



The Telephone City Crystal



The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Executive

President :

Phyllis Czarnowski
519-752-8276

Vice President:

Gary Bechtel
519-756-8298

Treasurer:

Ernie Edmonds
519-583-1957

Secretary:

Maddie Lavender
905-634-1758

Show Chair – 2007:

Jenny Jones
519-750-0953

Newsletter Editor:

Roger Campbell
519-442-6542

roger.camp@sympatico.ca

Social:

Deborah Jackson
519-770-4502

Program:

**Field Trips
and CCFMS Rep.:**

Blair Batty
519-426-8409

Librarian:

Russ McCrory
905-389-6525

Workshop:

Brad McClelland
519-751-3141

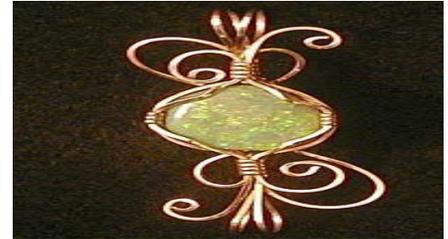
Monthly Programs

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM

Friday September 21 2007

Speaker - Debra Jackson

Topic – Wire Wrapping for Jewellery



Debra will demonstrate the art of wire wrapping and will also display some of her artistic pieces that she has completed. For the second part to our meeting we would also ask members to tell us about their interesting adventures or trips and bring any minerals or fossils, etc. that were collected or acquired during the summer.

For all the members who missed Jenny's super roast beef, we will have a luncheon after the meeting. Please bring a small salad, cheese and crackers, dessert, etc.

Future Meetings: October 19; November 16 and December 14.

Notes

We are looking for a nominating committee for our 2008 executive.

If you have moved or changed phone number please notify me so that we can keep our records up to date.

Best wishes are extended to Russ and Muriel McCrory who are celebrating their 50 Wedding Anniversary on Sept. 27, 2007.

Note for 2008 Show

Please bring in any excess small fossils, tumbled stones or minerals that would be useful for the Children's Mine Adventure. Jenny Jones will be collecting any donations that you might provide.

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc

1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

June Meeting

We were treated to a wonderful social evening at Robert Hall Originals hosted by Bob and Betty Parry.



The evening commenced with delicious roast beef on a bun, salads provided by the members, drinks available by the Parry's and strawberries supplied by Phyllis. The roast beef was prepared by Jenny Jones and I must say it was the most tender and delicious beef that this editor has enjoyed since the last time Jenny supplied the roast beef. I could cut the meat with my plastic fork. Thanks to all for an enjoyable lunch. The evening continued with a tour given by our host Bob Parry. He took us on a step by step description of the pewter process from ingot to finished product. It is a pleasant reminder that we can still purchase truly Canadian made items from a local craftsman. A lot of time is required but the outcome is a fine piece of pewter. A special thank you to Bob and Betty for the use of their shop and for their time and effort to make a great evening for the club.

Upcoming Shows

Sept 15-16 Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-4

"Wonder's of the Earth" the 39th Scarborough Gem and Mineral Club Show
Mid-Scarborough Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. E. , Scarborough
Admission: Adults \$3, children \$1

Contact: Gem and Mineral Club of Scarborough scarbgemclub@lycos.com

Website: www.scarbgemclub.ca

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

Sept 29-30 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

40th Annual Show and Sale of the Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club

Nepean Sportplex (Curling Area) 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Ottawa, On

Features: 60 Dealers and Exhibitors, Gemstones, Minerals, Fossils, Jewellery, Crystals, Beads, Equipment, Carvings, Mineral & Gem Identification and Children Activities

Contact: Karen Lochhead, Show Chair Tel: 819-827-3071 E-mail: showchair@olmc.ca

Website: <http://www.olmc.ca/>

Oct 13-14 Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5

Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club presents Gem Storm 2007.

Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge St. Kingston, ON

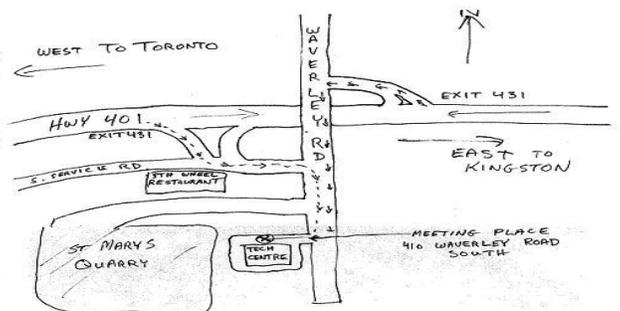
Admission: \$3 per person, \$5 per couple, children under 12 free with adult

Contact: Les Moss 613-384-4439, emoss@cogeco.ca

Website: www.spaceclick.ca/klmc

Field Trips

Sep23



CCFMS Field trip to St Mary's Cement Quarry in Bowmanville.

