



The Telephone City Crystal



The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

BLMS INC

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

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DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2008
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: WOODMAN DRIVE COMMUNITY CENTRE
491 GREY ST. BRANTFORD, ONTARIO

PROGRAM: HELMUT KOENIG (FCGmA) **A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN** **GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**



Mr. Koenig graduated as a Gemmologist from the Canadian Gemmological Association in 1991 and has contributed his services to the CGA in various positions as instructor, Education Director, Vice President and Conference organizer.

He is presently teaching the Preliminary year of the Professional Gemmology Program for the Canadian Gemmological Association and has launched a new advanced course workshop "Coloured Gemstone Grading and Valuation".

Mr. Koenig has worked for Byrex Gems (a colour stone dealer in Toronto) for 14 years and was instrumental in positioning Byrex as a leader in gem sales in Canada.

He has participated in the Jewellery Industry by serving on several boards and committees for the purposes of advancing education programs and consumer awareness.

He works as an independent gemstone and jewellery consultant for private clients and retail establishments. Tel 416- 317-2480

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Don't forget this month is the election of officers for 2009. Come out to our meeting to vote for our new executive. If you want to take part in next years programs or be involved in club decisions be sure to attend the November meeting.



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

Workshop

Heat-treating agates:

Some agates respond well to heat-treating to restore colors. For example, many Lake Superior agates have lost their vivid reds and oranges. The structures are intact but the colour has faded to almost uniform light tans and brown. Heating them restores much of their original vibrancy. Some other stones that especially benefit are the Brazilian agate and Carnelian, to treat, place a layer of clean sand or kitty litter ½ inch deep in a Pyrex dish. Place a layer of rocks (slabs) in the dish. Cover thinly with sand or kitty litter. Repeat until all rocks are used. Place in oven at lowest setting (150degrees) for two hours. This drives out the moisture that could cause the stones to explode; then raise the temperature 50 degrees every ½ hour until 500 degrees is reached. Leave on for two hours at 500, then turn off the oven to let cool, preferably overnightNO PEEKING! Allow container to cool completely to room temperature before opening the oven door. This process takes approximately 10 hours.

From Golden Spike News, 07/04 via SCFMS Newsletter, July – August, 2005

Coming Events

- Nov 14-16 49th Montreal Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show,
Fri. 4-10, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10- 5.
Hippodrome de Montreal / Blue Bonnets. Adults \$7.00, Seniors \$6.00,
Students \$5.00, under 12 free
Contact: <http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca/pages/AnnualShow.html>
- Nov 15 Canadian Micro Mineral Association Fall Mini-Conference
The Burlington Arts & Cultural Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington. ON
Contact: Bill Lechner at 416-438-8908 or bill.lechner@rogers.com
- Nov 22-23 2008 London Gem and Mineral Show
Sat. 9-6, Sun 10-5
Western Fairgrounds – Special Events Building (entrance near Florence & Rectory)
- Dec 19 Brantford Club Christmas Potluck Dinner

Third-largest cut diamond part of ROM exhibition

Known as the Incomparable Diamond, the 407.48 –carat golden kite-shaped jewel is an “iconic Gemstone, with an internally flawless clarity,” said curator Kim Tait.

It was found as an 890-carat rough diamond by a young girl in the Mbuji-Maya district of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the early 1980s as she played in a pile of rubble from a nearby diamond mine. The girl gave the rough diamond to her uncle who sold it to local diamond dealers.

The diamond was eventually acquired by Marvin Samuels of New York and Louis Glick of New York and Hong Kong, who loaned it to the exhibition.

“ The Nature of Diamonds,” running from Oct. 25 to March 22, is billed as “the most wide-ranging exhibition ever developed on the allure of diamonds.”

It looks at the geologic origins of diamonds, how they are mined, their cultural significance and uses in science and technology.



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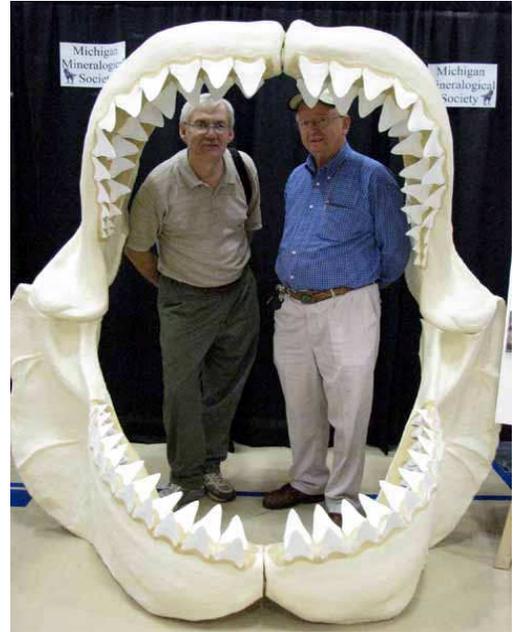
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RECENT GEM SHOWS

