



MICRONEWS

CANADIAN MICRO MINERAL ASSOCIATION INC



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The dog days of August! Heat and humidity slow everything down, including our collecting efforts.

Included in this issue is Quintin Wight's article on his participation in the Micromounters of New England's annual one-day seminar in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. And, your editor's adventure in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Also, from Frank Ruehlicke: Join us for a day of micro mineral fun! Once again we will meet at the Art Gallery of Burlington, 1333 Lakeshore Rd, Burlington, ON L7S 1A9 , on Saturday November 11, 2017 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Cost is only \$15 payable at the door (but please register in advance)

Note: Breakfast and coffee will *not* be provided. There is a coffee / cappuccino machine onsite, which will let you brew a cup for \$1.50. There is also a donut shop across the parking lot. The registration fee has been reduced accordingly.

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Registration: please send an email to me at CMMAFrank@gmail.com or call (519) 880-2716. I look forward to seeing you there!

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CMMA FALL WORKSHOP

Saturday November 11, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Register: CMMAFrank@Gmail.com

Art Gallery of Burlington

1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington ON

Directors

Jim Haase
Claude Gagnier
Al Alward

Regards,

Your editor
Steve Stuart

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MMNE Symposium

By Quintin Wight (photos by Willow Wight)

In my last note (on the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum), I said that we were on our way to the Gene Bearss Memorial Micromount Symposium of the Micromounters of New England (MMNE), at which I'd been invited to speak. It had been 24 years since I last spoke to this group, and in the interval, both the venue and the title of the Symposium had changed. The title change was to honour Micromounters' Hall of Fame member Gene Bearss, who died on a collecting trip to Mineral Hill in Wakefield, New Hampshire in 2014. The venue change was to Trinity Lutheran Church in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. As those who have flown over it know, the east coast of the USA is essentially one large city from north of Boston to south of Washington, DC. That being so, Chelmsford is what one might term a slightly denser probability distribution of dwellings in the northwest sector of the conurbation, just south of the border with Maine. It's also quite hilly, which means that there are scores of intricate little streets and lanes everywhere. In spite of that, and the disagreements between the ghost in the machine and our maps, we did manage to make it to the venue, just about on time.

The Symposium is held in the church hall, a building equipped with a large meeting area and several smaller rooms and offices, plus washroom and kitchen facilities (see figure). As usual, although the Symposium had an advertised start of 09:00, it was a micromount affair, which meant that most folk had arrived and were in place long before. A lot of that was necessary, of course, because this Symposium is very much a do-it-yourself affair: tables had to be erected, chairs brought in, and cables arranged before anything else could be done, and everyone had pitched-in to help. It made me really appreciate the wonderful arrangement the CMMA has with Brock University. The building at Brock may be a nightmare to navigate, but it has elevators and great lab tables with built-in power.

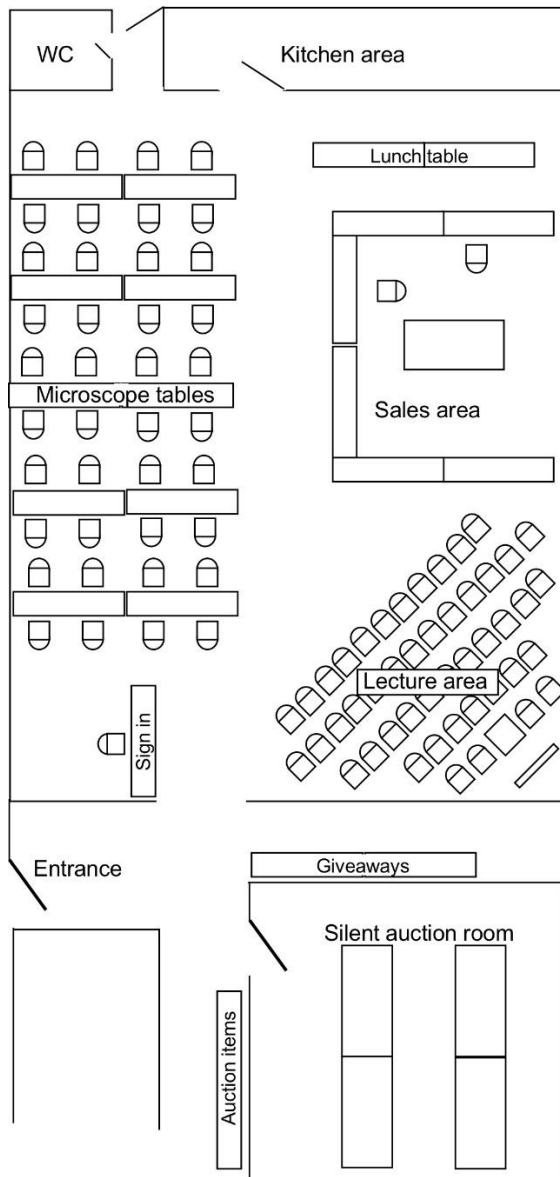


Figure 1.

The general set up at the Gene Bearss Memorial Symposium of the Micromounters of New England in Chelmsford, MA.

Certainly not to scale, and probably open to challenge on all sides.

Willow and I arrived just as the set-up dust was settling, and after identifying ourselves at the door, and getting sticky-labelled-up, we snagged a couple of spots at a convenient table. Fortunately, we were acquainted with several of the MMNE members, so we had no trouble blending in with the group. Not that we'd have had any trouble anyway. Micromounters are pretty much the same from Canada to New Zealand and everywhere between, and we're a welcoming bunch.

First on the agenda for just about everyone was the spread of sales items on the tables set up at one side. There was a very large selection, many from worldwide localities, but with a concentration of phosphates from the pegmatites of Maine and adjacent States. There were also samples from both Mont Saint-Hilaire and Francon, and somewhat to my surprise, quite a few from the Lac Nicolet antimony mine at Ham Sud, Québec. I had forgotten that that mine was easier to reach from the south than from the west, and quite a few MMNE members had gone there regularly. Prices were in a comfortable range—usually from one to five dollars—and the specimens were of reasonable quality, although I was disturbed to see more Blu-Tack or other putty in use. I make a point of refusing to buy specimens packaged that way unless the specimen is truly spectacular, in which case I remount it as quickly as possible, hoping that the oil hasn't caused too much damage.



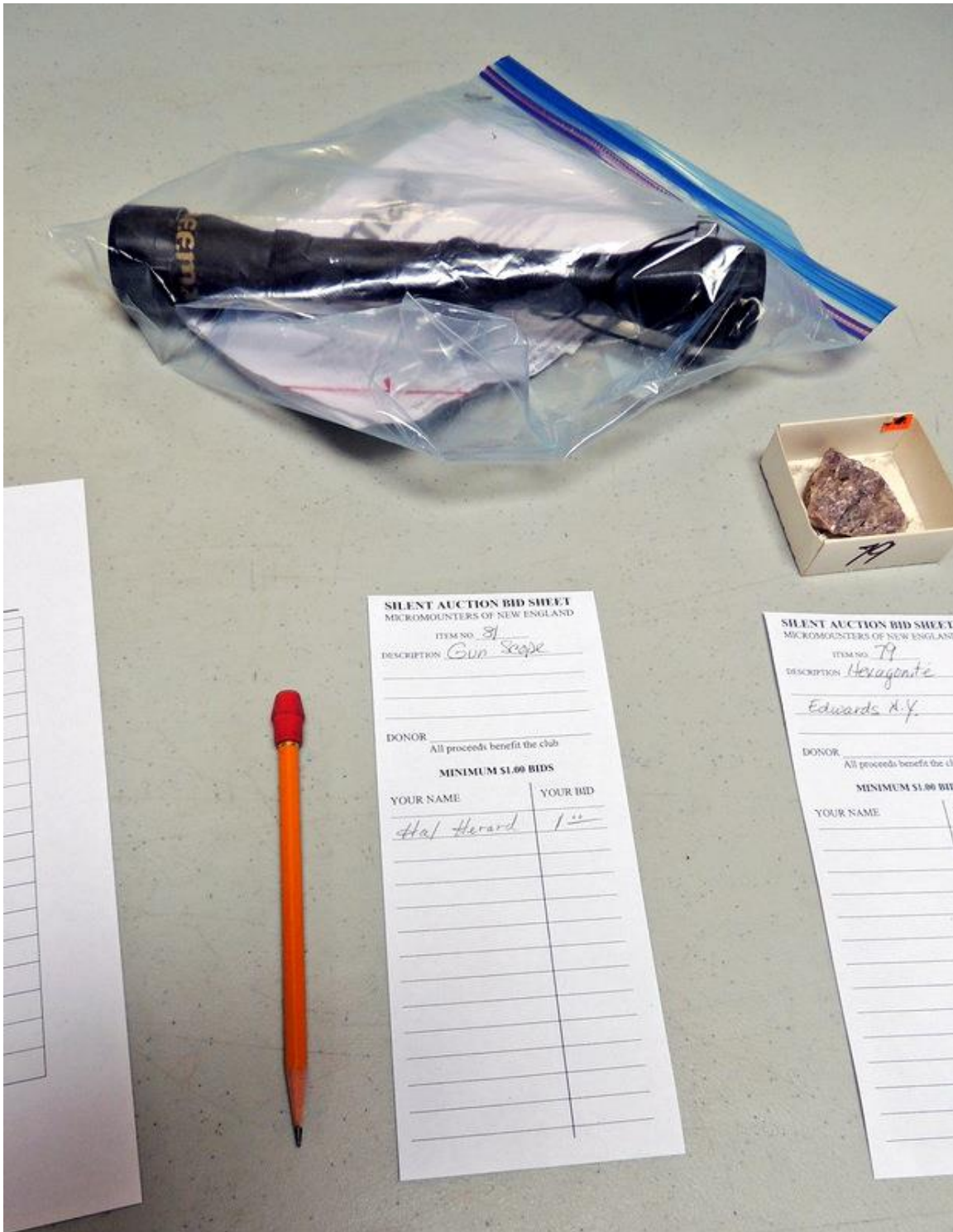
The MMNE sales tables have a wide choice of material at good prices.

The sales tables were good, and so were the giveaway tables lined against the wall out in the side hallway. One thing about regional groups is that they tend to favour regional specimens. The CMMA giveaway tables lean heavily towards Mont Saint-Hilaire and Varennes, and the MMNE tables were oriented towards material from localities in New Hampshire, Maine, and Connecticut. That was good for me, because it meant that no one was paying much attention to the material from Varennes that had probably come via the estate of Gene Bearss. I latched on to some of that, and a small, scruffy perky box that contained equally scruffy calcite—but calcite from Oka that had latrappite crystals. The crystals are very tiny, but a nice, lustrous black.



Good giveaways, many from the estate of the late Gene Bearss. The carton indicated by the black arrow is marked "Varenes".

The silent auction tables filled one room and extended into the hall outside. Interestingly, most of the specimens on offer, while good (there were a couple of nice beryl crystals), were large chunks rather than micromounts. The one surprise was a telescopic sight for a rifle. I think it went for a dollar! I was sadly tempted by an original Yost trimmer, but since I already have two, Willow put her foot down.



Someone might have misinterpreted the word "scope". It's a scope all right, but perhaps not quite in our category!



The end of the silent auction: a quiet moment before the bell rings and the bloodletting starts.

In the meantime, retired electrical engineer Tom Mortimer set up to give the first talks. He gave two short items: one on an attempt to find a way to distinguish between messelite $[\text{Ca}_2\text{Fe}^{2+}(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ and fairfieldite $[\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mn}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+})(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ in New Hampshire occurrences (it's not easy), and the other an examination of New Hampshire diadochite $[\text{Fe}^{3+}_2(\text{PO}_4)(\text{SO}_4)(\text{OH}) \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}]$. The "diadochite" specimens he checked contained no phosphorus, which threw a bit of a spanner into the project.

It was lunchtime (cold cuts and sandwich makings) after Tom, and since Kathy Dallaire had thought to provide gluten-free fixings for us, we did well.

I gave my "pretty picture" talk, *Smaller Localities across Eastern Canada*, after lunch. That was a little tricky, because I tend to be a peripatetic speaker, and the speakers' corner was somewhat confined, but it worked.

The silent auction closed shortly after I finished, then Willow pulled the door prize numbers, and people began slowly packing up to depart. The symposium was advertised as closing at 16:00, but almost everything had been cleared by 15:30. Rather like the CMMA November meeting, this is a one-day event, but it accomplishes a lot in that day. We met some very interesting people and came away with some exciting minerals from Canada. I also came away with two fine fluorapatite specimens from the Havey quarry in Poland, Maine, presented to me by phosphate specialist Jim Nizamoff.

In short, I encourage CMMA members, and in fact micromounters generally, to expand their attendance at symposia outside of their home venues. For many CMMA members, Chelmsford, Baltimore, Rochester, Washington, DC, and Cleveland are within relatively easy reach. Travel slowly, take the weekend, admire the countryside, meet new people, and enjoy!

The First Central US Micromineral Symposium **Little Rock, Arkansas**

By Steve Stuart

The writer attended the captioned symposium from July 27 through July 29, 2017 at the University of Arkansas Little Rock (UALR). The first day was a collecting trip to the 3M (Big Rock) Quarry (3MQ) in the morning, and the Granite Mountain No. 1 Quarry (GMQ1) in the afternoon. It was hazy, hot and humid in the quarries, but we stayed hydrated and had an enjoyable collecting experience. Also, quite dusty from the haul trucks and other equipment, since both quarries were operating during our visits.

Our group of seven included the author, Mike Howard (Symposium host and organizer), Jim Stoops from Georgia, Tim Barnes and Steve Bonney from Kentucky, Jim Daly (CMMA member) from Indiana, and Pat Gould from Florida. Jim Daly noted that we had six cars in our convoy, all with different state license plates. We arrived at the 3M Quarry (3MQ) before 8:30 am and checked in at the quarry office for sign-in and safety instruction. The on-duty quarry supervisor gave us a warm welcome, confirmed the unusual “English” rules of the road used in the quarry, and sent us on our way. Our first task was to try and find a stash of good collecting boulders that Henry Barwood had found on earlier visits. No luck in that endeavor, so our group headed to the lower level of the quarry, along the east wall, where it was said that we had a good chance of finding the new mineral that Henry discovered and is in process of being validated and named.



East wall of first site, 3MQ



Another view of the first site, 3MQ

After an hour of desultory pickings, we moved one level up in the quarry to the south wall, where collecting was somewhat better.



Site 2, 3MQ

At about 11:15 am, the quarry manager escorted us to the observation overlook, where we witnessed a blast of the overburden where the quarry will be expanded.



The quarry blast, 3MQ

The overlook also provided an elevated view of where we had collected that morning. After the blast, we left the quarry for lunch at a local Cajun and Southern style restaurant. Very tasty! Weather was reasonably good for our morning collecting activities: somewhat overcast and a slight breeze. That would change by afternoon, when we stopped at the Granite Mountain Quarry #1 (GMQ1) after lunch.





Our intrepid group arrived at GMQ1 about 1 pm and went through the usual sign-ins. The quarry supervisor escorted us to the available collecting in the quarry, two levels up from the active quarry area. It was huge, flat and an oven! Afternoon temperature reached 100F under a hot sun. No shade, no breeze. Our group split up a bit, with five of us working one area and the other two doing their own thing.



Left to right: Pat Gould, Mike Howard and Jim Stoops. Jim Daly photo



Left to right: Steve Bonney, Tim Barnes, Mike Howard and Jim Daly. Photo by Steve Stuart

Steve Bonney took his 8-lb sledge to a promising boulder and tossed the smaller pieces to Tim Barnes, who stacked them up for later distribution to the group and to take back to the Symposium giveaway tables. Lots of promising cavities and vugs in this material. Some obvious stilbites and aegirines were evident to the eye. Hopefully, more goodies await microscope examination and discovery.



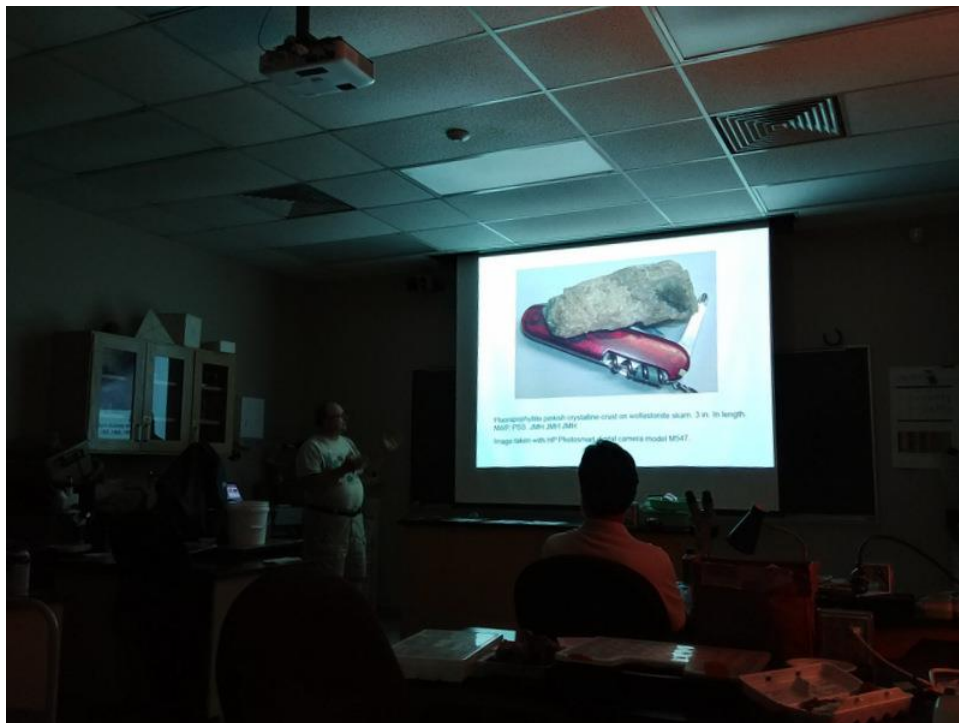
Steve Bonney working the boulder at GMQ1 in 100F heat.



In situ vugs and cavities in the GMQ1 material

We wrapped up at 3:30 pm, freshened up at our motel, the Best Western South (BW) in Little Rock, and went to Mr. Chen's Chinese Restaurant for dinner. We were joined by John Whatley, who arrived too late to go collecting with us. After dinner, we made it to the Symposium venue, the Earth Science lab at UALR. After a miscommunication and a frantic Facebook message to the department head on a field trip to Wyoming, someone arrived to let us into the building. We all set up our equipment, stocked the giveaway tables and started examining our finds from our collecting efforts. We left about 9 pm for the motel after a long day's work!

At 7 am Friday morning the group met for breakfast at the BW and then convened the Symposium at UALR. Mike Howard gave a presentation at about 10:20 am on the Union Carbide Vanadium Mine, Wilson Springs (Potash Sulphur Springs) in Garland County, Arkansas. Most of the day was spent sharing finds, verifying identifications, swapping stories and basking in the comradery that these micromineral symposiums inevitably generate.



Mike Howard giving his presentation. Pat Gould in foreground



Large splitter provided by UALR ES department; smaller Zuber by Jim Daly. Photo: Mike Howard



We each had a work table. Giveaways and snacks in the back, along with the splitters. Photo: Mike Howard



Some of the giveaways. Photo: Mike Howard



Steve Bonney, not working quite as hard as in GMQ1! Photo: Jim Daly

We broke up at 5:15 pm, freshened up at the BW, and had dinner at the Butcher Block steakhouse. Afterwards, we didn't have enough mineral stuff, so we went back to the Symposium room for more 'scope work and discussions. Did it all again on Saturday. John Whatley gave a detailed presentation on the history, geology, environmental concerns, present status and the minerals found at Graves Mountain, Georgia. He distributed copies of his talk to Symposium participants for comments and editing, since he wants to publish it on-line sometime in the future. Jim Daly also distributed a CD with hundreds of photos by the late Dr. Henry Barwood in Powerpoint format, along with a spreadsheet key to each image with details on species, locality, imaging equipment and field of view.



Pat Gould and Jim Stoops. Photo: Jim Daly

We all started packing up around 2:30 and vacated the room well before the 5 pm deadline. It was a very successful first summer gathering after the passing of Henry Barwood. His spirit was with us! Thanks and kudos go to Mike Howard for organizing this event and seeing it through to the end. The next summer gathering in 2018 will be in Kentucky, organized by Edward O'Dell. We will be back at UALR in 2019, hopefully in a larger room and perhaps at a later date more suitable for collecting.

The author drove 2,664 miles on this odyssey to Little Rock, including stops in Asheville, North Carolina for craft beer and barbeque with son, Gavin, who drove up from Charlotte, and Charlottesville, Virginia to visit with sister, Patricia and husband, John. Lots to examine as a result of this fun adventure, and a source for future CMMA MicroNews articles.

2017 CCFMS Club Shows


"Wonders of the Earth" - the 48th Scarborough Gem & Mineral Club Show

Dates: September 23-24, 2017

Hours: Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Don Montgomery Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario

Admission: Adults \$5, Children \$1

For more information, please contact: 

The Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough: website: <http://www.scarbgemclub.ca/>




51st OLMC Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewellery Show and Sale

Dates: September 16-17, 2017

Hours: Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

Admission: 65+ yrs \$5, Adults \$8, Student \$6 (with ID), 13-17 yrs \$2, Children 12 & under are free

For more information, please contact: Eric Clara, Show Chair 

OLMC Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club: website: <http://www.olmc.ca/index.html>



[Ancaster Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewellery Show](#)

Dates: Friday, September 29th to Sunday, October 1st, 2017

Hours: Friday: 9:30 am to 5 pm, Saturday & Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster, Ontario

Admission: \$8, 2-day Pass \$14, Children 12 & under are free

For more information, please contact: Robert Parry, Robert Hall Originals, 519-448-1236 or 1-800-360-2813, 



[University of Waterloo Science Open House & Gem and Mineral Show](#)

Dates: usually Friday & Saturday of the 2nd last weekend in October

Hours: Friday: 12 noon to 6 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Earth Sciences Museum, EIT - Centre for Environmental and Information Technology, 1st & 2nd Floors, 200

University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario

Admission: free

For more information, please contact: Assistant Museum Curator, 519-888-4567 ext. 32469, 


University of Waterloo Earth Sciences Museum website: <https://uwaterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum/>

[Walker Club Annual Auction](#)

Dates: usually beginning of November

Hours: viewing starts at noon, auction at 1 pm

Location: Knox United Church, 2569 Midland Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario

For more information, please contact: 

Walker Mineralogical Club website: www.walkermaneralogicalclub.com/




[London Gem & Mineral Show](#)

Dates: Friday, November 17th to Sunday, November 19th, 2017

Hours: Friday: 4 pm to 9 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Agriplex Building, Western Fair District, 845 Florence Street, London, Ontario

Admission: Adults \$6, Children \$3

For more information, please contact: 519-400-6133, 

London Gem Show & Mineral Show website: <http://www.gemandmineral.ca/>




[58th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Montreal](#)

Dates: Friday, November 24th to Sunday, November 26th, 2017

Hours: Friday: 12 noon to 9 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 7 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Place Bonaventure, 800 De La Gauchetière Ouest, Montréal, Québec

Admission: 65+ yrs \$7, Adults \$8, Student \$6, Children 12 & under are free

For more information, please contact: 

Montreal Gem and Mineral Club website: <http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca/>



[CMMA Fall Micro Workshop](#)

Date: November 11, 2017

Hours: to be announced

Location: Burlington Arts & Cultural Center, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario

Admission: \$15- note that it does not include breakfast this year.

For more information, please contact: Frank Ruehlicke, President, 519-880-2716, 

CMMA Canadian Micro-Mineral Association website: <http://canadianmicrominerals.ca/>



RENEWAL / JOIN FORM CMMA 2017

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DO WANT YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL OR REGULAR MAIL? _____

E-mail is preferred as it is easier and saves costs. Also, typically you get it a few days earlier.

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