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# The Rockhound's Bark

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The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

April 2006



## 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.

## 2005-2006 EXECUTIVE

President:	Ronnie Van Dommelen
Vice President:	Fred Walsh
Secretary:	Imelda O'Toole
Treasurer:	Terry Collett
Bark Editor:	Ken McKenzie
Librarian:	Doug Bowes

## 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

May 20, 2006.

## NEXT MEETING

By Ken McKenzie

The next meeting of the N.S. Mineral and Gem society will be held Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. After the business meeting I will give a presentation on about caves and karst. For those of you who recall my talk on the same topics a few years back, this sequel talk will feature lots of new pictures and more Canadian caves. In keeping with the karst theme, the mineral theme will be carbonates.



Polished marble in the Corner Brook Cave, Newfoundland, June 2005 (K. McKenzie)

## MINERAL QUIZ

By Ken McKenzie

As mentioned above, carbonate minerals will comprise the mineral theme this month. Answers to the quiz below will be discussed at the meeting and be published next month.

1. Carbonates can be considered a subset of what larger mineral group? (phosphates, carbonatites, or evaporites)
2. Which group of geologic formations contains Nova Scotia's major carbonate deposits: Canso Group, Windsor Group, or Horton Group?
3. Which is not a carbonate: gypsum, magnesite, calcite?
4. During what period of geologic history were many of Nova Scotia's carbonates deposited?
5. What chemical property of carbonates leads to karst formations?
6. What is a carbonate mud called? (marl, silt, or travertine)
7. Which mineral is a polymorph of calcite: aragonite, dolomite, or rhodochrosite?
8. Which two common carbonate minerals are blue and green, respectively?
9. Many carbonates are deposited as a result of organic processes (true or false?).
10. What is the significance of the recent find of carbonate minerals on Mars?

## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

By Mel O`Toole

March 25, 2006

### Old business

Gordon Stewart brought us up to date on his research regarding the club's history. Bill Take who was the geologist at the museum when the club started, moved here in 1947 and away in 1963. He remembers that field trips were well established with the Naturalists and the Education Department before the club started.

Ronnie contacted Debbie Skilliter at the museum about a tour of the collection but she could not fix a suitable date and said that it might be possible in July or August.

The membership cards were brought in and distributed and Ronnie brought the tide tables.

### New business

Doug Bowes fixed the UV light and would be willing to give a talk and demo on fluorescent rocks.

Bill --- mentioned that with the excavations going on highway 103, there are good samples of fluorite to be found after the Hammonds Plains exit.

On April 9 there will be a field trip to the Dunbrack mine. Any suggestions for other field trips or topics for the meetings are welcome.

At the April meeting there will be a presentation on caving given by Ken and hopefully the following month Doug Bowes will give a talk and demonstration on fluorescent rocks.

## AMETHYST COVE

By Ken McKenzie

The collecting season is upon us and one official club trip has taken place already. For those of us anxious to get to Amethyst Cove before it's picked over, we should decide upon a date soon. Base on tides, the weekend of May 6-7 looks good. I'm interested in leading a trip 'down the ropes' for anyone who cares to join me on one of those days. We'll make a final decision at the next meeting, but if there's anyone who wants to go but can't attend the meeting, please contact me by phone or e-mail saying which of those days you can go and which you prefer.