Demonstration Area at 2008 Detroit Show



Your Editor and Pres. In Detroit Display



Waterloo University 2008



Chris Van Donkelaar demonstrating the preparation of mineral pigments for use in art



Theresa Leduc Brantford club member (front) with U of W long time member (rear)

Oldest Known Rocks Discovered Friday, September 26, 2008

Bedrock in the Nuvvuagittuq region of Quebec may be the world's oldest.

Washington, D.C.—Canadian bedrock more than four billion years old may be the oldest known section of the Earth's early crust. Scientists at the Carnegie Institution used geochemical methods to obtain an age of 4.28 billion years for samples of the rock, making it 250 million years more ancient than any previously discovered rocks. The findings, which offer scientists clues to the earliest stages of our planet's evolution, are published in the September 26 issue of *Science*.*

The Nuvvuagittuq greenstone belt is an expanse of bedrock exposed on the eastern shore of Hudson Bay in northern Quebec and was first recognized in 2001 as a potential site of very old rocks. Samples of the Nuvvuagittuq rocks were collected by geologists from McGill University in Montreal and analyzed by Jonathan O'Neil, a PhD student at McGill, and Richard Carlson at the Carnegie Institution's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. By measuring minute variations in the isotopic composition of the rare earth elements neodymium and samarium in the rocks, O'Neil and Carlson determined that the rock samples range from 3.8 to 4.28 billion years old. The oldest dates came from rocks termed "faux amphibolite," which the researchers interpret to be ancient volcanic deposits.

"There have been older dates from Western Australia for isolated resistant mineral grains called zircons," says Carlson, "but these are the oldest whole rocks found so far." The oldest zircon dates are 4.36 billion years. Before this study, the oldest dated rocks were from a body of rock known as the Acasta Gneiss in the Northwest Territories, which are 4.03 billion years old. The Earth is 4.6 billion years old, and remnants of its early crust are extremely rare—most of it has been mashed and recycled into Earth's interior several times over by plate tectonics since the Earth formed. The rocks are significant not only for their great age but also for their chemical composition, which resembles that of volcanic rocks in geologic settings where tectonic plates are crashing together. "This gives us an unprecedented glimpse of the processes that formed the early crust," says Carlson.



October Meeting

Phyllis thanks Prof. Alan Morgan for a most interesting program on Iceland and Jan Mayen. It is incredible to hear that due to unfavourable economical times that Iceland is in dire straits financially and also that the land mass is slowly being claimed by the sea.

Thank you Phyllis for arranging one of the best presentations this year. Thanks to all whom attended.





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The Dinosaur Lady

While attending the Waterloo Show we met an old Brantford Club friend, Hedy Hobberlin. We remember Hedy as a fossil collector extraordinaire and for her programs in past years at our meetings. Hedy can give a presentation to young and old and make it interesting for all ages. Without much convincing Hedy has agreed to encapture us with her stories at one of our future monthly meetings.

Hedy still remembers bringing the 35 million-year-old fossilized skull of a brontotherium to our 20th anniversary dinner at the Sherwood Restaurant in April 1984.



IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



Jennifer (Bob & Betty's daughter) gives a helping hand at one of the many mineral displays.

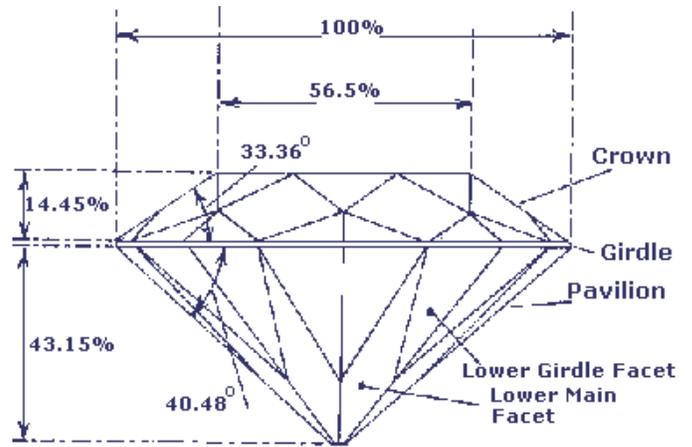
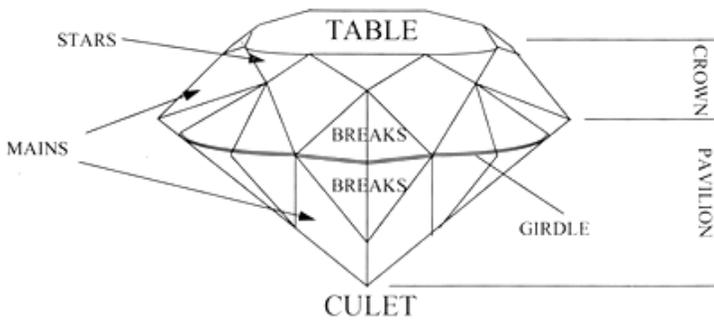
Christmas Open House at Robert Hall Originals



