



# The Rockblast

The Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

May 2010

## President's Message

Although I might be a little biased, we had another successful meeting in April. **Aimee Partlow** gave a very timely presentation on Iceland, including details when a volcano covered with an ice cap erupts. And sure enough, it has happened, just like she explained. Her pictures of the country, its landscape, with stunning lush greenery, waterfalls, hot springs and volcanoes, had many people talking about future plans to visit Iceland. I gave a mini-talk on the history and geology of the Marmora quarry. **Ray Lehoux** and I displayed several specimens from recent field trips to this site; e.g., almandine and andradite garnet crystals, pyrite, epidote, magnetite and calcite. Ray has planned a field trip to Marmora, May 25th. This quarry is a sure winner.

While searching the web for information, I discovered two excellent sites. The Seaman Mineral Museum in Keweenaw Peninsula, MI has beautiful pictures from their collection, including many copper and silver crystals. It also has an explanation of copper crystal formation. <http://www.museum.mtu.edu/> . Another site describes the geology of Ontario in easy to understand basic terms with several illustrations. It gives details on the Canadian shield, the sedimentary region of Southwestern Ontario and the glacial period. This 80-page article is called "Rock Ontario". You can download the entire document free from <http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndmfiles/pub/data/imaging/POP001/POP001.pdf> .

Our club show is Saturday May 1st, 10 AM till 4 PM. There will be several dealers, displays and activities for kids. If you have good quality "discard" material that novices would find interesting, please drop it off at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre (our usual meeting place), on or before this date. We will have a giveaway table for kids. Also, if you can help with the setting up (before 10 AM), or taking down (after 4 PM), please join us. Many hands make light work.

A special thanks to club member **André Mongeon**. He regularly contributes articles to the RockBlast, as well as taking photographs of club speakers and displays. His efforts are much appreciated, as they add an extra dimension to the success of our club.

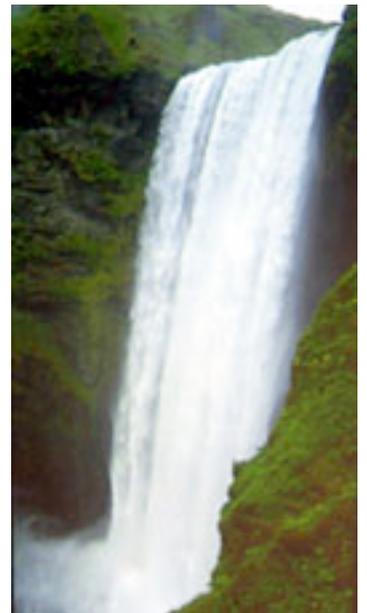
The guest speaker for our regular May meeting is Dr. Alan Morgan, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Waterloo. His presentation is entitled "Global Warming: Fact or Fantasy". The mini-talk will be given by **Bo Renneckendorf** on "An overview of central Death Valley". Hope to see you at the show, field trips or meeting. --- *Gary Partlow*



## Pictures from the April Meeting



Clockwise from upper left: Magnetite from Marmora and compass, father and daughter Partlows, Maggie Wilson & Reiner Mielke, Iceland waterfalls, selection of Iceland minerals, Iceland geyser, the mid-Atlantic ridge. Credit: André Mongeon.



## Upcoming Club Meetings

All meetings start at 7:00 PM for trading specimens at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre, 25 Regina St. South, Waterloo. Typical schedule:

**7:00 - 7:30 PM:** trading and socializing

**7:30 - 7:45 PM:** a “mini-talk” about some aspect of the hobby

**7:45 - 8:00 PM:** announcements

**8:00 - 8:15 PM:** monthly raffle

**8:15 - 9:00 PM:** featured talk

**Friday, May 7 2010:** Alan Morgan of the University of Waterloo will speak on “Global Warming: Fact or Fantasy?”. **Bo Renneckendorf** will give a mini-talk on “An overview of central Death Valley”.

**Friday, June 4 2010:** The club’s annual potluck picnic, plus a visit to Stonebridge Imports’ warehouse of mineral treasures.

**Friday, September 3 2010:** The annual Show-and-Tell event. Bring your specimens from your summer collecting trips.

**Friday, October 1 2010:** TBA.

**Friday, November 5 2010:** Our own **Rob Maric** will speak on "All you ever need to know about ground water: do we have enough?".

**Friday, December 3 2010:** The annual holiday auction of minerals, gems, fossils, and other items.

## Upcoming Events

This listing is provided as a service to club members. Events subject to cancellation. As always, double-check dates and times with the sponsors before leaving home!

**April 30 - May 2 2010:** Open house at Robert Hall Originals, 138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George, Ontario. Fri-Sun, 10 AM - 5 PM. Free. For more info, phone (519) 448-1236 or (800) 360-2813, or e-mail [inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com](mailto:inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com) , or visit <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com> .