Collecting is limited to the first 100 pre-registered CCFMS members in good standing. Current 2007 Club membership cards need to be shown at the quarry gates prior to entry. Arrive before 8:30 a.m. Sign in as soon as you arrive. Safety talk at 8:45 a.m. sharp. Safety gear must be worn. Liability waiver must be signed. Collectors need to be over 16 years old.

Time: 9.00 am to 4 pm

* Meet at St Mary's Technical Centre on Waverly Rd South in Bowmanville. Map available on the CCFMS website **Contact:** Randy Ernst 416-494-4276 or e-mail rernt1004@rogers.com

Website: www.ccfms.ca/Bowmanville.htm

The Beamsville (Nelson Aggregates) and Dundas (Lafarge Quarry) field trips have been confirmed. Plan to meet Saturday September 29th, 2007 at the Nelson Aggregate's gate for tag in and safety talk by 8:30 AM and Moxley Road for the Dundas Quarry by 8:30 AM Sunday September 30th, 2007 for sign in and safety talk. Please **NO LATE ARRIVALS** either quarry. There is a tag in and tag out policy at Beamsville Quarry and a sign in sign out policy at Dundas Quarry (Lafarge). Orange reflective vest, long pants, safety shoes and hard hats are mandatory

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc

1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

Summer Photos

Dundas Quarry Blast at Openhouse



Ernie and Rocky

Tim Elliott and Phyllis

Science North Lapidary Shop



Mine Shaft at Big Nickel in Sudbury



Stu Collier's Dundas Trilobite



Naturally fractured rock on beach at Manitoulin Island



Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

Toronto museum's fossil loss is UWO's gain in a unique deal

By [VERA OVANIN](#), SUN MEDIA

Hand-me-downs aren't normally cause for celebration. But it's another matter when they're 300-million-year-old fossils from a museum. Thanks to a \$270-million addition to the Royal Ontario Museum, the University of Western Ontario has acquired the Toronto museum's collection of fossils from the Mazon Creek area, located west of Chicago.

The site is known for producing well-preserved fossils of jellyfish, fish, marine crustaceans, insects and plants. The fossils were stored in buckets on the ROM's roof to take advantage of the freeze-thaw cycle, which cracks the rocks open and, after time, exposes the fossils. When work on the much-hyped ROM addition, called the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, moved to the downtown Toronto museum's north side, engineers asked the fossil rocks be moved from the roof. That's when Matt Devereux, outreach co-ordinator for Western's science faculty, and Professor Cam Tsujita of the school's earth sciences department, entered the picture. "We came to a mutually beneficial solution with the folks at the ROM," says Devereux. "We drove to Toronto and picked up three tonnes of these rocks and brought them back to London . . . we'll be treasure hunting for a few years by the looks of it." Devereux says the pair have only scanned the tops of the buckets and have already discovered fossils of Tullimonstrum gregarium, also known as the Tully Monster; jellyfish, shrimp, polychete worms and various plants.

"This acquisition of Mazon Creek material from the ROM is a paleontologist's dream - I feel like a kid in a candy store," said Tsujita.

Royal Ontario Museum

Michael Lee-Chin Crystal

Opening Winter 2007

This dramatic new space leans out over Bloor Street W., offering visitors a glimpse into the gallery before even entering the Museum. Over 350 specimens will be on display, including 40 dinosaur specimens, with 18 complete or nearly complete skeletons, reinterpreted within a new open gallery design. Accompanying the dinosaurs are hundreds of fossils representing other life forms, including other terrestrial reptiles, plants, and insects that shared the land with the dinosaurs. An expanded marine section displays fossils of marine reptiles, such as ichthyosaurs, as well as fish and numerous invertebrates, many of which provided food for the reptiles.

Blessed are they who laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused!



A Colorado pack burro wandered into a prospector's cabin and chewed on a stick of dynamite. He said, "It blew my cabin into a million bits. It killed my wife, wrecked my barn, started a land slide, flattened 24 trees and besides I had a mighty sick burro on my hands."

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc

1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

Business and Reports

In order to make a suggested amendment to a by-law, due Notice of Motion must be published in the Telephone City Crystal prior to a general meeting and for acceptance must have support of 2/3 of the eligible votes cast at that meeting.

1. The Executive has put forward an amendment to By-Law #2 Part VI which now reads:
"The Social Convener shall be responsible for the social functions of the Society, i.e. general meetings, annual picnic and the annual Show"
The suggested amendment would read:
"The Social Convener shall be responsible for the social functions of the Society, i.e. general meetings, annual picnic."
2. The Executive has put forward an amendment to By-Law #7 Part I which now reads:
"Expenditure of the Society shall be by authorized cheque wherever possible. Signing Officers shall be a) President, b) Vice-President, c) Treasurer or any two (2) of them."
The suggested amendment would read:
"Expenditure of the Society shall be by authorized cheque wherever possible. Signing Officers shall be a) President, b) Secretary, c) Treasurer or any two (2) of them."
3. The Executive has put forward an amendment to By-Law #7, Part II which now reads:
"An annual audit shall be made for the books of account prior to takeover by the incoming treasurer."
The suggested amendment would read:
"An annual examination shall be made for the books of account prior to the takeover by the incoming Treasurer."
4. The Executive has put forward an amendment to the By-Law # 7 part III, which now reads:
An auditor shall be appointed by the Board and may be selected from the Society membership, but not from members of the Board."
The suggested amendment would read:
Two examiners shall be appointed by the Board and may be selected from the membership, but not from members of the Board."

