

---

# The Rockhound's Bark

---

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

March 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

<b>President:</b>	<b>Ronnie Van Dommelen</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Fred Walsh</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Imelda O'Toole</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

April 22, 2006.

## NEXT MEETING

By Ken McKenzie

The next meeting of the N.S. Mineral and Gem society will be held Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. No program is planned for this month. The mineral theme will be phosphates.

## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

By Mel O'Toole

February 25, 2006

### Old business

Gordon's Stewart has located a retired geologist now living in Toronto who was a member of the club and familiar with *the Bark* years ago. This person may be able to shed some light on the missing information.

Terry Collett now has a subscription to the *Mineralogical Record*. The idea to get back copies has been scrapped because the individual magazines are very expensive.

Ken has offered to give a presentation on caving at a later date. And if anyone has any suggestions for a subject for a talk or know of any guest speakers we could invite, please let us know. There is a small honourarium to offer any likely candidate.

### New business

Ronnie Van Dommelen will bring in the tide tables next meeting.

Ronnie has offered to talk to someone from the museum about us getting a tour of the collection.

Ronnie will put together a list of useful websites for mineral collecting.

Fred Walsh and Terry Collett will make up new membership cards with the same format as old cards.

Gordon Stewart suggested that we co-ordinate with other groups i.e. the prospectors, the Atlantic Geoscience society and museum websites, to advertise the club.

## MINERAL OF THE MONTH

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

It's been a while since we had a mineral of the month. I checked some old *Barks* to see what we did before (to avoid repeating) and found quartz, gypsum, fluorite, calcite, and the elements. I'm pretty sure we did more, but am not sure what they might have been. Anyway, this month I have selected the phosphates group as 'mineral' of the month.

1. This Cdn. province/territory is home to many world-class phosphate minerals such as wardite and gormanite.
2. Lazurite or lazulite – the one that is a phosphate.
3. This greenish-blue phosphate is rare in crystals but frequently found in lumps and nodules that are polished into different shapes and used as jewellery.
4. Found around Bancroft, Ontario, sometimes in huge crystals, this phosphate sounds like it needs to be fed.
5. Wavellite is used by surfers as a way to wish for a better ride, T/F.
6. A popular mineral, this phosphate is found as richly coloured green or yellow crystals from China, Idaho, Spain and France. In Nova Scotia excellent brown crystals are found at the Dunbrack lead mine.
7. Amblygonite, a pegmatite mineral, contains which light element: beryllium, lithium, or boron?
8. This iron bearing phosphate (which sounds like a girl's name) is usually light sensitive. It darkens and loses

transparency when exposed to light over long periods of time.

9. This phosphate is the iron end-member of a series that has eosphorite as the manganese end-member.
10. Torbernite, a phosphate that can form nice green square plates, is also radioactive. (T/F?)

## USEFUL WEBSITES

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

### Reference

<http://www.mindat.org/>

(minerals and localities, edited by users)

<http://webmineral.com/>

(data on all known minerals, including name pronunciations)

### Dealers

<http://www.irocks.com/new.html>

<http://www.danweinrich.com/>

<http://exceptionalminerals.com/>

<http://www.fabreminerals.com/indexen.php>

<http://www.marinmineral.com/>

<http://www.ucminerals.com/home.asp>

<http://www.topmin.de/>

<http://www.mineralium.com/>

**Others** (these will have everything you will ever need)

<http://www.minerant.org/>

<http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/linklist.shtml>

## 2006 SHOWS

### Date and location correction:

Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada's National Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Annual Convention

**September 29 – 30, 2006**

Uplands Community Centre, **Regina, Sask.**

See <http://www.gmfc.ca/showconvention.htm> or contact the Prairie Rock and Gem Society.