



The Pink Dolomite Saddle

Monthly Bulletin of the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society

Sep 2020

<http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/>

Welcome back from summer!
We hope that you've all had a great summer,
despite the ongoing pandemic.

Rockhounding & Field Trips

We, also, hope that you've been able to get out and do some rockhounding
- even rockhounding in your gardens or amongst your own collections.

And, yes, a couple of our families did go on rockhounding trips.

extra details on page 4, 5, & 8

Online Auctions

We've now had 2 online auctions - May and Aug.

Both auctions have raised money for the club - just shy of \$250.

Next planned online auction will be Saturday, October 3rd.

extra details on page 3

Meetings? with speakers?

Not "live" yet - but we're looking at how can we possibly do online meetings
as well as, somehow, have speakers, too.

Please don't hesitate to make suggestions.

We'll keep you updated as possibilities are explored.

Some of our CCFMS clubs are planning on doing online meetings, others are still doing "wait & see".

extra details on page 7

Lapidary

The Brantford club workshop facility is **open!**

And a number of us have been there to slice, polish, and shape rocks, etc throughout the summer.

extra details on page 6

We want to hear from you.

**Our club can be as vibrant and as mighty as ever both online
as well as some "live" "limited numbers, masked, hand-sanitized, & socially distanced" events.**

Please stay safe and healthy.

group page



Contact Us

NPGS info: 289-214-1151 (Christopher White, Vice President)

general email address: npgsgeo@gmail.com

mailing address: NPGS c/o 120 South Drive, St Catharines, ON L2R 4V9



President's Corner

Happy September! I hope everyone had the best summer they could under the circumstances and stayed safe and healthy.

Unfortunately, John and I were not able to get out to camp even in Ontario at all – trailer issues. Kudos to those of you who were able to get out and collect and hopefully you'll share your experiences with the club when you are able to.

I would like to thank Ashley Pollock and Brian Dear for going and picking up the 3 dozen boxes of a rock collection that was donated and especially to Ashley for taking the time to sort through them all. (Editor's note: Patti helped do some sorting as well.)

We were hoping to be able to hold an actual meeting this month but as we all know there is still too much uncertainty regarding the pandemic.

We will keep you in the loop with notices on Facebook, the website, and emails. Your executive is striving to find new ways to keep our club relevant and active during these trying times and is open to any and all suggestions our members may have.

I am looking forward to another online auction on Saturday October 3rd, which will have some lovely specimens of minerals, crystals, jewellery, and books, something for everyone.

Until then, I would like to thank all of our health care workers and teachers for working with the safety precautions and stress of times like these.

Take care, Patti

at the Brantford workshop facility in July 2020



pics by Jay Zee



Auctions

planned ONLINE Annual Auction on Saturday, October 3rd from 12 noon 'til 5 pm.

what & who is selling?

Christopher White (Auction Co-ordinator), Patti Anderson (President), Brian Dear (member & roving reporter), and Ashley Pollock (Field Trip Director) will all have specimens for sale.

Plus rocks, minerals, & books from 3 **donated** collections.

If any of our members wish to sell any specimens, please contact Christopher White by phone: 289-214-1151 or by email npgsvpres@gmail.com or via Facebook Messenger.

Arrangements can be made to pick up your specimens from your porch or you can deliver them to our President's house in St Catharines.

!! Auction extras, extras !!

Christopher will have **amethyst** from Thunder Bay - collected this summer. Christopher will also have some exceptional **fluorite** specimens from China.

and 3 donated collections

In August, Oxford County & Niagara clubs picked up a rock collection

- and, seriously, it had over a 1000 specimens (3 dozen boxes, most of them "heavy, heavy, heavy")

- though primarily sandstones, shales, granites/metamorphics, and limestones. (see below)

Nevertheless, there are some treasures - unusual, sparkly, and/or interesting specimens, etc,

- which will be offered at the October auction.

Collection from Greg Williams plus a huge thank you to the Williams family.

Angela Conforti has donated specimens for our auction as well (will be in the October auction too).

Angela has also been an avid buyer at our online auctions.

Huge thank you to Angela.

Also, in August, London club donated a bunch of **geology books** (some of them "collectible") to a number of our CCFMS geology clubs - Niagara included.

We'll post a list of the books - free to anyone interested - plus mention them at the October auction; however, we'll also accept donations for the club for any of the books.

A huge thank you to Bob O'Donnell, President of London club.



Please click on this button to download a pdf copy of Buyer & Seller rules & expectations. Thank you.



Please click on this button to download a printer friendly auction slip form. Is a Word document - so can easily be filled in. Thank you.



A teensy bit more info on the Greg Williams collection - Greg was an English Literature professor - but he also liked to rockhound. He went to all kinds of collecting sites - primarily all over Ontario and the US - some of which are now "closed". Over the next couple of months, we hope to make some nice "educational" sets (particularly for the kids). Plan is to publish pictures of the specimens - in our newsletter & news flashes, on our website, and on Facebook. We'll try to have some available before the October auction.

The educational sets will be free for kids. For adults, we ask for donations.

Proceeds from this collection will be shared 50/50 with the Oxford County club. And some of the specimens, too, will be donated to Brantford club for fundraising for their lapidary workshop facility. London club already has a couple of fossils. Kitchener-Waterloo may get some unusual minerals. **This was a team effort amongst 5 of our clubs.**

Field Trips

Hungry Hollow field trips

There was a super-duper fossil collecting field trip in July at Hungry Hollow - a very popular destination for many of us. Pandemic rules were in effect. And, **thank you to everyone!** because you all followed the rules - and no-one got sick.

And, of course, everyone collected superb fossils.

Bob O'Donnell (Hungry Hollow liaison & London club President) has plans in the works to do another Hungry Hollow field trip in September.

We'll keep you apprised!

Bancroft & Thunder Bay field trips

Christopher White, our intrepid Vice-President, ventured out to Bancroft and up to Thunder Bay this summer. Fabulous collecting and fabulous camping.

Wait 'til you see the Thunder Bay amethyst!!

Field Trips - as soon as we can in 2021.

Please expect that there will be extra pandemic safety rules for all sites.

Possibly restricted attendee numbers (currently, in Ontario, we're allowed up to 100 people for outside groups); however, site owners have the right to restrict to lower numbers.

Local Public Health Units may also have additional pandemic rules - even in 2021.

All field trips require that you have masks, hand sanitizer, and adhere to social distancing.

If you don't wish to follow the rules - that's fine - however, you won't be allowed on the field trip.

Health & safety is very important - and we don't wish anyone to become sick. Thank you.

Field Trips that are regularly scheduled year-in, year-out.



Hungry Hollow near Arkona, ON

last weekend in April / first weekend in May - co-hosted with London Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Society
kid-friendly



CCFMS Beamsville Quarry

2 times per year
usually on Mother's Day weekend
plus late September / early October on a Saturday
minimum age requirement: 16 years or older



Herkimer Diamonds near Herkimer, New York, USA

Victoria Day weekend in May
kid-friendly
pay-to-collect

maybe late 2021
or not until 2022, if border
remains closed



Winnipeg Floodway Miocene selenite crystals

hosted by the Mineral Society of Manitoba
anytime during summer or early fall - dates can vary
minimum age requirement: 16 years or older



CCFMS Bowmanville Quarry

2 times per year
usually May into early June on a Sunday
plus late September / early October on a Sunday
minimum age requirement: 16 years or older



Ridgemount Quarries, Fort Erie, ON

usually late June at the "south" quarry
possibly August / September at the "north" quarry
minimum age requirement: 16 years or older

Field trips that are in the plans - for 2021:



Arkansas quartz, diamonds, wavellite, novaculite

sometime in the spring or summer
kid-friendly
pay-to-collect

maybe late 2021
or not until 2022, if border
remains closed



Thunder Bay amethyst, agate, jasper, Banded Iron plus Lake Huron puddingstone

sometime in the summer
kid-friendly
partially pay-to-collect



Bancroft

sometime in the summer
kid-friendly



River Valley, Temagami, Gowgonda

sometime in the summer
kid-friendly



Madoc

sometime in the summer
kid-friendly



Toronto, ON

minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, meteorites, amber, & jewellery
from every geologic age
kid-friendly
admission fee
ROM is currently open - has pandemic rules.

Hungry Hollow in July 2020



Lots of social distancing - except family groups (of course!) - hence masks weren't needed during those moments. (Even the blue bucket did social distancing! LOL)



It was a very hot day - 80s - yikes!

unsure who took the pictures - Ray Mason, London club Newsletter Editor sent them to us. Thanks, Ray



FOSSIL TREASURES



Lapidary

The Brantford workshop facility is OPEN!

Workshop hours - for the Niagara club - are Saturdays from 12 noon or so until 5/6 pm.
Starting October 10th - small possibility that we'll also have a visit in September.

Please confirm with Christopher White, our Vice-President & Lapidary Director, if you would like to attend.

Christopher can be contacted by phone: 289-214-1151
or by email either at npgsvpres@gmail.com or via Facebook Messenger.

Address: 125 Stanley Street, Unit# 5, Brantford.
(Google Maps will probably tell you best how to travel to the workshop from your location.)
Park at the back, please - it's also where entrance door is.

Pandemic rules apply - limited people numbers are allowed (10 people).
Please ensure that you adhere to social distancing of 6 feet from other people (unless your family group).
If you are closer than 6 feet with other people, please ensure that you have a mask on.
Please ensure that you bring hand sanitizer.

The Brantford workshop facility is an enclosed area.
Ventilation is not optimal. And the facility can get quite warm when many machines are working.
We suggest that masks are best for 100% of the time.



BRANTFORD LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY'S



Come out to our workshop to make beautiful cabochon or cut material you already own, or material can be purchased at the workshop. There are instructors to show you how to create wonderful works of art & jewellery.

Workshop

• Our workshop is open on Saturdays, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm, and on Sundays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Address: 125 Stanley Street Unit #5 Brantford. For a map, visit www.brantfordlapidarymineral.ca

- Punch Cards: \$12 single, \$55 - 5 sessions, \$100 - 10 sessions, \$180 - 20 sessions
- Must be a member of the BLMS club or a CFMS club affiliate to use the workshop
- Minimum member age is 13 years old to use the equipment
- Contact by our email at brantfordlapidarymineral.ca website



Please see above for hours & address. Thanks.

www.brantfordlapidarymineral.ca

Please sign in for ALL visits to the Brantford workshop facility.
Insurance coverage requirement. Thanks.

Payment for using the Brantford workshop facility:

Prices

- \$12 - single session
- \$55 - 5 sessions (= \$11 per session)
- \$100 - 10 sessions (= \$10 per session)
- \$180 - 20 sessions (= \$9 per session)

Two ways to pay:

- 1) Pay in cash at the workshop facility.
Please ensure that you hand your payment to Christopher White (he'll be in attendance for all Niagara visits). Christopher will ensure that payment gets to Brantford Club.
Please do your best to bring exact change.
Thanks.
- 2) Pay by Interac e-transfer to Brantford Club
brantfordlapandmin@gmail.com.
Alice Logan, Brantford Treasurer, will send an acknowledgement **PLUS** will drop off a punch card to the workshop.
Number on the punch card is needed for when you sign in.

Meetings & Speakers

So, what are the future plans for meetings?

Brainstorming, throwing-around, thinking-about thoughts, ideas, suggestions on “just how are we going to do monthly meetings and speakers”?

Too, we would very much like thoughts, ideas, suggestions from our membership.

Doesn't matter how crazy the idea

- you never know what might work, might be appealing, might be super exciting, etc.

Pandemic rules, of course, apply to these re-inventions - particularly anything face-to-face

- such as, social distancing, hand-washing/sanitizing, wearing masks, indoor ventilation, and limiting numbers of people. All Ontario government rules but, also, Niagara Public Health rules
- along with a great big dab of common sense.

We're guessing that most of our meetings & events will be digital (at least for the time being)
such as, Facebook / Zoom / Skype
and possibly (faint at this point in time) some face-to-face meetings.

- 1) Monthly Zoom meetings with a video speaker presentation. (Not all our members are on Facebook, so Zoom, now that it has good security, is a good choice for anyone who has a computer.)
- 2) Or making video presentations available - could be our regular speakers, could be someone we missed last year, could be someone entirely new, and so on. (These can be scheduled for specific dates or posted on our website for our members to view at any time or ...)
- 3) Business portion of our meetings can switch to “business news flashes”; hence, those who are interested can read about it (and those who aren't interested can ignore it).
- 4) Maybe more newsletters? more news flashes? extra things on the website? etc.
- 5) Ashley Marazzo, our Workshop Director, is currently working hard on creating workshop/instructional videos for lapidary. (Can hardly wait for these!!)
- 6) December & February potlucks in a local restaurant - properly socially distanced. (Of course, we'll have to negotiate a good \$\$ deal - but this does support local business - and it will be nice to get out and do something “different”).
- 7) Phone groups - something like, 10 volunteers from the board & the membership who are willing to phone 10 other members - say, once a month and catch up with them - ask if they've been doing anything exciting like collecting, or lapidary, or saw a fabulous geology video, or took a geology course, or ...

