



# The Pink Dolomite Saddle

Monthly Bulletin of the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society

December 2017

[www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS/](http://www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS/)

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Merry Christmas and Happy 2018 to all the folks of the NPGS!

**Next Meeting:** *Friday December 15th, 2017*

**Special Event:** *Annual Christmas Potluck Dessert Night*

**Speaker:** Gabriella Gevaert

**Topic:** Treasures of the Hungarian Cave Systems

**Location:** *Mountainview Church*

*150 Glendale Avenue, St.Catharines*

**Special Starting Time:** 6:30pm desserts and social

7:30pm presentation begins

*Volunteers needed for set up (about 6pm) and take down*

Meetings are *usually* held every third Friday Sept-June at Brock University  
Department of Earth Sciences, Room D-309 at 7:30 PM.

Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1392693367698780/> our Show page is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/NPGS-Gem-Mineral-Fossil-Show-Sale/549387778513135>



**THE NIAGARA PENINSULA  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The **Niagara Peninsula Geological Society** (N.P.G.S.) was established as a non-profit organization in 1962 to promote the study of earth sciences, the hobbies of mineral and fossil collecting, and the lapidary arts.

Our focus is on collecting minerals, fossils, crystals and jewellery making. Collecting trips to quarries and other locations throughout Ontario and the U.S.A. are arranged several times during the year.

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month, September to June, Room D-309, Department of Earth Science, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Regular meetings begin at 7:30 PM with workshops starting at 7:00 PM. Each meeting usually consists of a discussion on club business followed by a presentation from a guest speaker. Children's workshops are hands-on educational modules about some aspect of earth science and are geared toward junior members ranging in age from 3 to 12.

Each year the N.P.G.S. hosts GEO-VENTURE, our annual gem, mineral and fossil show. The show consists of several regional gem, mineral, or fossil vendors along with N.P.G.S. member displays and demonstrations. The general public is invited to attend GEO-VENTURE to purchase items of interest from the vendors and learn a little bit more about earth science and the hobbies of lapidary arts and mineral and fossil collecting.

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

More information about the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society is available at [www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS/](http://www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS/) Questions or comments are welcomed at [npgs@ccfms.ca](mailto:npgs@ccfms.ca).

**THE PINK DOLOMITE SADDLE BULLETIN**

The Pink Dolomite Saddle is the "official" newsletter of the N.P.G.S. The Saddle is geared toward keeping N.P.G.S. members informed of club activities, regional events and other items of general interest to the N.P.G.S.

Members are requested to submit articles or reports of interest regarding earth science or the hobbies of lapidary arts and mineral and fossil collecting. **All articles should be submitted to The Editor no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month**

The Pink Dolomite Saddle is published ten times per year and is distributed to members of the N.P.G.S. as part of their annual membership dues. Non-members may receive the Pink Dolomite Saddle on a subscription basis of \$10.00 per year. There is a nominal charge for business advertisements.

Items from this bulletin may be reprinted, unless otherwise stated, providing proper credit is given to both the original author and this publication.



**NPGS Club President Kevin Strooband**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**December 2017**

Hi folks,

Just a quick note to close out the year.

Thank you for your support of our club in 2017 and we look forward to making 2018 another enjoyable year for our members.

Several of our club members came together to provide some fun and successful events - thank you to everyone who did!

On behalf of the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society Board of Directors, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Kevin

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**PDS: The Missing Month?**

Hello Everyone

Sorry that the November issue of the Pink Dolomite Saddle bulletin was not published. As most of you know, my reliable (up until then) seven year old computer crashed and died in late October. My back up files were saved but my new computer uses a different operating system. The old computer used Ubuntu compared with Windows 10 for the sleek new model. I had printed out email addresses but these had to be re-entered by hand. It has been a

long process to reconfigure and revive the PDS bulletin. Hopefully everyone will be receiving and enjoying this, the December 2017 "Phoenix" issue of the PDS bulletin.

*Merry Christmas and Happy 2018.*

Cheers,  
John Tordiff, Bulletin Editor

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**Report for CCFMS Executive Meeting -**  
Sunday, November 19, 2017

**CCFMS 50th Anniversary Symposium**

Bob Beckett, CCFMS Past-President, is currently the Symposium Coordinator. < Tentative date: Friday evening thru Sunday morning, May 24-26, 2019 weekend. < Venue location is still in flux - but is planned to be in the Toronto area. < The Symposium will comprise a number of presentations on various mineralogical topics each day as well as a number of short workshops. < Registration would commence on the Friday evening with the event concluding on Sunday shortly after noon. < While some of the costs will be covered by the CCFMS, there will be a Registration Fee for the Symposium. < A dinner with after-dinner speaker is planned for the Saturday evening. < Overnight accommodation close to or at the Symposium venue will be available at the participants own cost. < While the overall cost to participants and the defined list of speakers/topics are still being compiled, it would be useful to know how many CCFMS Club Members would be interested in attending such an event as this will help determine if we continue with the 50th anniversary celebration Symposium, and if so, in what format. A notice with more details will be sent to all CCFMS Clubs in early January 2018. Suggestions for speakers, workshops, and topics for each would be greatly appreciated. All such information should be sent to Bob Beckett at rhbeckett@bell.net