A wonderful shopping experience is available to Brantford and surrounding area without driving far from home. The Parry family have one of the most attractive shops in the Ontario. Bob and Betty's daughters had recently decorated their showroom to make even Santa envious. I noted many pieces of pewter of numerous themes with fine artistic detail and gems galore.

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

Terms for Faceting



Gem Angles Table

Standard Brilliant Material	Pavilion		Zircon Cut Pavilion			Crown			Critical Angle
	Main	Break	Main	Break	Culet	Main	Star	Break	
Apatite	42	44	48	52	42	41	26	44/49	37.5
Beryl	43	45	49	53	43	40	27	45/50	39
Chrysoberyl	42	44	48	52	42	40	25	43/48	35
Corundum	42	44	48	52	42	40	25	43/48	34.5
Epidot	42	44	48	52	42	40	25	43/48	35
Felspar	44	46	50	54	44	42	27	45/50	41
Garnet	41	43	47	51	41	40	25	43/48	34-35.5
Iolite	43	45	49	53	43	42	27	45/50	40
Peridot	42	44	48	52	42	41	26	44/49	37
Quartz	43	45	49	53	43	42	27	45/50	40
Spinel	42	44	48	52	42	40	25	43/48	35.5
Topaz	42	44	48	52	42	41	26	44/49	38
Tourmaline	42	44	48	52	42	41	26	44/49	38
Zircon	41	43	47	51	41	37	22	40/45	31N-34M*
Dark Sapphire	40	42	46	50	40	40	25	43/48	34.5
Dark Garnet	39	41	45	49	39	37	22	40/45	34-35.5
*N = Normal M = Metamict									

For Sale: Various items from a rock and jewelry business (Creemore Miner)

Rock Slabs (twenty years of collecting

Faceted stones/cabs/boulders-opal

Sterling silver wire of various sizes

Amethyst geodes – 150 lbs

Fordom power drill with foot control

Contact JD Byers (1-705-466-3127)

Gold filled wire of various sizes

Trim saw

Pixie 4" 6 grit rollers

What did one earthquake say to the other earthquake? (It's Your Fault !!!!!)

D UES DUE NOW !!
U NASHAMED REQUEST !!
E SSENTIAL FOR OPERATION !!
S ENSATIONAL BARGAIN !!



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What is a Phantom Crystal?

A phantom crystal is actually a crystal within a crystal. The makeup of one phantom must be the same as the one that encloses it. There may be more than one inside a single crystal. The usual explanation of phantoms is intermittent growth, growing for a while, then stopping. For a period, the crystal is exposed and a very small amount of foreign matter (dust, etc.) falls on the surface. The conditions change and the crystal starts to grow again, with the possibility of this happening several times. The result is a crystal that appears to have one or more other crystals enclosed within it. Sometimes phantoms are oriented the same as the enclosing crystal, at other times they are not. In clear crystals, such as quartz, the enclosed crystal appears shadowy and faint, and therefore we have the name Phantom. The difference between a phantom and an inclusion is that the inclusion must be a different mineral species. Via Chip and Chatter, via Tips & Chips(1998)

Believe It Or Not – What Must Be Done For Gold –Sometimes!

A gold mine in South Africa is about 12,000 feet deep. The temperature is around 131 degrees Fahrenheit. A refrigerating plant capable of equaling the cooling power of 2750 pounds of ice is installed in the mine to provide a temperature at which miners can work safely!!! Whew!!!!

FRIENDS AND GEMS

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough; some are highly polished ; some are dull and colourless until viewed in the right light. And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions, sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing that their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, if we concentrate on their aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality. (Via AFMS Newsletter)

The University of Waterloo 2008/09 student recipients of the Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Scholarships include:

Benjamin Daniels – 2nd year – Earth Sciences – Hydrogeology Specialization

Sadeed Hassan – 2nd year – Earth Sciences – Geology Specialization

Casandra Brown – 3rd year – Earth Sciences – Atmospheric Specialization

Cameron Toy – 3rd year – Earth Sciences – Geophysics Specialization

Fossils and Medicine

Now that you have collected fossils of many varieties and from many classes. I have some information of a historic nature for their practical use. In the end it could reduce your medical expenses and save you some money. How so, you say. Well, I say, read on.

