



# THE TELEPHONE CITY CRYSTAL



BRANTFORD LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY



NOVEMBER 2015  
Volume 59 Issue 1



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I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH MEMBER STU COLLIER OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT THE OCTOBER MEETING. STU TOOK OUR MEMBERS ON AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY BACK IN TIME TO A WORLD OF SOFT BODY CREATURES THAT INHABITED THE AREA IN WHAT IS NOW THE BRUCE PENINSULA. HE ILLUSTRATED HIS PROGRAM WITH PHOTOS OF PHOSPHATISED MARINE FOSSILS OF EURYPTERIDS (SCORPIONS), LOBOPODS AND PHYLLOCARIDS (SHRIMP) AS WELL AS WEIRD WONDERS OF CREATURES UNKNOWN TO MANKIND. SPONGES AND ALGAE NOT NORMALLY PRESERVED WERE FOUND BY STU AND HIS ASSOCIATE DR. VON BITTER ALONG WITH JELLYFISH (CNIDARIANS) AND THE OLDEST VERTEBRATE FISH FOUND IN ONTARIO. THE PASSION TO PRESERVE THIS IMPORTANT DIG WAS EVIDENT IN STU'S PRESENTATION.



OUR DECEMBER 11 MEETING AT 6:30PM WILL BE OUR USUAL POTLUCK DINNER AND MEMBERS SALE. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE. A SILENT AUCTION IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO PART WITH MINERALS, JEWELLERY, ETC.



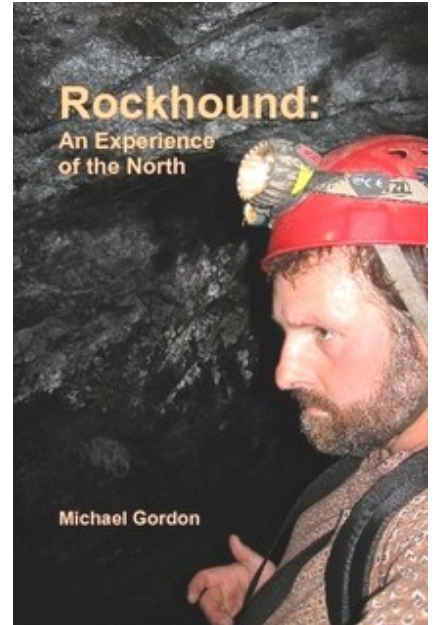
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

**Date:** Friday November 20, 2015      **Time:** 7:30 PM

**Where:** TB Costain/SC Johnson Community Center,  
16 Morrell St. Brantford, Ont.

**Program:** Michael Gordon

“The talk will be based around various mineral collecting sites from southern through to northern Ontario. I will talk about some of the old classics such as Bear Lake, a few of the less visited sites such as Roger's mine in Madoc and then probably touch on a few places such as a crystal cave (location secret), the Crystal Lake Peristerite Mine and a couple of places where you can collect radioactives.”



He is also the author of a book “Rockhound - An Experience of the North”.

Our members have all received a copy of the proposed new bylaws for discussion at our November meeting. The proposed new bylaws were distributed at the October and mailed to all members not in attendance. Joan Campbell, our secretary has taken on a huge task to rewrite our bylaws to bring it to point to hopefully fall within the new government laws pertaining to not for profit groups. This suggestion was made by a lawyer who has been guiding the club through this transition period.

**CLUB INFO**

**Treasurer:** A reminder to members that I will be looking to collect membership fees for Jan/16-Dec/16 and would like to have the bulk of it taken care of before Dec 31/15. Please come prepared to pay your 2016 membership fees, \$15.00 per single and \$18.00 per family, cash or cheque is fine. Memberships paid in the fall carry over to December 2016.