**Cobalt Historical Society** < is looking for donations to replace a roof on the Right-of-Way Mine head frame and is now raising funds towards the \$37,000 cost. They are looking for donations from rockhounding clubs. < We didn't visit - but we did pass by the head frame on our August 2017 trip. < For 2018, field trip plans are looking at visiting Cobalt again. < The CCFMS has agreed to donate \$300.00 to this campaign.

In initial planning stages ... **CCFMS Facebook page.** < however, at this point, public posting will be allowed - but will be approved first.

**Field Trip info sheets** Ashley has produced a number of field trip info sheets for the Niagara club, formats based on recommendations from CCFMS draft Field Trip Kit. < The info sheets cover: health & safety, general info, site info, and maps. < With the CCFMS website now updated - and with a new hosting service - the CCFMS will look at these sheets to determine what can be incorporated onto the CCFMS website.

Cheers, Ashley

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**MINUTES OF THE NPGS GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 20, 2017**

Dave welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting as both Gabi and Kevin were not available. We welcomed visitors Lisa Welch, Rick Landsman and Gavin Simpson

**REPORTS:**

- Kevin:** n/a
- Gabriella :** n/a
- Dave:** We have located the attendance book so hopefully everyone signs it.
- Monica:** The financial report was presented by Monica. If you are interested in the details please see Monica and David
- Jim:** n/a
- Roman:** The library is open. A donation of geological books on Africa have been received.

Also 3 new Mineralogical Record magazines are now available

**Darlene** reminding people of the availability of name tags and a new

t-shirt is available to order

**John** asked if everyone got their bulletin.

**Fran** n/a

**Ashley:**

- The web site is up-to-date
- Local advertising has been done
- Field trips are in the newsletter.

Beamsville, Bowmanville and Kingston are coming up. There may be more reflective tape required on your safety helmet in the future

**Dave:**-Last months minutes were voted on and accepted

-No old business was discussed.

-New business

1. Dave discussed the board meeting held by the elected officers. People enquired why only those people and not all board and committees were involved. It was indicated that we wanted to have a smaller group for more discussion.

2. The banking problem discussed last month has been solved. Instructions were in the bulletin.

3. We were unsure what the status of the constitution was.

Ashley, tonight, indicated she was correcting grammatical errors and adding a section on electronic voting by the board. She also stated that the constitution needed 60 days to be approved by the CCFMS. Dave indicated that had never been done before and we needed to see it before it may or may not have to go to CCFMS

4. We do not have a leader for the kids program, so it will be put off till next year. Dave indicated that we might do it before a meeting if parents with kids wanted it then. At that point Bob stood up and said if he could get help he would do it before the regular meeting.

5. We threw around ideas and suggestions about this years show but we need the show manual before we go further. Ashley said the manual is available.

-WE THEN TOOK A BREAK

Our Speaker tonight was **Dave Baker**. He spoke on his trip to the U.S. states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho and the wonders of geology found in these states

Adjourned at 9:10 pm

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## Brad's Jewellery Tips

### MANDRELS

Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain maile designs, you must have exactly the right size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the



US it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.

### ----- JUST SAY NO TO OPTIVISORS

I was having my annual vision-check and the light-bulb went on: why not have my reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So I asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

He checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far I hold a jewelry piece from my eye, so they could get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty bulky Optivisors! (Thanks to Gary



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**Save room for Dessert!**

Don't forget to bring a yummy dessert to share at our December meeting. Also any special serving utensils. Paper plates, plastic cutlery and drinks will be supplied.

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**NPGS Schedule 2017 -2018**

(some re-scheduling may take place to accommodate speakers)

- Jan 19      **N.P.G.S. Monthly Meeting**  
Speaker: Interesting  
Topic: Soon to be Revealed  
Location: Brock University
  
- Feb 16      **N.P.G.S. Annual General Meeting,  
Executive Election and Potluck Dinner**  
Speaker: Interesting  
Topic: Soon to be Revealed  
Location: Mountainview Church  
Glendale Avenue, St.Catharines
  
- Mar 23      **N.P.G.S. Monthly Meeting**  
Speaker: Interesting  
Topic: Soon to be Revealed  
Location: Brock University
  
- Apr 20      **N.P.G.S. Monthly Meeting**  
Speaker: Interesting  
Topic: Soon to be Revealed  
Location: Brock University
  
- May 18      **N.P.G.S. Monthly Meeting**  
Speaker: Interesting  
Topic: Soon to be Revealed  
Location: Brock University

Jun XX      **N.P.G.S. 52nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show**  
Time: 10 am to 5 pm  
Cost: \$3 (children under 12 free)  
Location: **Fireman's Park, Niagara Falls**  
*Volunteers needed, contact Ashley or Faeryn*

Jun XX      **N.P.G.S. Annual Picnic Barbeque**  
Menu: Delicious  
Time: Noon to 5pm?  
Location: Soon to be revealed

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## **The NPGS/CCFMS Combined 2018 Field Trip Schedule** *Subject to change and updates*

### **NPGS Field Trips Spring 2018**

- 1) Hungry Hollow Quarry, Ausable River, near Arkona, ON - co-hosted with London Gem & Mineral Society - Saturday, April 28th, 2018 - Bob O'Donnell (London) is planning 3 additional dates for 2018
- 2) Ace of Diamonds Mine, Herkimer, NY - co-hosted with Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Society - weekend of Friday, May 25th thru Monday, May 28th, 2018 - still in planning stages

### **Summer 2018**

- 3) Ridgemount Quarry, Ridgemount, ON - Friday, June 29, 2018 (date being confirmed with site owners)
- 4) Ridgemount "South" Quarry, Ridgemount, ON - Friday, July 6, 2018 (date being confirmed with site owners)
- 5) Bancroft environs - partially co-hosted with Wayne County (NY) Gem & Mineral Club and Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Society - mid-July 2018 for approx 10 days - still in planning stages & this may change to 1 week with Wayne County + 1 weekend with Brantford sites being considered: west claim beside Bear Lake Diggings, Beryl Pit, CN dump, Craigmont Mine, Desmont Mine, El Dorado Gold Mine, Essonville Line roadcut, Golden Fleece Mine, Green Marble Quarry, Haley Quarry, MacDonald Mine, Millar's Mine / Thompson property (Tory Hill), Princess Sodalite Mine, Rose Quartz Mine, Schickler Fluorite, Silver Crater Mine, Smart Mine, Star of the East Mine, Tatlock Mine, Tweed Marble Quarry
- 6) Northern environs - possibly co-hosted with a Québec club - mid-August 2018 for approx 10 days - still in planning stages sites being considered: Flat Rapids Camp occurrence, River Valley garnet occurrence, Sherman Mine + other Temagami sites, Cobalt sites, Kirkland Lake sites, Gowganda sites, Rouyn-Noranda sites, Val D'Or sites Fall 2018
- 7) Lansdowne Quarry (Potsdam Sandstone & Unconformity), Kingston area, ON - Sunday, September 23rd, 2018 (date being confirmed with site owner)

8) Canadian Wollastonite, Frontenac Lead Mine, & Lansdowne Quarry, Kingston area, ON - Saturday & Sunday, October 21st & 22nd, 2018 weekend (dates being confirmed with site owners)

**The list above does not include CCFMS field trips, open-to-the-public sites, & other club field trips - they are:**

***CCFMS Field Trips***

*Lincoln Quarry, Beamsville, ON - usually mid-May & late September*

*St Mary's Quarry, Bowmanville, ON - usually early June & mid-October*

*Open-to-the-public sites Ridgemount Quarry, Ridgeway, ON - any Friday by permission - late spring to Fall*

*Penn-Dixie Paleontological & Outdoor Education Center, Blasdell, New York - any day*

*Beryl Pit, Quadeville, ON - any day - pay-to-collect site Rose Quartz Mine, Quadeville, ON - any day by appointment - pay-to-collect site*

*other club field trips*

*Thunder Bay amethyst - Kingston club - usually August*

*Marmora - Kawartha club - by permission only & limited participant numbers - between 4 to 6 times per field trip season*

*Flamboro - Buffalo club - by permission only & limited participant numbers - usually summer*

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Please note that all CCFMS club members throughout Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec are welcome on any of our NPGS field trips and, as can be seen, many more of our Ontario clubs are letting us know their field trip schedules as well.

You will be asked that you show proof of current membership on all field trips.

You will be asked to sign a Liability Waiver (+sign-in/sign-out) on all field trips.

You will need to contact to register and confirm with the various Trip Leaders.

Please don't forget to look at our **Field Trips webpage** for all kinds of info about field trips in general + specific info about the sites that the NPGS visits.

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

**NIAGARA PENINSULA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**SEPTEMBER 2017 - AUGUST 2018 DUES**

Please check one:

- Family Membership \$20.00
- Individual Membership \$15.00
- Do you wish to receive the newsletter via email?

Bring to a meeting or mail along with  
cheque payable to:

Niagara Peninsula Geological Society  
c/o John Tordiff,  
120 South Drive  
St. Catharines, ON , L2R 4V9

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests and/or Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

NPGS email: [npgsgeo@gmail.com](mailto:npgsgeo@gmail.com)

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

NPGS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1392693367698780/>

NPGS Show Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NPGS-Gem-Mineral-Fossil-Show-Sale/549387778513135>

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