**April 30 - May 2 2010:** Canadian Micro Mineral Association’s 47th Annual Symposium, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Speakers: Dr. Michael Wise, Smithsonian Institution; Kim Tait, Royal Ontario Museum. For more info and registration: contact Bill Lechner, (416) 438-8908, or e-mail [bill.lechner@rogers.com](mailto:bill.lechner@rogers.com) .

**May 1 2010:** Our own Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club Show, 10 AM - 4 PM, Waterloo Community Arts Centre, 25 Regina St. S., Waterloo, Ontario. Free admission.

**May 8 2010:** The upcoming Field Trip to Beamsville Nelson Aggregates on Saturday May 8th, 2010 has been confirmed. Safety vest (fluorescent), long pants, safety boots, hard hat, and safety glasses are **required** for admittance to the quarry. Plan to arrive at the gate of the quarry of Beamsville at about 8:30 AM for sign in and vehicle tag in. We will enter the quarry about 9:00 AM after our safety talk. See the CCFMS web site for map to quarry, <http://ccfms.ca/Events/Beamsville.html> .

**June 19 2010:** Niagara Peninsula Geological Society presents Geo-Venture 2010, 10 AM - 5 PM, Beamsville Fairgrounds, Beamsville, ON. Held with the Strawberry Festival. For more information, call (905) 994-0477 or (905) 935-6791.

**July 23-25 2010:** The Toronto Gem and Mineral Show. Friday, 4 PM - 9 PM; Saturday, 10 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM. Leaside Gardens, 1073 Millwood Road, East York, Ontario. Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children 12-18 \$6, Under 12 free admission with adult. For more info, contact Ohannes Bedrossian, (514) 989-9800 or e-mail [torontogemshow@canada.com](mailto:torontogemshow@canada.com) .

**July 25 2010:** The Bancroft Mineral Club presents their 15th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM, Bancroft Legion Hall, Station Street, Bancroft, ON. Admission \$2, under 18 free. For more info, e-mail [alrocks16@yahoo.ca](mailto:alrocks16@yahoo.ca) .

**July 29 - August 1 2010:** The 47th Annual Rockhound Gemboree, Canada's largest gem and mineral show. Thu-Sat, 10 AM - 7 PM; Sun, 10 AM - 5 PM. Over 110 dealers. For more info, call (877) 410-1513 or (613) 332-1513.

**September 11 2010:** Open House and Rock Swap at Robert Hall Originals, Saturday, 10 AM - 5 PM. 138 Sugar Maple Road, St. George, Ontario. Fri-Sun, 10 AM - 5 PM. Free. For more info, phone (519) 448-1236 or (800) 360-2813, or e-mail [inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com](mailto:inquiry@roberthalloriginals.com) , or visit <http://www.roberthalloriginals.com> .

**September 18-19 2010:** 42nd Annual Scarborough Gem and Mineral Show, Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM. Don Montgomery Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Avenue E., Scarborough, ON. Adults \$5, Children \$1. For more info: e-mail [scarbgemclub@lycos.com](mailto:scarbgemclub@lycos.com) or visit <http://www.scarbgemclub.ca> .

**October 1-3 2010:** Ancaster Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewellery Show. Try on the latest in fashionable jewellery. See crystals, fossils & magnificent rocks from all over the world! Shop at over 30 dealers. Take a free seminar on rocks, fossils or crystals. Hours: Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM; Saturday: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission: \$6.00 per person, under 12 free. Location: Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster, Ontario (corner of Hwy. 52 & Hwy. 53). For more info, phone: 519-448-1236 or 1-800-360-2813 or visit [www.roberthalloriginals.com](http://www.roberthalloriginals.com) or e-mail [rockshow@roberthalloriginals.com](mailto:rockshow@roberthalloriginals.com) .

## **More on Flint Knapping**

Malcolm Back of the Walker Club in Toronto sends along the following link about flint-knapping from the University of Iowa: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/learn/ancient/flint.htm> .

## CHRYSOBERYL TWIN, MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL



# Chrysoberyl

by André Mongeon

Chrysoberyl ( $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$ ) is an often overlooked gemstone, attracting far less attention than its more famous variety, alexandrite. The name is derived from the Greek "Chryso" (golden) and "beryl" (from its beryllium content). Apart from containing beryllium, it has no chemical relationship to the mineral beryl.

