



Voice of the Dinosaur

Newsletter of the
Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club

September 2014 ~ Volume 26 ~ Issue 7

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**Last Regular Meeting**

June 10, 2014

A general meeting was conducted. After the close of the meeting, the evening's speaker, Donald Doell, Jr. was introduced. With the assistance of a visual presentation, he reviewed changes to our Website and helped viewers to understand some of its features.

Two members brought mineral samples for the Stump the Experts. There was no clear winner, but all enjoyed the challenge.

Tom Jenkins presented the mineral and fossil samples and cores donated to the Club by Rodney Williamson. He, also, held one of his silent auctions.

As the June meeting was "Micro Mineral Night", several members brought their microscopes for members to view various samples.

Next Regular Meeting

Date: September 9, 2014

Place: Original Orientation Centre, Peterborough Zoo

Time: 7:00 pm

Agenda: Regular Business Meeting. There will be a review of the dues as per Bylaw IX, 4.1

Program: Our speaker for the evening will be Bob Beckett who will show his "Deloro site rehabilitation" DVD.

Robert Montgomery will bring some of his summer "findings" to share with us and it is hoped others will do so, too.

Tom Jenkins will hold one of his ever popular silent auctions.

It promises to be a great meeting. See you there!

THE FOSSIL CORNER
2014 Fossil Collecting - Trip 3
By Kevin Kidd

Sunday, June 22

I was field trip leader for a foray into the Ordovician at my regular spot, but a less than spectacular year so far had me wondering where to start. As a group, we met at the front gate and walked in together. A quick look showed there was no new blast in the bottom, so for lack of anyplace better, we decided to walk over to the area where most of the recent blasting had been taking place. Along the way, I noticed that they had blasted and built a new ramp at the north east end of the pit from the main level to the second. I had explored the pile in the bottom pit-since removed- from this blast, but never realized they'd built the ramp. Plenty of new material here got our attention for a while, but alas, the finds were still elusive. Ulli managed to find an interesting *Isotelus* trilobite plate (Figure 1, below left), but a quick cleanup revealed that it was only fragments. I took home a small slab with either a small crinoid or a much rarer cystoid on it, but again, it needs a cleaning to confirm (Figure 2, below right).

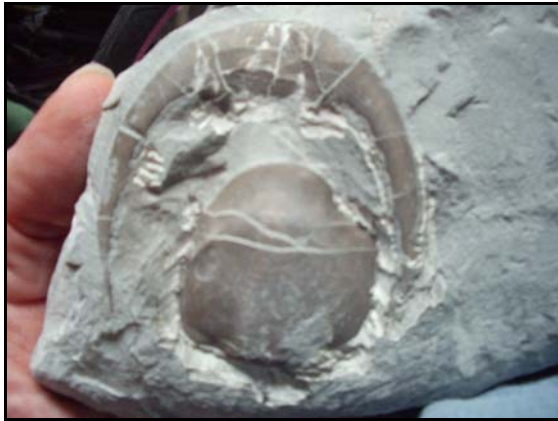


Figure 1.

Unfortunately not a big roller, but what is exposed is the underside of the outer edge of the head (the u-shape) and the pygidium (tail) with nothing connecting them together.



Figure 2.

Crinoid or cystoid? Needs cleaning to confirm.

We then checked out the new area, but as has been the pattern lately, nothing of note was found that I know of. It makes me wonder why we found so much stuff there last season, but this year, blasting back a few more feet has been so barren. Between the heat and the lack of finds, most of us left pretty early. Sorry guys, but we can't win them all.

Saturday, July 26

Yup, you read the dates correctly, and there was nothing in between. My longest fossil collecting gap in years came to an end on a day I wasn't sure I was even going to go out. As I left my house, it started raining and the forecast wasn't great for later in the day, but since I hadn't been in so long, and not knowing the next chance I'd get, I continued on to the quarry. Other than a light sprinkle, the weather actually stayed quite nice for my trip. I had the place to myself until about 8:30 am when Jabali and Malcolm joined me in the new area. The Three Musketeers collect again! Proving that the Club trip was the new normal, none of us found anything up here, but we did see

that the quarry had blasted a new “holding pond” in the bottom of the quarry, and piled up around it and nearby, was a lot of the excavated rock (Figure 3, below left).



Figure 3.

Holding pond in quarry bottom. For a sense of scale, if you have very good eyes, you may be able to make out Jabali and Malcolm still climbing on the pile near the pond.



Figure 4.

A crinoid. The calyx (body) should be right in the center of the picture, and you can see the arms branching off to the left

This was exciting, as at this depth, they are into the Bobcaygeon formation, and if any long time collectors remember collecting at Carden, this formation is well known for its abundance and fine preservation of echinoderms-crinoids, cystoids, starfish etc. We made the long walk down and hit the piles. It wasn't long before we were finding things. I found what I hope will be a nice crinoid on the top of the pile (Figure 4, above right). Jabali also found some, as well as a plate with three *Ceraurus* trilobites, although they are extremely fragile and I have a feeling won't survive extraction.

Malcolm had the rarest piece of the day with a cyclocystoid (Figure 5). It doesn't look like much, but they are tough to find, and not found in many places worldwide. I found one my first year collecting, at Carden (Quarry), and none since. They each also found *Pleurocystites* cystoids, but I'm not sure if any were complete.

As they continued on the pile, I wandered around the south and east edge of this side of the pit. This area is usually under water or very muddy, and I think I've only ever searched here once or twice. Let's just say I'm glad I did this time. Along the side of an old ramp, I found my best trilobite in a long time. It's a bit disputed as to the proper name, but it's either *Thaleops laurentiana* or *Nanillaenus conradi* (Figure 6, next page). It's the first one of these guys I've found in a few years, the first enrolled example I've found, and also happens to be the largest one I've found as well. It's not perfect, but it's well above average and was a welcomed find



Figure 5.

When Malcolm sent me this picture, it blew my mind. The cyclocystoid is just over 1 cm diameter (all I've ever seen are around this size maximum) and often, the inner plates are damaged or missing entirely. This example is spectacular!

after so many trips. I took it back to show the other two, and Jabali was shocked as he had looked in that same spot the week before. I've said it before-timing is everything. There was also another pile where they had blasted away the road on the second level, but I didn't see anything in it (Figure 7, below right). Curious why they built a ramp to this level then blasted the road away, but I guess they know what they're doing.



Figure 6.

Not much to complain about when this is "as found" condition



Figure 7.

Friday, August 8

I figured I'd go up to the quarry after work and just climb around the crush pile looking for "rollers". Once I got in though, I had a quick peek at the bottom level to see if anything had changed and sure enough, there was a fresh blast (Figure 8). I had to go check it out and wasn't expecting much, but only a couple of minutes in, a decent trilobite (Figure 9). The problem- it was on a car door window sized rock, about 4" thick, and because I wasn't expecting to even come down to this level, I didn't have



Figure 8.

Fresh blast area.



Figure 9.

Doesn't look like much now, but this *Ceraurus* should be a beauty. This is actually the ideal condition to find these -just enough exposed to recognize it.

my saw. I climbed around the pile for a while, but it was too dusty to see anything, and thought about how to get this bug out of here in one piece. After failing to break the rock into a more manageable size with my 3lb hammer, I was left with no other option; I had to come back with the proper gear. Fortunately it's only a 40 minute run for me, but still....

Saturday morning at 6:15 am, I was back in the pit with my saw. I had to get there before anyone else because it was too obvious to miss. The extraction was a success, now I just needed to clean it up and hoped it was complete.

Sunday, August 17

The busiest day at the pit in a while turned into one of my best days. My friend Malcolm had arranged a bit of a trip with several other collectors he knew. I had talked with some of them as well online, but this was my first chance to meet them in person. In addition to the two of us, the other regular, Jabali showed up along with David D'Andrea making his first outing in a long time, Gary from Corning NY, Scott, Kim and Nathan from Wisconsin and Jim and his wife from SW Ontario. As usual, I had the place to myself for a little over an hour and started looking in the same pile I was in the week previous. Plenty of rain the day before had done wonders cleaning everything up, and it was still wet in the morning making the fossils easier to see. Before the others arrived, I had a possible trilobite (body and tail visible, head hopefully buried) and FINALLY, a starfish. I had found a few at Carden (Quarry) several years ago, but this was the first from this quarry for me (Figure 10, below left).



Figure 10.

After a quick initial cleaning, the bad news is that it is incomplete, missing 1 arm. The good news is that it is not the most common starfish, *Stenaster*, but a much rarer type that I haven't ID'd yet



Figure 11.

Dictyonema sp. These must be rare, although there aren't many people who would bother collecting them

Shortly after, I found another new one for my collection- a decent graptolite colony (Figure 11, above right). Unfortunately, it shattered while I was trying to get it out of the rock, but I kept the largest piece. These are always found as fragments and are preserved as a thin film on the rock, and this is the first of this species I've seen from this site.

I met with the others at another pile and without going into great detail, they found several *Pleurocystites* cystoids in various states of preservation, a few small crinoids and a very flaky *Ceraurus* trilobite. We all went back to the pile I was on earlier where I found a crinoid of my own (Figure 12, below left), and the others found assorted goodies. Kim found the largest *Calypतालax* trilobite I've ever seen (Figure 13, below right). Too bad the tail has flaked away, but this one was far too good to leave.



Figure 12.

Crinoid.



Figure 13.

That is Nathan's index finger for scale. This thing was a beast

A climb on the crush pile got me four enrolled trilobites (two *Isotelus*, two *Flexicalymene*) and at 4:00pm, we called it a day. A bit of trading with Nathan and I was able to add some unprepped Silurian trilobites, *Calymene breviceps* and a *Maurotarion christyi*, to my collection. He also gave me a small plate with at least two crinoids on/in it from the famous site at Crawfordsville, Indiana. Can't wait to start prepping again as I didn't have a lot of time this summer, and after today, I have plenty to do.