**Field Trips:** Watch newsletter for future fieldtrip plans

**Program:** Michael Gordon: Collecting sites in Ontario

**Workshop:** Our workshop is open Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm only.

**2016 Show:** Lots of planning still to be done. We do not have a theme at this time.



**CCFMS:** Check Website for updates— <http://www.ccfms.ca>

**Library:** Remember to bring back any borrowed books ...thank you.

**MEMBERS WITH WORKSHOP KEYS—PLEASE RETURN YOUR KEYS TO BOB WHITING (SEE PRESENTS NOTE)**



**2015 GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS and EVENTS**

November 14 Canadian Micro Mineral Association Fall Workshop  
Burlington Arts & Cultural Center, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, ON, Canada Cost: \$25, which includes a continental breakfast Contact: Frank Ruehlicke at 519-880-2716 or [ruehlicke@rogers.com](mailto:ruehlicke@rogers.com)  
Website: [www.canadianmicrominerals.ca/](http://www.canadianmicrominerals.ca/)

November 13-15 London Gem and Mineral Show (Out of This Earth) western Fairgrounds 316 Rectory St. London N5W 3V9 Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5 60 Dealers. Demonstrations and Educational Sessions, Live auction, Gold panning. Email [gneissguy@bell.net](mailto:gneissguy@bell.net) 519-400-6133

November 12 - 23 Robert Hall Originals Open House "12 Days of Christmas"  
138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George, Ontario Event Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 am to 5; Sunday: Closed pm Canadian made pewter gifts & jewellery for Christmas gift giving. Experience Christmas shopping in a relaxed country setting! Rock'n Discounts of 20% to 40%! Free Coffee & Treats! Help us fill our "Chew Chew Train". With a New Toy or Food Bank donation receive a ballot for a chance to win one of 12 Local Holiday Gift Prizes! Website: [www.roberthalloriginals.com](http://www.roberthalloriginals.com) Email: [inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com](mailto:inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com)



Try your luck at stabilizing a porous stone such as turquoise so it can be cut and polished. Take a jar with a lid; add one pint of acetone. To this, add the complete contents of both the resin and the hardener tubes of epoxy glue, mixing well. Add well-dried stones, cover the jar and let remain for at least four days. Remove stones and allow a week for them to dry. They should now be stabilized and ready for working. (via Bitterroot Gem & Mineral August 2010)

**Chrysocolla Color Enhancement:** If you would like to bring out the blue and green in chrysocolla, or any copper material, put it in some full-strength Purex bleach for as long as it takes for the color to be fully exposed. Remember the hazard of mixing bleach. As with any acid, it releases a poisonous gas. Do this process outdoors with the wind to your back.

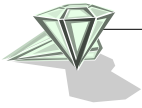
**Your Tumbler Polishing:** Use small pieces of Styrofoam plastic instead of those hard little round plastic pellets. Your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. These hundreds of polish-impregnated little pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler. Source of the hints listed above: Leaverite News via September 2012 Rock Chips

**TOP TEN TIPS FOR TURQUOISE JEWELLERY CARE**

1. Store turquoise separately from harder gemstones, as they can scratch turquoise.
2. Wait to put turquoise on after applying cosmetics or perfume as these chemicals can discolor the stone.
3. Protect jewelry from prolonged sun exposure and extreme temperatures.
4. Remove jewelry before performing gardening or household tasks or any strenuous activity that may result in damage from chemicals or physical stress.
5. Do not use commercial jewelry cleaners or ultrasonic cleaners to clean turquoise jewelry. These can damage and discolor the stone.
6. Use a soft brush and water to clean the stone. Using a soft towel to dry.
7. Contrary to popular opinion, using even mild soap and other cleaning agents can damage the piece.
8. Do not submerge turquoise in water, if this occurs dry using a soft towel.
9. To prevent silver tarnishing, place jewelry in a sealable plastic bag; for added protection, include an anti-tarnish strip.
10. To remove any tarnish that does develop, rub clean with a jewelry polishing cloth. Source and more tips at: <http://www.turquoisejewelry.com/turquoise>

**THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROCK:** When Chemists die, they barium; What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus; Broken pencils are pointless; Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations; Headlines: Energizer Bunny arrested. Charged with battery; They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Type 0; I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me; I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down! ( June 2013 Rockhound Ramblings—Pasadena Lapidary)





### A FEW WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that it is November again it is time to think about the coming meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>. It is the day of our Annual General Meeting.

Our club was incorporated a long time ago to protect the board members. This also means that we have to live by the law that sets the rules for the incorporated non-profit organizations. This law is about to change a lot and will be coming in effect shortly. That also means that we have to change our Constitution and By-laws. The executive has drafted changes to the constitution and a new by-law to replace the current by-laws. These documents have been either distributed to members at the October meeting or mailed to those not present. The Executive will recommend that the members approve the new constitution and by-law No. 10 at the Nov 20 meeting so that we more closely follow the law. One of the big changes will be that the Annual General Meeting will move to the meeting in May. For that reason we will have no elections at this meeting and we bring in a proposal to let the existing board serve until May 2016. A bit of a problem is that both the current Corporations Act and the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, which has not yet been proclaimed, are large pieces of legislation. It would not be so easy to print them and give them to the members. If you want to study the Acts we have to ask you to look them up on your computer.

The board really hopes that you will make the effort to come out to the meeting and help to pass the proposed changes.

This month we will change the lock of the clubhouse at Helen Avenue. The board likes to get more control over who can get into our clubhouse. If you can not get access to the clubhouse then you have to get in touch with me.

John Moons



### **Woolly Mammoth Fossil Found in Michigan**

Buried beneath a Michigan farmer's soy field were the butchered remains of a woolly mammoth. Paleontologists think that the skull, tusks, jaws and other parts that they uncovered on Thursday were stored there by early humans in a primitive fridge more than 10,000 years ago.

Last Monday James Bristle, the farmer, came across what he thought was a fence post while digging in his yard, only to discover that it was actually a rib, according to [The Ann Arbor News](#). He contacted researchers from the University of Michigan to investigate, and together they unearthed the prehistoric beast.

Daniel Fisher, a paleontologist who led the dig, said the mammoth most likely roamed the area 11,700 to 15,000 years ago, and was around 40 years old when it died.

In addition to the skull and tusks, the team also recovered vertebrae, a pelvis, shoulder blade pieces and one kneecap. Missing from the find were most of the mammoth's fore and hind limbs, which the team presumed were either buried elsewhere or had already been eaten.

Dr. Fisher said that ancient humans most likely preserved the mammoth parts in a pond to eat later. The team found clues such as stone tool fragments and three large boulders, which they think were used as anchors, near the bones to support their hypothesis. According to the researchers, the findings might provide insight into when humans first settled and hunted in present-day Michigan. For photos of the excavation, see <https://imgur.com/a/>

**ROCK & MINERAL TERMINOLOGY** – Aragonite is a group of minerals belonging to the carbonate group that are isomorphous with one another. They all crystallize in the orthorhombic system, exhibit good cleavage (although not as good as the members of the calcite group), have a weak double refraction in transparent specimens, and commonly intergrow in three individuals forming six sided trillings.

**Isomorphous** - Having the same crystal form, except for the fact that different elements are present. If two minerals are isomorphous to each other, than they contain different elements arranged in the same arrangement and number, such as Calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and Siderite (FeCO<sub>3</sub>).

**Trilling** - Intergrowth of three orthorhombic crystals that twin at the center and form a hexagonal shaped crystal. Internet



By her who in this month (January) is born  
No gem save **garnets** should be worn;  
They will ensure her constancy,  
True friendship, and fidelity.

The February-born shall find  
Sincerity and peace of mind,  
Freedom from passion and from care,  
If they an **amethyst** will wear.

Who in this world of ours their eyes  
In March first open shall be wise,  
In days of peril firm and brave,  
And wear a **bloodstone** to their grave.

She who from April dates her years,  
**Diamonds** shall wear, lest bitter tears  
For vain repentance flow; this stone,  
Emblem of innocence, is known.

Who first beholds the light of day  
In spring's sweet flowery month of May  
And wears an **emerald** all her life  
Shall be a loved and happy wife.

Who comes with summer to this earth,  
And owes to June her hour of birth,  
With ring of **agate** on her hand  
Can health, wealth, and long life command.

The glowing **ruby** shall adorn,  
Those who in July are born;  
Then they'll be exempt and free  
From love's doubts and anxiety.

Wear a **sardonyx** or for thee,  
No conjugal felicity;  
The August-born without this stone,  
'Tis said, must live unloved and lone.

A maiden born when September leaves  
Are rustling in September's breeze,  
A **sapphire** on her brow should bind  
'Twill cure diseases of the mind.

October's child is born for woe,  
And life's vicissitudes must know,  
But lay an **opal** on her breast,  
And hope will lull those woes to rest.

Who first comes to this world below  
With drear November's fog and snow,  
Should prize the **topaz's** amber hue,  
Emblem of friends and lovers true.

If cold December gave you birth,  
The month of snow and ice and mirth,  
Place on your hand a **turquoise** blue;  
Success will bless whate'er you do.

**The Ten Rock Commandments:**

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbors' minerals unless he/she places them in your hand.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, biting or squeezing.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbors fossil for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbors' specimen in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbors' agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of a mineral too violently; sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above thy neighbor when on a field trip unless thou are willing to spend the remainder of the day digging him/her out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine own eyes, hands, & feet so thou can enjoy many more field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach on thy neighbors' diggings lest his/her hammer be dropped on your toe.
10. Thou shalt not complain about or denounce thy club officers under penalty of being elected one. thyself.

Via Scribe III92 & Rock Rollers Club 9II10, Osage Rock & Mineral Club From January 2015 Ozal\*. Earth Science Gem. Mineral. & Fossil Club News, The Quarry 2/15



### MINERAL OF THE MONTH GYPSUM OR SELENITE

Gypsum is a soft sulfate mineral composed of calcium sulfate dihydrate, with the chemical formula  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . It can be used as a fertilizer, is the main constituent in many forms of plaster and in blackboard chalk, and is widely mined. A massive fine-grained white or lightly tinted variety of gypsum, called alabaster, has been used for sculpture by many cultures including Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Ancient Rome, Byzantine empire and the Nottingham alabasters of medieval England. It is the definition of a hardness of 2 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness. It forms as an evaporite mineral and as a hydration product of anhydrite.



Gypsum occurs in nature as flattened and often twinned crystals, and transparent, cleavable masses called selenite. Selenite contains no significant selenium; rather, both substances were named for the ancient Greek word for the Moon.

Selenite may also occur in a silky, fibrous form, in which case it is commonly called "satin spar". Finally, it may also be granular or quite compact. In hand-sized samples, it can be anywhere from transparent to opaque. A very fine-grained white or lightly tinted variety of gypsum, called alabaster, is prized for ornamental work of various sorts. In arid areas, gypsum can occur in a flower-like form, typically opaque, with embedded sand grains called desert rose. It also forms some of the largest crystals found in nature, up to 12 metres (39ft) long, in the form of selenite.



Gypsum is a common mineral, with thick and extensive vaporite beds in association with sedimentary rocks. Deposits are known to occur in strata from as far back as the Archaean eon. Gypsum is deposited from lake and sea water, as well as in hot springs, from volcanic vapors, and sulfate solutions in veins. Hydrothermal anhydrite in veins is commonly hydrated to gypsum by groundwater in near-surface exposures. It is often associated with the minerals halite and sulphur. Pure gypsum is white, but other substances found as impurities may give a wide range of colors to local deposits.

#### FOSSIL HASH (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Hash fossils are not actually one fossil, they are many fossils in the same rock. The term hash fossil describes the fossil formed when all the organic material in an environment falls to the ocean floor and fossilizes, hence the name "hash". When you look at a hash fossil, you actually are looking at a piece of ancient seabed. In hash fossils you can usually find the pieces of corals, crinoids, brachiopods, and brachiopods. Also you can rarely find a piece of a trilobite. Hash fossils are very common, and are most easily found in limestone.

#### THE POPCORN MINERAL

Perlite, the unique, so-called popcorn mineral, is one of the most surprising actors in the entire mineral kingdom it is highly hydrated variety of volcanic lava, containing as much as 30% water. When brought quickly to a high temperature, between 1,600 and 1,700 degrees F, it expands with almost explosive force, to as much as 20 times its original volume. A cubic foot of expanded perlite may weigh as little as two pounds. The U.S. is the biggest producer and consumer of crude and expanded perlite. One location, about 8 miles south of Big Pine, CA, is known as the Fish Springs Perlite Deposit and encompasses several hundred acres. A naturally occurring dome containing an estimated 52 million tons of the mineral rises up in hill about 200 feet high. Perlite is widely used as a loose-fill thermal insulation in masonry construction. It can also be used as an aggregate in Portland cement and gypsum plasters for exterior applications, and for the fire protection of beams and columns. Other construction applications include chimney linings, paint texturing, gypsum boards, and ceiling tiles. Horticultural uses include soilless growing mixes for rooting cuttings and for hydroponic systems, and as a carrier for fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides. Perlite is used in cements for petroleum, water and geothermal wells; as a filter media for pharmaceuticals, food products, chemicals, and water for municipal systems and swimming pools; and as an abrasive in soaps, cleansers and polishes. From the Rockpile 2015, via News and Views 3/15,





