



## Rockhound at the Bluewater District School Board Shares her Passion

Kathleen Beattie is a geography teacher with the Bluewater District School Board at John Diefenbaker Secondary School in Hanover, Ontario. She has been a lifelong rockhound, collecting rocks and fossils across Canada and beyond. "My family and I go rockhounding every summer," she says, adding "My 10-year-old son thinks that's the way vacations are spent: clinging to rock cuts with a hammer in hand." A favourite destination is Bancroft, the 'mineral capital of Canada'.

One of the high points of her teaching career was a week-long tour of northern Ontario mining regions on a junket sponsored by the Ontario Mining Association. "I got to go 1,500 metres deep in Inco's Creighton deep shaft copper-nickel mine; fly around the mineral-rich Sudbury Basin in a pontoon plane; walk across a roche moutonnee near Lake Temiskaming; and explore some of the hundreds of kilometres of ore stopes in the now-closed Denison uranium mine in Elliot Lake."

For those rock enthusiasts interested in Ontario's silver mining history, she recommends the self-guided Heritage Silver Trail in and near Cobalt. "There are lots of rock samples to be had from the piles of silver ore tailings, and you can take a guided tour of an old silver mine. And don't forget to check out the excellent mining museums in Haileybury and Cobalt," she says, "They have huge chunks of silver ore of a grade not found anymore, as well as collections from around the world."

"The Haileybury School of Mines is also an outstanding destination. It has a wonderful rock display lining the hallways, an amazing outdoor rock gallery, and piles of discarded drill cores where you can help yourself."

It should come as no surprise that Kathleen is often remembered by her former students as "the rock teacher."

*PDACMM wishes to thank Kathleen for sharing her passion. This article was originally published by Canadian Rockhound and the complete version includes photos and the story behind her favourite rock discovery.*

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## **DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A ROCKHOUND?**

If the answer is yes to this question then here is a resource for you. **Mineral Collecting in Ontario A Guide for Rockhounds**, published by the Ontario government, explains Ontario's mineral collecting policy, lists some of the best mineral collecting sites in the province, and much more.

Download a PDF of the guide here.

[http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/MNDM/MINES/LANDS/brochure/rockhnd/rh\\_e.pdf](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/MNDM/MINES/LANDS/brochure/rockhnd/rh_e.pdf)