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# The Rockhound's Bark

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The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

November 2005



## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Meetings are held the last Saturday of each month, September-November and January-May, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. in the auditorium (Lower Level) of the N.S. Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax. Dues are \$20/year, payable in January of each year.

## 2004-2005 EXECUTIVE

<b>President:</b>	<b>Ronnie Van Dommelen</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Fred Walsh</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Terry Collett</b>
<b>Bark Editor:</b>	<b>Ken McKenzie</b>
<b>Librarian:</b>	<b>Doug Bowes</b>

## SOCIETY'S MAILING ADDRESS

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society  
c/o NS Museum of Natural History  
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3A6

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

January 21, 2005.

## NEXT MEETING

By Ken McKenzie

The next meeting of the N.S. Mineral and Gem society will be held Saturday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. No program information is available at this time.

## PROGRESS REPORT ON HISTORY OF THE NOVA SCOTIA MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

By Gordon Stewart

My efforts so far have been directed toward the listing, identification and classification of written or printed source materials concerning the society and its past activities. Such sources appear to be both meager and scattered. Terry Collett has in hand a similar process of identification and classification of photographic materials which had already been organized by Harry Crosman and include items from about 1970 to 1995. At some point, of course, the two groups of materials will have to be related one with the other and with others not yet unearthed as well as with the memories of current club members to form an integrated account. That point, however, is some time away and my main concern in this very preliminary report is to seek the help of all who read it and may have on hand other relevant source materials of which I am unaware or be able to direct me to them.

I have on hand a very short half-page outline of the society's history written in 1981 by Mr. Ken Hamilton, then President of the Society, which I am using as a tentative

framework on which to build a fuller account. From his article the Society appears to have had its first formal meeting on November 11th, 1958 but the article also refers to an apparently earlier "organizational meeting" of three persons including Mr. Clifford Hood, a jeweller of Yarmouth who, probably at the later meeting of November 11th was to be elected the Society's first President. Mr. Eldon George, who still operates a rock-shop in Parrsboro, also has memories of those earliest meetings and may be able to clarify the details more fully.

Unfortunately I have so far been unable to locate any regular minute books of the Society and have had to depend on other sources for the ongoing story of the group and most heavily on accounts appearing in the Society's newsletter, *The Rockhound's Bark*. Terry has passed to me a box which he tells me contains all the materials which have been passed on successively from Secretary to Secretary over the years but the only minutes I have found in it are of some scattered meetings recorded on loose pieces of paper. In this preliminary report I have, therefore, two primary requests to make:

- (1) If anyone is aware of any existing minute books please let me know about them.
- (2) If anyone is aware of surviving copies of the 'Bark', other than those I have on hand, please let me know where I can see them.

I now have on hand copies of the following issues of the 'Bark':

From 1986 and earlier - none on hand  
 From 1987 - November issue only on hand  
 From 1988 - June, September, October and November issues on hand  
 From 1989 - all issues on hand  
 From 1990 - all issues January to May and also September, October and December on hand  
 From 1991 - January, February, March, November and December issues on hand  
 From 1992 - all issues February to November on hand  
 From 1993 - all issues January to November on hand

From 1994 - all issues on hand  
 From 1995 - all issues January to October and also December issue on hand  
 From 1996 - all issues February to November on hand  
 From 1997 - all issues on hand  
 From 1998 - January, February, April, May, September and November issues on hand  
 From 1999 - all issues January to April on hand and also a single page for November  
 From 2000 - all issues on hand  
 From 2001 - all issues January to May and also issues of October and November on hand  
 From 2002 - all issues January to April and also issues of September and October on hand  
 From 2003 - February, April and November issues on hand, all others missing  
 From 2004 - all issues January to April and also issues of October and November on hand  
 From 2005 - all issues January to May and also issue of September on hand

Please let me hear from you regarding further source materials or to make any other comments you feel would be helpful. I may be reached by telephone at (902) 435 4807 or by mail at 31 Helene Ave., Dartmouth, N.S., B2X 1G3, or simply speak to me at the next Club meeting.

Thank you.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

By Ken McKenzie

I have most issues of *The Rockhound's Bark* between the late seventies and early nineties, which I will supply to Gordon. Can others help him out with issues from further back or from more recent years? Hopefully these all could be scanned into an archive at some time in the future that could be put online and/or distributed to all members via C.D.