Goethite (iron oxide) needles on quartz from Marmoraton Mine picture by Michael Bainbridge

Friday, January 17th
from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Speaker: Michael Bainbridge  Topic: mineral photography & puzzles!
silent auction, member displays, refreshments, swaps, give-aways

Location: Brock University, MacKenzie-Chown Building, Dept of Earth Sciences, Room MCD-309, St Catharines, ON
Parking @ Brock University is free in Zones 1 & 2 after 6 pm.
Please click on this link: http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/meetings.htm to find out “how to get there” & Brock U parking maps.

Contact Us
NPGS info: 289-228-9479 (Hannah MacDonald, Director)
general email address: npgsgeo@gmail.com
mailing address: NPGS c/o 120 South Drive, St Catharines, ON L2R 4V9
Happy New Year! and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! Our December meeting had a very enjoyable party atmosphere at the Merriton Legion, thank you Chris White for making the arrangements, having us sit at round tables really let us interact with other members. And the favourite mineral or fossils that everyone brought totally blew me away! Thank you everyone who brought and shared your geological treasures, I'm hoping this will become an annual tradition for our December meeting. Of course the desserts were delicious and a lovely way to start the holiday season. Thank you to Geri Kerekes for bringing the liquid refreshments and to all who helped tidy up after the meeting.

Well it is now a new decade and even though most of us cannot collect in January, I know I plan on doing a lot of sorting of my "rocks" to decide what to keep and what to sell. John and I will be listing our house for sale this year and I have to do a LOT of downsizing in the next couple of months. I should warn you that I may be calling on some of you (Ashley and others) to help me with my decisions lol.

This month we will be having another exciting speaker coming to talk, Michael Bainbridge, a celebrated mineral photographer! I am definitely going to be taking notes to help me with my camera "skills"!

Attention! Attention! The NPGS is going back to a TWO DAY GEOventure! Show!!! The dates are June 6th and 7th and it will be back at Heartland Forrest. The executive has been working hard and is very excited to be planning this show. We will be looking for volunteers to help with setup and tear down of the tables and numerous other jobs. Please keep in mind, if you know any students who can help, especially with the physical work, they are eligible to earn their community service hours.

Reminder to all....February is our annual general meeting pot luck, please consider coming forward to take a position on the executive. We are always looking for fresh ideas and as I saw at the December meeting we all have varied interests enjoying our passion of collecting and working with minerals, fossils, and jewelry. If you have any questions about any of the positions on the board please feel free to contact me or other members of the executive for information.

Hope to see all of you and any friends who are interested in still photography at our January 17th meeting at Brock University! Cheers! Patti

David telling us about his trilobite at the Christmas party. Quite a trilobite!!
**February meeting will be at**
Royal Canadian Legion Merritton Branch 138,
2 Chestnut St East, St Catharines, ON
6:30 pm start

*Annual Potluck* along with *AGM* (Annual General Meeting)
Please bring something delicious to share!
And please come and vote - plus, of course, please think about volunteering for a Board position.

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**Next Board meeting will be at**
Patti Anderson’s (our President) house
from 6-ish to 9-ish.
on Tuesday, January 7th, 2020.
All NPGS members are welcome at Board meetings!

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Don regaling us about the Newfoundland trip that he went on with the Walker Club. Wow! Along with amethyst that he collected there.

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Yummy Christmas desserts.

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**What is an AGM? It’s coming!!! in February**
Annual General Meetings are all too often not looked upon as exciting events.
In truth, though, AGMs are often the most important event for a club - and they can be exciting and impassioned. (And think of the yummy potluck food that’ll be available, too.)

