



Voice of the Dinosaur

Newsletter of the
Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club

June 2015 ~ Volume 27 ~ Issue 6

CLUB ADDRESS:

PO Box 30036 Chemong
Peterborough, ON
K9H 7R4

PRESIDENT

Steve Wesley
705-743-9175
stvwesley@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

George Thompson
613-827-0368
truenorthminer@aol.com

TREASURER

Ken Fox
705-742-6440
kfox71@bell.net

SECRETARY

Bev Fox

FIELD TRIP CO-ORDINATOR

Ulrike Kullik
705-768-3787
ulrike.kullik@gmail.com

SHOW CO-ORDINATOR

Bob Beckett
705-740-4530
rhbeckett@bell.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bev Fox
705-742-6440
kfox71@bell.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Robert Montgomery

WEB SITE:

www.kawartharockandfossilclub.com

WEBMASTER: Donald Doell, Jr.

donald.doell@collectorsmatrix.com

Member of the CCFMS

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Date: June 9, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: New Activity Centre, Peterborough Zoo

Program: To be announced.

LAST REGULAR MEETING

May 12, 2015

The meeting was presided over by the President, Steve Wesley. Don Doell could not be present to give us the presentation on use of the KRFC Website, but George Thompson ably filled in by telling us about the claim which he and a friend have staked, and a bit about what has been found and what they hope to find.

Tom Jenkins held another of his interesting silent auctions.

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

June 7

James Dick Quarry, Gamebridge, KRFC
Fossils

Contact ulrike.kullik@gmail.com, or
705-768-3787

June 13-14th Smart Mine and Bonnechere Cave,
Kingston Club

For information contact Trip Leader
Corey Lablans

geologycl@gmail.com, or 1-613-217-4535

June 27

Marmora, KRFC

Contact ulrike.kullik@gmail.com or
705-768-3787

July 12

Bear Lake diggings, Kingston Club
Please contact Corey Lablans

geologycl@gmail.com

July 18

Ore Chimney and Golden Fleece, KRFC
contact ulrike.kullik@gmail.com, or
705-768-3787

FIELD TRIP REPORTS
Desmont Mine, Gibson Road/Bear Lake and Marmora
By Ulli Kullik

May 3 - Desmont Mine

Five of us ventured onto the Desmont Mine property. In the early spring we all could use some more endurance. The first hill was steeper and longer than I remembered, but we made it. In the first pit the elusive stillwellite was found, in tiny microscopic bits, but better than none. From there we went to the adit and found molybdenum in not too bad a quality and quantity and, surprisingly, two zircons. After that we poked here and there and had a good time.

May 16 - Fun Trip

We joined Chris for a claim work trip at the Gibson Road/Bear Lake Digging Claim. The drive in was very difficult. I can't believe Peter Szarka's Subaru made it, but it did! There were plenty of mosquitoes at times. The forest floor was a riot of spring flowers and tons of wild leek. We looked for promising depressions in the ground to start digging. This trip it was Peter's day. He got some very nice big, shiny amphiboles, pulling out crystal after crystal. I hope he brings samples to the next meeting. The collectors from Ottawa did very well, also. I made photos, but sadly lost my old camera in the bush.

We all got something to take home but it was not as good as last year's fun trip.

May 23 - Marmora

Beautiful day and NO bugs! There was a bit of material moved, so the collecting was better than the last two trips. There were collectors from the KRFC, Bancroft, Kingston, Buffalo and Ottawa Clubs. Most of them stayed to the very end. I had a look at a piece Tom Jenkins collected and liked it a lot. He was so generous and gave the specimen to me. I will bring it to the next meeting.

A lot of decent garnets were found among other nice minerals. It was great to see the excitement and enthusiasm of collectors seeing this special site for the first time.

I can hardly wait for the next trip on June 27.

Marmora
By Tom McCrae

May 23

I'd like to start off by thanking Ulrike Kullik for running the trip and Tom Jenkins for helping me start this adventure. Marmora turned out to be a real treat. There was a large group, nearly twenty five participants. Although the day started off chilly, it began to warm up nicely and before long was extremely nice out. The sun was shining, there was a cool relaxing wind and above all, the bugs were nowhere to be seen. This is my first season of rock hounding and my third trip so far. The Desmont Mine at Wilberforce and The Beryl Pit at Quadeville seemed rather quaint compared to the magnitude of the Marmora Mine. At one point I was driving aimlessly for twenty minutes trying to find my way back to the pit at which I started the day.

There was plenty to see, saw several samples that people collected. Saw some nice garnets and epidotes which were my original targets for this trip. However, I discovered it's very easy to get side-tracked. Tom Jenkins had directed me to a boulder of calcite that had spots of pyrite though out and before I knew it, a couple of hours had passed and I was searching the debris of my first demolished stone. I was able to pull several pieces that caught my eye, however there were two that held my attention. The first was a solitary pyrite crystal in matrix that was well formed (10mm x 7mm x.6mm)(Figure 1, below left). The second was a large pyrite crystal that had four sides intact (9.5cm x 7.4cm x 5.5cm) (Figure 2, below right).



Figure 1.

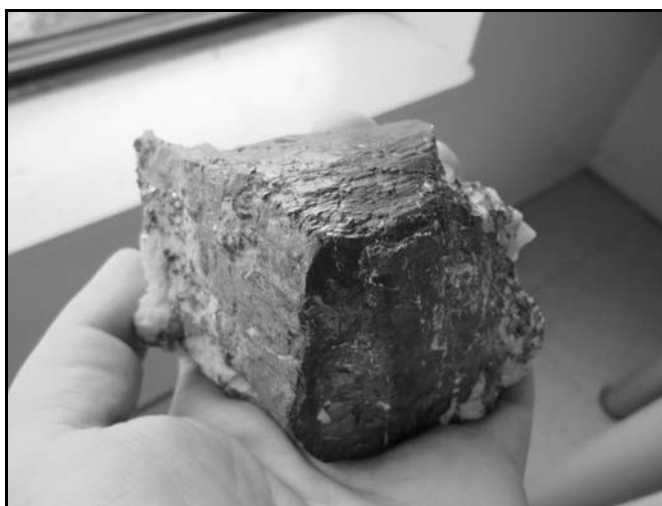


Figure 2.

I had a fantastic time, there is so much to see and the area is so vast. I am very much looking forward to my next visit. Until next time...

Photos courtesy of Tom McCrae

THE FOSSIL CORNER

2015 Fossil Collecting - Trip 2

By Kevin Kidd

Saturday, April 25

This time of year, April/May, is very busy for me, so there aren't too many collecting trips, and the ones I do make generally aren't that long. I decided to kill two birds with one stone and make the first trek of the year to Hungry Hollow. This also happened to be the opening day of trout season. When I arrived, the north side of the river was lined with cars –all fishermen trying their luck in the Ausable River. I stayed to the south pit, which is where I prefer to search anyway. I'm glad I was wearing my rubber boots because very early in my day, I stepped in a particularly wet area of clay and sank about six inches. I didn't lose my boot, but I did lose my balance and was a muddy mess. Across the pit, I could hear someone else digging into the bank. It must be someone knowledgeable about the site, because they were going straight into the bank, not just wandering around like I do. Not that I don't know what I'm doing, but I prefer to cover as much ground as possible while I'm there as opposed to doing a thorough investigation of a five foot area. Anyway, as I've said in my site reports before, I love finding blastoids and before long, I had my first of 2015 (Figure 1, page 4). It's my smallest *Nucleocrinus* yet, but still a welcomed find. I kept moving, nose to

the ground, and picked up the odd piece here and there, mostly complete brachiopods, small gastropods and the odd coral. About two thirds of the way around the pit, I saw a piece I assumed was another horn coral. Normally, considering how common they are there, I wouldn't give it much thought, but considering my day was going relatively slowly and that it came to a good, unbroken point, I picked it up. To my surprise, it wasn't a horn coral, but a huge (for the species) *Heteroschisma* blastoid (Figures 2 and 3, below).



Figure 1.
Nucleocrinus sp. "in situ"



Figure 2.
Heteroschisma canadensis, the "ice cream cone", and *Nucleocrinus*.



Figure 3.
Oral view of the *Heteroschisma* showing the five ambulacra and the plate details. The mouth is right in the center.

