



Voice of the Dinosaur

Newsletter of the
Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club

November 2013 ~ Volume 25 ~ Issue 9

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**LAST REGULAR MEETING**

October 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order by the President, Robert Montgomery. A regular business meeting was conducted. After adjournment, Tom Jenkins held one of his silent auctions, followed by the program.

The program for the evening was presented by Michael Bainbridge who gave a presentation on accessing mineral sites and checking land status using the Internet. He also spoke about the newly refurbished collecting sites and land access agreement. He suggested the following Web sites:

Informational Resources for Recreational Geology:
http://ohto.ca/wp-content/uploads/Informational-Resources_FINAL.pdf

This document contains all of the links to the resources he talked about.

Recreational Access Toolkit:

<http://ohto.ca/wp-content/uploads/Ontarios-Highlands-Recreational-Access-Toolkit.pdf>

Contains all of the information about recreational access to private property, including template documents.

www.Mindat.org

Contains useful information on minerals.

NEXT MEETING

Date - November 12, 2013

Place - Orientation Centre, Peterborough Zoo

Time - 7:00 pm

Agenda - Regular business meeting

Program - Dick Farmery will give a presentation on pegmatites, extreme igneous rocks that form during the final stage of a magma's crystallization. They are considered extreme because they contain exceptionally large crystals and they sometimes contain minerals that are rarely found in other types of rocks.

Pegmatites are sometimes the sources of valuable

minerals such as spodumene and beryl that are rarely found in economic amounts in other types of rocks. They also can be a source of gemstones. Some of the world's best tourmaline, aquamarine and topaz deposits have been found in pegmatites.

Dick Farmery is a graduate of Queen's University, BSc, mechanical engineering, Past President of the Canadian Mineralogist's Federation as well as the Bancroft Gem and Mineral club and past owner of both the beryl pit and the rose quartz quarry in Quadeville with 16 years of participation in the AQUAROSE pegmatite properties.

In his own words, "I became infected with rock pox on our first trip to Bancroft with our new trailer more than 40 years ago. I learned about field collecting through the mentoring of the senior rockhounds who formed the core of the CCFMS field trip committee in the 80's and the 90's."

"I have always had a research bent which lead me to the publications of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines - especially Hewitt's *Pegmatite Mineral Resources of Ontario*."

"On our travels I visited pegmatite sites in Maine, New Hampshire, Colorado, North Carolina, and New Mexico. Of late, we have visited the pegmatite bearing granite quarries of Western Poland."

This promises to be an interesting presentation that KRFC members will not want to miss.



THE FOSSIL CORNER
2013 Fossil Collecting - Trip 5
By Kevin Kidd

Saturday, Aug 31

I just can't stay away from the quarry, and for good reason. Once again I made my way to the upper level and as soon as I set my backpack down, I was immediately greeted with an enrolled *Isotelus* trilobite. It isn't pristine by any means, but this has to be a good omen. It had rained Friday night and early Saturday, so the ground was wet, which not only cleaned off the dirt, but provided greater contrast between the fossils and the host rock. In a pit at the end of the new area, I made my next find, and I do believe I swore out loud when I did. Face up, in the center of this pit, was a prone *Isotelus*, six+ inches long (if complete), but with considerable damage (Figure 1). As if that wasn't bad enough, there were also two *Ceraurus*



Figure 1.

The heartbreaker. One of the *Ceraurus* is at the top of the rock, beside the *Isotelus*' left cheek. The second is by the hammer shaft.

trilobites flanking the *Isotelus*, also both damaged. Had any of them been complete, I would have kept it, but I left it there after taking a pic. Someone isn't as fussy as I because, according to a friend who collected after me, it was gone by the end of the weekend.

As I climbed out of the pit, I was greeted by another friend of mine, Malcolm. We talked a bit, saying how good this should be today, and wondering why the other regular collector, Jabali, wasn't here yet. Speak of the devil, guess who shows up saying his alarm didn't go off?

