
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

January 2009



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.

2009 EXECUTIVE

President:	William Blinn
Vice President:	Fred Walsh
Secretary/Bark Editor:	Arlene Driscoll
Treasurer:	Terry Collett
Librarian:	Herb Malle

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

NEXT MEETING

By Terry Collett

Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. This month's program is a slide presentation on Iceland by Ken McKenzie. **Please bring any books or other publications that you may have borrowed from the library to the January 31 meeting as Herb will be updating the library inventory.** The mineral theme is basalt minerals.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

By William Blinn

Victor reported that May 9th 2009 would be the date for the Mineral, Lapidary, and Fossil Show at the NS Geology Museum. Hopefully this show will be as successful as the last and we encourage members to participate.

Bill presented a letter from Deborah Skilliter Curator of Geology NS Museum, asking if the club could help identify mineral specimens being brought in by visitors. It was decided that the best way would be for her to gather them in a box with location found and give them to the guard for us to see at our regular meetings. She will also be encouraged to ask people to attend a meeting for the same purpose.

Bill presented a brochure "Finding Minerals & Agates around the Bay of Fundy NS" which on approval by members will be offered to the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro. This action is in reply to a request received at the Parrsboro Mineral Show last summer for

something to hand out to visitors. Members are reminded to look it over before the January meeting.

Bill passed around a questionnaire about where member's interest laid, results will be discussed at next meeting.

There was discussion on meeting presentations and all members are asked to come up with ideas for future meetings.

Next item was the election of officers for the club. The following were the results.

President	William Blinn
Vice President	Fred Walsh
Secretary	Arlene Driscoll
Treasurer	Terry Collett
Bark Editor	Arlene Driscoll
Librarian	Herb Malle

Next up was the Mini Mineral show, which seemed to be a success, with several members having items for sale.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

Membership fees are due in January. Please fill out the form on the next page and bring it with you to the next meeting or mail it to Terry along with \$20.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

February 15, 2009

E-mail to driscoll@allstream.net

THE CRYSTAL CAVES

It's "the Sistine Chapel of crystals," says Juan Manuel García- Ruiz. The geologist announced this week that he and a team of researchers have unlocked the mystery of just how the minerals in Mexico's Cueva de los Cristales (Cave of Crystals) achieved their monumental forms. Buried a thousand feet (300 meters) below Naica mountain in the Chihuahuan Desert, the cave was discovered by two miners excavating a new tunnel for the Industrias Peñoles company in 2000. To learn how the crystals grew to such gigantic sizes, García-Ruiz studied tiny pockets of fluid trapped inside.

The cave contains some of the largest natural crystals ever found: translucent gypsum beams measuring up to 36 feet (11 meters) long and weighing up to 55 tons. The crystals, he said, thrived because they were submerged in mineral-rich water with a very narrow, stable temperature range - around 136 degrees Fahrenheit (58 degrees Celsius). At this temperature the mineral anhydrite, which was abundant in the water, dissolved into gypsum, a soft mineral that can take the form of the crystals in the Naica cave.



BBC – April 6, 2007

Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Membership Application

Payment

Current NSMGS membership dues are \$20 per family (up to two adults and two children). The dues cover membership from January 1 to December 31, 2009.

Payment (Check One): ___ Cheque ___ Cash Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Personal Info

Name of Principal Applicant: _____

Names of Additional Family Members to be Covered: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Alternative: _____

E-mail (If Applicable): _____

Willing to read The Bark on the web (Yes/No) and/or receive other notices via e-mail (Yes/No)?

Areas of Interest

Please rate your areas of interest (1 (*most important*) thru 6 (*least important*)): ___ Minerals, ___ Fossils, ___ Gems, ___ Lapidary, ___ Geology, ___ Other (Specify) _____

Conditions Of Membership

By submitting this application with payment, the applicant agrees to abide by all conditions of membership as stated in the constitution and releases the Society and its members from any liability associated with Society activities.

I have read and understand the conditions of membership.

Signature: _____

Signature of parent/guardian if under 18 years of age: _____

Date: _____