Thoughts, ideas, suggestions are super welcome! please & thanks.

Below - where we normally have our meetings, usually on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Brock University is still doing “wait & see”; hence, we're unable to have meetings at Brock - yet.

Ventilation - now - seems to be an issue for indoor meetings

We'll keep you updated as things change.

Usual location for our monthly meetings:

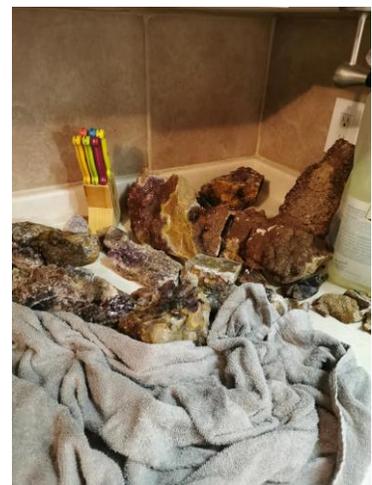
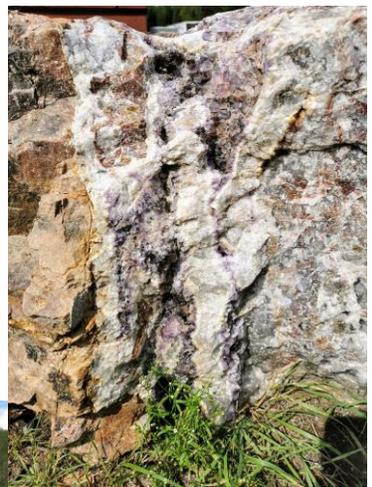
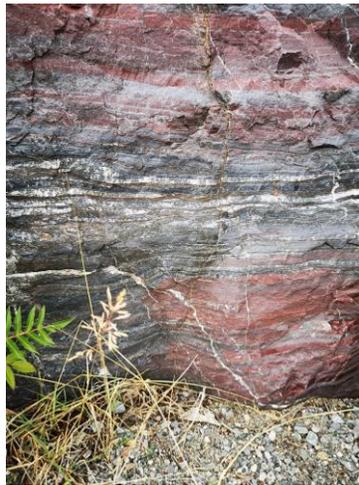
Brock University, MacKenzie-Chown Building,
Dept of Earth Sciences, Room MCD-309, St
Catharines, ON

Planned Location for Dec & Feb potlucks:

Needs a kitchen to make tea & coffee
plus room to plug in slow cookers/crock pots.

Thunder Bay in August 2020

Of course, Christopher White & Hannah MacDonald plus family went out collecting this summer!



Welcomes!

Janet & her family plus Greg joined us in July & August, respectively. Welcome & Thank you!

Invite everyone you know!

If you know of anyone who likes to make jewellery, loves to do rock art, is crazy about collecting rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils, please don't hesitate to invite them to join our club. Even though many things are more-or-less virtual right now, we are having auctions & a couple of field trips. When we are able to "open up" again, you'll enjoy exciting speakers, more auctions, yummy tidbits, and fun & friendly people at our meetings.



Please be a volunteer

If you're interested in volunteering some of your time - and it doesn't matter to us if you can only commit a small amount of time or lots of time. Every little bit helps. Many hands make small work.

Lots of stuff can be done remotely or virtually (considering that we're still somewhat stay-at-home ...) **well?**

Board & Volunteer positions

Executive Committee positions

President

Patti Anderson

pattirocks@live.ca

Vice-President

Christopher White

289-214-1151

npgsvpres@gmail.com

Secretary & Archivist

Melynda Broadbent

npgs.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer & Membership Chair

Ashley Pollock

905-687-6503

npgstrips@gmail.com

3 Directors-at-large

1. Janis Forster

janforster4@gmail.com

2. Hannah MacDonald

hannahloveslife96@gmail.com

3. Sarah Stasiuk

sarstas97@gmail.com

Elected at the AGM - positions not part of the Board

Auditor

Geri Kerekes

geriarpad@gmail.com

CCFMS Council Representative

Christopher White

Appointed positions - making up the balance of the Board

Past President - VACANT

Newsletter Editor - VACANT

"roving reporting" - Brian Dear

both: npgsnews@gmail.com

Librarian - Farzaneh Haj Soltan

fhajsoltan@yahoo.com

Field Trip Director - Ashley Pollock

Lapidary Director - Christopher White

Workshop Director - Ashley Marazzo

npgslapws@gmail.com

Show Chair - Ashley Pollock

npgsshow@gmail.com

Social Director - VACANT

however, Geri Kerekes, often brings refreshments & goodies to most of our meetings (so we're neither parched nor starving!) Thank you, Geri.

If needed, the 2 following positions can be separated:

Archivist (from Secretary) - Melynda Broadbent

Membership Chair (from Treasurer)

Committee - Melynda Broadbent, Hannah MacDonald, Ashley Marazzo, Ashley Pollock

Other volunteer positions

Annual Auction Co-ordinator - Christopher White

Touch Table Co-ordinator - Melynda Broadbent

npgsgeo@gmail.com

THE PINK DOLOMITE SADDLE BULLETIN

is the "official" newsletter of the NPGS and is geared towards keeping NPGS members informed of club activities, regional events, and other items of general interest to the NPGS.

The Pink Dolomite Saddle is published ten times per year - from September through June - and distributed to members of the NPGS as part of their membership dues.

Members are requested to submit articles or reports of interest regarding earth sciences or the hobbies of lapidary arts and mineral & fossil collecting. All articles should be submitted to the Editor before the 1st of each month.

Non-members may receive the Pink Dolomite Saddle - subscription \$10.00 per year. Nominal charge for business advertisements. Items from this bulletin may be reprinted, unless otherwise stated, providing proper copyright credit is given. Please respect copyright.

Thank you.

NPGS - NIAGARA PENINSULA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

was established in 1962 - and incorporated on March 11, 1964 - to promote the study of earth sciences as well as the hobbies of lapidary arts and mineral & fossil collecting.

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month, September thru May, beginning at 7:30 pm and usually ending 9:30 pm. Meetings consist of current club business, auctions, swaps, refreshments followed by a guest speaker. Open to the public.

- September thru November, January, and March thru May, we meet at Brock University, MacKenzie-Chown Building, Dept of Earth Sciences, Room MCD-309, St Catharines, ON.
- Our May meeting is also our Annual Auction - fast & furious bidding - and loads of laughs.
- In December & February, we meet at another location (*to be announced - needs a kitchen*) for our Annual Potluck December Dessert and Annual February Potluck Dinner. Potlucks begin earlier at 6:30 pm.
 - The February meeting is also our AGM Annual General Meeting when we hold elections for our Board of Directors.

Each year the NPGS hosts **GEOverture!**, our annual gem, mineral, and fossil show. Taking place on either the 1st or 2nd weekend in June, the show consists of gem, mineral, and fossil vendors along with NPGS member displays and demonstrations.

Collecting **field trips** to quarries and other locations throughout Ontario and New York state are arranged several times during the year - along with co-hosted/partner field trips with other geology clubs - and with the CCFMS Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Christopher White, our Vice-President & Lapidary Director, and Ashley Marazzo, our Workshop Director, are both working hard on re-developing our **lapidary** program.

New members and guests are welcome any time. Individual memberships are \$15. Family memberships are \$20.

The NPGS takes pictures & videos at all our events and publishes them in our newsletter and on our website & social media.

If you don't wish to be included in any of our pictures or videos, please let us know by emailing us at npgsgeo@gmail.com.

We also have a photo release form if you wish to fill one out. Thank you.

NPGS NIAGARA PENINSULA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Please bring payment to any of our meetings / lapidary workshops / field trips / events
- OR mail with a cheque payable to: NPGS, c/o 120 South Drive, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4V9
- OR send an Interac e-transfer to npgsgeo@gmail.com & please use the password *geology*.
- Please check what applies:
 - Family Membership \$20.00
 - Individual Membership \$15.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Email Address: _____

What are your interests? _____



NPGS email: npgsgeo@gmail.com NPGS website: <http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/>
NPGS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1392693367698780/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/npgs.gem.mineral.fossil/>

Membership term is from September 1st until August 31st. Membership fees are due in September.



Please click on this button to download a printer friendly membership form. Thank you.