I had never seen one this large, and I have almost no luck finding these "common" blastoids myself, so this made my trip. Figure 4 shows "the beast" next to a typically sized example. It measures 14mm (0.55") long and the diameter at the business end is 8mm (5/16").



Figure 4.
Comparison of regular sized and larger *Heteroschisma* blastoids.

I continued my hunt until I got to where the other collector was burrowing into the clay. Here's a shocker, it was someone I knew. Richard is a local who regularly comes here and really knows his stuff.

He had just pulled out a piece he believed to be fish armour, but not the normal "warty" plate. We talked and he showed me exactly what to look for when searching for crinoids, which I will have to do on a future trip. He said he spent the winter cataloging his collection and, among other things, had about 180 of the *Heteroschismas* (now I know why I can't find them). That prompted me to show him my find and he said out of his inventory, only three or four were in that size range. With infrequent visits to the site, I guess that makes mine the find of a lifetime. I also found one trilobite, an enrolled *Eldredgeops*, complete but squished flat. About mid-afternoon, I called it quits with fossiling and tried fishing. No luck with anything in the

Ausable (River), but I did get a couple of different redhorse species in the nearby Thames (River). Not my most productive day by a longshot, but there's never been a bad trip down there either.

Friday, May 22

It had been nearly two months since I last visited my regular site, and with no chance of getting a trip in on a weekend anytime soon, I headed north after work to hunt for a few hours before dark. The first thing I noticed was that they had built a new ramp leading to the bottom pit (Figures 5 and 6 below) and there was a lot of material down there to search through. Since I had no idea how long the material had been there,



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

I figured my best chance of finding anything would be a lot of flipping and splitting. Of course, some of the first things I found were just sitting out in the open. First was a bryozoan colony that had remained much more intact than most. It was on very fragile shale and would not survive extraction, so a photo will have to do (Figure 7 below left).



Figure 7.

Bryozoan colony on fragile slate.



Figure 8.

Conularid.

Nearby, on a tiny sliver of shale was a very detailed conularid (Figure 8 above). These creatures' affiliations are still unsure, but the consensus now seems to be that they were related to jellyfish.

I kept flipping and splitting without much luck and figured this trip would end up like my last one here, a total bust until....I split a rock and revealed a small trilobite. My first reaction, naturally, was to swear because a chunk of his head was missing but on closer inspection, it seems that I lucked out. It looks to me as if most, if not all of the shell is on the mating piece, which I found, leaving me with a ventrally posed (from the underside) *Meadowtownella trentonensis* (Figure 9, page 6). This is only the second example of this species I'd ever found. I put him aside and continued my quest.



Figure 9.
Ventrally posed *Meadowtownell trenensis*.



Figure 10.
Possible *Sceptaspis lincolnensis*.

After about 45 minutes more fruitless splitting, I saw an unusual shape on a rock (Figure 10, above right). It looked like 2/3 of a circle, but was too large to be a crinoid stem segment. Thinking it was an edrioasteroid, I picked it up and saw a faint trilobite tail right beside it. It took me a second, and the right lighting angle to see it, but it wasn't an "edrio", but another ventral trilobite. The "circle" was the genal spines wrapping around. I wasn't sure if the thorax was there, or just the impression of it, so I flaked off a couple of small pieces and it looks quite promising. There aren't many trilobites there this size with genal spines, and based on what I see, I can rule out *Ceraurus*. I'm thinking what I have here is another rarity, a *Sceptaspis lincolnensis*. Again, if this is the case, it would only be the second I'd ever found and I've been told my first was the best to ever come out of this area. I also picked up another piece that had the pygidium and thorax of a trilobite exposed and the head area going into the rock. Usually what you see is what you get on pieces like this, but it was small and light so what the heck. A short bit of prep work will reveal whether or not here's any more to it. Two rare "bugs" in three hours of collecting almost makes up for the shutout time out.

Until next month –Happy Hunting!



FOR SALE

Back issues of The Mineralogical Record, published by Mineralogical Record Inc.,
5347 N. Ridge Spring Place, Tucson AZ 85749

Complete set, all issues 1983 through 2001 (Volumes 14-32) Total of 114 issues.

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Asking price for set.....\$600.00 Canadian dollars

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER

PLEASE NOTE: This is the last issue of the Newsletter until the September issue, which will be published around the end of August. There are no meetings scheduled for July and August. You will be advised of field trips by Ulli via email or the Club Website.