- The membership gets to elect & appoint the Board of Directors - in other words, you get to determine who’s been naughty or nice. (It’s like a second Christmas.)
- And you can even volunteer yourself for any elected or appointed position.
- The membership gets to vote on any constitutional amendments - and we’ve got a couple of really important ones this year - your privacy and our club’s diversity.
- Financial reporting - sounds boring! - nope - it’s the plans, hopes, wishes, & dreams of your Board - as well as seeing that our club is financially sound.
- Any member can speak up at an AGM (nevermind, at our monthly meetings as well). Your voices and your votes all count.
Quoting Sir Sandford Fleming College:
“Michael Bainbridge worked for ten years as a cameraman and director of photography in film and TV before switching full-time to still photography. Since then, his work has been sold privately, exhibited publicly, and featured internationally. He now specializes in art and specimen photography for museums and private collectors. Michael is a frequent guest speaker at major conferences in his field, teaches photography and digital manipulation regularly, and does Photoshop work and pre-press processing for other photographers.”
Michael’s website is: [http://www.theoccurrence.ca/](http://www.theoccurrence.ca/)
3 pages of delicious mineral pictures on mindat at [https://www.mindat.org/gallery-6801.html](https://www.mindat.org/gallery-6801.html)
Facebook page is [https://www.facebook.com/BainbridgePhotography/](https://www.facebook.com/BainbridgePhotography/)
5 of the Occurrence puzzles

**Membership dues** are payable between September & December.
You can pay by cash at our monthly meetings. You can pay by cheque - also at our monthly meetings
- or by snail mail to our mailing address: NPGS c/o 120 South Drive, St Catharines, ON L2R 4V9
You can pay by Interac transfer to our npgsgeo@gmail.com address. Please use the password geology. Thanks.

*If you haven't paid your membership dues yet - then, we’re sorry, you won’t be receiving any more newsletters, news flashes, and announcements - nor will you be able to attend any field trips or lapidary events. Please renew.*

*A big thank you and shout out to all our members who have renewed and recently joined.*
There is nothing like the warmth of amber - as you touch the “stone”. Used as jewellery, art, incense, and folk medicine since the Paleolithic, amber has always been close to our hearts.

The traditional and usual colour of amber is sun-kissed gold - though Baltic amber can be peridot-green, cognac, wine, cherry red, butter, honey, butterscotch, pale lemon-yellow, orange tones, white, various browns, and black. Dominican and Burmese amber - much of it the usual amber colour - also provides a wide range of greens and blues. Amber colours are known to number up to 300 different shades & tones.

Amber occurs globally; though, the three main modern-production areas are Kaliningrad, Russia near the Baltic Sea (90% of world production), near Santiago in the Dominican Republic, and in the Hukawng Basin of northern Myanmar (Burma).

The oldest amber found - surprisingly - is from the Carboniferous - 320 million years ago - in coal seams in Illinois, USA. Most amber is dated from the Cretaceous, Paleogene, and Neogene - from 165 million years ago to 10 thousand years ago. Copal is usually dated from 10 thousand years to modern dates.

Burning amber and copal as incense - as well as cutting & polishing for lapidary arts - reminds you of deep evergreen forests - the scent of pine.

And like all sought-after treasures, fake amber has been in existence since the Paleolithic. Ancient Mesopotamians, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans had a go at faking amber. The Vikings, too! Right now, blue, green, and red ambers are the most popular - and ubiquitous fakes abound.

**How to tell if your amber is fake?** Low price, not warm to the touch, doesn’t smell like pine when warmed/heated, and, almost always, doesn’t fluoresce.
So where did amber & copal come from? Not from rocks!
Amber and copal are fossilized tree resin. The resin is oozed from evergreen trees to combat insects and fungi. Paleontologists believe that there were huge forests of these evergreen trees in either river-delta or near-shore environments - that then became inundated by the sea and buried in muck & clay for millions of years. Amber is fully fossilized tree resin, whereas, copal is partially fossilized.

**Sciadopitys verticillata** - from "Flore des serres et des jardins de l'Europe" - extinct - probable source of Baltic amber. The only living relative of what was once a widely distributed conifer - particularly in the northern hemisphere - is the Japanese umbrella-pine, a red-listed threatened tree.

Modern *Hymenaea* - a semi-tropical broad-leafed evergreen tree belonging to the legume family. *Hymenaea protera* & *Hymenaea mexicana* - both now extinct - and probable source of both Dominican & Mexican amber & copal (as well as African amber & copal). *Hymenaea* trees were once distributed across Central and South America, the Caribbean, and eastern Africa.

*Agathis moorei*, one of a number of *Araucariaceae* - a very ancient family of broad-leafed conifers. Once distributed world-wide during the Jurassic and Cretaceous, they're now largely confined to the southern hemisphere. *Agathis* - kauri trees - are the likely candidates for south-east Asian (including Myanmar), Australian, & New Zealand amber & copal.
The show is back at Heartland Forest.
It’s gonna be 2 days again.
We’re gonna have a BBQ this year.
We’re gonna have lapidary & wire-wrapping demonstrations plus mineral identification.
Loads of door prizes - of course!
And vendors galore - rocks & minerals, fossils, meteorites, jewellery, gemstones, etc.

We’ll be making announcements - regularly - in the newsletter, on our website, and on both Facebook & Instagram.

If you’d like to be a vendor, please click on our show webpage link - and you can download the Vendor application plus Terms & Conditions.
[http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/show.htm](http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/show.htm)
Color of The Year by the Pantone Color Institute

Text by Fred Haynes of the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club, reprinted with permission

Each December, The Pantone Color Institute announces their “Color of The Year” for the coming twelve months. Everyone from furniture makers to jewelry designers to car companies, and, I suppose, to mineral dealers, takes notice as they plan their upcoming year products.

**The Pantone Color of the Year for 2020 is Classic Blue.** In making this announcement on December 11th, Pantone describes Classic Blue as “where sky and sea meet” and they suggest that folks who want to sport the 2020 color do so through “accent pieces such as a scarf or a watch strap, or perhaps a vase or candle for your home or office.” This is all well and good, but mineral enthusiasts might want to know what mineral best typifies this choice. A few years back the New Jersey-based consulting firm left mineral collectors and lapidary artisans few options as they named *Rose Quartz* the Pantone Color for 2016. It could also be argued that Pantone crossed into the geology world last year with the selection of *Living Coral* as the Color of 2019. But for 2020, the translation of their choice to mineral collecting and lapidary art is a bit more ambiguous.

Now, I’m certainly not an expert on color, but I am not color blind either so I will offer my suggestions. Probably my first thought when asked to name a mineral that is brilliantly blue would be azurite such as the cabochon pictured below. I would hazard a guess that azurite might appear first on most lists and might even be the first choice if “Name a Blue Mineral” surfaced as a “Family Feud” question. But it is certainly not the only selection.

Azurite is quite soft (3.5-4 on Moh’s scale) and folks with lapidary interests might want to turn their 2020 efforts to a different blue mineral.

Our club has collected sodalite in Bancroft, Ontario and no one would turn away from a solid blue piece of lapis. With hardnesses above 5.5, both are harder than azurite or fluorite, but are also not difficult to work with in the shop.

And then, of course, there is tanzanite, the birthstone for December. Need I say more about this blue mineral and brilliant gemstone?

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*Lapis lazuli and sodalite are related minerals - lapis contains sodalite but is primarily made up of lazurite. Both feldspathoids can contain white calcite (much more in sodalite) & pyrite (rarely in sodalite). Lapis tends to be a sky/royal blue; whereas, sodalite tends to be a darker blue or have grey undertones. It can be very hard to tell the difference. Fakes have been known as long as lapis lazuli has been mined - over 7000 years.*

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Tanzanite forms as a brownish crystal when heat-treated, brownish color “dissolves” and blue and violet colors are accentuated.
Meeting & Events Schedule for 2019-20

1) Friday, September 20th @ Brock University
   - Our September meeting is when we get to see who we haven’t seen all summer and show off what we collected during the summer.
   - We also held elections for an Interim Board at this meeting.

2) Friday, October 18th @ Brock University
   - Ashley Marazzo, Midgard Metal Works - introductory lapidary
     - Wire trees, plus pendants for windows, cars, necklaces, & walls - Ashley will have kits & findings available for us; but you can also bring your own stuff
     - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Interesting
   - Kevin Kidd - lapidary workshop & talk
     - Friday, March 20th @ Legion Merritton Branch
     - Michael Bainbridge - minerals & photography
       - Always a favourite speaker, Michael is amazing!
       - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Startling

4) Friday, December 13th @ Legion Merritton Branch
   - Special auction for selenite crystals from the Burgess Shale
     - Joe will talk about the newly discovered Cambrocraster fossil from the Burgess Shale & the new ROM Dawn of Life exhibit
     - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Spellbinding
   - Friday, January 17th @ Brock University
     - Michael Bainbridge - minerals & photography
       - How to do beading & wire-wrapping for jewellery & art.
       - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Amazing

5) Friday, February 21st @ Legion Merritton Branch
   - Annual Potluck Dessert Social & a Silent auction & Member Displays: Fascinating
     - Please bring a dessert to share. Table & chair setup is at 6:00 pm - please volunteer. Meeting starts early @ 6:30 pm (so we can eat!)
     - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Jolly - Food: Yummy!

7) Friday, March 20th @ Brock University
   - Bonnie Stevenson, Bijou Heaven - our second lapidary workshop & talk
     - How to do beading & wire-wrapping for jewellery & art.
     - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Fascinating

8) Friday, April 24th @ Brock University
   - Kevin Kidd - Beecher’s Trilobite Beds
     - exceptionally preserved trilobites with soft tissue intact
     - Silent Auction & Member Displays: Fascinating

9) Friday, May 15th @ Brock University
   - Annual Auction
     - Please bring any rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, & jewellery that you’d like to auction off. Please arrive @ 7:00 pm if you are auctioning items. Our Auctioneer will hopefully be Brian Pihack. Auction rules & slips are on our website http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/meetings.htm.

10) GEOventure! 2020 - our Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show - Saturday & Sunday, June 6th & 7th @ Heartland Forest, in Niagara Falls.
   - Updates will be regularly posted in our newsletter, on our website, and on Facebook & Instagram.

11) Annual Picnic usually on a Saturday in June from noon ‘til 4 pm
   - We provide hot dogs, hamburgers, pop, & water.
   - Please bring a salad or a dessert to share.
   - Please bring sunscreen, bug spray, & a lawn chair.
   - Please let us know if you’ll be attending - so that we can have accurate numbers for the food. Thanks.

Field Trips planned schedule 2020 season

Hungry Hollow near Arkona, ON (Devonian fossils)
- usually last Saturday in April - co-hosted with London Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Society
- CCFMS Hungry Hollow trip mid-summer on a Saturday
- London Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Society trip - sometimes in October on a Saturday

CCFMS field trip @ Beamsville, ON (Silurian minerals & fossils)
- 2 times per year - usually Saturday on Mother’s Day weekend + late September / early October on a Saturday

Herkim Diamond - near Herkimer, New York, USA (Devonian “diamonds” & fossils)
- usually May long-weekend + we’re considering a late summer 2020 trip as well

CCFMS field trip @ Bowmanville, ON (Ordovician fossils)
- 2 times per year - usually sometime in May into early June on a Sunday + late September / early October on a Sunday

Ridgemount “north” & “south” Quarries, Fort Erie, ON (Silurian & Devonian fossils)
- usually late June for Devonian “south” quarry + usually September for Silurian fossils on a Friday

- However, anyone can attend any Friday if they call the Quarry to make a reservation.
- We’re also working on a kid-friendly field trip for 2020 and we hope to co-host with YTMC Young Toronto Mineralogists Club.

CCFMS field trip to Madoc area, ON (a plethora of minerals & fossils - Precambrian minerals & stromatolites, mid-Ordovician fossils, & fluorite (geologists are still debating age of the fluorite))
- This field trip is still in its exploratory stage - to establish “permanent” sites - as well as to determine whether a one-day or a weekend trip. 2018 & 2019 trips visited over 20 sites.
- kid-friendly

Summer - mini, weekend, and longer trips (usually Archean & Proterozoic minerals & some fossils)
- Over the years, the NPGS has visited Bancroft, Ottawa Valley, Sudbury, River Valley, Temagami, Cobalt, Manitoulin Island, and Thunder Bay. The NPGS hoping to add Kirkland Lake & Gowgonda to the list in 2020 or 2021.
- kid-friendly

CCFMS field trip to Winnipeg Floodway, (Miocene selenite crystals)
- Fantastic attendance by Manitoba Mineral Society members in August 2019 - with a couple of Ontario club members. For 2020, we’re hoping for a September trip - airfare is considerably less expensive.

