



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

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

[executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com)

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

*English version*

**CCFMS Company and Landowner Award 2024  
Brampton Brick Ltd.  
Nominated by the Nipissing Rock and Mineral Club  
and the Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club**

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

**Background and Rationale**

For at least 15 years, Brampton Brick Ltd. has kindly allowed rock and mineral clubs to enjoy outstanding fossil collecting opportunities in the two quarries they own near Arkona, Ontario known as the “Hungry Hollow” quarries. The Hungry Hollow North Pit is located at 43.076948 N. latitude and 81.795329 W. longitude, and the Hungry Hollow South Pit is at 43.078202 and -81.797995.

Bob O'Donnell has led field trips to the quarries that have been open to all CCFMS-affiliated clubs. Over the years, fossil-collecting adventures at these quarries have been attended enthusiastically by the Nipissing Rock and Mineral Club, the Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club, the Sudbury Rock and Lapidary Society, the Sarnia Rock and Fossil Club, the Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, the London Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society and others. Scout groups, school groups, the Niagara Peninsula Geological Society, and university researchers have also been given access to these exceptional sites.

The sites are mudstone and shale and are easily accessible after spring rains have ended. These rains are “like a facelift every year”, says Bob O'Donnell, because they expose a new suite of fossils, encouraging fossil-collectors and researchers to return. Considering that there have been 3 or 4 field trips to these sites each year, the Company's efforts to share what they own have been outstanding.

When asked why Brampton Brick Ltd. does this, Bob O'Donnell said that the Company has been interested in supporting the educational and



Above, a grandfather and granddaughter have found horn corals.



Above, collecting fossils at the quarries is easy for people of all ages. Adults and children are delighted by their finds.



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

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

[executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com)

### CCFMS Awards Program / Programme de prix FSMCC

*English version*

scientific benefits of what is in their quarries, and that they are also pleased that it is an endeavor families can enjoy. The reactions of participants have always been enthusiastic and have led to participants of all ages starting their own fossil collections, giving talks in schools, and young people and adults being energized and inspired. The discoveries also encourage people to stop at the nearby Arkona Lions Museum and Information Centre in the Rock Glen Conservation Area to learn more.

The fossils at Hungry Hollow are from the mid-Devonian period between 393 and 382 million years ago, during the *Age of Fishes*. Exceptional horn coral and brachiopod specimens are easy to find in the quarries. However, the quarries have yielded representative specimens of many of the 171 species of fossils in the Arkona Formation. In addition, some rare, and even unique specimens have been found. For example, a 28-arm starfish named *Arkonaster topororum* was found at Hungry Hollow and was named after the Topor brothers who discovered it there. This specimen represents the “holotype” or the first of its species in the world to be found, described, and named.



Above, the rare 28 arm starfish ***Arkonaster topororum*** discovered at Hungry Hollow. From Bob O'Donnell's post at <https://geoscienceinfo.com/bob-odonnell-fossils-at-hungry-hollow/>

Left, a participant's horn coral collection from a Hungry Hollow excursion.



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

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

[executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com)

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

*English version*



Left, a bucket of brachiopod specimens from Hungry Hollow that will no doubt be used to (i) introduce children and adults to the wonderful world of Ontario's fossils, and (ii) to learn more about the history of the world we live in.

Numerous microfossils, pyritized fossils, and species of crinoids, trilobites, cephalopods, bryozoans and others have been found in the quarries. If Brampton Brick did not allow supervised collecting at Hungry Hollow, the fossils exposed and collected each year would be degraded by weathering, and – within a short time – lost to science forever.

**Conclusion:**

The number of rockhounding and fossil-collecting opportunities available in Ontario has been declining for many years, making the field trips by CCFMS-affiliated clubs to Brampton Brick Ltd.'s Hungry Hollow Quarries all the more outstanding. Fossil-collecting at the site is exceptional. Adults, children, and families have enjoyed memorable experiences and have learned a great deal about Ontario's fossils while hunting for fossils in the quarries owned by Brampton Brick Ltd. Without access to these sites for collecting, the specimens the sites contain would be degraded by the elements and lost to the world forever. The testimonials below reveal the impact that the Company's generosity has had on fossil collectors. We are very pleased to be recommending Brampton Brick Ltd. for the 2024 CCFMS Company and Landowner Award.

**Testimonials from Rockhounds who have been to the Hungry Hollow Site:**

***From Roberta Thompson:***

Many years ago, my son told me about the fossils at Hungry Hollow. My husband and I went from Oakville to the Conservation Park nearby. We were excited to see the variety and quality of fossils but were disappointed that collecting was extremely limited. We joined a gem and mineral club and were able to join a field trip to the Brampton Brick site. We were astounded at the abundance and quality of fossils available for collecting. Children were able to join us! What an experience for all of us! My husband and I have attended three times and my son twice on field trips. We are always amazed at the variety of fossils found. I always come away with something new. New history is revealed.



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

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

[executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com)

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

*English version*

Without Brampton Brick allowing us to attend, these fossils would be lost. The Grade 4 curriculum discusses rocks and fossils and I have been able to provide my grandchildren's classes with many interesting examples of Devonian fossils. A huge thank you to Brampton Brick for helping us to preserve history!

***From Mark Facenko:***

I have had the privilege of twice visiting Hungry Hollow with rock clubs and appreciate the ability to collect fossils and better understand the fossil record in the litho stratigraphic record of south west Ontario. Also, the kids absolutely love collecting corals and gastropods!!!! It is extremely generous of Brampton Brick to make their property available for this purpose!

***From Samantha Hines:***

Hungry Hollow is a fantastic place to go fossil hunting! It offers a wide variety of fossils and it is great for all experience levels. I brought my 8 year old daughter and she was able to find and collect many fossils that were easily collected as they were lying on top of the ground. It is also a great place for those who want to dig a little and try to find rarer spieces. It was a great collecting day!

***From Betty Newhouse:***

As a former resident of Caledon, Ontario, I've had a lot of experiences with Brampton Brick and was proud when I attended Hungry Hollow to learn Brampton Brick was the owner. Hungry Hollow was, and is, a wonderful experience and a rare opportunity for us to collect fossils from our local area. We also had a superb guide, Bob O'Donnell, who put everything into context and brought the fossils to life. I am so thankful to have been able to collect at Hungry Hollow.

***From Ruth Debicki:***

My first formal exposure to geoscience was during a summer job at my local university after grade 12, where I did research on Devonian brachiopods. This led me to a degree in geology and a 50+ year career in exploration, education, and government. Current labour market data indicate that geoscience is an essential occupation that will face labour shortages in coming years. Perhaps an experience with Devonian brachiopods at Hungry Hollow, through the generosity of Brampton Brick, will lead some of the young participants into a career in Earth sciences, too.