



Mining Society News

May 07/05



Lime kiln in Limehouse Ont.

Photo by S.K.

Greetings from your Vice President

The year 2005 is well on it's way. Even without hikes it has been very busy for us. 2004 ended with a lovely potluck supper at the Parkhills place, all of us appreciated their hospitality. Later on Gwen shared with us her slide show, we thank them again for their generosity

In January Ilse was one of the guest speakers in Cayuga. A private enterprise plans to open a huge garbage dump for Toronto / Mississauga Garbage. It is situated in a Gypsum Mine area and a wetland carst area. Citizens formed a Group Halt the dump but up to now had no success, it looks like a losing matter.

Late in winter, in bad snowstorm, members met at Sobey's Paris to discuss plans and the constitution for 2005. Membership fee was lowered to \$5.00 . It was suggested to produce a Picture Atlas from our research over the years. The Photographers in the group have boxes of pictures by now. Work on this project was started a while ago. Sanko and Ilse started to revisit some of the mine sites south of Caledonia , in their spare time. These Mines change over time as their timber supports rot out causing sinkholes and cave ins. One massive collapse took part of a driveway out.

The Mining Society gave a small donation to the lapidary Society. For many years they have been very generous to us. This was a "Thank You".

Sanko has created a new set of brochures with a nice color picture on the front. At the same time he produced the front cover for the picture atlas. All was accepted by the Society.

April 2+3 Ilse set up a mining display for the Lapidary Society. At the same time she displayed the archeological Kraemer family collection. Even with the two day snowstorm howling outside, the show was well visited. Some new members joined the group. Thanks to the members that helped us at the show. Team Sanko and Ilse spent some time trying to rediscover the first and older Drumbo mine. We found a shaft N/W of Drumbo in a remote area, but no info. if it was connected with Drumbo. Could have been a wild mine some farmer started. During this search we discovered an old Marl operation in the Plattsville area. Same like the Calcium pits we visited in the fall, this looks much older. Wooden drying racks, Bridges, Dikes, along the ponds. Another industrial ghosttown. April 24 th. more research into this area which is now rapidly opened up by the Gas and Oil industry. In the Inerkip area we found outcrops of the Onandaga Escarpment, the Bois Blanc formation, rich with fossils. This is the last outcropping of the Escarpment from here it is deeply buried by Glacial Till .

I am working on some hikes. The first one will be May 22 at 10:00 am eastside of Powerline Rd. next to Westcast. Good hiking shoes are advised. We have been invited for a hike on private land with lots of interesting things to see. Dates for the other hikes have not been confirmed and members will be contacted by phone. Input by members where and when to go is greatly appreciated.

In April we had our general meeting in the Helen Hunter Hoodles Museum. Curator Karen Richardson was the guest speaker, her talk about the Grand River and history in this area. Karen is an excellent speaker, her talk was especially meaningful since she grew up in this area.

Thanks again Karen.

We have been asked again by members to repeat the ghost town trip to the Calcium pits, Limehouse, and Rockwood. This whole area is riddled by Carst formations, sinkholes. In Rockwood alone there are over 300 of these sinkholes. Many Caves end up in mile long tunnels going all over. We knew about it for many years and used to explore this area. The sinkholes were actually formed by "Grinders" small grapefruit sized stones. They were rolled around by swirling glacial waters, and created these scouring holes. Excavating the hole many of these round stones have been found at the bottom. The mining Society has been asked by Lapidary Society if they could come along on some of these trips, they invited us on their outings.

Remember ! Hike on May22/05 10:00 Am end of Powerline Rd. Eastside, in Trail Parking lot.