

Rockhounds Don't Get Rich But Always in the Chips



A rock festival with a different kind of beat, swinging to the rhythm of hammer on stone is staged every summer by youngsters are among its most avid participants.

You probably won't strike it rich in Bancroft, but you're sure to be kept in the chips. Precious and semi-precious stones, the elite of the earth's upper crust, are the main attraction each summer as this village plays host to some 20,000 North American rockhounds for an annual five-day Gemboree, largest mineral show of its kind in Canada.

From Aug. 1 to 5 this year, devotees from both sides of the border will converge on this community, 145 miles northeast of Toronto, to take part in a rock festival with a difference, a big hit since it started in 1964.

With only a hammer, a chisel, a small satchel and not much money, you can enjoy the all-family recreation of rockhounding in Ontario. Endowed with some of the best collecting areas on the continent - its oldest rocks date back 2,810 million

years - this province offers mineral lovers everything from apatite to zirconite for fascinating fun by the quartz.

SOUR DOUGH SPIRIT
For the uninitiated, a rockhound is an amateur geologist with the adventurous spirit of a sourdough who goes hunting for gem and mineral rocks. In the advanced stages of his pursuit he goes in for gemstone cutting, polishing and making jewelry.

The Bancroft area hit mining headlines in the early 1950s following rich finds of pitch-blende for the production of uranium. Abounding in rocks which make it a rockhound's paradise the district lying within a 35-mile radius of the village is considered the best mineral-collecting locality in all Ontario, yielding some of the world's most prized varieties.

The entire mineral kingdom contains some 2,000 species. Well over 200 of these are found in Ontario, and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto has over 70 specimens from the Bancroft region alone.

LAPIDARY LOOT
Found here is such lapidary loot as blue sodalite (Ontario's mineral emblem), emerald beryl, lilac-hued calcite, jet black hornblende, milky white tourmaline and bright green amazonite, plus a score of rare minerals discovered in only one or two other places in the world. The precious materials are found on rockpiles, in quarries and pits, but mostly in the dumps of the old uranium mines.

Set in a 20-acre tent city, the Gemboree includes field trips, visits to abandoned mines, swapping sessions and mineral displays, besides demonstrations of gemstone cutting and various other facets of the pastime. Over the years the scope has expanded to include hobbies in general: driftwood displays, leathercraft, gemstone jewelry and rare coins.

Besides providing a total introduction to the sport, the Gemboree adds the fun of a fair, with such extra features as western music, square dancing and outdoor corn roasts.

SWAPPING
For all collectors, swapping is the great obsession and during the Gemboree there is a giant swap table. Children are among the keenest enthusiasts. They are sharp-eyed and make good swappers. Much of the festival is geared to their needs and there is a children's day with prizes and half-price rides.

Admission is \$1 a day for adults for the first two days, \$1.50 for the final three; no charge for children under 12; free parking. Further information is available from:

Rockhound Gemboree, P.O. Box 691, Bancroft, Ont.

HINTS
In Ontario, almost anywhere you travel affords good mineral collecting. Certain areas, of course, are better than others. Three most likely areas, in addition to Bancroft, are: Cobalt, Canada's once fabulous silver mining area; the Niagara Falls-to-Toronto

horseshoe, and the Canadian shore of Lake Superior along Hwy. 17.

For hints on finding specimens, lists of more localities, festivals and mineral clubs, write for Ontario Minerals folder, and Ontario Summer Events 1972 booklet, to: Press Officer, Ontario Department of Tourism and Information, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Canada.

Notice To Property Owners IN THE Town of Georgetown TO DESTROY WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with The Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1970, Sec. 4, 11, 13, 14 and 20, that unless weed seeds, and noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Town of Georgetown are destroyed by date of Saturday, June 17, 1972, and throughout the season, the Town may enter upon said lands, and have weeds destroyed, charging the costs against the land in taxes, as set out in the Act.

The co-operation of all property owners is earnestly solicited.

Complaints may be made by telephone, or in writing to the undersigned.

J. G. Tolton
Weed Inspector
Municipal Offices
36 Main Street North
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Tel. 877-6981

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Served Overseas With RCAF in World War II

An RCAF veteran, who served as a firefighter overseas from 1940 to 1945, William Joseph Hooker of Glen Williams died in Sunnybrook Hospital May 23. He was 49.

A Toronto native, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Hooker, he attended St. George's public school and Western Tech. He was a post office sorter and later a letter carrier, he worked for CNR Express and at the Oakville Ford Plant, had been a painter with Len Cox and at one time was caretaker of Glen Williams public school.

After the war he lived at Long Branch, Port Credit and Brantford. He moved to Silvercreek in 1959 and to the Glen two years later.

Mr. Hooker had a hobby of preparing "special occasion" cards, composing his own verses to suit the occasion.

He leaves his wife, Eveline (Lyn) Walker, whom he married in England in 1943, sons David of Don Mills and Daniel, Kitchener, and a daughter Lynn at home; one granddaughter Erica Eileen, and sisters and brothers, Walter, Inglewood, Mrs. Audrey Sullivan, Quebec, Joseph, Mrs. Mary Bray and Mrs. Winnifred Gutsell, Toronto.

Rev. Kelvin Johnston and Rev. Walter Ridley conducted the funeral service at the McClure-Jones Funeral Home, with interment in Glen Williams Cemetery. Pallbearers were his son Daniel, brothers Walter and Joseph, nephews Paul and Robin Gutsell, and Ray Hiscok.

St. John Ambulance in Canada is part of the international Order of St. John which is active throughout the Commonwealth, and traces its origin back to the Crusades.



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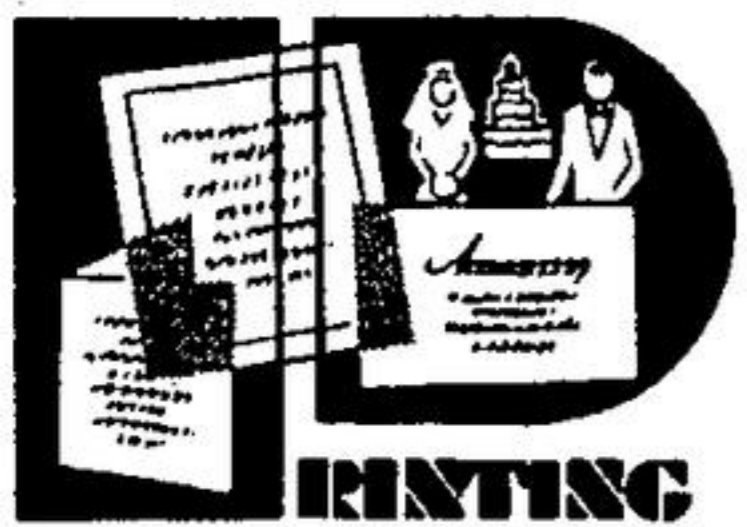
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