
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

March 2008



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.

2007 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

April 19, 2008.

NEXT MEETING

By Ken McKenzie

March 29 is our next scheduled meeting night. The program this month will revolve around how to clean and prepare specimens, along with tools of the trade. Be sure to bring in some dirty specimens to clean.

MEMBERSHIP

By Ken McKenzie

As you'll note in the minutes of the last meeting, the definition of membership was moved to be those who have paid their dues for the year by the end of March. In order to help those who may not be sure if they've paid or not, I've compiled a membership list as of last month. If your name isn't on it, then you must pay by the end of this month in order to remain a member and continue to receive newsletters and other announcements. All unpaid members will be removed from the distribution list next month. Courtesy mailings to other clubs and institutions will continue.

The Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada has published its 2008 directory, which includes member clubs. A copy has been attached to the e-mailed version of this newsletter. Those who receive *the Bark* by postal mail may request a printed copy.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

By Fred Walsh

Meeting started 7:40 PM. 13 members were present.

Bill Blinn has agreed to try out being our new president and has done up new membership cards.

Old Business

Bill Blinn has done up a new pamphlet to use in the 2008 Gem and mineral show in Parrsboro this August 15, 16, and 17th; approved by all.

Terry will be checking on a field trip around Parrsboro and to the new show room of Tyson minerals.

Ken mentioned about the GMFC insurance statement to be put on back of the membership card. Terry will check into this.

The research in to the Isle Haute field trip will continue.

Terry made a motion that in order to be a member in good standing one has to be paid up within the first three mounts or they will not be considered a member. Seconded by Fred and approved by all.

Evelyn Stewart made a motion that the copy of the club's history done by Gordon K. Stewart should only be given with a paid membership. Seconded by Bill Blinn, all approved.

Bill Blinn is trying to make a CD with old club photos, Ken agreed to help with picking out the photos, Terry will get the slides to Bill and Ken, TBA.

New Business

For the March meeting, the program will be on how to clean and prepare specimens, along with tools of the trade.

John Lowry asked about web site links on the web page. Ken will check.

John also asked about box ordering. Terry will check.

Martin Eirisch asked about getting grants and Terry explained that there was none available.

Bill Blinn wanted to get a membership list for the members, Terry will get list to Ken and Ken will update list for next newsletter.

No other new business. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

OF ROCKS, ROCKHOUNDS AND LAPIDARIES – A Historical Sketch Of The Nova Scotia Mineral And Gem Society

Part 2

by Gordon K. Stewart

"The Rockhound's Bark"

The Society's activities as well as its numbers have gradually changed in the course of time but, fortunately, from the point of view of someone attempting to follow them, the various steps in these changes may be traced, at least during more recent years, in copies of the Society's newsletter, "The Rockhound's Bark", which is in fact the only ongoing source of information about many of them.

In its earliest form the Society's newsletter lacked any more specific name than simply, the "Newsletter", and there survive two copies with no other name, one of the issue of May 1962 and the other of October in the same year. No editor is named in either of those issues but a surviving "curriculum vitae" of Clifford Hood which he himself seems to have written says of him that he, "...organized N.S. Mineral & Gem Club 1958, First president & until 1964 was president, wrote newsletters etc." It is probable, therefore, that the beginnings of "The Bark" should be attributed to him, and, as further evidence, there survives the cover page of a "Newsletter" dated December 15, 1960 which carries a Christmas greeting and a line drawing of the same figure of a "little man" which Clifford Hood used in illustrating his commercial brochure as proprietor of Acadia Gems in Yarmouth. Precisely when and how the name, "Rockhound's Bark", originated is uncertain. There are still some dim memories of it having emerged from some type of contest and an equally dim memory associates its origin with Hector Gaudet who was a Vice President of the Society from 1978 to 1980 and President from 1980 to 1981, but the name was already

in use by 1975 and the matter remains unclear.

Just how the Newsletter fared in its earliest years is, of course, largely unknown since no copies have survived except of those two issues of May and October, 1962, already mentioned. In later years, however, it is clear that the "Bark" has several times appeared to be on life support and has had to be resuscitated, usually with new editorial and/or printing arrangements. The way these matters were handled at the beginning is not recorded but at some early date the Museum certainly became involved in the publication process as is made clear by the notice given in the "Bark" of October, 1976. that, "...being limited by the new 'austerity' program enforced by the Museum [Where presumably "The Bark" was being printed] we are going to have to double up a bit" so that six issues only would appear that year and the number of pages in each would also be limited, "...to stick within the new Postal rate tables."

In most normal years the "Bark" had appeared more or less monthly except during July and August but there had always been difficulties which now appeared to be increasing. By 1977 the Museum was no longer doing the actual printing but was passing it to be done by another government office, a process which required up to three weeks. In 1978 the new coeditors of the "Bark", Lynn and Bernie Edwards turned instead to the use of their own typewriter and duplicator but that had its own problems which were compounded by illness in the family and difficulties continued. In February of 1984 Ron Bullman, the Society's President, reported, "We have been in a continual hassle over the publication of the Bark since 1980". The Bark's editor at the time, Jim Jerram, had just resigned and no "Barks" appeared thereafter until in May when some unidentified person produced an issue "Printed courtesy of the Nova Scotia Museum" and this was followed in June by the first of two "Barks" edited by Doug Wilson, then a lad just finishing High School. He was a relative newcomer to the Society but stepped in as Editor to fill the gap until Jim

Jerram and his wife, Shirley, resumed the office jointly in the summer of 1985, to be followed in due course by others over the years, including Doug Wilson himself once again in 1996-7, by which time, however, the problems of "The Bark" had been considerably relieved and he had become active as a commercial dealer.

Arrangements for the physical production and distribution of "the Bark" using typewriters, stencils and duplicators and the postal service were always difficult. Sometimes outside assistance was available as reflected, for example, in the notation "Printed courtesy of the Nova Scotia Museum" which appeared in the issues of March and April 1982 or "Printed with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Museum" which appeared in most issues from May 1982 to June 1984 and again in that of April 1989 or "Printed with the assistance of Zieken Enterprises" which appeared in most issues from June 1986 to June 1989, but it was all a troublesome process that often faltered until pressures were relieved by the advent successively of computers and of electronic mail. Today very few paper copies are distributed and of recent years the Bark has been appearing regularly with few lapses except in 1999, when for a time the Society's life as a whole was almost in abeyance following the resignation of its President, and again in 2003 during the terminal illness of its editor, Andrew Brock. Since then the newsletter has for the most part appeared regularly although often with more limited content.

— 1958 TO 1979 —
 THE NOVA SCOTIA
 MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY
 — NEWSLETTER —

The Rockhound's Bark

September 1979

ANNOUNCING

THE N.S. MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY NOW HAS A PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS. THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE EXPEDIENCY OF TO PERSONNEL CONCERNED TO PROVIDE A PROMPT THIS CONSISTENCY WILL KEEP THE COMMUNICATION OPEN CONTINUALLY ALL YEAR — AND DIVORCED THE ANNUAL CHANGES OF OUR SLATE OF OFFICERS, NAMES AND ADDRESSES, ETC., ARE NOT COMPILED OUR IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR ANNUAL MAY MEETING AND ELECTION. HERE IT IS!!

THE N.S. MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY P.O. BOX 1041, STATION 1041 HALLIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3K 5M1 CANADA	N.B.,** (SEE BELOW) TO AVOID DELAY, MEET DEADLINES, AND FORWARDING, MAIL LETTERS, ETC. TO OFFICERS RE "BARK", MEMBERSHIP, ETC. SEE**
--	---

SCHEDULED FALL '79 MEETINGS: PLACE: N.S. MUSEUM AUDITORIUM,
 8:00 P.M. ENTRANCE SOUTH DOOR (PARKING LOT)