



# LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5114, Station B  
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



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**Website :: [www.vlms.ca](http://www.vlms.ca)**

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# The Newsroom

## Announcements

### December's Christmas Special

A reminder to all club members that December's meeting, on Monday December 4th, is not club business but our annual Winter Festive and Christmas Social and Pot luck dinner. Please remember to bring your own plates, utensils, and a vegetable, dinner or desert item to share. The club will be supplying the turkey which Barb has once again graciously volunteered to prepare for us.

If you would like to participate in the club gift exchange, please bring a wrapped, or bagged gift item, of suggested \$10 value, suitable for another club member of your same gender or a generic item that would be suitable for either.

Also, we will be having a box available for Food Bank items, so please feel encouraged to bring a non perishable item for donation.

### Constitution and By-Laws

The transitioning of the VLMS Constitution and By-Laws (as per Societies Act requirements) has been completed.

### Elections

A reminder that January is our Annual General Meeting and our club's Members of the Board elections and Appointed Position placements. Please review the following list of Board Positions and contact Mike Hill at **250 818-3141** to express your interest in any of the vacant positions.

If you are interested in a position where someone may be currently continuing to stand in, please feel welcome to advise that person as often they may be very open to assistants and/or training someone to eventually take over.

### Elected Positions (Board Members)

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership

Member At Large (2, two-year Positions available)

### **Appointed Positions**

Field trips  
Sunshine Corner/Social  
Library (to be determined)  
Programs  
Workshop (2 positions - Vanessa and Brian standing)  
Show Chair (Allana standing)  
Zone representative (1 of 3, three year position)  
Newsletter (Gary standing)  
Website Administrator (Becci standing)  
Refreshments (Barbara standing)

### **Meetings**

The next members meeting is the Christmas club social and will be held as follows:

**Date:** Dec 4, 2017

**Place:** Burnside Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Road, Victoria, BC

**Time:** 7:30 pm

### **Field Trips**

None scheduled.

### **Courses**

Three classes in Basic Lapidary and at least one in Basic Silversmithing are planned in the early part of the New Year in January and in February. If you have been waiting for a course and have not yet been emailed or called, please check with the workshop, or email [vlmsworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:vlmsworkshop@gmail.com) to confirm your placement on the waiting list(s).

Note, once course dates have been confirmed they will be added to the VLMS website workshop's calendar.

### **Programs**

***VLMS Rockhounding Adventure to the Fraser River-November***

Postponed.

***2018 VLMS Rock and Gem Show – Leonardo daVinci Centre – March 16-18, 2018***

It is never too early to start getting ready for our Annual Show. Mark it in your calendars and stay tuned to how you can help make our annual hosted event a continuing show stopping success.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual VLMS Bus Trip to the BC Gem Show on Saturday, April 7, 2018 in Abbotsford***

Many requests and inquiries have been received about a return trip to this annual show on the mainland, noted as the biggest show in BC. Last year's trip was enjoyed by all who took advantage of this excursion and sadly missed by those that wanted to come but just could not make it. If you are interested in being part of event, make sure your voice is heard at the club meetings or by email

correspondence. Costs are expected to be similar to last years, however, with an increase to the shared bus rental fee. More details will be finalized closer to the event with a possible deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### ***VLMS hosts the 2018 Vancouver Island Zone Gemboree – July 26-29, 2018***

It is our turn to host this annual island event....and after the last two outstanding hosted events by Campbell River's and Cowichan Bay's clubs, we have our work cut out for us. Although we have many ideas for some excellent Rockhounding Field Trips for our area, we have chosen the Sooke area as our base for next year's event. We are booked as an event at the Sooke River Campground for the days of Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup> through to Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>. We will need a few key dedicated volunteers to help pull this event together and to host events for the registered members.

### ***December Meeting***

December Christmas Festive Social Checklist

- Plate and utensils,
- Food item to share,
- Gift item for exchange,
- A non perishable item for Food Bank.

### ***Jan Meeting***

Elections.

## **Reports**

### **President (Vanessa)**

As this year is quickly coming to a close, I reflect on the continuing growth of our club and collective fosters. We have shared a great loss in our membership with the passing of our dear friend and formidable club treasurer, Greg Shea. Greg shared his knowledge, humour and endearing passion with us all and leaves many a fond memories.

This year marked some small but significant gains, both in membership and in activities as we have come to further share our club's interest and talents in new annual member's showcase, Rough to Ready Fair.

Finally, we continue to work to bring new participation events that further encompass even more interests of our membership. I look forward to the New Year and the possibilities ahead.

### **Membership (Margaret)**

As of November 9, 2018, 55 memberships have paid for 2018 including 3 rejoining and 8 new. These totals fall a long way short of the 115 tally that was recorded at this time in November 2017. Here is hoping we have a landslide of registrations at the potluck Christmas dinner. The club welcomes the Robinson family and Allana's daughter Kayla as new members. Note, membership dues are required to be in the hands of the Registrar no later than December 31, 2017 in order to satisfy BCLS insurance requirements for 2018. Membership forms and payment may be left for Margaret at the Workshop during open times.

### **Field Trips (Gilles)**

The Rough-to-Ready fair served as the fall field trip. Now that the “cooler” weather of fall is here, we don’t expect any field trip activity until spring.

### **Library (Sylvan)**

Nothing to report.

### **Sunshine Corner (Patrick)**

Long-term Member Lorena Taylor, has had a nasty experience with an infected tooth that led to septicemia and some ten days in hospital. Her recovery was complicated by an allergy to penicillin. Lorena is back home again and trying “to take it easy”! That is not an easy task for our Lorena! We all wish you a swift recovery!

I contacted Cameron Speedie a few weeks ago and he continues to make a slow but gradual recovery from back surgery. Cameron sends his best wishes to the Club!

### **Island Zone (Vanessa)**

All VLMS members are reminded that it is our turn next year to host the Island Gemboree event.

Also, note that each club has three representatives that hold positions for staggered three year terms; thus, each year one representative position comes up for renewal. Please contact Mike Hill if you are interested in supporting our club in this role and learning more about what is happening with our neighboring clubs up the island.

### **Workshop (Vanessa)**

This past month we had our first ever introductory Wire Weaving course, instructed by the talented Sarah Hamilton. Thank you again Sarah for volunteering your time, sharing your knowledge and, most of all, your patience; you made it fun:)

### **Editor (Gary)**

As we approach the end of another year (it went by awfully fast) I will take this opportunity to wish all members a safe and happy holiday season. I urge new members to get involved – there are several positions opening up. To those who have served – thank you.

Finally, one of the highlights of the fall season was the Member’s Rough-to-Ready fair. In honor of that event, the Fun Facts section is a bit long but devoted to that fair.

## Fun Facts

### *Lappy the Lapphound*

" All that glitters isn't gold  
.....but it might be opal!!!!



### *Foxy the Foxhound*

" Diamonds are a girls' best friend  
....cubic zirconia... not so much !!!!



## Foxy's Worst Day Turns into Her Best Day Ever

Foxy the Foxhound was sobbing inconsolably. Her close friends, Pippa the Poodle and Dotty the Doberman, were doing their best to make her feel better but it was to no avail ... you see, Foxy had just discovered that she had lost her special (and most prized) possession – a beautiful blue Topaz<sup>1</sup> necklace. A moment ago it had been firmly affixed around her neck (or so she thought) ... but not so now.

## The Crime Scene

Chief Inspector Bailey-Cooper (the Border Collie) of Esquimalt PD's special K-9 unit was just beginning to think his Sunday was truly going to be a day of rest. Though relatively young, given his position, Bailey-Cooper was worn out after several weeks on a very intense case ... on this day, though, he was at the club, he'd had his weekly shampoo and he was now enjoying a little morning repast ...then the call came in. The Chief Inspector listened attentively .... a robbery had been called in from the DaVinci Center where the Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Society (VLMS) was holding its annual "rough-to-ready" gem and rock fair.

**Chief Inspector:** "I see, do we have a person at the scene?"

**Dispatch:** "Yes, Inspector Roddy the Rottweiler was out for a walk and was close by – he is there now"

**Chief Inspector:** "Good God, I will be there as soon as I can"

On his way to the DaVinci Center, the Chief Inspector found himself wondering what he had done to deserve this confluence of "firsts"...a robbery on his "first" day off in weeks coupled with the fact that Insp. Roddy was the "first" on the scene. Insp. Roddy was pleasant enough and meant well, but as the Chief Inspector had observed over the years, Roddy was "not the brightest bulb in the box" and could turn a routine situation into a nightmare. "I hope I am here in time" Bailey-Cooper thought to himself as he walked through the entrance to the DaVinci Center. He showed his credentials at the front desk and asked who was in charge – "Vanessa, is our President" was the reply. Just then, Insp. Roddy (who had noticed that the Chief Insp. had arrived) rushed up to him trailed by a be-spectacled and rather anxious-looking lady.

**Insp. Roddy:** "Chief Inspector, sorry that you had to come in on your day off, I have things well under control"

**Chief Inspector (roll-eyes):** “Give me the details, please”

**Insp. Roddy:** “Yes sir! A young Foxhound (Foxy) had her topaz necklace stolen sometime between 9:30 and 9:40 am this morning. The robbery took place in the showroom.”

**Chief Inspector:** “Have you identified any suspects?”

**Insp. Roddy (his chest puffing out slightly):** “Yes, I have Sir!”

The Chief Inspector’s right eyebrow raised ever so slightly and if it wasn’t for the hair, one would have noticed a faint smile pass over his lips – he had seen this movie before.

**Chief Inspector:** Who, pray tell, is your suspect?”

**Insp. Roddy:** “Vanessa, this person right here” and he pointed to the harried-looking lady who had accompanied him to greet the Chief Inspector. Vanessa let out a gasp and began to protest but the Chief Inspector raised his left paw.

**Chief Inspector:** “On what basis do you make this accusation?”

**Insp. Roddy:** “Well, Sir, I have established that Vanessa loves gemstones and indeed all types of rocks so she has a motive. Also, she has been here the whole time but could not establish her exact whereabouts during the 9:30 – 9:40 time frame – she lacks an alibi.”

Again, Vanessa tried to interject but the Chief Inspector raised his left paw once more.

**Chief Inspector (with hint of frustration in his voice):** “Of course, Vanessa loves gemstones and rocks in general. She is the president of the local lapidary society. Insp. Roddy, do you know what “lapidary” means?”

**Insp. Roddy:** “Stuffed animals, I believe...Sir”

The Chief Inspector gazed slowly around the showroom .. he did so, for effect, hoping that Insp. Roddy would clue into the obvious fallacy in his statement. Alas, as expected, there was no change in the expression on Insp. Roddy’s face. The Chief Inspector could have chosen to embarrass him but for some strange reason (as had been the case many times in the past) he felt more sorry than angry – he let it go.

**Chief Inspector:** “Inspector, until further notice, I want you to patrol at a three block radius from this establishment – if you see anything suspicious, report back to me”

**Insp. Roddy (always keen to accept a new assignment no matter how mundane):** “Yes, Sir” ....and off he went.

**Chief Inspector (turning to Vanessa):** “My apologies, Ma’am – you are no longer a suspect”. He went on to say “Though Insp. Roddy’s lights burn considerably less bright than most, he is a loyal and hard-working member of our K-9 unit. Now, could you assist me by giving me a tour of the premises? I would first like to interview this Foxy character.”

**Vanessa (much relieved):** “Yes of course, Chief Inspector, Foxy is right over here”. She pointed just inside the Main Entrance doors to the tearful young Foxhound.

**Chief Inspector (approaching Foxy):** “Foxy, I am Chief Inspector Bailey-Cooper. Can you provide me with a detailed account of your movements from the time you entered the hall until you noticed that your necklace was missing?”

