



# Voice of the Dinosaur

## Newsletter of the Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club

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### LAST REGULAR MEETING

Nov 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President, George Thompson with 14 members present.

#### Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are now due, It will be greatly appreciated if all members would have your membership renewal in before the expiry date of Dec. 31, 2016.

Your 2017 Membership form is sent with this newsletter and also on our web-site for you to print out and mail in to our Treasurer.

Our next meeting date and location continues to change until notified otherwise.

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### NEXT REGULAR MEETING

**Date: MONDAY, Dec 12, 2016**

**Meeting: 7:00-9:30 pm**

**Place: Peterborough Zoo**

**New Activity Centre, main entrance**

As this is our Christmas Meeting, we hope that you will join us to add to the good conversations in this time of festive activities. It has been our tradition that members bring a small gift of edibles to be shared amongst all at this meeting. If you can, I'm sure it will be gratefully appreciated by all.

To add to the conversations, it would be nice if you would bring with you your favourite collected specimen. If it was collected this season, even better.

Respectfully

Robert Montgomery  
Secretary KR&FC

# 2016 Mineral Collecting

By Ulli Kullik

## Last trip of the year to Marmoraton Mine, October 15th.

This was a kind of an “interesting” trip. 20 Collectors arrived at the gate at 8.45 am sharp.

5 members from the KRFC and the rest from other clubs. Some arrived without full safety gear. Fortunately Alf, Robert and I had spare safety vests and hardhats. I thought I had made it very clear that FULL safety gear was absolutely required!!!

The interesting part was that 11 of the collectors had never been in the quarry before and some of them had never collected minerals in the field. I was very happy and extremely thankful as Robert and Alf helped tremendously to keep everybody safe and off the walls and slopes. I don't think people understand that they jeopardize our access to quarries by not abiding by the rules. We saw enough of this in years past and all the lost places to collect are the result.

Enough of my ranting. Nobody got hurt and that is the important part. Otherwise I hope that every collector got some good stuff to take home.

## Tatlock Quarry, October 29<sup>th</sup>

Hooray, the first snow, and a lot of it!!!

The quarry received 8 inches of snow the day before. This made for an interesting collecting trip: cold, wet and slippery.

12 collectors waited in front of the closed gate. 6 collectors were from KRFC with one of our new members from Oshawa making the long trip to the quarry. The other 6 were from other clubs.

I started to get nervous but Tom Lalonde, the Geologist from the Tatlock quarry, arrived and opened the gate for us. Sadly, he was not able to stay with us. The quarry Engineer was our baby-sitter for the day.



We proceeded to the office to sign the waiver. There we had the chance to see the lab equipment and a very impressive rock splitter. I think we all wanted to own that one. Wow!

Because of the ice and snow on the ground, we did not drive down in the quarry. I hope we can do that next time around, but our interest is mostly the dump piles anyway.

I visited the quarry a few years ago and could not believe the change to the amount of dump material...there is a lot of it now! We found Pyrites, the main collected mineral, some Mica, Amphibole, Pyrrhotite and to my surprise, some Garnets (or so we thought). Something about the Garnets made me think...why? I don't know... so I sacrificed part of my specimen and treated it with acid to have a better look at the crystal structure. Still not sure, I sent a sample to Kerry Day for identification. I got it back this week and it turned out to be Dravite Tourmaline. So, you can never be too sure what you have collected. If you have any doubt, spend the \$10 to know!!!

Our supervisor from the quarry did not look too happy due to the unfriendly weather and because it was his day off, so at 1 p.m. I decided to call it quits.

I want to go back there and will try to get permission for a time next SUMMER with SUNSHINE. Of course, the best place to collect was only found during the last 5 minutes of our stay. I really want to go back! Still having plenty of time, 5 of us decided to go to the Perth Museum and have a look at the outstanding one room Mineral exhibition. All local Minerals from eastern/central Ontario. The museum staff was a bit leery about us. Coming straight from the quarry, we were a dirty, strange looking bunch. They did not let us out of their sight.

Here is a link with info and photos from the museum's collection of Dr. James Wilson.

[http://fossilslanark.blogspot.ca/2012/10/new-display-of-dr-james-wilsons-mineral\\_9.html](http://fossilslanark.blogspot.ca/2012/10/new-display-of-dr-james-wilsons-mineral_9.html)

As far as I know, our Club members Bob and George cleaned the exhibition minerals.

One of the collectors from a different club posted photos on Mindat of some of the material we collected that day.

Here is the link

<http://www.mindat.org/gallery.php?loc=260134&pco=1>

So now, we'll have to wait and see what next year brings.

If any of you have a wish list of places to go please let me know. It helps with the planning for 2017

I do have one request to make: I have repeatedly had people that wanted to go on a trip once a year and don't have steel toed boots. This is quite an expense for a one time outing and not everyone can afford it.

If you have old safety boots please donate them to me for this purpose. I have already a few pairs but not always the right sizes.

Thank you

Your field trip leader

Ulrike Kullik

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## 2016 Fossil Collecting

By Kevin Kidd

### Sunday, Oct 30

With available collecting days nearing an end for the year, I finally made it back to my favorite stomping grounds. As I was dropping off my waiver in the mailbox, I saw that someone had been here the day before, but I guess that was to be expected when you can only get out on a Sunday. I got my gear ready and made my way in, eager to see what had been done here since I last visited in early June. The first destination was the bottom pit, and there had been plenty done since I was last there. The pond was quite a bit larger, the pile we were on



*Southwest corner of bottom pit*



*Northwest corner of bottom pit*

in June is now long gone and they had started blasting westward. Walking around the pond, I saw plenty of saw cut scraps, evidence that the other regulars had a decent summer. There were plenty of pieces that I took a closer look at, mostly crinoid stems and impressions, but I didn't find anything worth taking home. Next, I wandered over to the pile against the north wall. There were a few saw cuts here as well and again, I found nothing worth keeping. I guess that's the problem with having been away so long, I didn't know how fresh or picked over any of these piles were. Next I tried the pile where they had blasted the west wall. The leading edge of this pile was clean, but pretty much barren of fossils. As I climbed the pile, the closer I got to the wall, the dirtier it got. This was likely a recent blast, but with all the dirt/dust, collecting was pointless. I left the bottom pit, and without any rock or a cart full of extra gear, I made it up the ramp without a midway rest.

It was still fairly early and I wanted to eventually climb the large pile, but first I figured I'd check an old spot that used to be great for me. Before the management started moving dirt piles around, I had plenty of success against a certain area of the north wall. It was my "go to" spot if I was having a slow day, and more often than not, I'd be rewarded with a trilobite or two. In the last couple of years, it hasn't given me much, but I still go back occasionally for a look. As I got to my destination, I dumped my backpack on a large rock, tossed my gloves and had a snack break. Upon finishing, as I reached for my gloves I saw a familiar shape poking out of the disintegrating shale not six inches away. It was a nice 3D inflated crinoid calyx with some partial arms. I guess a little luck now and then is a good thing since if my gloves had landed anywhere else, I likely wouldn't have found it. I carefully extracted it from the crumbled shale and retrieved a few additional small pieces with arm bits for future reassembly. That was the highlight of the area for me, as I only found a few common things at my target spot.



Next came the large pile. There is now a lot of material bulldozed up at the base of the main pile, and a flat working area beyond that. I'm not sure what they're doing here, but as long as they don't put a bunch of new stuff over the old, I'm cool with it. Once I started climbing, I began to feel the wind that I had avoided in the other areas, and it didn't take long before I got pretty cold. I did eventually find an enrolled *Flexicalymene*, my main goal on this pile, and once I did, I took that as a sign to pack it in and get back to the car and some warmth. There may be more trips for me this year, there may not, it depends on work and weather. Either way, despite the fewest amount of trips since I started collecting, I think I still had a decent year.



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## COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Mar. 4 and Sunday, Mar. 5, 2017. The Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club's 24th Annual Show 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. Admission is \$4.00, Children under 12 free. Located at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario

For more information contact: Robert Beckett at 705-740-4530 or by email at [rhbeckett@bell.net](mailto:rhbeckett@bell.net)



**Saturday Apr. 1 & Sunday Apr. 2, 2017:** Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Society presents the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Gem & Mineral show at the Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St., Paris ON. 10am-5pm both days. Admission: Adult \$5, children 12 & under free

For more info call Robert Parry 519-448-1236 or [robert@roberthalloriginals.com](mailto:robert@roberthalloriginals.com)

**Saturday June 10 & Sunday, June 11:** 51st annual NPGS Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale –a GEO Venture. 10am to 5pm both days. Held at Fireman’s Park, 2275 Dorchester Rd. Niagara Falls ON.

For more info contact Ashley Pollock 905-687-6503 or check [www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/](http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/)

**Jul 21-23, 2017:** 35th annual Sudbury Gem & Mineral Show. Fri. 5 pm to 9 pm, Sat. 10 am to 6 pm; Sun. 10 am to 5 pm. Carmichael Arena on Bancroft Dr., across from Minnow Lake, 1 km. south of the Kingsway (Hwy. 17E), Sudbury, ON

For more info contact Ed DeBicki at 705-522-5140 or check [www.ccfms.ca/clubs/sudbury.show.htm](http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/sudbury.show.htm)

## Ongoing Events

### Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Meteorite Identification Clinics at the ROM:

Wednesday, December 7

Hours: 4pm – 5:30pm

Royal Ontario Museum School Groups Lunchroom, President’s Choice entrance on Queen’s Park, doors nearest Museum subway stop

For more info contact 416-586-5186 or visit museum website at [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca)

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## EDITOR’S RANT

It’s a bit hard to believe, for me anyway, but this is already the last newsletter of the year, and the end of my first year as editor. I think I’m getting the hang of it. I would guess that by the time you read this, collecting trips are done for all but the most hardy of collectors, so the next few editions will be little more than club business, unless any guest authors want to step forwards with an article or two. A special thanks to Ulli for all the mineral collecting reports throughout the year. Weather and work permitting, I’m going to try to make it to the December meeting. Hopefully I’ll see plenty of you there, but if not, have a happy holiday season.-KK

