



The Pink Dolomite Saddle

Monthly Bulletin of the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society

March 2019

www.ccfms.ca/Clubs/NPGS/

Vol. 57 No.1

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Last month's presentation on Japan was given by Gabriella Gervaert

Photo by Gabriella Gervaert

Next Meeting: *Friday March 15, 2019*

Speaker : Bob O'Donnell

Topic: Some of My Favourite Fossils

Location: Brock University

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/ Questions or comments are welcomed at 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 1st 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 **Dave Baker**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March 2019

I hope everyone is thinking about field trips as that season is just about upon us. This weekend we go on daylight savings so the good weather can't be too far away.

Last month's meeting was our Annual General Meeting. Most of the executive have volunteered to serve another term but I would like to welcome **Glenn Sloggett** as a new director and thank him for stepping up. Your executive is still looking for one more volunteer to take the secretary's position. This position's has the light but important duty of taking the minutes of the meetings and passing them on for

the newsletter. We must have someone who would like to help out the executive?

The club (ie. me) is trying to get to see the appropriate people at Brock to book an extra room to handle the Kids Club. We also have a cash donation for the Bruce Liberty Bursary fund at Brock and I hope to be able to do these two things in one meeting.

The executive have also been approached by two more groups looking for speakers from our club . One request is in Burlington and they are also interested in our touch tables too. Our influence as a Geology club is getting wider.

See you all at Brock for our March meeting.

Cheers,
Dave

Beamsville Field Trip 2019

Hello Everyone,

Just a reminder to let you know of the upcoming Field Trip to Beamsville Nelson Aggregates on **Saturday May 4th, 2019** has been confirmed.

Please note **this is a week earlier the previous years** as the CMMA Symposium was moved a week later

Safety Vest (**fluorescent with strips**), Long pants, Safety Boots (steel toed) above the ankle (**preferred 6" + as they provide support when walking on the rock piles**), Safety Glasses and Hard Hat are required for admittance to the Quarry. Gloves are highly recommended Sunscreen and plenty of water as days could be hot and Sunny on the trip. Please do not bring **carpenters hammers** (claw) as they are not designed to break rock.

All attendees must be a member of a CCFMS affiliated club to participate at this event for insurance reasons. Membership cards should be available on request. **Also** this Quarry is a working quarry and admittance is restricted to persons **16** years of age and over.

Plan to arrive opposite the gate of the quarry at about 8:30 am for your sign in and your vehicle tag in. We will enter the quarry about 9:00 am after our safety talk. **Please no late arrivals unless requested in advance.**

Important Canadian Field Trip Information:

Laws have changed recently in Canada for Safety vests and clothing. You will need to update to the appropriate styles to gain entry to Canadian quarries. Please see this link for information. I have added a Word document you may print out to take shopping with you.

https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/gl_hvsa.php

Please note we should be wearing Class 2 apparel. Either a vest or T shirt will suffice. Your hard hats must also contain retro-reflective stripes and can be purchased as peel and stick tape at Safety Supply stores.

Beamsville map at following link:

<http://www.ccfms.ca/Events/Beamsville.html>

Happy hunting.
See you there,
Jim Glen

Fossils of Arkona and Hungry Hollow

What is a fossil: A fossil is the preserved evidence of a once-living plant or animal.

During the late Devonian period, most of the land, between the Appalachian Mountains on the East and a stretch of the Rocky Mountains on the west, was covered by an immense, shallow, warm, salt water sea .

Yes, warm water! During this period of time the equator crossed very close to where Arkona Ontario is today.

This warm body of water called the Tippecanoe Sea was rich in bottom dwelling marine life, various corals, sponges, brachiopods, crinoids, Bryozoan fans, and trilobites - to name a few.

One popular theory states a massive earthquake about 385 million years ago shifted millions of tons

of silt and clay down onto the bottom of the sea. This blanketed the sea floor, entombing and preserving everything under hundreds of feet of sediment. Over the next 300 million plus years, this fossil bearing layer was buried even deeper underground.

Eventually the Auasble River cut its way through the clay, shale and limestone layers to once again expose an abundance of amazing fossils. At Hungry Hollow you can find some of the very best Devonian fossils in North America

You can experience and collect many of these fine specimens yourself on the NPGS Field Trip this Spring – **Saturday, April 27th**.

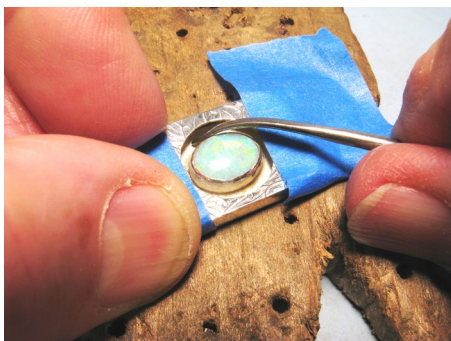
While there be sure to stop at the scenic Rock Glen Conservation Area, and visit the Arkona Lions Museum and Information Center.

Over millions of years this salt water sea slowly evaporated leaving salt deposits 100's of feet thick below Lake Huron. The world's largest salt mine is the Sifto Salt Mine located in Goderich Ontario. Over 100 miles of roadways, 1800 feet under Lake Huron this Mine produces 26,000 tons of salt a day.

Brad's Bench Tips

PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters works particularly well because it doesn't leave a sticky residue.



MAKE A TEXTURE HAMMER

An inexpensive hammer can be easily turned into a great texturing tool by grinding a pattern of narrow lines into its face.

The tool I like to use to grind the pattern is a thin separating disc in a Foredom or Dremel. Be sure to hold the hammer and separating disc steady as you carve, and wear those safety glasses to protect your eyes.

For the pattern to work well, a major part of the face needs to be ground away leaving only small areas of high points. That way the high points will have enough force to emboss the pattern into your sheet metal.

My preference is to use small ball peen or cross peen hammers. They are quite inexpensive from tool dealers at swap meets and rock & mineral shows. There is no reason to buy an expensive hammer to experiment with creating your own textures.

And BTW, if you don't like the first pattern you create, simply file or grind it off and try again.

This is just one of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>



Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Discover New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

NPGS Field Trip to the ROM

ROM - either Saturday or Sunday, March 23rd or 24th (We'll take a vote at our Fri, Feb 15th monthly meeting - which is also our AGM & potluck dinner.) - our 3rd time to ROM - once every 5 years!! - kid-friendly - numerous mineral, meteorite, & fossil galleries - special exhibition on ZUUL - a horned dinosaur - plus all kinds of amazing veggiesaurus dinos as well as TRex & raptor-type "big meanie" dinos (apparently, they also have an interactive TRex - ooooooh) - both minerals & meteorite exhibits are to die for - you'll be astounded - special gallery of gemstones - full of huge surprises - fluorescents display - Burgess Shale & early life fossils - I've been on both our previous ROM trips - there just isn't enough time to see everything - and it doesn't matter that you've seen specimens before - ROM does not fail to WOW you again or with a new discovery. - <https://www.rom.on.ca/en> (you can see all that ROM offers - way more than minerals, meteorites, & fossils) - open to all CCFMS club members & guests - **please contact Ashley Pollock**

ROM admission along with ZUUL: Life of an Armoured Dinosaur - ROM Group Rates (minimum of 20 paid guests): - Adults - \$25.00; Seniors - \$20.50; Students & Youth - \$20.00; Children - \$16.00 - Not required to wait in line when a group - immediate admission. - **Payable in advance** since ROM requires that we book 2 weeks ahead of our trip; - therefore, please pay at the Feb 15th meeting or by Feb 28th, at the latest. - ROM Rates (if we're not able to get 20 people to attend & includes ZUUL): - Adults - \$29.00; Seniors - \$24.00; Students & Youth - \$23.50; Children - \$19.00 - We will have to wait in line with this admission. - You

can pay online or you can pay when we arrive. - transportation will be direct from St Catharines - we'll be car pooling (hence, gas will also be a shared cost) - parking rates for weekends (3 close-by lots range from \$7 to \$14 & accept bills, coins, & credit cards) - however, on the weekend, street parking is free in Toronto (if you can find a spot).

Minutes of our Annual General Meeting, Executive Elections and Potluck Dinner

Stay tune next month for the delayed but memorable official minutes of the NPGS Annual Meeting. Read the list of acclaimed returning officers and committee chairs, consider the chance to join the executive team as the NPGS Secretary, ponder the exotic menu of Potluck treats offered at our February Foodfest, see the photos and hear Gabriella's tale of travelling in far off Japan. All this and more in the April 2019 issue of your Pink Dolomite Saddle bulletin!

N.P.G.S. Schedule 2018 -2019

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

Apr 26 N.P.G.S. Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Michael Bainbridge
Topic: Dazzling Mineral Photography (theme)
Location: Brock University

May 17 N.P.G.S. Annual Club Auction

Auctioneer: Brian Pihack
Topic: Adoption Clinic for New and Needy Specimens
Location: Brock University

Jun 9 N.P.G.S. 53rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Time: 10am to 5 pm
Cost: \$3 (children's under 12 free)
Location: Fireman's Park, Niagara Falls
Volunteers needed. Show Director Hannah Lamanes

Jun ?? N.P.G.S. Annual Picnic Barbeque

Menu: Always Yummy
Time: Noon to 5 pm
Location: Heartland Forest (subject to confirmation)

Regional Events 2018 - 2019

(Courtesy of The Nickel Basin Rockhound)

Mar. 23 – 24 Buffalo Geological Society 51st Annual Show, Sat. and Sun. Mar. 23 and 24, 2019, Market Grange, and State Police Bldgs, 5820 South Park Ave., Hamburg, NY, Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM, Sun. 10 AM to 5 PM, Admission is \$6 (or two days for \$9). This year's theme is Herkimer Diamonds. <https://bgsny.org/annual-show/>

April 6-7 Brantford Gem and Mineral Club presents the 47th annual Paris Show. 10 AM – 5 PM Saturday and Sunday, 139 Silver Street, Paris, Ontario. Adults \$6, 12 and under free.

May 3-5 28th Anniversary Toronto Gem & Mineral Show, Fri. 4pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-5pm Don Mills Civitan Arena, 1030 Don Mills Road, Toronto, ON. Adults \$8.00, 15 and under free Go to: www.torontogemshow.com

May 4 Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Show, Saturday only, 10am-4pm Button Factory Arts, 25 Regina St. S., Waterloo ON. Free admission

Jun 8 N.P.G.S. 55th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, 10am to 5pm. Cost \$3.00 (children under 12 free). Fireman's Park, 2275 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls *Show Director Hannah Lamanes*

July 19-21 37th Annual Sudbury Gem and Mineral Show, Fri. 5pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm Carmichael Arena, Bancroft Drive, Sudbury, ON. Adults \$5.00, Seniors (60+) \$3.00, Children 6-12 \$1.00 Contact 705-522-5140 or go to: <http://ccfms.ca/clubs/Sudbury/Show.php>

The NPGS/CCFMS Combined 2018 Field Trip Schedule Soon to be Updated – Spring is Coming

Other Club Field Trips

Updates will be posted here

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 2018 - AUGUST 2019 DUES

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

Please check one:

Family Membership \$20.00

Individual Membership \$15.00

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via email?

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

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.