

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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www.rockandfossil.com

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 10 at the Orientation Centre,
Peterborough Zoo, 7:00 PM

March 2009 Meeting Program

Geminology

Kees Morsink will bring in some of his geminology tools and demonstrate their use in identifying cut stones.



Members of the Kawartha Club at the Tait Farm L'Amable
May 2007

George Thompson Photo.

Special Lecture

The Walker Club and the CCFMS are hosting a special guest speaker on March 11 at 8 pm at the University of Toronto.

Skip Simmons from the University of New Orleans will be our special speaker and will talk on the Pegmatites of the Erongo Region, Namibia. Skip is a regular lecturer at Rochester and is a Pegmatite expert. I have heard Skip in Rochester a few times and can say he is a very entertaining and informative speaker.

Please notify Bob Beckett if you are interested

The Peterborough Gem and Mineral Show

I participated in the Peterborough Gem and Mineral Show as one of approximately 30 dealers last weekend. Crowds both days appeared to be good. Thanks to Mark Stanley and all the Club members who helped with the publicity; it brought people through the door.

As a dealer, the show was successful as measured by my sales and by my acquisitions for my collection. After all, the main reason I deal minerals is to support my mineral collecting habit!

Thanks to all of those who brought in minerals and fossils to display, either as a showcase or as part of the club competitions. Thanks to all of those who participated in the silent and voice auctions, either by providing material or bidding. A special thanks goes to Mark Stanley for auctioning off the material in the live auction.

Thanks to all the club members who helped at the club table and the children's sand box. All of these extras attract people to the show as it gives them more than just a shopping venue.

More information on the show will be available in upcoming newsletters.

George Thompson

Phew! Asteroid's passing was a cosmic near-miss

By Stewart Bishop, Boston Globe Correspondent

Although Harvard University astronomer Timothy Spahr spends his life tracking asteroids and minor planets, it's rare when he gets the chance to see one up close.

On Friday night, Spahr received word that an asteroid was headed our way. Though it received little publicity, the asteroid passed by Earth early Monday. At its closest, the asteroid, named

2009 DD45, came within 45,000 miles of Earth, which is around twice as high as some satellite orbits and about one-fifth of the distance between the moon and Earth.

The cosmic object, which was estimated to be 20 yards to 30 yards across, came closest to Earth near the equator somewhere over the Pacific Ocean.

It was about the same size as the one that burned up over Siberia in 1908, leveling nearly 800 square miles of forest in the infamous "Tunguska Event" event.

"It's pretty unusual to see one this close," said Spahr, director of the minor-planet center at the [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](#) in Cambridge. "If an object of this size were to impact the Earth, it would be equivalent to a small nuclear explosion."

Brian Marden, a senior astronomer at the center, said that many such objects pass this close but go unobserved.

"No one is watching the whole sky all the time," Marden said.

He said that light and celestial objects like the moon can affect astronomers' visibility. "If the moon is full, no one is watching," Marden said.

In October 2008, astronomers for the first time tracked an asteroid from space to its impact, when it burned up over Sudan, a mere six hours after it had been discovered.

Spahr said that while asteroids the size of DD45 would pose a catastrophic risk for the planet, they are not the ones that concern him the most.

"Now if an asteroid that was, say, a kilometer across were to strike the earth, that could result in mass extinction," Spahr said. Fortunately for humanity, such asteroids are usually visible several years in advance.

Of the known asteroids, the next time one of such size will come in such close proximity to Earth is in 2029, when the asteroid known as 99942 Apophis, an 885-square-foot space rock, is expected to come within 20,000 miles of the planet.

Material from the Associated Press was included in this report.

Editor's note: This is one rock we definitely don't want to collect!!

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Coming Events

(from the CCFMS Website)

Apr 4-5

🇨🇦🇨🇦 37th Annual Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Society Show

Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5.; Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver Street, Paris, ON.

Features: Dealers from Across Canada, Crystals/Minerals/Faceted Gems, Fossils, Fluorescent Minerals, Hands-on Educational Learning, Gold and Silver Wire Working, Bead Supplies and Demonstrations, Industrial Archeology Exhibits, Jewellery & Giftware, Equipment/Tools & Related Supplies, Silent Auction, Free Parking, Wheel Chair Accessible, Hot Lunch Available

Admission: Adults \$3, Children \$1

Contact: Jenny Maracle-Jones at 519-750-0953 turtlefeathers@brant.net

Apr 17-19

🇨🇦🇨🇦 24th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil show of the Club de Mineralogie de Montreal

Fri. 3-10, Sat. 10-7, Sun 10-5

Center Pierre-Charbonneau 3000 Viau St. (Viau Metro), Montreal, Quebec.

Admission: \$8, children 6-12, \$4

Contact: 514-353-0101

Website: <http://www.salonminerauxmtl.com/>

Apr 23-26

35th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

Website: <http://www.rasny.org/MinSymposium/MineralSymp.htm>

Apr 24-26

🇨🇦🇨🇦 Toronto Gem and Mineral Show and Sale presented by 3416798 Canada Inc.

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

Don Mills Civitan Arena, 1030 Don Mills Rd. , North York, ON

Features: Precious and semi-precious gemstones, fine quality jewellery, amber, stone beads, unique worldwide crystal specimens, tools, and everything to create your own works of art!

Admission: Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, 12-18 \$6, under 12 free with adult

Contact: Ohannes Bedrossian (514) 989-9800 torontogemshow@canada.com

May 1-3

🇨🇦🇨🇦 Canadian Micro Mineral Association 46th Annual Symposium

Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

Speakers: To be Announced

Contact: Bill Lechner at 416-438-8908 or bill.lechner@rogers.com

* Registration form available by request to the above. *

May 1-3

🇨🇦🇨🇦 Open House - Robert Hall Originals Pewter Studio and Rock Shop

Fri., Sat. & Sun 10 am-5pm

138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George Ontario

Features: Visit Robert Hall Originals for our Annual Spring Open House. Take a pewter studio tour, enjoy refreshments, & view the open house specials! Crafters ~ enjoy jewellery demonstrations & our supply of new beads. Rockhounds ~ examine our new specimen acquisitions!

Admission: Free

Contact: Robert @ roberthalloriginals.com (519) 448-1236 or 1-800-360-2813

Website: <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com/>

July 11-12

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse present the 43rd Annual Gemworld 2008

Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM.

Verizon Center of Progress Building, New York State Fairgrounds, I-690, Syracuse, NY.

Features: 50 Dealers. Admission: \$6 adults, children under 12 free.

Contact: Carlotta Brown, 315-458-4636

Website: <http://www.gmss.us>

July 17-19

127th Annual Sudbury Gem and Mineral Show presented by the Sudbury Rock & Lapidary Society

Fri. 5pm - 9pm, Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 5pm.

Carmichael Arena on Bancroft Drive, across from Minnow Lake and 1 km. south of the Kingsway (Hwy. 17E), Sudbury, ON.

Sat. 11 am-4pm; field trip Sun. at noon; barbecue. Sat & Sun. Dealers offer mineral, crystal and fossil specimens; meteorites; precious and semi-precious gems; finished jewellery including pearls and amber; and items for crafters including beads, tools, and findings.

Admission: Adults \$4; Seniors \$2; 6-12, \$1, 5 and under free with adult.

Contact: Ed Debicki, tel. (705) 522-5140; E-mail: ed.debicki@sympatico.ca

Website: <http://www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/Sudbury/show.htm>

July 26

Bancroft Gem & Mineral Club 13th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Sunday 10 am-4pm.

Bancroft Legion Hall, Station St., Bancroft, ON

Admission: \$2/adult, children & students (18 yrs & under) free.

Contact: Al Burnett, R.R.1, Bancroft, ON, K0L 1C0; e-mail: alrocks16@yahoo.ca

July 30 – Aug 2

46th Annual Rockhound Gemboree - "Canada's largest gem & mineral show"

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

Features: Canada's largest gem & mineral show brings together over 110 dealers of fine mineral specimens, gemstone jewellery, and lapidary supplies. Highlights of the show include gold panning booth, rock and mineral talks with geologists from Natural Resources Canada, a swapping area, a mineral display and expert mineral identification services offered by Malcolm Back of the Royal Ontario Museum, and geologist-led mineral collecting field trips.

Contact: 888-443-9999 for details

Website: http://www.bancroftdistrict.com/Tourism/rock_hound_gem.php

Sept 12

Robert Hall Originals 1st Annual Rock Swap

9 am to 5pm

138 Sugar Maple Rd., St. George ,ON N0E 1N0

Features: Come browse & buy from a large variety of rockhound exhibitors who will sell, trade, or buy rocks, minerals, jewellery and more. A great chance to upgrade your collections. Special events & Charity BBQ. Fun for the whole family!

Contact: Robert @ roberthalloriginals.com (519) 448-1236 or 1-800-360-2813

Website: <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com/>

Sept 19-20

"Wonders of the Earth" the 41st Scarborough Gem & Mineral Club Show

Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5.

Don Montgomery Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Avenue East, Scarborough

Admission: adults \$3, children \$1

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

Website: www.scarbgemclub.ca

Nov 6-8

Open House - Robert Hall Originals Pewter Studio and Rock Shop

Fri., Sat. & Sun 10 am-5pm

138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George Ontario

Features: Everyone is invited to Robert Hall Originals Annual Fall Open House for Christmas Gift Giving. View the extensive selection of pewter gifts and jewellery crafted right here in St. George. Enjoy a studio tour, show specials, & beautiful Christmas displays!

Admission: Free

Contact: Robert @ roberthalloriginals.com (519) 448-1236 or 1-800-360-2813

Website: <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com/>

Nov 14

CMMA Fall Mini-Conference

The Burlington Arts & Cultural Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, ON

Contact: Bill Lechner at 416-438-8908 or bill.lechner@rogers.com