As I continued searching, Malcolm had climbed up higher than I in some rapidly disintegrating shale. He had already found a nice small enrolled *Isotelus*, but then started to cheer saying we'd better come and see something. He had found another *Isotelus*, also enrolled, but between one and one half - two inches wide and complete except for a ding on its lip. I abandoned my spot and started searching higher up as well and was rewarded with another small *Isotelus*, an enrolled *Flexicalymene* and lastly, another prone Flexi (Figures 2 and 3).



Figure 2.

Before prepping of this gem *Flexicalymene senaria*, a little over one inch long.



Figure 3.

After prepping, *Flexicalymene senaria*.

That makes four nice prone examples in a month, compared with only one in the previous few years combined.

My last find of the day is a piece that's right up there with bryozoans as far as popularity, and while uncommon, certainly isn't rare. I'd found several examples previously in this area of calcareous green algae known as *Cyclocrinites*. Basically, it looks like a stone golf ball. The piece I collected today is not only the largest specimen I've found to date, but also the only one still in matrix (Figure 4, page 4). They seem to be pretty well confined to this level as it's the only place I've found them.

Jabali and I then decided to look around at the bottom of the quarry for a bit, where he found a nice and very rare trilobite, *Ceraurinella trentonensis* (Figure 5, page 4), but I

was shut out. He went to get his saw while I headed for home, content with my foursome of “bugs” and “golf ball.”



Figure 4.
Cyclocrinites
A calcareous green alga.



Figure 5.
Ceraurinella trentonensis.
First time I'd seen evidence of this species at the quarry. This one is over three inches long. It was just sitting there on a large rock, plain as day and fortunately for him, Jabali just happened to be walking ahead of me.

Saturday, September 21

Let me begin with the three week gap between the last report and this one. I can't go that long without collecting, I just didn't find anything that warranted a special report-a few trilobites, gastropods, brachiopods, you know, the usual stuff. Hopes were high that today would be great. In some past articles, I've borrowed photos from a friend's website, www.Crinus.info. That friend, Joe, was planning to meet us at the quarry as he had heard so many good things about how we were doing this summer. Joe has possibly the best collection of material from the Lake Simcoe area and has collected the local spots for years, although, since he lives in Michigan, his trips are becoming less frequent. The weather forecast called for quite a bit of rain Friday night, and tapering off Saturday morning. That sounded great; any new material would be washed off, the rain would make for better contrast between fossils and host rock and we wouldn't get too wet –perfect conditions right?

WRONG!!!!!!!

It rained constantly all morning. While it was unanimous among the collectors there (Joe, Jabali, Malcolm and myself) that this would still be tolerable if the fossils were popping out at us, we weren't finding much of anything. Joe found a somewhat crushed enrolled *Isotelus* trilobite, Malcolm had a small *Cupulocrinus* crinoid and I don't think Jabali found anything. For my trouble, I found a decent *Fusispira nobilis* gastropod (Figure 6), a nice brachiopod with three crinoid holdfasts attached to it (Figure 7, page 5) and what I assume is a *rusophycus* (Figure 8, page 5). What is a *rusophycus* you may ask; well, it's a trace fossil, a resting trace from a trilobite. The trilobite settled in



Figure 6.
Gastropod *Fusispira nobilis*.

a spot in the silt and when it left, the resulting impression was preserved. Unfortunately, mine goes off the edge of the rock, but based on the size, I think it must be from an *Isotelus*. I have others that I found in the past, likely from *Flexicalymenes*, and which are more common, but this is the first large example I'd ever seen. Not the paydirt we were hoping for, but not a total bust either.



Figure 7.
Brachiopod with three crinoid halfcasts.



Figure 8.
Rusophycus, possibly from an *Isotelus* trilobite.

By noon, still pouring rain and everyone soaked to the bone and miserable, Joe had had enough. He decided to leave, but make a stop at Arkona on his way home, and I couldn't blame him a bit. I contemplated leaving as well, but figured since I'm already here and can't get any wetter, I'll try my luck on the large crush pile. I hadn't done the pile since they started blasting the new area, but I knew others had and I wasn't overly optimistic, but with the rain....who knew what might happen. Turns out, this was the decision that salvaged my day. What I do at the pile is walk up and down the gulleys, and I guess I picked a good one to start with. About a third of the way up that first one, I found an enrolled trilobite. Not the common *Isotelus* or *Flexicalymene*, but a

Ceraurus and in about the best condition one could expect (Figure 9). The spines are gone of course, but you'll never find a loose enrolled specimen with them intact. Since this was my first enrolled example of this species, I was thrilled. I continued climbing and about 15-20 feet higher in the same gully, was my find of the year. I would have done my "happy dance" but a wet, muddy 60 degree incline is not the place. There in front of me was an ultra rare *Comarocystites punctatus* (Figure 10, page 6). Talking to the other regulars, there *might* be one of these found per year amongst all collectors combined, if we're lucky. One

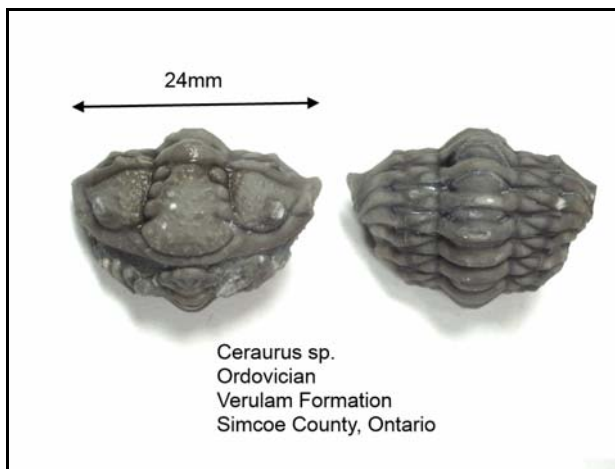


Figure 9.

could also go years without finding one, as this is a piece Joe is lacking in his collection. This was the second example I've found, with the first being three or four years ago.

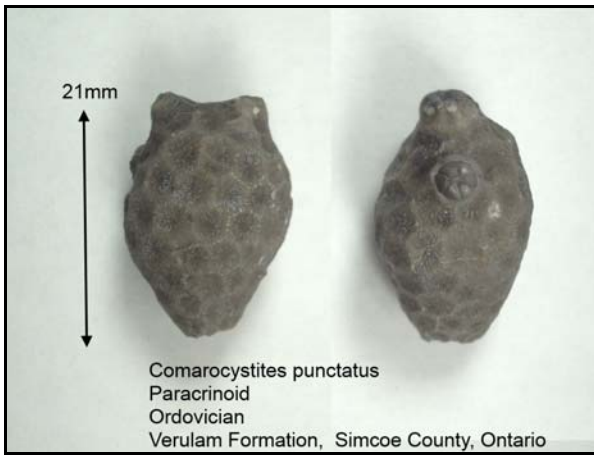


Figure 10.



Figure 11.

The rain had finally started to slow down, but I wasn't feeling it anymore. I went down the next gully with no luck, but climbing up the following one yielded another trilobite, this time a good sized and nearly perfect *Isotelus* (Figure 11). These are certainly not rare, but I always seem to find them either crushed or missing an eye or with dings in their lips. This example is one of my best ever with both eyes, fully inflated with minimal distortion and only the very tip of his tail damaged, but hardly noticeable. After the slowest start in a long time, this turned into one of my best days of the season.

Until next month – Happy Hunting!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals are due by December 31, 2013. Thanks to all the members that have already renewed. However, if you have not yet renewed, now is the time to do so. Please fill out the membership form attached to this Newsletter and, either pay at the November or December meeting, or send in your payment with the form. The Treasurer, Ken Fox requests that you please note that it is not sufficient to say "Same as last year." primarily because, if an issue should arise with the insurance company, they will require properly filled out and signed application forms.

