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# The Rockhound's Bark

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The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

September 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

October 22, 2005.

## NEXT MEETING

By Ken McKenzie  
and Ronnie Van Dommelen

This meeting, being the first of the fall season, will be our annual show and tell. Bring in some interesting specimens you've collected over the summer and we'll trade stories of our summer adventures.

Harry Crossman was a lifelong member of the N.S. Mineral and Gem Society. His collection was donated to the museum, but some material remained at the family home until recently. Harry's son donated this remaining material to Terry Collett. It includes lapidary equipment and supplies, as well as some minerals and fossils. Terry is bringing this in to the club for the September meeting. Much of it will be auctioned off and some will be used for door prizes. So bring in some extra cash (or a cheque) and get ready for some fun!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

Welcome back everyone! I hope that everyone had a good summer. It sure went by pretty quick, but without long stretches of hot weather, it was pretty good for collecting.

There were a couple successful club trips led by Terry Collett. One to Kennetcook for fossils and Cheverie for calcite, manganite/pyrolusite, and borates, and another trip to Amethyst Cove for zeolites. From what I hear, they were enjoyed my many.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting. This first meeting after the summer break is typically a show-and-tell

meeting. So, bring in your photos you finds and anything else of interest.

## SHOW REPORT

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

A little over a month ago (Aug 19-21) was the annual Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show in Parrsboro. This year's show was the 40th and likely one of the largest. There were many dealers present with a wide range of wares - everything from beads and lapidary equipment, to fossils and minerals. I only had a couple hours available at the show and did a quick loop around the rink to see what was available. There were a couple local collectors with interesting material. Terry picked up a couple specimens from one collector including an analcime and heulandite combo. It needed a lot of cleaning, but showed good potential. I picked out a specimen of calcite on sinter for myself. We then moved to another table with a wider selection of minerals. This dealer had a couple chabazites and stilbites. I traded for a nice chabazite that needed a trim but was quite nice otherwise. By this time it was getting pretty busy. I got to see a few friends and chat a bit about recent finds. But alas, it was time to head home. We did stop to stock up on some local blueberries; a great dessert for the buffet of earthly delights that was the 2005 show. I look forward to next year!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By Ken McKenzie

Victor Altheim is looking to buy used lapidary equipment. In particular, he is interested in a diamond bladed trim or slab saw. Contact him at [valtheim@accesswave.ca](mailto:valtheim@accesswave.ca).

Send me your club related notices and I'll print them here. Here are some other message I received recently:

I am a grade 4 teacher at Springvale School in Halifax and we are beginning our science unit called "Rockhounds". I am interested in having someone come into our class to discuss rocks and minerals (more specific details can be discussed at a later date). If this is something your society is interested in helping us out with (or you can recommend someone more suitable) we would greatly appreciate it.

Johanne MacKinnon,  
[johanne@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:johanne@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

I note that at a 2003 meeting of the Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society you made a presentation on the Colonial Copper Company of Cape D'or, N.S.

I also note that you had scanned some photographic images of the company's operations for the Club's library/files.

I have a 36 page prospectus, profusely illustrated with photographic images, of the Colonial Copper Company and its Cape D'or operations. It dates from c. 1902, measures 9 & 3/4 inches by 7 & 1/4 inches and is in excellent condition.

I am a collector of rare Eastern Canadian printed material, being an expatriate PEIslander, and although I have great affection for all things to do with Cape Gold (I've spent many a summer day hiking the cliffs there, have dined in the lighthouse on many occasions, etc) an expanding family forces me to narrow my collecting habits and to dispense with things not related to Prince Edward Island.

I am a graduate of King's College/Dalhousie and was Dean of Men there from 1995 to 1996 while I was doing further graduate work at Dal. Classics Dept. I've spent many an afternoon in the Geology Lounge of the Sciences Building cramming for Greek exams - the best view on Campus!

If you, the Society or any of its members are interested please contact me at the email address below.

Edward Rix, [elrix@allsaintswynne.org](mailto:elrix@allsaintswynne.org)