



Voice of the Dinosaur

Newsletter of the
Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club

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Member of the CCFMS

**Last Regular Meeting**

September 9, 2014

A general meeting was conducted. After a review of membership dues as stipulated by the Bylaw IX, 4.1 it was agreed to keep them at their present amounts; Single - \$20.00/yr, Family - \$25.00/yr.

Various committee reports were presented and approved. Items of note:

Table fees for the 2015 show are now \$45.00/table.

Bob Beckett has show flyers for anyone who wishes to distribute them.

Bob Beckett will represent the KRFC at the CCFMS Annual General Meeting to be held in October at the Kingston Show.

We now have a new mailing address to be used for all correspondence to the Club:

Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club
PO Box 30036 Chemong
Peterborough, ON K9H 7R4

The evening's speaker, Bob Beckett ran a very interesting DVD on the history and the ongoing cleanup and rehabilitation of the Deloro site.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: October 14, 2014

Place: Orientation centre, Peterborough Zoo

Time: 7:00 pm

Agenda: Regular Business Meeting. The Constitution stipulates that there must be a review of the Constitution and Bylaws at this meeting. If you have any suggestions for changes, please bring them to the meeting or submit them to the President in writing before the meeting.

No speaker is scheduled for this meeting, but do bring your interesting finds from this season's field trips, or anything you would like identified.

THE FOSSIL CORNER
2014 Fossil Collecting - Trip 4
By Kevin Kidd

Saturday, September 6

Another potentially great day that didn't really pan out. At my usual spot, I went back down to the bottom pit to find that the pile from a couple (of) weeks previously was still there, and more had been added to it. Couple that with rain the night before, and there was a nice big, clean area to search. The problem – not much of anything to be found. I was soon joined by Jabali, and later by Kevin Brett and a friend of his, but pickings were pretty slim. I only took away one piece from the area, an *Isotelus* pygidium (tail) that had a couple of *Sowerbyella* brachiopods attached (Figure 1, below left). I then went one level up and walked along what little remains of the road on the north side, and found nothing.



Figure 1.
Isotelus pygidium.



Figure 2.
Prone *Flexicalymene*.

My last spot was the pile at the NE end of the pit, the one above the wall as you walk in from the front gate. I did pick up a prone *Flexicalymene* (Figure 2, above right) on the path leading to the pile, but other than a couple of bivalves, this spot was tapped out as well. I called it an early day and headed for home.

Sunday, September 21

Bowmanville. Now let us never speak of it again. Seriously though, it was a tough day for most collectors, and there were a lot of us there, 30+ collectors despite the weather forecast. It rained hard as I was driving to St. Marys, and drizzled off and on until maybe 11:00 am, after which it cleared up into a rather nice day. Once we were unleashed into the pit, I headed to level 3. There were pieces of trilobite all over the place, which was a good sign, or so I thought. Last year in this same area, even fragments were scarce. My first find was something a bit different, a small 3D conularid (Figure 3). These animals, believed to be related to jellyfish, are not rare, but not common either. They are more common here than at my usual haunt, where they are always found squashed flat. This one is nice in



Figure 3.
Conularid

that it has the tip of the cone. Little was I to know this would be the highlight of my day.

I added a few brachiopods to my stash, a nice *Lingula* in matrix as well as a loose example (Figure 4) and a *Rafinesquina deltoidea* which is a new species for my collection. The *Rafinesquina*s are fairly common here but I wanted to find a nice one on a small rock. I'm not really desperate enough yet to haul my saw to the top of a pile to cut "brachs" out of a huge slab. Also, as far as I know, this particular species of *Rafinesquina* is not found at my regular spot. The shell shape with a protruding hump is the distinguishing characteristic. I don't have a "pic" of it yet, as it needs a cleaning to see any details.



Figure 4.
Lingula

Not everyone had my bad luck as some trilobites were found. David D'Andrea found an enrolled *Flexicalymene croniesi* and an average *Isotelus* "*mafritzae*" – one eye gone. Malcolm found a gem *Isotelus* with both eyes intact. Kevin Brett found one also with both eyes but with some crushing as well as a large (likely) *Isotelus gigas* (Figure 5, below left). Too bad about the damaged rear end, but otherwise complete.



Figure 5.
Likely and *Isotelus gigas*



Figure 6.
Isotelus latus

As I mentioned last year, the trilobites can get to pretty impressive sizes here. Figure 6 (above right) shows the pygidium of a large *Isotelus latus*, the largest of the three *Isotelus* species at this site. Phil had a nice prone "Flexi" as well as a small *Stenaster* starfish. I would have added a picture of that, but it was tough to see. It did however look to be a complete example. I'm sure there were others, but those are the pieces I saw.

Figure 7 (below left) is just a general overview of the pit. I did make one other find, but to the piece of “coprolite” who swiped it, I hope you pay to have it prepped and it



Figure 7.
Overview of quarry pit.



Figure 8.
Flexicalymene

comes back without a head. I found what looked like a prone *Flexicalymene* (Figure 8, above right), clearly marked it and continued hunting in the area. 20 minutes later when I returned to move it to be able to saw it out, the marker was gone, the “bug” was gone and the rock I believe it was on had the corner chipped off. There was only one other person in the area at the time and he denies taking it, but if I find out otherwise, I’ll see to it that he is banned from all future trips. He was not anyone I’d met before, and nobody else I knew had seen him before either. You can’t trust anybody out there anymore. That all but ruined my day. My luck can only improve from here on.

Until next month – Happy Hunting!

All photos courtesy of Kevin Kidd.



THE MEMBER’S CORNER
All Cracked Up!
Fossil Collecting Tips - Part 4
By Martin Legemaate

Every fossil site has different rock that requires a different way to remove the fossils in it. Last time (Fossil Collecting Tips - Part 3) I concentrated on loose clay; this time I’ll concentrate on softer limestone.

There are rock exposure areas in Southern Ontario such as Collingwood and Port Hope to Belleville where some fossils can be completely popped out of the matrix (the surrounding rock) by simply using a hammer and chisel.



Figure 1.

A cephalopod (below and right of compass) as found on the beach in Collingwood. This one can easily be removed.



Figure 2.

A well worn but amazing 5 foot long cephalopod on the beach. Too late to collect this one.

However usually a good rule of thumb is, if a fossil that you have collected is in a fairly small slab and at least one side is visible, don't attempt to chisel it out further or you may damage it. Just a good rinse will clean it up.

A fossil can look just as good in the matrix as out. Here is a fossil cephalopod (Figures 3 and 4 below) from Collingwood that I left in the matrix. As an added touch I trimmed the bottom of the rock with a small rock cutting tool so that it could stand up and display well.



Figure 3.

Cephalopod as found.



Figure 4.

Cephalopod after a trim and cleanup.

Don't lose heart if you break a fossil while attempting to remove it. Lepage's is a wonderful thing! Continue removing the rest of the fossil, gather all the pieces together and bring them home. At home some chiseling may still need to be done. After, wash all the pieces and let them completely dry. For glue you can use crazy glue but I like to use something a little thicker like 5-minute epoxy that you can pick up at any hardware store. You have to act fairly fast when gluing so line up the pieces ahead of time so you know where they go. Mix a small amount of the two epoxy components together with a tooth pick, place a small amount in the middle of the broken off area and push the two pieces together. Hold for a few minutes or what I do is set them down somewhere in a position that gravity will hold them together, then I

am able to work on several pieces at a time. The results will surprise you! Here (Figures 5 - 10 below) are some before and after shots of some fossils collected in the Collingwood area in Spring.



Figure 5.
Gastropod as found.



Figure 6.
Gastropod after some chiseling,
washing and gluing.



Figure 7.
Another cephalopod in pieces.



Figure 8.
Same cephalopod after washing and
gluing.



Figure 9.
Another gastropod in pieces.



Figure 10.
Same gastropod after washing and
gluing.

Quite impressive and, yes, I know some of you have the fancy prepping equipment and I have some too, but these are methods I have learned over the years and hope the novice collector reading this can be encouraged with these tips as he or she will also eventually move up to the cool prepping gadgets!