Amateur Rockhound - Where did these large rocks come from?

Old Rockhound - The glaciers brought them down.

Amateur Rockhound - But where are the glaciers now?

Old Rockhound - Gone back for more rocks!

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

Workshop

Carving Amber By Yoli Rose
Beginner-to-intermediate carving project.



There is something warm and delicious about amber, the fossil resin of ancient pine trees. A carved piece of amber catches and plays

with light, and has a smooth, sensuous feel. It is soft (2-3 on the Mohs scale) and relatively easy to carve - you can use everyday tools and do it by hand, or use a flexible-shaft machine, as I will describe here. It helps to not get too attached to a piece because amber is brittle and can chip or break, and it cannot take heat.

Amber can be transparent, translucent, or opaque, and can be of various colors. I recommend purchasing it from a reputable dealer, but when in doubt of its authenticity, there are a few ways to test amber to be sure it is not plastic. First, in a spot you plan to carve away anyway, stick the material with a hot needle. Burning amber smells sweet and pinelike, not like plastic. Second, you can brush or soak it in methyl alcohol or ethyl acetate. Plastic will dissolve. (Caution: amber will dissolve in solvents like acetone or nail polish remover.) Finally, you can mix 4 teaspoons of salt into an 8-ounce glass of water. Real amber will float in it.

STEP 1.

Look carefully at your amber, checking for any cracks or areas you want to avoid or cut away. Initially, you may want to plan a design that is fairly simple.

Rough out the shape you want and take out spots you don't want, such as surface cracks. Start with rough sandpaper (maybe 80-grit) or sanding discs, or large, round burs. Remember to have the amber and both hands well braced on the workbench for control. This is important for every step throughout this project.

STEP 2.

If you want your carving to be a pendant, there are several ways to go about it. You can set the completed carving into a pendant with a bezel (be careful when bending the bezel over it, as amber is soft and brittle) or you can hang it with a wrapped wire or prong technique. However, if you want to drill through the piece and string it, I recommend you do it early on in the piece -

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3

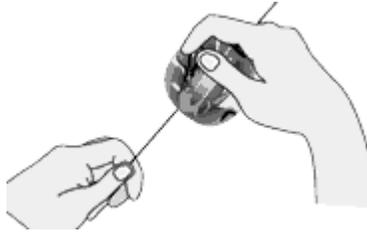
TOOLBOX

- Craft saws, small jewelry files, sandpaper, or a flexible-shaft machine
- Any type or size of round burs and sanding discs (course, medium, or fine)
- Safety glasses
- Dust mask
- Brass polish (i.e., Brasso or Knoxon)
- Drills, strings, silicon carbide, or tripoli (optional)



The Telephone City Crystal

The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.



before you've put too much time and energy into the carving - in case the amber shatters during drilling. Since most amber is transparent or semi-transparent, the hole you drill, and the cord that goes through it, may be visible in your piece.

STEP 3.

If you choose to drill, draw a straight line across the amber with pencil at the height you want the hole to be, keeping it high enough so the piece doesn't flip over when strung. Draw another straight line across the center of the top and sides of the amber. Check that it looks correct. Make an "X" on both sides where the lines bisect - this is where you will be drilling. With a small, round bur, make indentions at the "X" on both ends. Keep the bur slow enough so as not to burn the tool, but fast enough so it doesn't skip, just cuts. (This pertains to all steps.) With a small drill, drill from either end, slowly and steadily, but keep the drill rotating! Continue drilling in and pulling out and blowing off dust. Don't stop in the middle or the drill will get stuck. Pay attention to where the drill is, and where your lines are from all angles, until you meet in the middle. If it's a bit askew, use progressively larger drills until it is straight. For stringing, see [STEP 6](#).

STEP 4.

Carve your design with round burs. Pay attention to the direction the bur moves, so you can spin it away from any edges, to avoid chipping.

STEP 5.

Sand the amber with finer and finer sandpaper (higher grit numbers). Small pieces of sandpaper around bamboo skewers or toothpicks can get into hard to reach indentations. After you've used 600-grit or finer, finish by rubbing the piece with brass polish on a soft cloth.

STEP 6.

Before stringing a pendant, thrum the inside hole with a piece of string tied to one end of your workbench, and coated with oil (olive or other). Repeat using separate strings coated with (in this order) silicon carbide powder, a progressively finer silicon carbide, tripoli (not oil), and finally brass polish.



It was with great sadness that Joyce Durant passed away Thursday July 26, 2007 after a battle with cancer. Joyce was a long time member of CMMA, CCFMS, OFTG and numerous clubs. A long time member of our club, Joyce will be missed by all.

Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3