Trackways, near Kingston, ON (Precambrian minerals & Cambro-Ordovician fossils)
- either a Sunday or a weekend trip - one site or multiple sites
- kid-friendly

ROM, Toronto, ON (minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, meteorites - every geologic age)
- usually a Saturday in the winter months - particularly, if a geology-related exhibit is on
- kid-friendly

The NPGS field trip schedule is posted on our website http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/trips.htm & on our Facebook page. Anyone can attend any NPGS field trips as long as they are a member of a CCFMS club.

You can always suggest field trip locations. Just give Ashley a call or drop her an email.
Lapidary Events - planned schedule 2020

Planned 4 hour workshop - Saturday, March 21st - cost: $40 per person - 10 am until 2 pm
How to do beading & wire-wrapping with titanium wire for bracelets & pendants.
(Location still to be confirmed - either at Brock University or at Branch 138 of the Royal Canadian Legion.)
Bonnie Stevenson of Bijou Heaven, Sarnia will lead our second lapidary workshop.

Bonnie will also be our speaker - the evening before - on Friday, March 20th at our monthly meeting. Bonnie will also have kits with her - $50 kits include gripper, round-nose pliers, square-nose pliers, crimper, cutter, & dowels - $15 kits will include 30-40 small cabs.
You can also bring your own supplies.

You can sign up for the workshop anytime by emailing Christopher White, our Vice-President & Lapidary Director at npgsvpres@gmail.com or you can sign up at the meeting the night before.

Please bring a lunch.

BRANTFORD LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY workshop facility

Brantford club has a workshop facility where both BLMS members and members of any CCFMS clubs can use the equipment or learn the art of lapidary, which is the process of cutting and polishing stones and minerals. Brantford club welcomes all of CCFMS lapidary hobbyists and fellow "rock hounds".

Interested individuals are welcome to attend the BLMS workshop when it’s open to learn the art of stone cutting or use the equipment. All levels are welcome from novice to expert.

The workshop facility offers five Genie machines plus saws, polishers, a flatlap, and jewellery making supplies.

There also is a large selection of rough rock to choose from (priced very reasonably). It just might be the perfect rough to make cabochon to mount in a piece of jewellery or proudly display at the next gem show!

The cost is by punch card system:
You can purchase: for a single session $12, $55 for 5 sessions, $100 for 10 sessions, & $180 for 20 sessions. (**Please bring exact change**) (Punch card earnings go towards workshop supplies and ensuring equipment is in tip-top shape.)

Please contact & confirm with one of the following Brantford club volunteers ahead of time of your visit - to ensure that the workshop facility is open. There is no guarantee that the workshop will be open - volunteers may be ill or may have other commitments.

Workshop Chairperson Ernie Edmonds 519-583-9457  ellenboyington64@gmail.com
Workshop Administrator Ellen Boyington 519-753-5191  centralfire99@gmail.com
Lead Workshop Instructor Jordan Hill 519-717-8171  allan.hietapakka@hotmail.com
Workshop Instructors Allan Hietapakka 519-732-9825

Workshop Hours  Instructor(s)
Sunday 12 noon to 6 pm  Ernie & Allan
Wednesday 12 noon to 6 pm  Ernie & Allan
Friday 12 noon to 6 pm  Jordan
Saturday 1 pm to 6 pm  Ellen

Entrance and parking is located at the back of the building at 125 Stanley Street Unit # 5, Brantford.

BRANTFORD LAPI DARY & 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.

Something to sell? Something to buy? Something to trade? Important notices?

We welcome all notices & enquiries about selling, buying, and trading by our members as well as any CCFMS club members plus other important notices.

Please contact us at our general email address npgsgeo@gmail.com. Thank you.
**“FOSSILS OF NEW YORK”**  
**FEATURED AT BUFFALO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY’S**  
**52nd ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW**  
**Saturday & Sunday, March 21st & 22nd, 2020 at the Erie County Fairgrounds**  

in the Grange, Market and New York State Police Buildings  
Saturday, 10 am-6 pm & Sunday, 10 am-5 pm.  

Adults are $6 each, scouts in uniform and children under 12 are FREE. A 2-day admission for $9 each is also available.  
Wheel chair and stroller accessible. FREE parking

- This annual show provides an instant museum of Buffalo Geological Society Members fossils, minerals, and jewellery  
- Demonstrators - include a soapstone carver, jewelry designers, and other lapidary artists.  
  - **Sandy Cline**, international renowned soapstone carver from Canada, will be demonstrating his art of carving wildlife forms and will have several carvings for sale.  
- the **famous Mini-Mine** for young collectors - search for mineral specimens in a simulated mine setting  
- the new **mining operation** for children and adults - search for minerals and fossils in a bag of sand that they wash. All who attend can experience hands-on fun and learn something new about the geological sciences.  
- **mineral and fossil identification** - professional Geologists will be available to discuss what geologists do and what types of jobs are present in the area for geologists.  
- a variety of non-profit exhibitors.  
- over **30 dealers** selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, and jewelry, selling their items from around the world.  
- **food vendor** available.

This event draws over 4,000 attendees annually. Families come from all over Western and Central New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Canada to take part in this event. This is a perfect family field trip to learn more about the geological sciences. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, students, teachers, the public, and rock hounds are welcome. This highly educational family event affords attendees the opportunity to interact with demonstrators who work with minerals and gems.  
For any additional information or questions, please contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at jcbastedo@gmail.com.
Welcome to our new members
Just one person in December - thank you to Patricia for joining our club!

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 one of our meetings.
Exciting speakers, really good auctions, yummy tidbits, and fun & friendly people.

Another little tidbit - Ashley Pollock and Jim Glen have renewed their CPR training (field trips are covered!) - and Christopher White has taken his first time training (lapidary is covered!) Cool, eh?

Board & Volunteer positions
including positions that are available or just simply because you’d like to help.
Please volunteer - we want you! - we need you!

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. John Anderson
meriton@bell.net
2. Debbie Brady
npgsgeo@gmail.com
3. Hannah MacDonald
289-228-9479
npgsgeo@gmail.com
Elected at the AGM - positions not part of the Board
Auditor - Geri Kerekes
geriarpad@gmail.com
CCFMS Council Representative - VACANT

Appointed positions - making up the balance of the Board
Past President - VACANT
Newsletter Editor - VACANT
“roving reporting - Brian Dear
Librarian - Farzaneh Haj Soltan
Field Trip Director - Ashley Pollock
Lapidary Director - Christopher White
Workshop Director - Ashley Marazzo
Kids Club Convenor - VACANT
Show Chair - NPGS Board
npgsshow@gmail.com
Social Directors
meetings & show - Geri Kerekes
AGM & potlucks - VACANT
If needed, the 2 following positions can be separated:
Archivist (from Secretary) - Melynda Broadbent
Membership Chair (from Treasurer)
Committee - Melynda Broadbent, Hannah MacDonald, Ashley Pollock
Other volunteer positions
Annual Auction Co-ordinator - VACANT
Touch Table Co-ordinator - VACANT
email portion - Brian Dear
npgsgeo@gmail.com

Please volunteer.
We have lots of little “jobs” as well as “big” jobs.
We really do need you - and we really do want 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 (new location) Royal Canadian Legion Merritton Branch 138, 2 Chestnut St East, St Catharines, ON for our Annual Potluck ‘Tis the Season Dessert and Annual February Potluck Dinner. Potlucks begin earlier at 6:30 pm - with kitchen, table, & chair setup at 6 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 GEOventure!, our annual gem, mineral, & fossil show & sale. 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 new Vice-President & Lapidary Director, and Ashley Marazzo, our new Workshop Director are working hard on re-developing our lapidary program.

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

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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.

We’re looking for a Newsletter Editor. Would you like to volunteer?

Non-members may receive the Pink Dolomite Saddle - subscription $10.00 per year. Nominal charge for business advertisements.

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Thank you.