



# The Telephone City Crystal



The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

**NEWSLETTER**

**May 2007**

## Executive

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519-752-8276

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

**Librarian:**  
Russ McCrory  
905-389-6525

**Workshop:**  
Brad McClelland  
519-751-3141

## Programs

**May Meeting: May 11, 2007 (Note change)**

**Meeting Time: 7:30**

**Speaker: Stuart Collier**

**Topic: "Fossils"**

**A general overview of fossils and collecting locations in Ontario. Stuart has also volunteered fossils that members have collected and not yet identified.**

**Location: Woodman Drive Community Centre  
491 Grey St. Brantford**



**June Meeting: June 15, 2007**

**Meeting Time: 7:30**

**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 Jones, but please bring a small salad. The Parry's will provide drinks.**



## Club History

**I will include a brief history of our club in each newsletter.**

**In the beginning:**

**The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Club was formed March 1964. At that date there were approximately six clubs in Ontario. The meetings were then held twice a month at Glenhyrst Gardens. By May 31, 1965 the club membership had reached 34 in total including Ernest Edmonds and William Hastings who are still members. At the March meeting, a new gavel was presented to the club by Mr. Roy Forris. This gavel has an inscription on it and is still**

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1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3**



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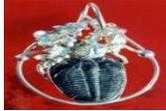
The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.  
used at our present meetings. (*ask Phyllis to see the inscription*)



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## Club News



### Wire Wrapping Classes

There has been some interest in having a wire wrapping class. I would like to get an idea of how many are interested and when the best time would be: Tues. or Thurs. night 7-9 or Sat afternoon 1-3. Would you like to meet weekly or once a month? Please let me know through email if possible, or at next meeting. Email me at [jewelrybydeborah@yahoo.ca](mailto:jewelrybydeborah@yahoo.ca) subject: Wire Wrapping Class. We will start in the fall depending on the number of people interested. I will be teaching how to wrap various types of rocks and gems. I will try to bring some samples to the May or June meeting for you to see.

Deborah Jackson



Use as reference for future club auctions. (per exec board decision)

1. All silent auctions run by the society be run with the understanding that it is to increase the interest of members and allow them and other interested individuals the opportunity to acquire rock, mineral and fossil related material and equipment at a reasonable cost.
2. All items entered in the silent auction are to be entered by the Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society and any BLMS member only.
3. Dealers (who have rented space) are not allowed to enter items in that BLMS auction unless donated.
4. Auctioneers should try, if they have enough space and time, to enter all items submitted by members in the auction to be fair to the persons that have prepared and entering items.
5. Silent auctions bid and master sheets are to be filled out as indicated on the sheet and signed or initialed by the member and be submitted with the items entered in the auction prior to the auction.
6. Bidding have a minimum and minimum increase as decided by the board and printed on the bid sheet.
7. The money from the sold item in the silent auction be divided with 25% going to the club and 75% going to the member entering the item, unless changed by the board.
8. Sold items money and the copy of the master sheet should be given to persons entering the auction as soon as possible by the auctioneer or treasurer of the society with a signature of receipt.
9. All unsold items entered in auctions should be picked up by those entering them after the auction ends. Otherwise the items will be considered abandoned and become the property of the society.
10. The cash money from all auction sales, grab bag sales, show door entry sales be collected and counted by two members appointed by the board.

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## Wanted ???

If anyone has anything to sell, wish to purchase or have a question about the hobby in general please contact me and I will include it in the newsletter and perhaps another member will give assistance. (519-442-6542 or [roger.camp@sympatico.ca](mailto:roger.camp@sympatico.ca))

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.



## Coming Events

June 16 10-2

Open House: Lafarge Quarry, Dundas, Ont.

Come and enjoy the activities at the quarry; including an actual blast demonstration, soapstone carving for the kids, Tim Elliott's incredible mineral display and lunch.



June 16-17

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



July 20-22 Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5

25<sup>TH</sup> Annual Sudbury Gem and Mineral Show – Northern Ontario's Largest Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead & Rock Craft Show and Sale

Carmichael Arena on Bancroft Drive, across from Minnow Lake and 1 km. south of the Kingsway (Hwy 17E) Sudbury, ON

Features: Dealers: displays; demonstrations; door prizes (including an amethyst geode as the grand door prize); video theatre; kid's activities; field trip on Sun. at noon; swapping Sat. 11-4 ; charity BBQ Sat. and Sun.

Admission: Adult \$4, Seniors \$2, Children 6-12 \$1 and 5 and under free.

