



c/o Ilse Kraemer
23 King's Hill Lane
Brantford, Ontario N3T 6A3
Phone: (519) 756-6634
Jean Farquharson
Phone: (519) 442-7000
Fax: (519) 442-4200

A BRIEF HISTORY : Gypsum was first discovered on the Grand river by the surveyor Augustus Jones in April 1793 when he explored the confluence of the Grand and Nith rivers. The first gypsum mine on the Grand river (and probably the first one in Ontario) was opened in 1822 at that same location by William Holme. A year later Holme built the first gypsum mill but he soon sold his mining interests and property to Hiram Capron who was to found the town of Paris at this same site.

It was not long before gypsum mining flourished all along the Grand river between Cambridge and Dunneville. Mines varied, some were open pits, others small tunnels to satisfy the modest needs of the farmers who owned them, while still others were extensive underground workings sometimes penetrating a quarter mile or more following the layers of gypsum. However, by about 1920 there were only a half dozen or so still open and today there are only two mines still being worked and they are thoroughly modern operations.

The old mines had been forgotten to all but a few.

THE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE MINES SOCIETY has recently been formed to collect record and preserve artifacts, history and the heritage of the gypsum mining industry in the Grand river watershed.

The following are some of the many things being considered by the mining society to meet this broad range of objectives;

- .establish an inventory of mines in the Grand river valley.
- .publish a tourist brochure promoting gypsum mining heritage.
- .talk with people with gypsum mining connections.
- .continue with archival research.
- .identify flora and fauna associated with mine sites.
- .identify and preserve all artifacts related to mining.
- .develop walking and canoe tours of old mine sites.
- .develop a festival of mining celebration.
- .open a mining museum to bring together all of these objectives.

MEMBERSHIP in the GRAND RIVER HERITAGE MINES SOCIETY brings one the opportunity to work with others, biologists, hikers, curators, archaeologists, photographers, naturalists and just plain ordinary folk who all have a keen interest in the societies' objectives. Meetings, field trips and a newsletter keep everyone informed and provide the opportunity for the exchange of ideas.

MEMBERSHIP	\$5.00 Student and senior	send to; Sanko Kraemer
	\$10.00 Individual	23 King's Hill lane
	\$15.00 Family	Brantford N3T 6A3
	\$20.00 Corporate	Telephone 519 756-6634

GRAND RIVER HERITAGE MINES SOCIETY NEWSLETTER October, 1993
A Brief History of the Mines

Brant Co. mines: At various locations in and near Paris.

1. **First in Ontario:** 1822 at the forks of the Nith and Grand Rivers. Referred to as Hamilton's plaster beds.
2. At the end of Green Lane, rt. bank of Grand R., known as the Dickson mine. Extensively mined and milled by 1831.
3. Beds at n. end of Riverview Park.
4. Between Hamilton Place and River Lane - Capron beds.
5. 15 tunnels 1-1 1/2 mi.s. of Paris, rt. bank, often referred to as the Paris Plaster Mine, 1840's? to about 1905. Various owners.
6. Torrance mine, Lot 16, Conc. 1, Btfd Twp., 1895-96.
7. Cleator mine, s. of Whiteman's Cr., rt.bank. Near Brantford. 1830's. Mine and mill.
8. 1 1/2 mi. northeast of Paris.

Haldimand County Mines

Cook's Mine: S. side of Grand, about 1 mile below York, pre-1838.

Martindale Mine: River Range, Lots 53-54, or 56-57? 1846-96.

Merritt Mine: Lots 2 & 3, Cayuga Twp., 1850-1893.

Grand River Plaster Co.: Lots 2 & 3, Huff Tract, N. Cayuga Tp., 1865-1897.

Garland Mine: Lot 13, Con. V, VI, Oneida Twp. 1870-1897.

Mount Healy Mine: Cook Block, 1870-1894.

Glenny Mine: Lot 3, Jones Tract, N. Cayuga Twp., 1874-1892.

Excelsior Mine: Lot 2, Grand River Rd., Jones Tract, N. Cayuga Twp., 1875-1895.

Teasdale Mine: Lot 1, Huff Tract, Jones Tract, N. Cayuga Twp., 1889-1895.

Imperial Plaster Co.: Lot 3, Jones Tract, N. Cayuga Twp.
(Same property as Glenny/Excelsior mines?
1902-10)

Caledonia Mine: Lots 9-10, Range 1, Seneca Twp., 1905-?

Crown Gypsum Co.: Old Martindale mine, Oneida Twp.,
1908-1919? In 1917, they amalgamated with
Alabastine Co. of Paris, from Ont. Gypsum Co.

Carson Mine: Old Garland Mine, Oneida Twp. ?-1920.

Caledonia Gypsum Co.: 1910-1911.

Lythmore Mine: Lythmore Stn., 1916- ?

Sources

Brant County: Donald Smith's At the Forks of the Grand and local histories of Brant, and from government reports (Ontario Bureau of Mines Annual Reports, Geological Survey of Canada Annual Report, and observations and interviews.)

Haldimand County: Ontario Dept. of Mines Annual Report, 1925, pp. 1-34 - Gypsum in Ontario., by Geo. E. Cole.

THE GRAND RIVER HERITAGE MINES SOCIETY has recently been formed to collect, record and preserve artifacts, history and the heritage of the gypsum mining industry in the Grand River Watershed.

The following are some of the many things being considered by the mining society to meet this broad range of objectives:

- * Establish an inventory of mines in the Grand River Valley;
 - * Publish a tourist brochure promoting gypsum mining heritage;
 - * Talk with people with gypsum mining connections;
 - * Continue with archival research;
 - * Learn geology of the area as it relates to mining;
 - * Identify flora and fauna associated with mine sites;
 - * Identify and preserve all artifacts related to mining;
 - * Develop walking and canoe tours of old mine sites;
 - * Develop a festival of mining celebration;
 - * Open a mining museum to bring together all of these objectives.
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Our **NEXT MEETING**: Field trip along the Grand River Trail to the Torrance mine on Sat., Nov. 13/93, at 10 a.m., weather permitting. The Torrance mine is the only intact mine in the Paris area. Participate at your own risk. We recommend that you only look into the tunnel. It is very dangerous to go inside. We will meet at the west end of Powerline Rd. on the e. side of the Grand River. Follow Highway 2 (Paris Rd.) between Paris and Brantford until you come to Powerline. The Old Schoolhouse Restaurant is on the corner. Turn west onto Powerline; over the tracks; past Purolator and the foundry. Park along the road. To be prepared, you will need a knapsack lunch, warm clothes, sturdy shoes and rubber boots. We suggest that you arrange your own car pool.

MEMBERSHIP in the GRAND RIVER HERITAGE MINES SOCIETY brings one the opportunity to work with others: biologists, hikers, curators, archaeologists, photographers, naturalists, and just plain ordinary folk who have a keen interest in the society's objectives. Meetings, field trips and a newsletter keep everyone informed and provide the opportunity for the exchange of ideas. Working committees have been set up in the areas of Research, Natural History and Field Trips.

We need some funding to meet current expenses - postage, paper, photocopying, phone calls, and research. Your membership will help us pay for necessities. Our membership rates are modest. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Students and Seniors	\$5
Regular members	\$10
Families	\$15
Corporate	\$20

Please submit your membership application to: Sanko Kraemer
23 King's Hill Lane
Brantford, Ont. N3T 6A3
Phone (519)756-6634

Name (Please print):

Address:

Postal Code:

Telephone:

Fax:

Talents and interests:

How I may be able to help - Working Committee:

Amount enclosed: