specimens

When you buy specimens for your collection at a rock show, how do you figure which ones to choose? Here are some things to think about.

Crystal Form – Look for specimens that are excellent examples of the crystal form. Take a mineral guide with you for comparison. Choose pieces with the least amount of damage to the crystals. Odd crystal forms can be also desirable.

Crystal Size – Tiny crystals can be interesting, too, but it's easier to study and admire crystals that are large enough to observe with the naked eye.

Colour and Luster - Look for specimens that show the best colour and luster for that mineral. Clear bright colours are more attractive than muddy colours. Strong purple amethyst is a better example than pale lavender amethyst. Choose pieces that show good luster (the way a mineral's surface reflects light).

Specimen Size – How much room do you have to store your collection? If space is limited, thumbnails (about 1 inch on a side) specimens may be the best choice for you. Otherwise look for large , sturdy specimens.

Classic Sources – Collectors like to find specimens from an important source, such as the first place the mineral was ever found or the mine that produced the best specimens. The source makes the specimens significant and possibly more valuable.

Personal Interest – Do you love gems that show more than one colour? Do you like to collect the minerals of your home state or province? Many collectors focus on the wonderful varieties of a single mineral or gem or the minerals and gems of a particular region.

Price – This is probably the most important consideration for mineral collectors of all ages. The best examples of mineral specimens can cost hundreds of dollars. Look for the largest, best-formed colourful crystals from the most important localities that you can buy for the amount you have to spend. (Rock and Gem –Nov. 2008)

Getting Clubs Banned from Quarries

You need to hear about a nasty problem that has arisen. Quarry collecting will be a thing of the past if an incident reported in the a recent Pink Dolomite Saddle bulletin of the Niagara Geological Society, repeats itself. Jim Glen, trip coordinator of Niagara, says a blatant disregard for rules happened during the Sept. 28th CCFMS trip to Dundas. Lafarge quarry staff spotted a collector climbing up the lower bench walls.

Besides the wall climb, collectors were spotted on a rubble pile that was located too close to high wall. The rule states: *regardless of wall height, you must stay one foot from the wall for each foot of height.* Insurance costs for quarry would go sky high if a visitor fell or was struck by a rock.

Collecting at quarries is a privilege and permission to do so means we all stick to the rules. Pit operators don't make money inviting collectors on their property, it would be much easier to ban collecting.



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ADVICE FOR ROCKHOUND WATCHERS

Can you spot a rockhound? The species isn't rare.
You can tell him by his honest face, and his willingness to share.
You can tell him as he saunters by, his eyes glued to the ground.
No matter where he goes, he's sure there's gemstones to be found.
You can tell him by his friendly smile, he's an all-round pleasant guy;
But the sure-fire way to spot him, is the flashy bola tie!!

From EUREKA NEWS 1/86 via QUARRY QUIPS 4/01 Via Beehive Buzzer 11/01

People are always asking couples whose marriage have endured at least a quarter of a century for their success. Actually, it is no secret at all. "I am a forgiving woman. Long ago, I forgave my husband for not being Paul Newman." Erma Bombeck



A ROCK HOUNDS NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

1. For every new specimen I bring home, I'll weed out 5.
2. To hold tightly to the wheel, and keep going when I pass a rock shop. (Not your's Bob)
3. To eliminate at least 2 gem shows from my travels in 2009.
4. To give my wife more closet space.
5. Not to go to every sale I see advertised next year.
6. Not to call everything I can't identify JASPER.
7. To minimize my collection; to maximize my choice specimens.
8. To weed out (high-grade) my many magazines about rocks.
9. To complete two unfinished projects before I start on ten more.
10. NOT TO LET MY WIFE SEE THIS LIST!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I bring Season's Greetings to our club members and their families.

I have had a rewarding year as your President with bus trips, field trips and visiting other club shows. I have found it most interesting and enjoyable.

Our annual Rock and Gem Show, held the beginning of April, is one of the largest shows in Ontario. With the help of our members who volunteer, we will continue to grow.

Our first ever Swap Meet, this year, was held in St. George and was a huge success and also the club was able to acquire many new single and family memberships. It is our hope to make this Rock Swap an annual event.

I wish to congratulate our new executive and wish them all the best for 2009.

Bill Boone
President 2008
Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society

Crystals of "Frost" For Winter Windows

Bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Remove from the stove and stir in Epsom Salts, a little at a time, until no more salts will dissolve. This means you have a saturated solution. Add a teaspoon of white glue (such as Elmer's) to help the "frost" stick to the window glass. Make sure the glass is clean, not oily or dusty. Apply the fluid with the brush in whatever design you like. As the water begins to evaporate, the Epsom Salts will re-crystallize and will look like frost. They can be removed with a wet cloth later.

Christmas Shopping and Local Rock Shops

Robert Hall Originals

Decorated for Christmas – pewter, minerals, fossils, jewelry, lapidary, beading and gifts
138 Sugar Maple Rd., St. George 1-800-360-2813

The Gneiss Guy - Minerals and Fossils

Ken Dardano - 63 Mathieson Elora, Ont. 519-846-5836

Email: ken.dardano @ sympatico.ca

Lambert Minerals

46 Olivia Place, Ancaster. Ont. 905-648-2177 Call for hours

element 51 – minerals are my business

www.element51.com

Tim Jokela Jr. 519-245-2741



*Vrolijk
Kerstfeest*

*Boldog
karácsonyt*

*Merry
Christmas*

*Joyeux
Noël*

*Buon
Natale*
*Feliz
Natal*

*Fröhliche
Weihnachten*