For family memberships, please indicate how many membership cards are required (and names) as very young children will be with parents or guardians while older ones may want to attend meetings, go on field trips, etc. independently.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

From time to time members may incur expenses on the Club's behalf and require payment for them. If and when this happens, please contact me for an expense account form to tell me who the cheque is to be made out to and what to do with the cheque and to provide a standardized record of expenses. A few members who regularly incur expenses already have this form. My email is kfox71@cogeco.ca and my telephone number is 705-742 6440

Ken Fox, KRFC Treasurer

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

By Bev Fox

My thanks to Kevin Kidd for once again, delivering an excellent article. He has been a stalwart contributor to the newsletter and the readers and I are most grateful.

If you are interested in contributing articles or news items to the newsletter, please contact me at kfox71@cogeco.ca or 705-742-6440.

This is the November Newsletter and that means that I will be Editor for just two more newsletters. At the Annual General Meeting in January, I will step down as Editor and as KRFC Secretary. It is time others have a chance to fill these positions. I am willing to continue as Librarian and as Archivist, provided no one else would like to fill these two positions.

Over the years the newsletters have continued to evolve and expand. It might seem a formidable task to become Editor, but it is not. The newsletters could be much simpler, containing only a few pages of the most important information with no photos. It's a good way to become more involved with the Club.

Of course, on March 1 & 2, 2014 we will hold our Annual Gem Mineral and Fossil Show. Soon there will be a request for members to participate in various ways. I'm sure that those of you who can, will volunteer.

Don't forget the KRFC Prizes for the Best Collected Fossil and the Best Collected Mineral for 2013 Competitions to be held at the Show. This is a good time to look through the fossils and minerals you have collected this past year and make a selection or selections to enter in either or both the competitions.

COMING EVENTS

(Thanks to CCFMS Website)

- Nov 6 Robert Hall Originals - Annual Fall Open House
Canadian made pewter gifts & jewellery for Christmas gift giving
10:00 am-5:00 pm
138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George Ontario
Contact: inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com (519) 448-1236, or
1-800-360-2813
Website: <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com>
- Nov 9 CMMA Fall Mini-Conference
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 16-17 London Gem and Mineral Show
Sat 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Western Fairgrounds (NEW larger venue *Canada Building*), Highway
#401 to Highbury exit North, west on Florence, North on Rectory - Main
entrance immediately on right hand side.
Features: Over 50 dealers, demonstrators, and educational talks
Admission: Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.00

Contact: Ken Dardano 519-831-3093, or gneissguy@bell.net
Website: www.gemandmineral.ca

Nov 29-1 **Gneiss Guy Minerals and Fossils Warehouse Sale**
Open to the Public. Come check out our many specials on opening day.
820 Gartshore St. Unit 19, Fergus, On N1M 2W8 (located only 1 hour from
Toronto).
Contact: Ken Dardano at 519-831-3093, or gneissguy@bell.net

Dec 11 **Mineral Identification Night at the ROM**
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.
President's Choice Entrance on Queen's Park, doors nearest Museum
subway stop. Visit their website at:
<http://www.rom.on.ca/en/activities-programs/events-calendar/rock-gem-mineral-fossil-and-meteorite-identification-clinic> or contact at 416-586-5816;
naturalhistory@rom.on.ca

KAWARTHA ROCK & FOSSIL CLUB INC.

2014

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION _____ or RENEWAL _____

Please complete ALL sections and PRINT CLEARLY.

NAME(S):

.....
(If a family, list each person's name - parent/legal guardian followed by children. Please include children's ages.)

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(CITY) (PROVINCE) (POSTAL CODE)

Please sign here

Phone #: Fax #:

E-mail:

(Please print clearly so all letters, numbers and punctuation marks can be easily read. Thanks.)

SINGLE [] (\$20.00/yr)

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DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Paid by: Cheque [] Cheque # or Cash [] \$.....

Date:..... Membership Card Issued [] Mailed []

Renewal memberships are due by December 31, 2013 . Members who do not renew before the Annual General Meeting in January are dropped from the membership list so will not be able to participate in KRFC or CCFMS field trips or other Club activities and will not receive the newsletter.

If you want your information kept confidential, please do not complete the following section.

I hereby give my permission to release my name, telephone number and email address for inclusion in a KRFC Contact List to be issued only to KRFC members in good standing.

Signed: Date: