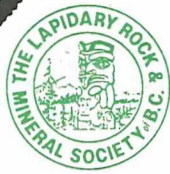




LAPHOUND NEWS



VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



Vol. 53-9

December 2010

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|------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| President | - Cameron Speedie | Show Chairman | - Gerri Speedie |
| Vice President | - James Morrow | Librarian | - Molly Beddington |
| Past President | - Magdalene Magon | Sunshine Corner | - Lorena Taylor
Phone 250-384-0755 |
| Secretary | - Carrie Maier | Field Trips | - Gilles Lebrun
Phone 250-382-6119 |
| Treasurer | - Pierre Lambert | Workshop | - Gordon Taylor |
| Members at Large | - Sandy Burns
- John Burns
- Greg Shea
- Brad Woollven | Programs | - Vacant |
| Editor | - Barbara Smith 887 Falaise Crescent, Victoria, B.C. V8Y 1A2
Phone 250-479-7881. | Membership | - Murdo Smith |

December Meeting: Monday . December 6, Time: 6:30 pm.
Place: Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton.

Program: This will be our annual Christmas Pot Luck party. Details in this issue of the Newsletter.

Executive Meeting: December 13th 7:00pm at the home of Sandy and John Burns - 1550 Despard Ave

Show Meeting: To be announced

President's Message

Cameron Speedie.

We are now definitely into the fall/winter weather and with that the reduction of outdoor activities. If you are looking for something to do feel free to drop by the workshop, it is turning into a great social place as well as a place to get the odd lapidary job done. We will be open during most of December - please check the website or contact vlms@vlms.ca or myself (250) 385-0597 for opening times.

Also with the darker, wetter days please be careful when out and about as the traffic seems to be getting crazier year by year and we would hate for you to miss the upcoming Christmas party!

Editor's Remarks

Barbara Smith.



Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“If you have not got all the things you want, be grateful for the things you do not have that you don’t want. Unknown.

Minutes of VLMS General Meeting November 1, 2010

President Cameron Speedie, opened the meeting welcoming members and guests.

New members: Manfred Agath

Visitor(s): None.

Minutes: Of October meeting accepted as printed in the Laphound News.

Treasure’s Report: Pierre Lambert reporting to October 31/2010

Balance Fwd:	\$20,760.59;
Credits:	\$652.03;
Debits:	\$678.11;
General Ledger:	\$20,734.51;
Outstanding cheque:	\$316.47;
Bank Balance:	\$21,050.98;
Petty cash:	<u>\$73.23;</u>
Total:	<u>\$21,050.98</u>

Motion to accept report: by Herb Hellmoldt and seconded by Brian Brown. Carried.

One term deposit is maturing end of the month and it will be turned over into the best interest bearing term deposit we can get. Charity donation criteria established: (points awarded for)

- Local – funds to be used locally,
- Used for youth
- Health and Education
- Related to Rocks/Geology/Earth Sciences

2 possibilities so far - anyone wishing to add to the list contact the Executive

Correspondence: None

Sunshine Corner: Lorrena Taylor stated all are well as far as known in the club. Cameron reported that Gordon Billing’s wife Jean passed away recently.

Workshop: New space and equipment are working out very well. Motion to purchase a new flat lap for about \$700. Motion by Brad Woollven, seconded by Brian Brown. Motion passed. Workshop open for general use when not being used for classes. Workshop will continue in December after courses complete. Hours and schedule are posted on the website under the Member’s area.

Basic Lapidary: One class has just completed and a new one will start on the 13th.

Opal Classes: No classes until the New Year.

Silversmithing: One class has just completed and a new one will start on the 11th. Seemed to be well received for the first time offered and will continue.

Membership: Membership dues are payable now.

Library: Motion by Greg Shea seconded by John Burns that library cards and pockets be purchased Carried.

Motion by Greg Shea seconded by Herb Hellmoldt to permit Molly and Greg to spend up to \$400 per year for new books. Carried.

Field Trip: Gilles Lebrun stated that the next field trip would be to Island View Beach on Sunday the 14th. Some discussion of a group trip to the Britannia mine, Cameron to look at the cost of group transport.

Laphound News: Nothing to report.

Island Zone: Some comments came up on reorganization and input from the club is welcome as to how they feel the Island Zone should be organized.

Gem Show: Gerri and Don reported that the first meetings went well but could use more help if anyone wishes to volunteer. Still need some positions such as Treasurer filled.

Unfinished Business: Still need a replacement for Treasurer, any interested persons to approach any of the Executive.

New Business: Christmas Party for the December meeting – start time at 6:30 pm. Gift of \$10 men for men women for women and a donation to the food bank. The bar will be open as well.

Motion by Greg Shea seconded by Herb Hellmoldt for Molly to purchase Ham, Buns and Turkey for the party. Carried.

Robert Belcher of Aesthetics Underground is having a show November 19th at the Accent Inn.

Minutes of VLMS General Meeting November 1, 2010 (continued)

Programs: Discussion of Books of interest and the Library by Greg Shea, as well we had an extended display table and Member's sale table.

Announcements: Certificates for Silversmithing and Beginner's Lapidary were handed out to members that have just completed the course and were in attendance.

Delta Club Show – will meet us at the ferry if desired – November 13 and 14th contact Barb Westlake.

Display Table: New concept of a Member sales table was well received – people were reminded that there is a maximum of 5 items, and sellers should have exact change, and it is for personal use only not commercial. As well there was a display of various items from club members.

Members Event: various items from the Estate of Pat Strong as donated by his wife Alice were included and were very popular.

Adjournment: Motion by Herb Hellmoldt



Sunshine Corner.

Lorena Taylor.

Nothing to report this month. Hope everyone keeps well over Christmas.

Membership.

Murdo Smith.

New Member.

WELCOME

Manfred Agath
3384 Kingsley Place
Victoria, B.C. V8P 4K1

Field Trips.

Gilles Lebrun.

Our field trips are temporarily cancelled for December and January because of inclement weather at this time.



Christmas Party

Turkey, Ham & Buns are provided so please bring a pot luck item for the dinner along with your cutlery, plates, cups and a gift costing no more than \$10, ladies bring a ladies gift and gents bring a gents gift. There will also be a collection for the food bank so bring non-perishables for that. We will dine at 6.30 p.m. exactly so be there early enough to have your pot luck dish on the table.

S H O W S & E V E N T S

December	6	VLMS Christmas Party, Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton.
February	11 – 14	Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, Convention Center, Tucson.

Nominations for the Year 2011

The Elections for the year 2011 Executive will be held during the Annual Meeting portion of the January meeting. The following people have been nominated for positions on the 2011 executive. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on the meeting night. Please be sure the person you nominate is willing to accept the nomination .

Elected Positions

President	Cameron Speedie
Vice President	To be nominated
Secretary	Carrie Maier
Treasurer	To be nominated
Members at Large – new, 2 years	Barbara Smith & Manfred Agath
Members at Large – continuing, 1 yr.	Brad Woollven & Greg Shea

Appointed Committee Positions

Library	To be determined
Membership	Kathleen Kane (assistant Murdo Smith)
Workshop	To be determined
Field Trips	Gilles Lebrun
Editor	Barbara Smith
Sunshine Corner	Lorena Taylor
Coffee Hostess	Molly Beddington
Show Chair person	Gerri Speedie
Mailing Newsletters	Phyllis Hoffman
Properties	To be determined
Members Event	To be determined
Island Zone	Cameron Speedie, Gerri Speedie, Magdalene Magon

Opals

Chemistry	$\text{SiO}_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O}$ Hydrated Silicon Dioxide
Class	Mineraloids
Group	Quartz Group
Uses	Gem Stone and Ornamental Stone
Physical Properties of Opal:	
Colour	White, colourless, pale yellow, pale red, gray or black when impurities are common. Diffraction causes rainbow flashes.
Luster	Vitreous to pearly
Transparency	Transparent to translucent
Crystal System	Does not apply, opal is amorphous.
Habits	Massive cavity fillings i.e. fractures in geodes or as replacements of other minerals.
Cleavage	Absent
Fracture	Conchoidal
Hardness	5.5 - 6
Specific Gravity	2 – 2.5
Streak	White

Opals (continued)

Best Field Indicators Colour and opalescence, lack of cleavage or crystal faces.

Varying amounts of water are contained in opal which helps geologists determine the temperature of the host rock at the time the opal was formed. Random spheres of silicon and oxygen are packed into tiny spheres. Pockets of these spheres has the effect of diffracting light at various wavelengths creating colours, this is precious opal. Common opal has no opalescence or luster or flashing colours.

Opal is often imitated or enhanced. Fluorescence often determines fakes.

Santa is a Rockhound.

Via Lapidary Journal.

'Twas the night before Christmas
 and all through the house,
 not a Rockhound was stirring -
 I felt like a louse!
 For the lapidary gifts I was making this year
 Lay down on my bench, UNFINISHED I fear!
 The pendant my dear wife wanted so much
 As I polished the cab it fractured at a touch
 And the lovely jade brooch for Grandma, so sweet
 Just would not polish - it looked terribly beat
 As for sister's new bracelet,
 with baroques dangling lightly,
 I ran out of bell caps after the stores were closed tightly.
 Then the tie clasp for Uncle that would make such a hit,
 After cutting the cab no mounting would fit
 And even Junior's new crystal growing set
 Though I sent for it months ago, had not arrived yet
 So I tossed and I turned though caught in a trap
 I could not settle down for a "long winter's nap"
 When all of a sudden I heard such a clatter
 I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter
 I raced for the door and saw with a flick
 A red suited man I was sure was St. Nick
 As I reached for my robe and was turning around
 Down the basement stairs Santa went with a bound
 He went straight to my workbench to see what I lacked
 Then with a nod of his head he opened his pack
 Out tumbled such mountings and bell caps without stop
 I was sure Santa must own a Lapidary Shop!
 He said not a word but went straight to his work
 And finished each piece then grabbed his pack with a jerk
 And shaking his white bearded face with much glee.
 Took out some new slabs I knew must be for me!
 And laying his finger aside of his nose,
 With a nod of satisfaction up the stairway he rose,
 Went straight to the door, to his team gave a whistle
 And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
 But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
 "Merry Christmas dear rockhounds
 And to you a Good Night."



Author unknown.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE

