



Voice of the Dinosaur

Newsletter of the
Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club

February 2014 ~ Volume 26 ~ Issue 2

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Member of the CCFMS

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

January 14, 2014

After the minutes of the last AGM held Jan 2013, were approved, Executive elections were held. The results:

President - Robert Montgomery, by acclamation.

Vice-President - Steve Wesley, by acclamation.

Treasurer - Ken Fox, by acclamation.

Secretary - Bev Fox, by acclamation.

Field Trip Co-Ordinator - Ulrike Kullik, by acclamation

Show Co-Ordinator - Bob Beckett, by acclamation.

However, he made it very clear that he required an assistant who could take over the position for the 2015 Show.

Also agreeing to hold their present positions were:

Webmaster - Donald Doell, Jr.

Newsletter Editor - Bev Fox

Librarian - Bev Fox

Archivist - Bev Fox

As no one stepped forward to take the position of Recording Secretary, Bev Fox agreed to take the minutes of the Regular January meeting. However, she made it very clear that it would be the last time she would be recording and writing the minutes. So at the next regular meeting, someone will offer or be selected to do so. Tom Jenkins held a silent auction between meetings.

LAST REGULAR MEETING

January 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the President, Robert Montgomery. A regular business meeting was conducted.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Date: February 11, 2014

Place: Orientation Centre, Peterborough Zoo

Time: 7:00 pm

Agenda: Regular February Meeting

Signs advertising the Show will be distributed.

They should be set up on the Monday or Tuesday before the Show.

Program Speaker: Pam Sangster Resident Regional Geologist from Tweed

THE SHOW CORNER

The Show and some preparations were discussed at the January regular meeting. As the Show is to be held March 1 and 2, time grows short and volunteers are needed. If you enjoy belonging to the Club, but for any reason felt inadequate to serve on the Executive, here is a way to show your interest.

Set up - Bob Beckett - email: rbeckett@cogeco.ca - Phone: 705-748-0178

Please contact Bob to assist him in the set up of the Show (tables, etc.).

Display cases - George Thompson - email: TrueNorthMiner@aol.com

Phone: 613-395-5896

Contact George if you wish to use a case for displaying items relating to rockhounding, mining, etc. If you have too few items to fill a case, then join with one or several friends who might have items. The displays are always well received by visitors to the Show.

Kid's Sandbox - Tom Jenkins - email: tomjenkins@sympatico.ca

Phone: 705-745-1189

Samples of fossils and minerals are needed for the kids digging. Items can be given to Tom at the February 11 meeting, or contact him. He can always use the clean, clear or opaque milk bags.

Club Table - Ken Fox - kfox71@cogeco.ca Phone: 705-742-6440

Just an hour or two of your time is required here to speak with people and hand out literature. There is still space open for Sunday, March 2.

Best Fossil and Best Mineral Collected in 2013 Competitions - Ulrike Kullik

Email: ulrikekullik@gmail.com Phone: 705-778-3787

One entry for each competition is allowed from each member. Each entry must be accompanied by the appropriate form at the end of this Newsletter. Entries must be at the Club table by 10:00 am on Saturday, March 1.

At the February 11 meeting, signs will be available for distribution. Members will be assigned areas in which to place signs. Please take at least one or two.

With avid member participation, this Show will be a great success.



THE FOSSIL CORNER 2013 Fossil Collecting - Trip 7 By Kevin Kidd

Sunday, October 27

Between Thanksgiving, Bowmanville and my wife's birthday, it had been a while since I'd been to my regular quarry, and I was itching to get back. As usual, upon arriving I headed to the new blast area, but could see right away there was very little in the way of loose material left to search. Walking a bit closer, I saw that the area was also flooded. Rather than starting my day off with wet feet, I went down to the level below. The only access to this level is now from the south end of the pit, as they've blasted away the east road. I had done a bit of this level earlier in the season, but today, I did the entire thing. It proved to be a pretty futile trip, but at least I can say that I covered every area of the quarry this year. After the long walk back to where I started, I figured I'd climb the large crush pile for a bit. With the success I had last time I did this, I

figured today it would at least make my trip worthwhile. I guess this just wasn't my day, as all I wound up with for the trip were some brachiopods, bivalves, gastropods and a couple of sponges. With the days getting shorter and colder, I would have been content calling this my last trip, but then....

