



**Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Fédération des sociétés de minéralogie du centre du Canada**

<http://www.ccfms.ca/>

[executiveofCCFMS@ccfms.ca](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@ccfms.ca)

**CCFMS Awards Program / Programme de prix FSMCC**

*English version*

**CCFMS Company and Landowner Award 2023**

**Dave and Renée Paterson, Owners of the Beryl Pit and the Rose Quartz Mine  
at Quadeville, Ontario**

**Nominated by the Nipissing Rock and Mineral Club Inc.**

“To recognize a company or a landowner who has made extraordinary efforts to support rockhounding or lapidary by one or more CCFMS-affiliated clubs – plaque.”

**Background**

Dave and Renée Paterson operated the Rose Quartz Quarry (Quadeville West Mine) and the Beryl Pit (Quadeville East Mine) for about 30 years as fee for collecting sites near Quadeville, Ontario. The two occurrences are about 3 km apart as the crow flies. Sabina (2007) noted that these occurrences are granite pegmatites. She also reported that the Beryl Pit deposit was known since 1897 and was worked for beryl beginning in 1926. Also, that the Rose Quartz Quarry was worked for beryl in 1935, then for feldspar from 1948-49. While operated by Dave and Renée Paterson, the Beryl Pit was widely known for the diversity of pegmatite minerals that could be found there, and the Rose Quartz Quarry was famous primarily for its dark pink, massive rose quartz.



Photo of the Beryl Pit from mindat.org

When owned and operated by the Patersons, the Beryl Pit was easily accessible by young and old. Two-wheel drive vehicles needed to travel only about 2 km north of Kauffeldt's General Store in Quadeville where collecting permits could be purchased, followed by a 500 m walk to the site. The Beryl Pit was open 7 days a week from when the snow was gone until October. The Rose Quartz Quarry was more difficult to reach – there is a 2 km drive on a bush road that traverses swamps and forest, and the site is gated. For this reason, an appointment with Dave and Renée Paterson was needed to obtain access to the Rose Quartz Quarry. However, when there, rockhounds were treated to a detailed, enthusiastic description of the geology of the area and the rose quartz occurrence, and very fine specimens that rockhounds could collect themselves, or purchase on site from Dave and Renée.

**Why Dave and Renée Paterson are Nominated for this Award**

Dave and Renée Paterson are vendors at local rock and gem shows, selling specimens they collected themselves as well as beautiful jewelry made from their own minerals. They did not have to



**Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Fédération des sociétés de minéralogie du centre du Canada**

<http://www.ccfms.ca/>

[executiveofCCFMS@ccfms.ca](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@ccfms.ca)

**CCFMS Awards Program / Programme de prix FSMCC**

*English version*

undertake the work and risk the liability that comes with opening their quarries to the public year after year, but they did. By doing so, they allowed many hundreds of rockhounds and rockhounding families to collect fantastic rose quartz, beryl, aquamarine, tourmaline, amazonite, peristerite, cleavelandite, columbite and many other mineral species for a modest fee in a natural setting. No doubt this introduced many people to the thrill and the rewards of rockhounding. Visiting the Beryl Pit was an excellent way for rockhounds to learn about a wide variety of minerals, owing to the great diversity of specimens that could be found there. The Patersons list 50 different mineral species that have been found at their sites. Julia Breckenridge, owner of the Crystal Cave Mineral Exhibit in South River, Ontario, says:

“I direct visitors to the Beryl Pit when they ask me where to go rockhounding. It is a great place for beginners who can find a wide variety of minerals, and also for experts who can still find the rare and the beautiful.”

Dave and Renée periodically conducted blasts at the Beryl Pit to expose fresh surfaces and loosen wall rock, which inspired rockhounds to make return trips.

Access to rockhounding sites has become increasingly restricted over the last 10 years as many of the sites that used to be open for rockhounding in the Bancroft area are now closed to the public. The Quadeville quarries are just a 45 minute drive from Bancroft and, when operated by Dave and Renée, added diversity and accessibility to what was available.

For all of the above reasons, we are pleased to recommend Dave and Renée Paterson for the CCFMS Company and Landowner Award for 2023.



Left. Dave Paterson (right) describes the interesting geology of the Rose Quartz Quarry to Brian Naylor of the Nipissing Rock and Mineral Club.



Right. Intense pink massive rose quartz is available to one and all at the Paterson's Rose Quartz Quarry.