
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

September 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.

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

October 21, 2006.

NEXT MEETING

By Ken McKenzie

September 30, as usual, is our annual show and tell night. Please bring in any interesting specimens you may have collected over the summer. Even if you're not sure what they may be, someone in the club may be able to identify them.

BRIER ISLAND COPPER MINE

By Ken McKenzie

On a recent trip to Brier Island, at the end of Digby Neck, I visited what locals have described as an abandoned copper mine. The only physical evidence is a vertical shaft in the basalt approximately four metres in diameter and filled with water. Some fishing gear can be seen through the murk, suggesting the shaft is not very deep, has collapsed, or has been filled in. There's no indication of copper minerals in the immediate vicinity, yet local folklore insists that copper was mined from this site during the second world war.



Does anyone know anything about this possible mine? A friend is doing research on the island and would like to be able to confirm or deny the islanders' claims.

A COUPLE OF THINGS...

By Ronnie Van Dommelen

The museum would like to know a good brand of tumbler to sell in their store. If someone has the answer, please let me know and I will forward the info.

Brenda Boutilier asked if the club could do an open-house style event. It would be on a Sunday afternoon, in the auditorium, sometime in January or February (we pick the weekend). We could have displays, demos, etc. If people could give some thought to which weekend would be best, and what demos/displays they would be willing to work on and contribute to, we can discuss at the meeting.

ROCKHOUND BLOG

By Gary Olet

I am a member of the vernonrockhounds and to make a long story short I started a rock blog to keep me busy.

What is a blog you might ask? A blog is an "online" magazine/journal relating to a specific topic. This blog is about rockhounding/lapidary and anything and everything pertaining to it. It's a free service and if you subscribe to it, you can get updates sent to your email regularly so that you never miss a post. You don't have to subscribe though, simply just come to the site and catch up whenever you feel like it. www.rockhoundblog.com

Why am I creating this blog? I realized the wealth of knowledge within my rockhound club and I found that if I missed a meeting I missed out on valuable information. Then I started thinking... imagine the wealth of information in EVERY rock club around the world, just waiting to be tapped! What if I

could bring everyone together to share/help each other out for the benefit of everyone?

What will be the content of this blog? I want to start by introducing rock clubs that contact me that are reading/submitting articles to this blog. I would like them to share info about their club, personal stories, where they are located, what they find in their area, any great finds and pictures, and any secret places around them that they would like to share with fellow rockhounds. I would love to build a 'best places to find' archive where anyone who is going to travel to a certain area can instantly access this blog and find where to rockhound on their vacation. I have a wealth of 'secret' maps for all of B.C. but not for anywhere else, so I will start sharing in hopes that other people send in their great spots to share as well. How do I help out with this blog? You might ask... I would like for everyone reading this information to bring this post into their rockhound meeting and let people know about this blog and how to access it. I encourage anyone who wants to check it out, or submit something to join in. If you think that your information and story is interesting and related to lapidary, please submit it even if I haven't suggested a specific topic. This is just a sample of what I am requesting. What I am looking for people to submit: 1- Greetings from all the clubs that are reading/subscribing to this blog. 2- Any great finds in your area (I would love to post pictures if possible). 3- Any interesting stories, club news/events/awards etc. 4- Lapidary articles-does anyone in your group give talks on lapidary? I would like for them to write an article for everyone to read and learn about here. 5- Does anyone in your group give lessons on making/designing jewellery? A step -by- step lesson with pictures if possible would be interesting. 6- Secret/great spots in your area to rockhound, so that when people are going on vacation they can search for a city in the area on this blog and see where they can rockhound and for what specimens. 7- Anything interesting with regards to lapidary.