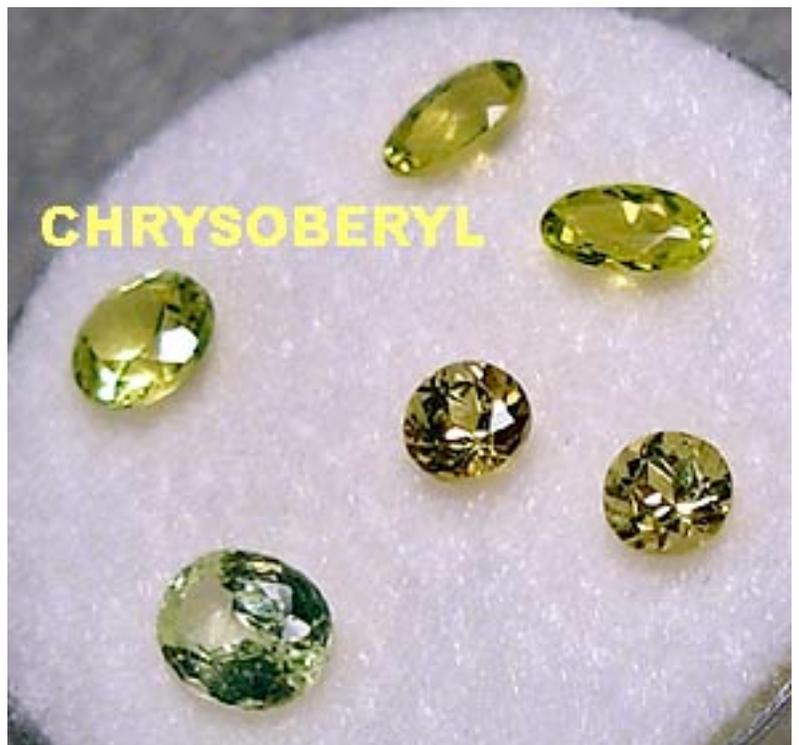
Crystals are found in pegmatites or in the schists bordering them, while placers downstream yield water-worn pebbles weathered from the parent rock. With a hardness of 8.5, chrysoberyl tends to survive

the journey downstream relatively well. Its harness also makes it a durable gemstone, suitable for rings.

Gem chrysoberyl is ideally of a golden yellow to a golden green colour and can be confused with heliodor, citrine or yellow topaz at first glance. It can also be dark green, tan or even brownish, but these colours are seldom cut into gems. Gem prices are a bit higher than that of citrine but are still affordable. Cat's eye chrysoberyl (known as cymophane) is a fairly opaque gem that displays a distinct chatoyancy. This is caused by minute parallel needle-like inclusions. The ideal colour combination is described as "milk and honey" or whitish and golden and tends to be an expensive gem. Other colours include grey, green, brown and tan.

By far the most expensive varieties are alexandrite and cat's eye alexandrite. Alexandrite changes colour from reddish (incandescent light) to greenish (daylight or fluorescent light). The cat's eye effect is caused by the same types of inclusions found in cymophane.

Notable locations for chrysoberyl include Brazil (Minas Gerais), Russia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Burma, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. Crystals are also found in Maine, New York, Connecticut and Colorado. Alexandrite is found in Brazil, Russia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Orissa, India.



## Equipment Sale

Our friend Reza Piroznia sends along the following note: "I am having a sale on Sunday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 9th from 12 Noon to 3 PM. I have all kinds of used lapidary machines, a kiln, a steamer for jewellery cleaning, a polishing machine for jewellery, slab saw, trimming saw, small jewellery tools, bits, wax, centrifuge for casting jewellery, books and more. I am selling some rough and half-finished material for cabs and faceting. Also there is a calcite mineral collection and much more. The sale will be held at 100 Canadian Road, Scarbrough, ON M1R 4Z5, Unit 2100. It is a storage place. Please call me (Reza) at 416-804-5487 if you have any questions or concerns."

## Wisconsin Meteorites Recovered

A large fireball was seen on April 15 over several midwestern states, and now more than 25 pieces of the meteorite have been recovered in Livingston, Wisconsin. There have been at least 12 known meteorite falls in the state. Initial reports suggest the meteorite was an "ordinary chondrite", a stony meteorite and the most common type.

## Gold Specimens Stolen

Dozens of fine gold specimens were stolen from the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Hillsboro, Oregon, on April 16. Collectors should watch for unusual gold specimens offered for sale, although the thieves will probably just melt the specimens for their gold content.

## Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club

### Mailing Address:

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**Gary Partlow** (519) 836-6515

**Treasurer: Reiner Mielke** (519) 729-9261

**Publicity: Donna Hollander** (519) 571-1418

**Interclub Liaison: Stan Jones** (519) 658-4394

#### Field Trip Chairman:

**Ray Lehoux** (519) 822-8523

**Newsletter Editor: Jeffrey Shallit** (617) 964-2471

**Kids' Club Coordinator: Robert Maric** (519) 745-7717

**Club Website:** [www.calaverite.com/kwgmcc](http://www.calaverite.com/kwgmcc)

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