We are fortunate in this issue to have field trip reports from our Field Trip Co-Ordinator, Ulli Kullik and a new member, Tom McCrae. Thanks to both of them for their contributions. It's great to get some field reports from mineral collecting trips. Articles on fossil and/or mineral collecting trips are always welcome.

My thanks to Kevin Kidd for his very entertaining article on his fossil collecting. Once again I thank my husband, Ken for assisting me in producing and distributing the Newsletter.

You will have noticed that there are some items for sale listed in this issue. Any member is welcome to advertise items relating to collecting, prospecting, etc. for sale in the Newsletter.

Have a great summer collecting!

COMING EVENTS

Courtesy of the CCFMS Website

- June 6** **Niagara Peninsula Geological Society - 49th Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale.**
Heartland Forest, 8215 Heartland Forest Rd, Niagara Falls, ON.
Website: www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/show.htm
- June 17** **Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Meteorite Identification Clinic at the ROM**
Royal Ontario Museum School Groups Lunchroom, President's Choice
Entrance on Queen's Park, doors nearest Museum subway stop.
Event Hours: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.
Contact: 416-586-5816 or naturalhistory@rom.on.ca
- July 5** **4th Annual Gem Shower, sponsored by the Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club**
PEC Fairgrounds - Crystal Palace, 375 Main Street, Picton, ON
Event Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Admission: \$3.00, 12 years and under FREE.
Features 29 dealers, showcasing gems, minerals, lapidary and jewellery.
Contact: John and Elaine Zandarin
Email: howhardcanitbe@sympatico.ca
- July 17-19** **33rd Annual Sudbury Gem & Mineral Show**
Carmichael Arena, Bancroft Drive, Sudbury, ON
Fri. 5:00 pm-9:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 10:00-5:00 pm
Outdoor vendors Sat. 11:00 am-4:00 pm. Field Trip Sun. noon.
Minerals, fossils, jewellery, ID Booth, Kids' activities, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, demos, displays, free parking, etc.

Info: 705-522-5140 www.ccfms.ca/clubs/Sudbury/show.htm

- July 24-25** Giant Jewellery Yard Sale at Robert Hall Originals
138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George, Ontario
Event Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Take a trip down memory lane as you peruse 1000's of Jewellery Pieces priced to sell! Vintage, Costume, Plastic, Metal, Handmade, Over Runs, 60's to 80's, One-of-a-Kind. Earrings, Brooches, Bracelets, Chains, Shoe Clips, Scarf Clips, Fun Rings, etc.
Website: www.roberthalloriginals.com
Email: inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com
- July 26** Bancroft Gem & Mineral Club 18th Annual Gem & Mineral Show
Bancroft Legion Hall, Station St., Bancroft, ON
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Admission: Adults \$3.00, 16 years and under FREE.
Live auction at 3:00 pm. 3 Silent auctions during the day + Door Prizes.
Contact: Frank Melanson at 613-332-1032
- July 30 to Aug. 2** 52nd Annual Rockhound Gemboree
Canada's Largest Gem & Mineral Show
Bancroft, ON
Enjoy shopping, exploring, learning and more!
Mineral collecting tours running every day.
Info: <http://rockhoundgemboree.ca/>
- Aug. 15** Rockhound Family Day at Robert Hall Originals
138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George, Ontario
Event Hours: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
A fun family event! Kid's Fossil Dig - \$1.00, Lots of FREE Kids' Crafts & Activities. Mineral Identification: Bring A Specimen! Explore Outdoor Rock Piles!
Giant Silent Auction - Bring your items to include in the auction! Bidding begins at 11:00 am (10% commission).
Free Rock Swap Space - Bring your own table & chair. Set up your stone related treasures to trade, sell, swap or give away. Contact us to reserve your free rock swap space.
Website: www.roberthalloriginals.com
Email: inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com
- Aug. 19** Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Meteorite Identification Clinic at the ROM
Royal Ontario Museum School Groups Lunchroom, President's Choice Entrance on Queen's Park, doors nearest Museum subway stop.
Event Hours: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.
Contact: 416-586-5816 or naturalhistory@rom.on.ca