Fossil Hunting at Stonewall Quarry Park

About our fossil hunting area:

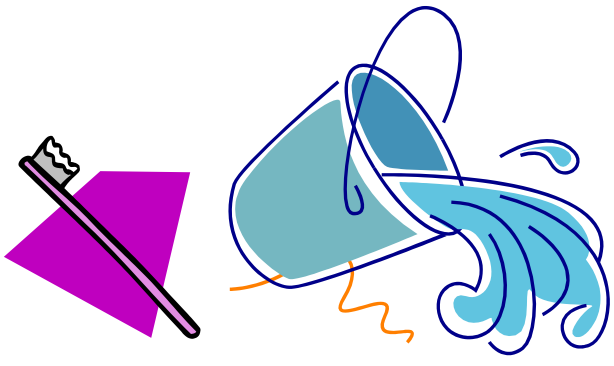
The rock in the designated collection area is brought in from a local quarry. The rock has been broken into pieces to make your fossil hunt easier and safer. The rock is Ordovician limestone approximately 450 million years old. The fossils you find are usually small, about the size of your thumbnail.

What types of fossils will you find?

Our limestone was formed about 450 million years ago.. At that time this area was covered by a warm tropical sea known as the Ordovician Sea. The fossils you will find are of the creatures that made the Ordovician Sea their home. You can visit the Ordovician Sea Gallery in the Interpretive Centre to learn more .

Cleaning your fossils

When you find a fossil it is covered in dust and dirt. You'll want to clean it so you can see the details better. This is a job best done outside. Gather a bucket of water and an old toothbrush. Give the fossils a short soak in the water and then scrub them with the toothbrush . Make sure to empty the water OUTSIDE, not down the sink at home. You don't want to clog the pipes with mud.



Fossil collection is permitted in the designated area only.

Please check in with our front desk prior to starting your fossil hunt.

QUARRY PARK HERITAGE ARTS CENTRE

Fossil Identification Sheet

Bryozoans:

Also known as moss animals , these small colonial animals created a branching skeleton of calcium carbonate. Each animal lived in its own tiny compartment.

Cephalopods

These predators used strong tentacles to capture their food.

Brachiopods

Also known as lampshells were very abundant in the Ordovician Sea. They had shells divided into 2 halves and fed by removing small particles of food from the sea water.

Gastropods

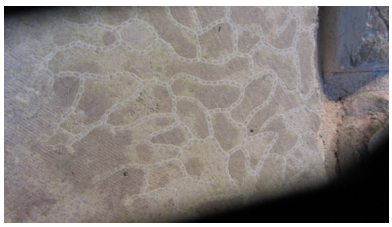
Secrete a single coiled or spiral shell. Snails are gastropods. They were very abundant in the Ordovician Sea.

Coral

The Ordovician sea was home to many types of coral. Horn corals secreted a horn shaped exoskeleton. They captured prey with tentacles.

Other corals such as chain corals and honeycomb corals lived in colonies. Each coral mass was made up of thousands or more small individual units called polyps.

Horn Coral



Catenipora (Chain Coral)

Honeycomb coral

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