

# Voice of the Dinosaur

Newsletter of the Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club Inc.

Member of the Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CCFMS)

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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday June 13 at the **Orientation Centre,  
Peterborough Zoo, 7:00 PM**

**Classified Ads:**

Any member who has extra equipment or materials for sale or trade can place an ad. Want ads also welcome. Ads must be related to mineral and fossil collecting. Contact the editor at 613-395-5896 or e-mail [truenorthminer@aol.com](mailto:truenorthminer@aol.com).

**June 13, 2006 Meeting Program**

The June meeting will primarily be a business meeting to catch up on all the things we have put aside over the past few months. A detailed agenda will be issued to all members prior to the meeting. Copies of the agenda will also be available at the meeting.

If time permits, Bob Beckett and George Thompson will show a few slides from their trip to the mineral shows in Tucson in February this year.

**Next Field Trip****Silver Crater**

**Meet at the Peterborough Zoo Parking Lot for a prompt 8:00am start Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>. Please do not be late, as the trip will leave promptly at 8:00am. Alternately, meet at Bow Lake Variety, 9:00am. Silver Crater is world famous for fine betafite crystals. Excellent crystals of zircons can also be found. Other minerals include biotite, apatite, and hornblende. This is a popular collecting destination with club members each year. If you plan to attend please contact Field Trip Coordinator Fred Hall.**

# MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2006

Revision 4 – May 2006

Meeting Date	Special Activities
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Club Business Meeting. Web Site Discussion. Fall Field Trip Planning? If we have time, Bob Beckett & George Thompson will give a <u>short</u> presentation on their adventure in Tucson, Arizona and at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scapolite Night ! – Please bring in samples of Scapolite for discussion and study.
Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Program TBA
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Election night! Plus a discussion on member's new mineral and fossil finds for the year.
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. David K. Joyce will give us a presentation on Gold in Canada. Please bring in your Gold samples to this meeting.
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	Program TBA
Dec 12th	Festive evening celebrating the season. Bring <b>Red</b> and <b>Green</b> Minerals (and <b>festive fossils</b> ) to the meeting. Oh, and a few goodies to share if you can.
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Program TBA Show Planning
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> 2007	To celebrate our 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary we are planning something a little different for this meeting – stay tuned!!
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Show and Tell Bring in your new finds from 2005 and tell us a little bit about them, or, bring in some old finds from previous years that you have just found again.
April 9 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Minerals through the microscope – a look at some fabulous micro minerals from surprising localities.
May 8 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Program TBA

## FIELD TRIPPING WITH FRED

Fred has once again organized four great collecting trips since our last newsletter: two mineral collecting opportunities and two fossil collecting opportunities. Trips to the Tait Farm Property, and the Marmoraton Mine for minerals and the Buckhorn and Brechin Quarries for fossils.

**Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>** saw eight members joined Chris Fouts and a member of the Bancroft Club on the trip to the Tait Farm. Excellent samples of Dravite and Actinolite were found along with a few small Phenakite crystals. If you missed this trip keep an eye open for a possible collecting trip to this great locality later in the summer or early this fall.

**On Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>** an enthusiastic group of members and guest gathered at the gate to the Marmoraton Mine for a fantastic day of collecting minerals on the newly dispersed rock piles. Huge amounts of fresh material has been exposed in the “dump piles” by the ongoing operations by Aecon as they search for specific types of material to fill customer orders. This extensive searching of the dump piles has uncovered material that has not been seen for many many years. Everyone was able to find good specimens of both types of Garnet (Melanite & Andradite) as well as beautiful Calcite crystal lined pockets, Goethite, Marcasite, Quartz crystals, Selenite, Epidote, Magnetite and huge malformed Pyrite crystals in a sugary calcite matrix. There is an incredible amount of “fresh” material to sort through; it’s hard to know where to start looking next! You will not want to miss the next opportunity to collect at this locality. Stay tuned for the date of the next Club trip.

**On Mothers Day May 14<sup>th</sup>** ten members joined Field Tripper Fred at the Buckhorn Quarry to look for fossils and Pyrite crystals. It has been a while since good Pyrite crystals have been found at the quarry but some members were lucky on this trip. Fossil Corals, Bryozoans and a few examples of Cephalopods were also collected. This is always an interesting quarry to collect at and the group was not disappointed this time.

**Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>** was the second fossil collecting trip organized this year as Fred led an eager group of six members to the Brechin Quarry. The weather was a little on the nasty side but the group braved the day and managed to collect a few interesting fossils. Generally the pickings were a little light as most of the material available to hunt through had been looked over once or twice before. Although, a couple of notable finds were an enrolled Trilobite and a nice Crinoid head and stem which I am sure made the day worth while for their new owners.

Make a note of the trips listed below and plan to join Field Tripper Fred and the rest of us on some great collecting trips this year. More information to come on Club field trips in future issues – stay tuned!

Sun. June 11<sup>th</sup>  
Sun. June 18<sup>th</sup>

Silver Crater  
Faraday Mine Property

*Submitted by Bob Beckett*

## OTHER FIELD TRIPS

Two Club members joined the CCFMS collecting trips to Beamsville (Lincoln Quarry) on **Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>** and three attended the Dundas (Lafarge Quarry) trip on **Mothers Day, Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>**. These two trips are an annual CCFMS weekend event and were once again attended by lots of members from all the CCFMS Clubs and also a small contingent from a couple of USA Clubs. Approximately 28 collectors made the trip into the Lincoln Quarry and about 64 made the trip into the Dundas Quarry. The folks at the Lincoln Quarry once again had a fresh blast available for us to hunt through and many specimens of Dolomite crystals, Sphalerite crystals; Gypsum (massive), Galena (massive) and a few small specimens of pale blue Fluorite crystals were found. In some cases skeletal fossil corals are found with tiny Sphalerite crystals growing in the coral cells other fossils are also found in the quarry. Occasionally you hear the gas saws rev up as a new treasure was sliced from the huge pieces of limestone laying around the Quarry.

The trip into the Dundas Quarry was not quite as productive as some previous trips but there was lots of fresh material for us to hunt through. The mineral assemblage is similar to that at Beamsville and good crystal specimens of Sphalerite and Calcite were found along with a few good crystals of Selenite, Celestite and a couple of Fluorite crystals. Hopefully next time they will be quarrying in the “good zones” (the more mineral rich areas).

On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> three Club members joined the Walker Club on a trip into the Marmoraton Mine for another “feast at the mineral buffet”. Still lots of fresh material being uncovered as the operators remove more and more material from the dump piles for crushing and supply of large boulders for some customers. Twenty-Five collectors braved the NASTY weather to collect a bounty of Garnet crystals, Vugs lined with Calcite Crystals coated with Chalcopyrite, Quartz crystals, Selenite, Epidote, Magnetite, Barite and a multitude of specimens with beautiful assemblages of a variety of crystal associations. The weather was so bad at times that even George Thompson stopped collecting until things cleared up!.

*Submitted by Bob Beckett*

### The Marmoraton Mine

Iron was mined near the town of Marmora as early as 1820 from small deposits of magnetite. However, these early attempts proved uneconomic and were abandoned by 1873.

The ore body that eventually became the Marmoraton Mine was discovered in January of 1949 when the Ontario Department of Mines and the Geological Survey of Canada conducted an aeromagnetic survey of the region. A strong magnetic anomaly was noted approximately 1 mile south of the village of Marmora.

Bethlehem Steel became interested in the area and optioned 290 acres in May of 1950. Diamond drilling commenced a month later and was completed in August 1951. Diamond drilling to a maximum depth of 1800 feet outlined an oblong ore body that was 2100 feet long by 400 feet wide. It averaged 35% iron. The ore occurred as stringers and irregular masses that replaced pre-Cambrian limestone. It was a skarn zone between igneous and metasedimentary rocks.

To expose the ore body, the miners had to strip off 38 meters of Paleozoic limestone; over 22 million tonnes in all. This task along with constructing the pelleting plant at Marmora and loading facilities in Picton took less than three years. .

The ore was originally hoisted to the surface by two counterbalanced skips, the remains of which can be seen on the east wall of the pit today. These skips dumped the ore into a large rock box over the primary crusher. In 1968, this was abandoned in favour of larger 100 tonne trucks, which hauled the ore to a relocated primary crusher.

The plant at Marmora produced a 1.5 cm pellet containing 65% iron. These were taken by rail to Picton where they were loaded on lake carriers and shipped through the Welland Canal to Bethlehem Steel's plant at Lackawanna, New York. One train of 25 to 30 cars ran between Marmora and Picton each day. Even today, iron ore pellets can be picked up along this now abandoned railway bed.

The mine produced approximately 5000 tonnes of ore per day during one shift. The other two shifts mined and removed waste rock to the mine dumps. Over 60 million tonnes of waste rock was dumped during the life of the mine. At its peak, the mine employed 300 people. The mine closed in 1978 due to ore depletion.