As I do so often in my spare time, I take a book or magazine from the shelf and glance through and perhaps recall something of interest. Recently I came across an article "A Fossil For What Ails You." What follows is a review of part of the folklore connected with customs and practices dating back to the Paleolithic tribes of Europe.

As recently as 200 years ago many people in the world, including scientists and doctors Believed that among other things fossils had a remarkable power to cure different ailments. Physicians and Folk Doctors didn't agree on why fossils cured people and animals, but they agreed fossils were good medicine. Would it surprise you to know oil of amber was listed in an important Pharmacopoeia (list of drugs, their use and amounts) as a bonafide medicine as late as 1948?

The use of fossils reached their peak just after the Middle Ages. Physicians and Folk Doctors collected and prepared their own medications. In the 13th Century, Emperor Frederick II of Germany set down strict rules ordering a separation of roles for the physician and apothecary. These rules however, did not apply to the Folk Doctors. The apothecaries prepared the fossils for use by grinding them to a fine powder and then mixing them with wine, water or other liquids for internal use. Honey, wax, oil or other Things were used to make ointments or salves.

In 1700 a large deposit of mammoth bones were found near the Neckar River. The Duke of Wurtemberg ordered a scientific dig. The scientists of the day did so and in the process got into an argument whether they were elephants brought form Europe by Hannibal, bones from old Roman sacrifices or animals destroyed by the great flood Recorded in the Bible. While this was going on, the pharmacists, who collected materials For their own use, calmly gathered the teeth and powdered them for medicinal use.

No one seems to know why certain fossils were used for specific illnesses except the shape of the fossil determined its use. An example, in Scotland, the oyster, Gryphaea, Commonly called the Devil's Toenail, was used for arthritic joint pain.

Amber is the fossil sap of extinct pine trees. It has been used longer and for a geater variety of medicinal purposes. Powdered amber mixed with other medicines was given to pregnant women to prevent miscarriage. Powdered amber mixed with wine eased the pain of childbirth. The necklace of amber beads worn by small babies protected against secret poisons, witchcraft and sorcery. Callistrus, a Greek of the 4th Century BC believed that yellow amber if worn as a collar about the neck cured fevers and diseases of the mouth, throat and jaws. Powdered and mixed with honey and oil of roses, it was good for Diseases of the ear; added to honey it was an excellent salve used to improve dim eyesight. In the 16th Century a doctor founda way to make oil of amber and from then to the 19th Century it was used by many doctors for gout, rheumatism, whooping cough, bronchitis and other ailments. (cont'd)



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Ammonites are the favourite fossil of many collectors all over the world. The Greeks of the 3rd Century used the ammonites as a cure for blindness and snake bites. The snake Bites remedy came from the belief that ammonites were petrified snakes.

Sea urchins were also part of the pharmacists stock. A Cretaceous sea urchin spine, Found in Palestine, was used for almost 2,000 years. Pliny, the Roman historian of the 1st Century, said that whoever licked it would find his gallstones broken and voided in short order, but Galen, a 2nd Century physician said that they should be crushed in mortar and mixed with water to be effective.

Belemnites were thought to be thunderbolts by people of the Middle Ages and still are in some parts of Great Britain. They were crushed and the powder kept a person from being struck by lightning or bewitched by demons from the sky. They were also used to cure a variety of illnesses and prevented nightmares.

Fossil shark teeth were thought to be the tongues of serpents which St. Paul had turned to stone on his visit to the island of Malta. Because of this myth they were believed to have a power against the bites of any reptiles. Wine in which shark teeth had been soaked was thought to be a good antidote for snake bite or any other poison.

Cures for ailments were also found in the use of jet, a very hard coal, dragon bones, unicorn horns (which were probably the horn of the make narwhal) and toadstones, which were the teeth of rays.

I have enjoyed reading of the use of fossils in early medical practice. For me, I will stay with modern medicine.

By Fred Labahn (RFMS Fossil Tech. Chairman)

N.B. CLUB LAPIDARY WORKSHOP NEWS

To all club members: Brad M. needs your assistance.

He is willing to teach members how to cut and polish cabochons in our well equipped workshop at the Woodman Centre. (Every Wed. night from 7pm to 9pm.)

Cost is a mere \$8 per session. Make your own jewelry to give as Christmas presents. He might even teach you how to make a sphere.