**COPPER IS ANTIMICROBIAL** The antimicrobial attributes of copper and its alloys are intrinsic and have been exploited for centuries. Egyptians used copper drinking vessels to clean water. The Hippocrates Collection, 460 to 380 B.C., recommends the use of copper for leg ulcers related to varicose veins. Pliny the Elder, A.D. 23 to 79, used copper oxide with honey to treat intestinal worms. The Aztecs gargled with a mixture containing copper to treat sore throats. Recent independent laboratory testing led the EPA to register copper alloys for their inherent ability to kill 99.9% of the following listed organisms within two hours: Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), Staphylococcus aureus, Enterobacter aerogenes, Escherichia coli O157:H7, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). No other solid metal surfaces have EPA registration to make public health claims. Four widely publicized statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate infections acquired in U.S. hospitals affect two million individuals every year and result in nearly 100,000 deaths annually. Results from a clinical trial in Birmingham, England, demonstrate that the use of copper alloys on certain surfaces in a busy hospital ward has the potential to reduce microbial contamination compared to non-copper surface. Source; The Tumbler, March 2015; via The Golden Frog, Feb 2015.



**THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR THE CLUB THIS YEAR**

1. Call someone you haven't seen at meetings lately.
2. Volunteer to present a program or field trip.
3. Send your editor some news.
4. Come to each meeting and bring a guest, and/or a member who cannot drive. (Deming Rock chips 1-2014)



**Tropical Antarctica** - Scientists at Ohio State's Byrd Polar Research Center have discovered the remains of a 260 million year old deciduous forest 400 miles from the South Pole. This discovery supports the view that 250 - 280 million years ago Antarctica had a much warmer climate. Deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in winter, grow only in temperate climates. The remains were found on a ridge in the central Trans-Antarctic Mountains, 82 degrees South Latitude—the farthest from the equator that a forest has ever been found. Researchers claim that the discovery is evidence to refute the idea that the South Pole was frigid during that period. (Source: Leaverite News—12/12 Deming, NM newsletter- 1-2014)

**THE PETRIFIED WOOD PILE: COLIFIED JET**

One special “type” of petrified wood (a bit of a misnomer, as you will see) which is uniquely prized is jet. “Jet is a product of high pressure decomposition of wood from millions of years ago, commonly the wood of trees of the Araucariaceae family. Jet is found in two forms, hard and soft. Hard jet is the result of the carbon compression and salt water; soft jet is the result of the carbon compression and fresh water. Jet is a mineraloid and not a true mineral, and is actually a type of super-compact coal derived from decaying wood, being derived from decaying wood under extreme pressure. In this sense it is not a true petrified wood either, since it is actually formed from a decomposition process of wood and not a replacement process, retaining its organic nature millions of years later. “Jet, a gemstone variety of lignite coal, occurs near the top of the Cretaceous Dakota Sandstone.

In 1916-18 Tiffany & Co of NYC heard of Jet being discovered near Hanksville, Utah and purchased most of the entire production until supply finally overran demand in 1926. In Utah it is found in two Cretaceous Rock Formations, The Dakota Sandstone and the Straight Cliffs. Jet cuts very easily and is quite soft, which makes it easy to carve. Many pieces of jet which are used in jewelry have been very finely cut, sanded and polished. Jet cuts very easily and is quite soft, which makes it easy to carve. Many pieces of jet which are used in jewelry have been very finely and intricately carved as a result, and can produce quite an ornate effect. Jet was a favorite material for jewelry in ancient Rome. There is a great deal of confusion surrounding the classification of jet online, but now you hopefully understand why jet is considered to be related to petrified wood, but is not actually a form of it. Petrified wood is classified as a rock, since it contains an amalgam of minerals. While jet has similar origins, it is not actually a rock or a mineral at all, but a mineraloid gemstone like amber, opals or pearls. Via TheAmmonite Jan.2015 (From: <http://andy321.proboards.com/thread/64569/petrified-wood#ixzz3KgR5izEo>)



**YOUR (2015) EXECUTIVE:**

**THE TELEPHONE CITY CRYSTAL**

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**N.B. Our workshop is open on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.**

**Random Thoughts as We Age**

**I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do the second week.**

**I've lost my mind and I'm pretty sure my wife/husband took it!**

**Even duct tape can't fix stupid ... but it can muffle the sound!**

**Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?**

**Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.**

**At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.**



Scientists have yet to explain how 300 people can be working at a Wal-Mart but only 4 registers will be open.