The pit, now water filled, is 850 meters long by 450 meters wide and encompasses an area of 30 hectares. The bottom of the pit is 194 meters (635 feet) below the surface and is actually 15 meters below sea level. It is estimated that 320 gallons of water per minute flow into the pit and will continue to do so until the summer of 2009 when the water will reach the 580-foot level. At that point, the pit will be a reservoir containing 5 billion gallons of water.

In 1989 a proposal was put forth by Metro Toronto and Armbro, the owners of the mine at the time, to use the pit as a landfill site for Toronto's garbage. Local citizens quickly formed the Marmora Take No Trash coalition to prevent what could have been an environmental disaster for the Moria River and Crowe River watersheds. By the end of 1991, changes in Provincial Government policy put a permanent hold on this idea.

Currently, Aecon owns the pit and rock dumps from which they process rock for a variety of construction projects and customers. Canada Talc owns the mill which they use to process the talc they mine in Madoc.

Aecon is very good about allowing access to the dumps for mineral collecting on the days that they are not actively working. Prior arrangement and payment of a \$10.00 fee to cover the cost of the security guard is all that is needed for access. The list of minerals found at Marmora is extensive but include fine crystals of garnet (almandine, andradite and grossular mixture), epidote, quartz, pyroxene, titanite, calcite, barite, gypsum, pyrite, chalcopyrite, marcasite, goethite, magnetite, hematite, pyrrhotite, amphibole, and chlorite

*Submitted by George Thompson*

## COMING EVENTS

### **June 3-4      GEO-VENTURE Niagara Peninsula Geological Society Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show**

Sat. 10 am-5pm, Sun. 10 am-5pm,      Admission: by donation  
Childrens Discovery Centre, 360 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, ON  
Contact: Rod.and.Heather @ cogeco.ca or Claude Owen, cro @ vaxxine.com  
Website: [www.iaw.com/~jime/](http://www.iaw.com/~jime/) Flyer: [www.iaw.com/~jime/GEO-VENTURE2006.pdf](http://www.iaw.com/~jime/GEO-VENTURE2006.pdf)

### **July 28-30      Toronto Gem and Mineral Summer Show (Presented by 3416798 Canada Inc.)**

Fri. 4 pm-9pm, Sat. 10 am-7pm, Sun. 10 am-5pm.

Admission: Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, 12-18 \$6, under 12 free with adult  
Leaside Gardens 1073 Millwood Road, East York, Toronto, ON

Contact: Ohannes Bedrossian (514) 989-9800 [torontogemshow@CANADA.com](mailto:torontogemshow@CANADA.com)

Website: [www.torontogemshow.com](http://www.torontogemshow.com)

**July 29            The Bancroft Gem and Mineral Club Show.**

Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm            Legion Hall in Bancroft, Ontario  
A great Club show packed with mineral dealers, displays and activities.  
An intense day of mineral buying opportunities.

**July 29-30        Cobalt Rocks  
Rock & Mineral Show and the Great Northern Treasure Hunt**

Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 10 am-5pm            Les Costello Memorial Arena, Cobalt, ON  
Features: A northern event to celebrate the people & history of mining, rocks & minerals of the region.

Contact: Nina (705) 646-2212 or (705) 648-5043

Website: [www.silverqueen.ca/](http://www.silverqueen.ca/) (select Cobalt Rocks Festival on the side menu)

**Aug 3-6            43rd Annual Rockhound Gemboree  
"Canada's largest gem & mineral show"**

Thurs. 10am-7pm, Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-5pm.  
Contact: Christine Hattin, Events Coordinator, Bancroft & District Events Coordinator at (613) 332-1513, or e-mail [Christine@commerce.bancroft.on.ca](mailto:Christine@commerce.bancroft.on.ca)

**Oct 20-22        Toronto Gem and Mineral Show  
Presented by 3416798 Canada Inc.**

Fri. 4 pm-9pm, Sat. 10 am-7pm, Sun. 10 am-5pm.  
Skyway Trade Centre, 65 Skyway Dr., Rexdale, ON. near Hwy. 417 exit to the airport

Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, 12-18 \$5, under 12 free with adult

Contact: Ohannes Bedrossian (514) 989-9800 [torontogemshow@CANADA.com](mailto:torontogemshow@CANADA.com)

Website: [www.torontogemshow.com](http://www.torontogemshow.com)