Until next month - Happy Hunting!

Photo Credits:

Figure 5 Courtesy of Malcolm Thornley.

All others courtesy of Kevin Kidd.

FALL EVENTS

The Special Event, "Mineral Cleaning & Prep Party" slated for
Sunday, September 7, 2014

has been cancelled as only one person replied!

It can be rescheduled if enough people show they are interested. Contact Ulli Kullik:

Email: ulrike.kullik@gmail.com

or Phone: 705-778-3787.

Ulli had opened her home property to us for this event and the Club thanks her for her generous offer.

Special Social Event, "Swap and Talk"

Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Doors open at 9:00 am, everyone who wants table space be there before 10:00 am.

There is no charge for the table space, but it would be appreciated if you would kindly donate a specimen to be used in our March 2015 Show silent auctions, to show your appreciation for the table space and hosting of this event.

There will be tables available at 9:00 am on a first come, first served basis, but it is recommended that you reserve your space in advance to avoid disappointment. The tables are the standard 8 feet long, but half tables are available, as well.

**For table reservations contact Mark Stanley, Past President KRFC,
Email: fulgurite@bellnet.ca or Phone: 705-639-2406.**

Location: Stanley Auction Centre, 56 Alma Street, Norwood, ON K0L 2V0

Directions: From the traffic lights on Highway 7 in Norwood, travel one block south on County Road 45, then east three blocks on Alma Street. Centre is attached to the Curling Club and about 500 m. north of the Community Centre. It is not located on the 11th line, as the Google map indicates.

Bring your own lunch.

Members, family and guests are welcome, especially those that may be interested in becoming a member of any club.

Kawartha R&FC, Bancroft G&MC, Kingston L&MC and Prince Edward County RG&MC and other club members welcome.

Last year's event was an astounding success with 22 tables filled with a wide variety of specimens. It is hoped, that with your help, we will double that number this year, so consider joining us with your specimens, Finished or Not, anything you want to Give-A-Way, Swap, Sell or just Display & Brag!

Bring your rocks & fossils, there will be space for all, they don't have to be show quality to be appreciated. I'm sure there will be a story with every rock & fossil you bring.

For the members that have only small collections, we especially encourage you to bring them along as you do not have to fill a large table. There will be many tables set up to share with one or more of your fellow members, if you wish.

Come out and help make this a memorable social event.

**For more info contact Robert Montgomery, President KRFC,
Email: robertm@bell.net.**

THE MEMBER'S CORNER

Many of you are aware of the excellent microphotography of one of our members, Peter Lee. Now he has done it again and has his microphotos in another journal article, the online PLOS ONE, published August 5, 2014. Check out:

www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi/10.1371/journal.pone.0104171

“Oldest Near-Complete Acanthodian: The First Vertebrate from the Silurian Bertie Formation Konservat-Lagerstätte, Ontario”, by Caroline S. Burrow and David Rudkin.

Also

www.rom.on.ca/en/blog/a-silurian-shark-tale

A Silurian “Shark” Tale, by David Rudkin on the ROM website.

This also has an interesting video by Dave on the subject.

Congratulation to you, Peter.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

My humble thanks to Kevin Kidd, who consistently produces interesting articles with excellent illustrations; to Peter Lee for giving me a “heads up” on the articles which include his microphotography; to Robert Montgomery for writing up the minutes; to my husband, Ken Fox who always reads through the Newsletters to correct my mistakes, and assists me with the photocopying and envelop stuffing for the snail mail; and to all who contribute to the Newsletters in any way.

COMING EVENTS

Courtesy CCFMS Website

- Sep 20-21 48th Annual Ottawa Gem, Mineral and Jewellery Show & Sale
Sat. 10:00am-6:00pm, Sun. 10:00am-5:00pm.
Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario
Web Site: www.olmc.ca
Email: dealerchair@olmc.ca, or showchair@olmc.ca
- Sep 26-28 Ancaster Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewellery Show
Friday: 9:30am to 6:00pm, Saturday: 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am to 5:00pm
Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster, Ontario (corner of Hwy. 52 & Hwy. 53)
Admission: \$8, 2 day pass \$14. Under 12 Free
Contact: inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com
(519) 448-1236 or 1-800-360-2813
Website: <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com> and click on Shows and Events. E-mail: rockshow@roberthalloriginals.com
- Oct 15 Mineral Identification Night at the ROM 4:00pm to 5:30pm.
President's Choice Entrance on Queen's Park, doors nearest Museum subway stop.
Contact at 416-586-5816, or email: naturalhistory@rom.on.ca
- Oct 18-19 45th Annual Gem Storm. Show and sale sponsored by the Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club.
Saturday 10:00am to 6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am 5:00pm.
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge St., Kingston, ON.
Information: Contact Les Moss, Show Chairman at emoss@cogeco.net