Sunday, November 10

My friend Beth sent out an email earlier in the week saying she was desperate to make one last trip to the quarry, and was going Sunday if anyone would like to join along. With severe arm twisting like that, I once again loaded up the car and headed north. The weather forecast was not great, but not too bad either: 6° C., 60% chance of 1-3 mm of rain and 11km/hr winds. This is what I dressed for. I got to the quarry and rather than start at the new area, I started along the face straight back from the scale house. The weather was overcast and still dry, but the wind was nasty out in the open. Once I started searching the talus pile, I must have been sheltered from the wind as it wasn't too noticeable. After pocketing a few more brachs, bivalves and gastropods, I finally found another trilobite. This is a typical condition, enrolled *Flexicalymene* (Figure 1). It's complete, but there are small dings on both cheeks. Still, after being shut out last trip, it was a welcomed find. A bit further along, I found likely my last trilobite of the year, and it had potential to be a gem. It's an enrolled *Isotelus gigas*, very inflated and a good size at 29mm wide (Figure 2). What was exposed looked to be complete with one eye at the edge of some attached matrix and I hoped the rest was safe inside the rock, just waiting for me to set it free. Since this species doesn't have spines or deep grooves, the prep is pretty quick and easy. Once I started, I realized that this wasn't going to be the perfect specimen I'd thought, but an interesting one nonetheless. The second eye was indeed complete, buried under the rock, but the *cranidium* – a piece of exoskeleton that runs from the back of the head, between the eyes and forward to the front of the head - was almost entirely missing (Figures 3 & 4). The little bit of it that remains is perpendicular to the



Figure 1.
Enrolled *Flexicalymene* sp.



Figure 2.
Enrolled *Isotelus gigas*.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

trilobite. This will need some looking into, but I'm wondering if the trilobite had just started to molt, shedding only the cranidium, then got spooked, enrolled and died. As I understand it, with this species, molting takes place with the cranidium and cheeks all being shed, and the trilobite crawling forward out of the old shell. The trilobite has to be outstretched for this to happen, not enrolled. The largest trilobite in my collection is the molt of an *Isotelus* collected several years ago at Carden (now off limits) and shows the detached cranidium off to the left from the rest of the body (Figure 5). The cheeks are missing. This beast is 4" wide and would have been at least 9" long. A couple of other theories suggested to me pertaining to the enrolled one are a "misfire" of the hormone controlling molting, like opening the hatch on a submarine before it surfaces, or possibly the trilobite died and decomposition gasses built up and blew off the cranidium before it had a chance to be buried. Whichever the case, it's a unique keeper for me.

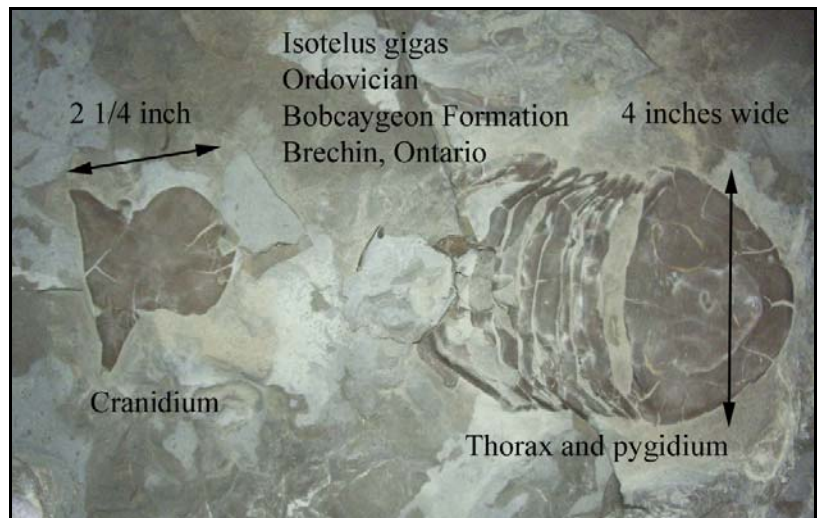


Figure 5.
Molt of an *Isotelus* sp.

As I finished this area, and was walking out in the open, it started to rain. Not a gentle drizzle, noooooooo, that nice cold stuff that comes at you horizontally because of the strong wind. I checked a spot that had been quite good for me in the past, but found nothing, and the rain was getting worse, so I decided to take cover under the conveyor belt. Once out of the nastiness, I pulled out my cell phone and checked for an updated weather report –IT HADN'T CHANGED!!! That's the Weather Network for ya. I checked a second website and got a more plausible description: rain with 40km/hr winds gusting to 60. Is it just me or is that a far cry from 11km/hr??? Anyway, after about 20 minutes, the rain eased a bit and I emerged, ready to try the large pile again. That was a short lived fiasco, as it was so saturated that you sank and slipped, making climbing a chore. Adding to that the lack of shelter from the wind, I gave up and headed to my car shortly before 10:00 am. There were no signs of Beth or anyone else, so I assumed they had a bit of common sense and stayed home. Before I headed for home, I wanted to check the new area one last time, so I drove to the gate and the west end of the pit and headed in. Since I was last there, they'd dug a drainage ditch, so flooding is at least no longer an issue. Shortly after I resumed my hunting, Barb and Derek showed up, and said Beth would arrive around 11:00 am. Turns out I'm not the only lunatic after all. She showed up with a friend from the K-W club, and brought more rain with her, along with the odd ice pellet thrown in for good measure. Lovely. We chatted for bit, and hunted for a bit, but my fingers were going numb, so I made my exit around 11:30 am. Beth later emailed me saying that between the rest of them, they managed to find a few trilobites and a loose crinoid calyx.