**Foxy (sobbing, sniffing, and not just a little intimidated):** “ I ..I can try. I entered through those main doors and turned left. I basically moved in a clockwise direction, zig-zagging back and forth between tables - I tried to stop and look at each table. I know I had my necklace (sob) when I entered because the lady (Allana) at the front desk commented on how beautiful it looked. I am pretty sure I still had it on as I made my way down at the far end .. I remember stopping in the far corner (by the lady with the sugelite<sup>2</sup>) to say hello to a young boy in a stroller. It was shortly after that when I had finished looking through that old man’s “telescoping thing” at some tiny garnet<sup>3</sup> crystals and was moving up to look at the amber<sup>4</sup> display that I first noticed my necklace was gone.”

**Vanessa (unfolding a sheet of paper):** “Chief Inspector, perhaps this floor diagram of the tables at our fair will be helpful. Based on Foxy’s comments, I would estimate this would have been her path around the room” and with that Vanessa, traced with her finger a zig-zag path around the room in a clockwise direction – hitting almost all of the tables.



**Vanessa (continuing):** “The stroller that Foxy referred would have been right here in front of Christine’s table. The Old Man with the telescoping thing is Gilles and he was sitting right here” and she pointed to two locations in the top right hand portion of the floor plan.



**Chief Inspector (gazing at the layout):** “This is really helpful, what can you tell me about the people on the tables? Would any of them have a motive in taking the necklace?”

**Vanessa:** “ Good heavens!!! No ....” And she went on to provide a synopsis of the tables – following Foxey’s path as she did so.

“**Brix** is young artisan who specializes in silver casting<sup>5</sup> and has developed an interest in many gemstones to be used in conjunction with his silver settings.

**Herb** is one of our “opal guys” – he has a ton of opals and for this show he has brought some Koroit opal<sup>6</sup>.

**Margaret** is our Registrar and provides us with an accounting of the membership. She likes to find rocks in situ.

At my table, I display a variety of slabs and cabochons fashioned from various gemstones and rock types, as well as a beautiful piece of ceruleite<sup>7</sup>. Check out this large piece of amber I just purchased yesterday and she produced a large specimen and handed it to the Chief Inspector who, despite being slightly annoyed at the departure from the task at hand, handled it carefully between his front paws. “It is very light” he commented politely before returning the amber, at which point Vanessa continued.

**Brian** has a Genie at his table and is busy making cabochons to be placed in a variety of settings.

**Chief Inspector (interjecting):** “Genie is his wife I presume”

**Vanessa (amused):** “No, though he does spend a lot of time with his Genie, it is a lapidary grinding and polishing machine”. Vanessa then continued on with her accounting of the table personnel.

**Mel** specializes in turning cabochons of all shapes and sizes into jewellery..she has some beautiful leopardskin-jasper<sup>8</sup> pieces.

**Nick** has been a collector and connoisseur of gem stones and jewelery for years and has accumulated a large supply of topaz, sapphires<sup>9</sup>, citrine<sup>10</sup>, rubies<sup>11</sup>, and tanzanite<sup>12</sup>

**Sandra’s** CatArt jewellery comprises some really interesting wire-wrappings.

**Sandy**, whose favourite stone is an Emerald<sup>13</sup>, is into “fired” copper settings and produces quite a unique looking art form.

**Gayle** specializes in wire-wrapping – one of her favourite stones is labradorite<sup>14</sup>

**Debbie** is a gemologist and loves all types of quartz<sup>15</sup> crystals of which there is a wide variety.

**Bob’s** passion is Mexican fire-agate<sup>16</sup> and he has many beautiful specimens.

**Joan** specializes in “healing” stones and has come really nice amethyst<sup>17</sup> crystals.

All this time as the Chief Inspector and Vanessa had been pouring over the table layout, Pippa and Dotty had been standing beside Foxy but listening attentively. Dotty had noticed straight-off that when the Chief Inspector raised his paw that he was not wearing a ring and moreover, he was extremely good-looking... she seized the opportunity.

**Dottie:** “Chief Inspector, Foxy had her necklace when we were at Bob’s table because he commented on it to her”

**Pippa (kicking Dottie):** “Doottie!”

**Chief Inspector(turning to look in their direction):** “And you are?”

**Dottie:** “I am Dottie and this Pippa, we are Foxy’s best friends”

**Chief Inspector (smiling):** “Thank you, Dottie, you have been very helpful”

Dottie was over the moon at the smile and, moreover, “he said my name” she whispered to Pippa. Pippa, ever the naysayer, was not convinced and whispered back “nice try Dottie, but I don’t think so!”

**Chief Inspector (turning his attention back to the floor layout):** “Please go on Vanessa”

**Vanessa:** “Okay, let’s continue down the backside of the room, then”

**Luke and Janet** have a large display of beads – beads and jewellery go together naturally.

**Susannah and John** have a lot of cut slabs on display. Susannah is partial to Rhodochrosite<sup>18</sup> while John likes Sodalite<sup>19</sup>.

**Shelley** specializes in ‘rock painting’ in which she paints scenes on rock slabs – she has some very beautiful and intricate pieces on display.

**Christine** deals in sugelite jewellery and has many labradorite specimens. She also likes larimar<sup>20</sup>.

**David Mullett** has a substantial inventory of epidote<sup>21</sup>, although for this fair he has large quartz crystals on display.

**David Hosking** is displaying some nice lapis<sup>22</sup> pieces that he has cut and polished and then placed them in silver settings.

**Chief Inspector:** “You have two Dave’s listed here...which is which?”

**Vanessa:** “Dave Mullett is in the far corner – he is wearing the safari hat, shorts, and big boots. Dave Hosking is the professorial-looking gentleman closest to us”

**Chief Inspector:** “Ah, yes, Dave Mullett must have just come in from doing some field work, I’m guessing”

**Vanessa (smiling):** “Uh....not necessarily ... ” And then she continued.

**Gilles** leads our club’s rock-hounding excursions.

**Chief Inspector (musing):** “Hmmm.... I suppose that when Foxey was looking into his microscopic viewer that he could have snatched the necklace”

**Vanessa (slightly indignant):** “Gilles typically likes to find his specimens in nature - there is no chance he is the thief”

**Chief Inspector (apologetically):** “I’m sorry, but I have to ask these questions, please continue”

**Natalie** is a gemologist from Ganges. She displays a wide variety of gemstones hand-set in silver. Natalie is not a member of our club.

**John** specializes in amber. He has many fine specimens (well, less one, at least). He is not local and is therefore not a member of our club.

**Diana** specializes in “beads and bling”

**Araya** also has an array of beads and other jewellery products.

**Michele** is a silversmith from Cowichan whose silver pieces are highlighted by the fact that she solders silver upon silver to create surface relief – it is very creative and striking.

**Donna** is also from the Cowichan area and has many beautiful wire-wrap designs on display.

**Dave and Sarah** are our club’s resident experts in wire-wrapping .. they are partial to Dallasite<sup>23</sup> in their pieces as it is a local stone.

**Vanessa (exhaling):** “There you have it, Chief Inspector!”

**Chief Inspector (deep in thought):** “Thank you. Let me think this through ... given her stature, Foxey, almost certainly would have had to stand on her hind legs in order to view the items on the tables. That means her necklace was certainly displayed to those behind the tables. However, it seems unlikely that anyone behind one of tables could have taken the necklace since the distance to reach would have been noticeable and in most cases just too far”. He continued to gaze into the showroom and then back to the diagram.

## **Lappy to the rescue**

Lappy was looking forward to the Rough to Ready fair as put on by the VLMS. He had been to one of the March shows a couple of years prior and had always wanted to return. He was upbeat as he entered the Da Vinci center and registered at the front desk. Almost immediately, Lappy could sense that something was not right. There was a crowd of people near the entrance to showroom, including a lady holding up some sort of map while talking to a member of the local K-9 unit. Lappy recognized the K-9

insignia on the shoulder patch. Lappy entered the room and noticed a sobbing lump of fur surrounded by Dottie and Pippa. He sidled up beside Pippa and asked “what is going on?”

**Pippa (immediately suspicious):** “Who are you?”

**Lappy (somewhat taken aback by the abruptness of her question):** “Oh, I’m sorry, my name is Lappy, I just got here and .....” At that moment, Lappy’s eyes, for the very first time, focused directly on Foxy. He had never seen anything quite so beautiful – despite the fact that she was crying softly and her face was partially buried under one of her paws.

**Pippa (growing impatient):** “You were saying?”

**Lappy (stammering slightly):** “Oh, yes, I.. I just noticed the commotion and came over”

**Pippa (curtly):** “The commotion is that our best friend Foxy has had her prized Topaz necklace stolen”

**Dottie (still in a fog over the Chief Inspector):** “Pippa, he is just trying to help”

**Pippa (sarcastically):** “Your Chief Inspector doesn’t need any help”

Foxy looked up and her eyes, ever so fleetingly, locked with Lappy’s. “They sparkle” Lappy said to himself but not softly enough that Pippa didn’t hear.

**Pippa:** “What sparkles?”

Now Lappy was between a “rock” and a hard place – he couldn’t very well admit that he was talking about Foxy’s eyes so he had to think quickly and finally blurted out “the..the ..all the jewelery”. That seemed to placate Pippa for now.

**Lappy (now more intrigued and motivated):** “So what happened?”

**Dottie (interjecting):** “Basically, Foxy noticed her necklace was gone sometime after saying hello to a boy in a stroller over there” pointing towards Christine’s table.

**Lappy (pondered for a moment and then blurted out):** “I don’t think the necklace could have been stolen – it must have come off and been lost”

**Chief Inspector (who had noticed Lappy come up to the group and listened to the exchange with Pippa and Dottie):** “That is very perceptive of you, Lappy, I had come to the same conclusion myself”

**Lappy (approached the Chief Inspector and whispered):** “I don’t want to cause a fuss but what about the boy in the stroller?”

**Chief Inspector (thought for a second and then nodded):** “Come with me” and with that the two of them left a bewildered group of people at the front entrance. The pair made their way round in front of Brian’s table where the lady with stroller was gazing over his creations.

**Young boy:** “Look Mommy it is one of Santa’s elves” pointing at Brian who was wearing a toque and, with his mustache, looked very much the part.

**Mother (somewhat embarrassed):** “Shh....don’t bother the man ...he is working”

At that moment, the Chief Inspector approached and presented his credentials to the Mother. He explained the situation and she seemed horrified at first but calmed down when the Chief Inspector told her that everything would be just fine...they did, however, have to inspect the stroller. Sure enough, there, lodged in the blankets was Foxey’s Topaz necklace. The Chief Inspector instructed Lappy to return the necklace to Foxey while he made sure the Mother was not going to throttle the young boy.

**Lappy (returning to the group):** “Foxey, we have found your necklace”

**Foxy (jumping up):** “You did...where?”

**Lappy:** “I think the young boy in the stroller had something to do with it.”

Foxy rushed up to Lappy, took the necklace and before she knew what she was doing had planted a big old-fashioned Foxhound smooch (nose to nose) on Lappy. Now, in the past, Lappy would have recoiled and tried to avoid the encounter but this time something inside him made him hold his ground – he didn’t regret it.

**Lappy (embarrassed):** “Just glad I could help”

**Pippa:** “Foxey, let’s get out of here before some other disaster befalls us”. With that, Foxy, Pippa and Dottie moved towards the exit.

**Foxy (turning to Lappy):** “I always go for my walk on the inner harbour at 4pm each day, if you are ever down that way”

**Lappy (heart pounding):** “Well, I...I... might be” and with that the girls disappeared out the door.

**Chief Inspector:** “Lappy, any interest in joining our K-9 unit? I could use a good man ...er, dog”

**Lappy:** ‘I will think about it” and with that he disappeared into the showroom to look at the jewellery and gemstones.

The Chief Inspector exchanged emails with Vanessa (he apologized again for any angst that his partner had caused) and with that he left the Da Vinci Center. He knew his day was not done – paperwork...ugh! Just as he crossed Catherine street he heard a familiar voice in the distance “Halt, Police ... get your paws where I can see them”

**Insp. Roddy (rushing up):** “Oh, Chief Inspector, it’s you!”

**Chief Inspector:** “Inspector, we solved the case, it was the young boy in the stroller”

**Insp. Roddy:** “He was second on my list of suspects, Sir”

**Chief Inspector (smiling):** “Well done, Inspector, take the rest of the day off...you have earned it.

## Acknowledgements


Once again I would like to thank all those members who contributed to this Newsletter – it continues to be only as useful and complete as the information you provide.


## Forum


### Editorial Comment


The Rough to Ready fair was not well attended. Good weather and lack of advertising have been bandied about as contributing factors. Hopefully, by making it an “official” VLMS event the show will given more internal support and grow in the coming years. I stand a little in awe of those who were brave enough to display their own creations.... Well done.

## Appendix


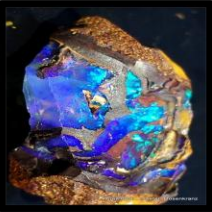
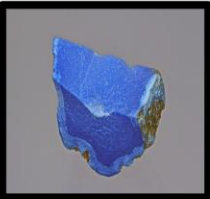



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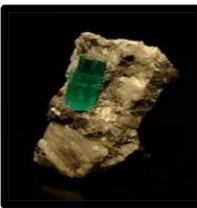

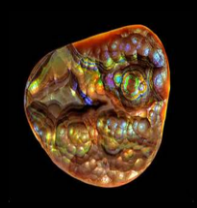
1. **Topaz** - is a silicate material of aluminum and fluorine. Pure topaz is colorless and transparent but impurities cause it to occur in a variety of colors. Topaz is commonly associated with silicic igneous rocks e.g., granite. Topaz can be found worldwide, including locations in Utah and Texas; Brazil is the world's leading producer.
- 

2. **Sugilite** is also known as lavulite, royal azel, cybeline, or wesselite, is a relatively rare pink to purple cyclosilicate mineral. Sugilite was first described in 1944 by the Japanese petrologist Ken-ichi Sugi for an occurrence in Iwagi Islet, Japan. It is found in a Quebec, South Africa, Italy, Australia, and India.
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3. **Garnet** belongs to a group of silicate minerals that have long been used as both gemstones and abrasives. Garnet species are found in many colors including red, orange, yellow, green, purple, brown, blue, black, pink, and colorless, with reddish shades most common. Garnet species' light transmission properties can range from the gemstone-quality transparent specimens to the opaque varieties used for industrial purposes as abrasives.
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4. **Amber** is fossilized tree resin, which has been appreciated for its color and natural beauty since Neolithic times. Much valued from antiquity to the present as a gemstone, amber is made into a variety of decorative objects. Amber is used primarily in jewellery but has also been used as a healing agent in folk medicine.

5.  Silver casting is a process in which a liquid silver metal is delivered into a mold that contains a hollow cavity (i.e., a 3-dimensional negative image) of the intended shape. The metal and mold are then cooled, and the metal part (the *casting*) is extracted. Casting is most often used for making complex shapes that would be difficult or uneconomical to make by other methods.
6.  Koroit opals come from an opal mining area in Paroo Shire, South Queensland, Australia. These opals are a distinct type of boulder opal found in mine in the area. The boulder opal is found within a 300 km wide belt of sedimentary rocks in the Winton Formation. It is formed from ironstone with a rich opal color running through it.
7.  Ceruleite is a mineral consisting of a hydrous copper aluminum arsenate occurring in turquoise-blue microcrystalline masses. This little-known gem material, found in Chile, is of truly exquisite color - sky-blue ceruleite takes a very high polish easily and quickly. However, fine, solid, cuttable pieces are extremely rare. It is also porous and quite soft.
8.  Leopardskin Jasper is an aggregate of quartz and/or chalcedony and other mineral phases. It is an opaque, impure variety of silica, and has usual markings reminiscent of its namesake, the leopard. This jasper is closely associated with strength and vitality and is well-known for its healing energies and is of immense benefit for those with chronic health conditions.
9.  Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum, an aluminium oxide. It is typically blue in color, but natural sapphires also occur in yellow, purple, orange, and green colors; "parti sapphires" show two or more colors. This variety in color is due to trace amounts of elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, copper, or magnesium. Sapphire is the birthstone for September.
10.  Citrine is a yellow-to-golden member of the quartz mineral group. Citrine has been called the "stone of the mind", as ancient cultures believed that it was associated with psychic power. Natural Citrine can be found in Madagascar, France and Russia. However, much of the world's treated Citrine (from Amethyst) comes from Brazil.

11.  Ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium (Cr). Its name comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. Rubies are predominantly found in marble deposits along the southern slopes of the Himalayas.
12.  Tanzanite is the blue and violet variety of the mineral zoisite, belonging to the epidote group. The gemstone (December birthstone) was discovered in 1967 and only exists in Northern Tanzania. In its rough state tanzanite is usually colored a reddish brown, and much of it requires heat treatment to remove the brownish "veil" and bring out the blue violet of the stone.
13.  Emerald is a gemstone and a variety of the beryl (beryllium (Be) aluminum silicate) mineral group. It is colored green by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium (V). Emeralds are found worldwide but the main deposits are found in Columbia, Brazil, and Zambia.
14.  Labradorite is a feldspar mineral found near the town of Nain in Labrador, Canada. It has also been reported in Scandanavia and various other locations worldwide. Labradorite can display an iridescent optical effect known as labradorescence which involves the peculiar reflection of the light from submicroscopical planes orientated in one (but rarely two) directions.
15.  Quartz is rich in silicon and is the second most abundant mineral in Earth's continental crust, second only to feldspar. There are many different varieties of quartz, several of which are semi-precious gemstones. Since antiquity, varieties of quartz have been the most commonly used minerals in the making of jewelry and hardstone carvings, especially in Eurasia.
16.  Fire Agate is a variety of Chalcedony (Quartz family). It has a translucent deep reddish-brown base, with flashes of orange, red, green and gold. The colors are caused by light interference on thin layers of iron oxide or limonite crystals within the Chalcedony. Fire agates are found in Mexico and south-western US states e.g., near Safford AZ.



17.



Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz often used in jewelry- it is the traditional birthstone for February. The color results from iron impurities. The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle in the belief that amethysts heal people and keep them cool-headed.

18



Rhodochrosite is a manganese carbonate mineral. In its pure form, it is typically a rose-red color, but impure specimens can be shades of pink to pale brown. It forms a complete solid solution series with iron carbonate (siderite). Calcium, (as well as magnesium and zinc, to a limited extent) frequently substitutes for manganese in the structure, leading to lighter shades of red and pink,.

19.



Sodalite is a rich royal blue mineral discovered in Greenland but with large deposits also found in Ontario. A light, relatively hard yet fragile mineral, sodalite is named after its sodium content. Well known for its blue color, sodalite may also be grey, yellow, green, or pink and is often mottled with white veins or patches. Although somewhat similar to lazurite and lapis lazuli, sodalite rarely contains pyrite (a common inclusion in lapis).

20.



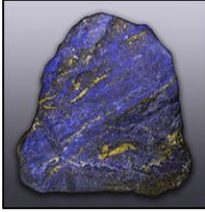
Larimar, also called "Stefilia's Stone", is a rare blue variety of the silicate mineral pectolite (an acid silicate hydrate of calcium and sodium) found only in the Dominican Republic. Its coloration varies from white, light-blue, green-blue to deep blue. Larimar gains its blue color as a result of copper substitution for calcium.

21.



Epidote is a calcium aluminium iron sorosilicate mineral. The color is green, grey, brown or nearly black, but usually a characteristic shade of yellowish-green or pistachio-green. Epidote is from Alaska and occurs in marble and schistose rocks of metamorphic origin. It is also a product of hydrothermal alteration of various minerals. Well-developed crystals are typically elongated along one axis.

22.



Lapis lazuli or lapis for short, is a deep blue metamorphic rock used as a semi-precious stone that has been prized since antiquity for its intense color. As early as the 7th millennium BC, lapis lazuli was being mined in northeast Afghanistan. Today, operational mines are found in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Chile, Italy, Mongolia, US and Canada.

23.



Dallasite is a breccia made of quartz, epidote, altered basalt and pumpellyite. The stone is named after Dallas Road right here in our very own city, Victoria. It is considered the unofficial stone of British Columbia's capital city. Dallasite is found in Triassic volcanic rocks of Vancouver Island and is considered the third most important gem material in the province.