Contact: Ed and Ruth Debicki (705)522-5140 E-mail: [ed.debicki@sympatico.ca](mailto:ed.debicki@sympatico.ca)

Website: [www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/Sudbury/show.htm](http://www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/Sudbury/show.htm)

July 27-29 Fri. 2-9, Sat./Sun. 10-5

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rock and Mineral Show – Northeastern Ontario's Largest Rock and Mineral Show

Les Costello Memorial Arena, Cobalt, On in the "Silver Capital of Canada" and part of the CobaltRocks Festival

Features: this year's theme: Northern Discovery... Past and Present

Contact: Nina (705)646-2212 or e-mail: [jlnccc@muskoka.com](mailto:jlnccc@muskoka.com)

Website: [www.normc.ca/](http://www.normc.ca/) and also CobaltRocks Festival at [www.cobaltrocks.ca](http://www.cobaltrocks.ca)

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

Toronto Gem and Mineral Summer Show presented by 3416798 Canada Inc.  
Leaside Gardens 1073 Millwood Road East, East York, Toronto, ON

Features: Precious and semi-precious stones, fine quality jewellery, amber, stone beads, unique worldwide crystal specimens, tools and everthing to create your own works of art. Admission: Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, 12-18 \$6, under 12 free with adult

Contact: Ohannes Bedrossian (514)989-9800 or [torontogemshow@CANADA.com](mailto:torontogemshow@CANADA.com)

Website: [www.torontogemshow.com](http://www.torontogemshow.com)

July 29 Sat. 10-4

Bancroft Gem and Mineral Club's Annual Mineral Capital Gem & Mineral Show  
Bancroft Legion Hall, Station St., Bancroft, ON

Admission: Adults \$2, children & students (18 and under) free



Aug 2-5 Thurs 10-7, Fri 10-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun 10-5

44<sup>th</sup> Annual Rockhound Gemboree – Canada's largest gem and mineral show

Contact: Nancy Chapsick, Events Coordinator, Bancroft & District Events Coordinator at (613) 332-1513 or e-mail [chamber@commerce.bancroft.on.ca](mailto:chamber@commerce.bancroft.on.ca)

Website: [http://bancroftdistrict.com/Tourism/rock\\_hound\\_gem.php](http://bancroftdistrict.com/Tourism/rock_hound_gem.php)

Aug 17-19

Nova Scotia's 2007 Gem and Mineral Show presented by the Fundy Geological Museum  
Lion's Arena, King St. Parrsboro, NS

Features: Fossils, gems, minerals, lapidary and jewellery supplies, alks, talks and demonstrations, children's activities

Contact: 1-866-856-DINO Website: <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fgm>

For a complete list of coming events go to the CCFMS website: [www.ccfms.ca](http://www.ccfms.ca)

## 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](mailto:jrglen@sympatico.ca)

May 13

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

Same time and rules as above apply.



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**Ancient Peru Unearthed: Golden Treasures of a Lost Civilization**

March 10 – August 6, 2007 at the

**ROM**



Discover a magnificent cache of long-hidden golden treasures from the Sicán civilization, a mysterious pre-Inca people who prospered off the northern coast of Peru as early as AD 700. This extraordinary exhibition showcases over 120 elaborately-crafted headdresses, crowns, pieces of pottery and jewellery, uncovered in an undisturbed, gold-filled tomb that is one of modern archaeology's greatest finds.

The Sicán culture has been largely overshadowed by the more well-known and powerful Inca civilization. Little is known about the Sicán, only that they were skilled metallurgists, traders and seafarers who controlled a large expanse of coastal desert and fertile river valleys in northern Peru. Their culture is hallmarked by technically and artistically sophisticated art, pottery, architecture and religious artifacts.

Some of these artifacts were excavated in one of the most important archaeological sites in South America: Batán Grande, a sprawling complex of adobe pyramids and plazas, considered by the Sicán to be their religious centre. It was also the principal burial ground for their royalty. *Ancient Peru Unearthed* examines these remarkable finds and explores the rich history and artistry of this enigmatic civilization.

**Rock**

**News**

371 different minerals have been noted on the list of minerals found at Mont Saint-Hilaire (50 new to science) Newly added on Feb 19/07 : Cancrisilite, Kapustinite and Litvinskite



***"When a body is immersed in water -- the telephone rings." – Archimedes' Other Law.***

***No sense being pessimistic. It wouldn't work anyway. – bumper sticker***

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**New Discoveries : Cave of Crystals (Cueva de las Espadas)**

This is the crystal cave of giants found in 2000 in the Naica Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico . They are 1000 feet down in a limestone host rock where they are mining for lead, zinc and silver. These crystals were formed by hydrothermal fluids emanating from the magma chambers below.

The miners had to drill through the Naica fault, which they were worried would flood the mine, and this is what they discovered. (submitted by Gary Bechtel)



A spherical chamber of 8m diameters filled with selenite crystals was found. The tunnel was rerouted, but soon after a second, even bigger chamber with several big selenite crystals, 8m long and 2m in diameter, was found. It was closed by a brick wall and an iron gate to protect the crystals.

As the temperature inside the cave is 60°C and the humidity 100%, a visit of the cave always includes a perfect steam bath. But for work in the cave it is really problematic. First it was absolutely impossible to take any picture of the cave as cameras first steamed up, and when they reached the temperature of the cavern, the electronic was dead. The researchers developed special techniques for the temperature, but more than 10 minutes are not possible inside the cave. Typically two or three minute visits are applicable.

A mine worker who tried to steal some crystals died in the cave: the temperature and the bad air causes dehydration and after a few minutes he was too weak to leave the cave and suffocated. When he was found, his body was cooked (well done to be exact).

The exploration is done by La Venta, an Italian group of cave explorers, and a Mexican company named Speleoresearch & Films. They have an agreement with the mining company Industrias Peñoles about the protection of the cave. The technical difficulties of the exploration are immense, and so far the total size of the cave is still unknown, as it is impossible to explore more than a few tens of meters in the available time. Special breathing and protection systems are developed with the goal to stay inside the cave for at least one hour.

<http://www.naica.com.mx/ingles/index.htm>

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## Herkimer Diamonds

**“Herkimer Diamonds” is the name given to the doubly terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York and surrounding areas. Note that these crystals have the typical hexagonal habit of quartz, however, instead of having a termination on one end they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are very rare and this part of what makes Herkimer Diamonds so popular with mineral collectors.**

**The host rock for Herkimer Diamonds is the Cambrian-age, Little Falls Dolostone. The Little Falls Dolostone was deposited about 500 million years ago and the Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities within the dolostone. These cavities are frequently lined with drusy quartz crystals and often are coated with a tarry hydrocarbon**

**Although Herkimer County, New York is the location for which these crystals are named, similar doubly terminated quartz crystals have been found in a few other locations, including Arizona, Afghanistan, Norway, Ukraine and China. They have the same appearance but can not rightfully be called “Herkimers”. The doubly terminated quartz crystals shown in the lower right photo are from a deposit in Afghanistan.**

**The Herkimer Diamonds of New York are not a recent discovery. The Mohawk Indians and early settlers knew about the crystals and found them in stream sediments and plowed fields.**

### **Herkimer Diamond Mines**

**Some of the best places to find Herkimer Diamonds today are located along New York State Route 28 in Middleville, New York. (When visiting this area it is important to remember that all land in New York either belongs to the government or is private property. Collecting minerals from government lands is illegal in New York and collecting on private property requires permission in advance.)**

**There are two commercial mines on New York State Route 28 at Middleville, New York. These are: 1) [Ace of Diamonds Mine](#) and [Herkimer Diamond Mine](#) both allow collectors to enter and prospect for a nominal fee. Both locations also rent equipment such as hammers, wedges and other small tools, plus they small exhibit areas where you can view and/or purchase specimens.**

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*Cavity with drusy quartz,  
hydrocarbon, diamond.*



*"Herkimer Diamonds" found in  
Afghanistan.*

## **Mining for Herkimer Diamonds**

The key to finding Herkimer Diamonds is a knowledge that they occur in cavities (vugs) within the Little Falls Dolostone (see photo above). These cavities can be smaller than a pea or several feet across. At both of the mines listed above the Little Falls Dolostone is exposed at the surface and a significant amount of broken rock is scattered across the quarry floor. The easy way to prospect is to find pieces of vuggy rock and break them open with a heavy hammer. If you are lucky the rock will break to reveal one or several Herkimer Diamonds within a cavity. Dolomite is a very tough rock so expect to work hard. The use of safety glasses is required and wise collectors wear gloves to protect their hands.

The "find and break" prospecting method described above is employed by many people who visit these mines and can lead to a few small finds. Some visitors have been successful by simply searching the rock rubble for exposed crystals or searching the quarry floor for loose crystals. However, for finding large quantities of crystals, the most successful mining method is to break into large cavities in the quarry walls and floors using sledge hammers and wedges (power equipment is not permitted at the mines listed in this article). This method requires tools, patience, time and a knowledge of how to break an extremely durable dolostone.

Change your address? Please let us know!



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