Some of you are asking where are the fossil collecting tips part 1, 2 and 3? Here are the links:

“Keep an Eye on Your Tri..... Trilobite and Other Fossil Collecting Tips

<http://kawartharockandfossilclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Sep2011.pdf>

“Outa’ Site! Fossil Collecting Tips Part 2”

<http://kawartharockandfossilclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Oct2011A.pdf>

“For Crinoid Out Loud! Fossil Collecting Tips Part 3”

http://kawartharockandfossilclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/OCT_2013_1.pdf

All photos courtesy of Martin Legemaate.



THE NEWS CORNER

‘Monster’ Skull on Sale

According to a Toronto Star article¹, Jim Lovisek, co-owner of Fossil Realm in Vaughan, ON has offered for sale a large skull of a *Prognathodon*. This is a type of predatory, aquatic lizard that lived during the Cretaceous. The skull, reputed to be originally from Morocco, measures nearly five feet long and weighs around 200 pounds. Just the thing for that someone who has everything! A real bargain for only \$120,000.00.

1. Toronto Star, September 27, 2014, p. GT3.



RENEWALS DUE

All memberships expire on December 31, 2014. A renewal form is included with this Newsletter. Please renew as soon as possible.

Thank you.



THE EDITOR’S CORNER

Many thanks to Kevin Kidd for once more submitting one of his lively, illustrated articles. They can always be counted on for their entertainment as well their information value. Thanks, also, to Martin Legemaate for another article in his series on fossil collecting and preparation. And I cannot forget Robert Montgomery who writes up the minutes after every meeting; and my husband, Ken who reads over each Newsletter and assists me in the photocopying and envelop stuffing for the snail mail.

Possibly readers have noticed the majority of Newsletter articles deal with some aspect of fossils. This is because the majority of articles submitted deal with fossils. In fact the majority of KRFC members collect minerals, but are noticeably mute on that

subject as far as submitting articles. It's a rare article that even documents mineral field trips. This is unfortunate.

It could be that the Newsletters are not relevant to the members anymore so they do not even read them. At one time, it was the method for staying in touch with the membership. Now, with so many people using smart phones, it could be the Newsletters are not easily read. Even some of the emails that are sent to members are not so easily read on a smart phone. Perhaps the Executive will have to use more succinct emails. And for those who have access only to snail mail, short messages sent via Canada Post might be a more viable form of communication. Do you believe the Newsletters are no longer necessary, or would you like to see them continue? You may direct your comments to the KRFC President, Robert Montgomery, or to me, Bev Fox. Thanks.

May everyone have a great Thanksgiving weekend. We all have so much for which to be thankful!



COMING EVENTS

Courtesy, the CCFMS Website

See the September 2014 issue of the Newsletter for early October events.

- Oct 24-25 Annual UW Gem & Mineral Show
Time: Saturday - Noon to 6:00 pm, Sunday - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Location: University of Waterloo Campus, Centre for Environmental & Information Technology (EIT) building.
Admission & Parking: Free in the gravel lot beside B lot.
Website details: <http://uwaterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum/>
- Nov 1 Walker Club Annual Auction
Saturday: Viewing starts at noon, auction at 1:00 pm
Knox United Church Christian Education Centre Auditorium in Scarborough. North East corner of Sheppard and Midland Avenues.
Information: Contact: Frank Ruehlicke at 519-880-2716, or ruehlicke@rogers.com
Website: www.walkermineralogicalclub.com/
- Nov 8 Canadian Micro Mineral Association Fall Workshop
Burlington Arts & Cultural Center, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, ON.
Contact: Frank Ruehlicke at 519-880-2716, or ruehlicke@rogers.com
Website: <http://canadianmicrominerals.ca/>
- Nov 13-24 Robert Hall Originals - Annual Fall Open House 12 Days of Christmas
Canadian made pewter gifts & jewellery for Christmas gift giving.
Experience Christmas shopping in a relaxed country setting!
New Daily Specials!