
The Rockhound's Bark

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

March 2004



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.

2004-2005 EXECUTIVE

President:	Ronnie Van Dommelen
Vice President:	Fred Walsh
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Terry Collett
Bark Editor:	Ken McKenzie
Librarian:	Doug Bowes

SOCIETY'S MAILING ADDRESS

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society
care of N.S. Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3A6

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

April 14, 2004

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2004. Ronnie Van Dommelen will lead a digital photography workshop this evening. In addition to your camera, Ronnie suggests you bring in specimens to practice photographing that are at least one centimetre in diameter and not very shiny. The best pictures can be published in future editions of *the Bark* and on the web site.

LAST MEETING

Our February meeting was an informal one, so no minutes were taken. An auction in memory of Andrew Brock was highly successful. Proceeds went to Andrew's family.



A specimen from the auction.

NEW COLLECTIONS AT THE ROM

Ronnie Van Dommelen sends news that the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto has acquired two significant new mineral collections. The ROM now boasts of 2400 new "rare and remarkable specimens" from the Tsumeb mine in Namibia and the Mont Saint-Hilaire quarry in Québec.

Described in the news release are three specimens from the Namibian collection:

- "A legrandite discovered in 1992 at the incredible depth of four thousand feet, in the third oxide zone of the Tsumeb mine. Well-developed crystals of legrandite are exceedingly rare, and this mineral will be the best example of its type in the ROM's collection."
- "A rosasite consisting of microscopic sky-blue crystals grown on botryoidal green malachite, which in turn is perched atop bladed cerussite crystals. Attractive specimens of rosasite are very difficult to obtain."
- "A calcite on mottramite, with an aesthetically balanced, undamaged covering of transparent calcite crystals over a bed of dendritic, moss-green mottramite, a lead vanadate mineral. This mineral is highly desirable as a calcite specimen, and combined with some of the world's best mottramite, it makes a truly stunning piece."

The museum intends to display some of the minerals in a new gallery to open in December 2006. The media release is available on the web at <http://www.rom.on.ca/news/releases/public.php?mediakey=bno3zng93n>.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new members Herbert Malle of Dartmouth and Claudia Weis of Halifax.

G.M.F.C. SHOW

The 2004 Gem Show, Sale, and Convention of the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada will be held July 16-18 in Surrey, B.C. More information is available on the G.M.F.C. web site (<http://www.gmfc.ca/showconvention.htm>).

G.M.F.C. SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada, of which we are all members, provides annually three undergraduate scholarships of \$500 each to first year students at Canadian universities, colleges, and technical schools to be used for tuition and books. Applicants must be children or grand children of G.M.F.C. members. Also, a \$1000 Honourary Scholarship directed to the university of choice by the winner is available. Deadlines for application for the undergraduate and honorary scholarships are July 31 and June 30, respectively. Forms are available from the newsletter editor. More information may be had from Donald B. Fabrick, President of the G.M.F.C. Scholarship Foundation Inc. (rdrunr@sasktel.net or 306-764-0991).



Another specimen from the auction.