Well, by the time this gets published, my collecting season will be long gone, and that means a return to fossil of the month type articles next month. I'm almost out of ideas for those articles, so if anyone has suggestions or wants to learn more about a specific type of fossil, let the editor know and she can forward the info to me. Since this article is a bit short on pictures, I'll add before and after shots of a piece I found back in August. It's a prone *Flexicalymene*, nestled in amongst some brachiopods and bryozoans and was prepped by yours truly (Figures 6-7).



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Speaking of prepping, I must have been good this year because Santa brought me a microscope for Christmas for use in my "lab". From now on, anything I do clean up will be that much better, so if anyone has anything they'd like done..... Finally, back in the November newsletter, I mentioned that I had found a trilobite resting trace called a *rusophycus*. I also put a photo on Facebook, and I'm happy to say that because of that, my piece is currently being studied at the University of Alberta by a specialist in such things.

Until next month – Happy Hunting!



MINERAL/FOSSIL TRIMMING PARTY

We all have specimens needing some work. This might involve trimming and cleaning. With the help of members who have the necessary equipment, this could be an interesting and useful outing. Your input on planning this outing would be appreciated, whether you have equipment that could be used, or if you have some particular problem specimen you would like to clean. Contact me:

email: robertm@bell.net Phone: 705-432-2039

and let me know what you think.

Thank you.

Robert Montgomery



THE EDITOR'S CORNER

My thanks to Kevin Kidd for one more of his always interesting articles and excellent photos. They make the Newsletter worthwhile. My thanks, also, to members who, in past issues, have contributed articles that they believed would be of interest to members.

With the Club Show coming in early March, members are called upon to contribute their time and efforts. Please, offer your assistance. The turnout at the AGM was very poor, but here is a way members can show they are interested in the Club and its continuation.

As Editor, I have tried to bring you interesting articles written by members. I have also asked for input from my readers as to what they might enjoy reading, just as Kevin has requested your input as to what you might be interested in reading concerning various aspects of fossils, etc. I have suggested that, if someone has information that might be of interest to the readers, I would be willing to assist that person in getting an article into print. So far not one person has shown any interest in replying and I am beginning to wonder if a Newsletter of this category is even needed. Perhaps all that is necessary is a two page Newsletter for members giving them Club information. It would certainly save the Club money for printing and postage for the snail mail, which is not covered by the membership fees. I would save my time making copies and mailings. Also, I would save on printer ink and paper to present a master copy, not to mention my time composing a visually presentable Newsletter. If you wish the Newsletter to continue as it has, then I expect some input from you, the members, with ideas for articles. If not, then next month the Newsletter will be a simple letter.

Bev Fox



COMING EVENTS

Courtesy CCFMS

Nothing scheduled for February.

Mar 1-2 **21st Annual Peterborough Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show.**
Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.
The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario.
Admission: \$3.00 for adults, children 12 or under are free & must be accompanied by an adult.
Directions: From Highway 115 at Peterborough, take the Parkway to Lansdowne St., then East 4 blocks to Monaghan Rd., then North 1 block.
Or travel West on Highway 7 (Lansdowne St.), into Peterborough, turn right at the 6th traffic light onto Monaghan Rd., then North 1 block.
Contact: Robert Beckett at 705-740-4530.
Website: <http://www.rockandfossil.com/>

**ENTRY FORM for BEST COLLECTED FOSSIL
2013**

Your entry must be given to Ulrike Kullik at the Club Table, with this completed form, before 10:00 am, March 1, 2014 at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd., Peterborough, ON. Please make other arrangements with her if you are unable to be there at that time.

Your entry must be picked up after the Show closes at 5:00 pm on March 2, 2014. Please make other arrangements with her if you are unable to be there at that time.

Please print so the information can be easily read.

What is item being entered, eg: trilobite, brachiopod, etc.

What is the Genus and species:

Where was it collected:

By whom:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

**ENTRY FORM for BEST COLLECTED MINERAL
2013**

Your entry must be given to Ulrike Kullik at the Club Table, with this completed form, before 10:00 am, March 1, 2014 at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd., Peterborough, ON. Please make other arrangements with her if you are unable to be there at that time.

Your entry must be picked up after the Show closes at 5:00 pm on March 2, 2014. Please make other arrangements with her if you are unable to be there at that time.

Please print so the information can be easily read.

What is item being entered:

Where was it collected:

By whom:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____