



# LAPHOUND NEWS



**VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 5114, Station B

Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



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

Vol. 54-8

November 2011

President	- Cameron Speedie	Show Convener	- Gerri Speedie
Vice President	- Mike Hill	Librarian	- Leni Gagnon
Past President	- Magdalene Magon	Sunshine Corner	- Lorena Taylor
Secretary	- Carrie Maier		Phone 250-384-0755
Treasurer	- Greg Shea	Field Trips	- Gilles Lebrun
Members at Large	- Barbara Smith		Phone 250-382-6119
	- Manfred Agath	Workshop	- Brad Woollven
	- Brian McMillan	Programs	- Vacant
	- Brad Woollven	Membership	- Kathleen Kane
Editor	- Barbara Smith 887 Falaise Crescent, Victoria, B.C. V8Y 1A2		
	Phone 250-479-7881.		

\*\*\*\*\*

**November Meeting:**

Monday, November 7. Time: 7:30 pm.  
Place: Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Rd.

**Program:**

Travels in Cuba! Gerri and Cameron will give this program.

**Executive Meeting:**

Monday – November 28, 7:00 - Workshop at Les Passmore Silver Threads Center, Hampton Rd.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Show Meeting:**

Tuesday November 15, 7:00 pm at Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Rd.

**President's Message**

**Cameron Speedie.**

Well we are now into our fall - seems we gave summer a skip this year. As the weather turns more inclement give a thought to dropping by the workshop, it is a good chance to socialize, learn new skills and sometimes even get some work done on projects! It is also time to renew your membership if you haven't done so, waiting until the last minute really causes a bother for our membership people so please renew now!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Editor's Remarks**

**Barbara Smith.**

So sorry to hear last month of two deaths up island of long time zone members. Phil Watson and Lorne Barclay. Our condolences to their families and friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.**

“Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

John Wooden.

VLMS General Meeting Minutes –October 3, 2011

**Call to order and welcome by Cameron Speedie, President.**

**Minutes:** September 2011 published in Laphound News - Motion to accept by Patrick Lydon and seconded by John Konkin. Carried

**Treasurer Report:** Monthly Report: by Greg Shea to September 30, 2011

Balance Forward	\$23 422.24
Credits	\$632.06
Debits	\$50.34
General Ledger	\$24 003.96
Outstanding Cheques	\$100.00
Bank Balance	\$24 103.96
Petty Cash	<u>\$58.23</u>
Total	<u>\$24 162.19</u>

Motion to accept as read from John Hodder seconded by Leni Gagnon. Carried.

**Correspondence:** Email received – Garage Sale of items around lapidary and specimens held in Surrey, Oct 8&9th.

**Sunshine Corner:** John Burns & Pam and David Dyer not doing well. Don Meyer has recently lost his mother. Brian McMillan is still recovering. Encouragement to members to give them a call and give some words of assurance.

**Workshop:** Note for bigger rocks please do not use the saw blade in workshop. At present with Brian not well, the times the workshop will be open are unknown, so be advised to check the club website for up-to-date open times.

**Basic Lapidary:** Just finished a course and a new one coming up in November sometime. Silver smithing is completing and another intake in November.

**Opal Classes:** Starting soon as there is now some interest in this from membership.

**Membership:** RockHounder Magazines are piling up due to lack of pickup at club meetings by those who ordered them. The renewing membership event prize handed out.

**Library:** Thanks for many books received including some from Mike Hill and Barb Smith.

Reminder that there is a list on the website and if you can't find what you want, contact Leni @ dapper51@shaw.ca and she will try to assist with this.

**Field Trip:** Sunday, October 9th to Sombrio beach. Unknown at this time if it will be dry enough for rockhounding so other alternative choice then will be Port Renfrew. Good foot gear is needed for that area at this time of year. Usual meeting place: Colwood Corners Parking Lot at 09:00 and let Giles Lebrun know if you are coming.

**Laphound News:** Please submit articles even if these are in need of editing.

**Gem Show:** The budget required for the Show is \$11,000. Discussion requested. Then a motion to accept was made by Herb Hellmoldt; seconded by Giles Lebrun. Carried.

Next Show meeting on the 18th at 7:00 pm at Burnside Bowling Club hall.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Island Zone:** Working on resurrecting the Zone. Website now created by our President specifically for this to improve timely communication and up-to-date information.

**Program:** Brief Question and Answer period on Texada Island trip by Sean and Carrie Maier about the BCLS Summer Camp, along with a display of specimens.

**Presidents Report:** Enjoying healthy growth of membership but we must keep it going. Need different avenues into keeping the club strong like offering diversified interests in courses i.e. Silversmithing. We are looking for more to be brought forward like Enamelling, so please encourage those that have the skill/craft to consider contributing in getting this going.

**Announcements:** Thinking about having a joint trip to Britannia Mines, Squamish area and a show of hands displayed membership was interested. A several hour trip, tour and lunch and return trip would be required. The possibility of a bus rental for accessibility to all may be necessary.

**Display Table:** Giles had minerals from Quebec - agates, crystals with garnets, obsidian. Mike Hill has display of his work and items for sale by Barb Smith.

**Member Event:** Enjoyed by all.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Mike Hill and seconded by Giles Lebrun.



**Sunshine Corner.**

**Lorena Taylor.**

Irene is back at home and resting. We wish her well.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership Report**

**Kathleen Kane.**

**WELCOME  
New Members.**

Lucy & Ann Abolins  
305 – 418 Michigan St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1R5  
Phone:- 250-361-4149

Bruce Martin,  
34-4541 Chatterton Way,  
Victoria, B.C. V8X 0A1  
Phone 250-744-7710

Ari Ranta,  
1613 Michelle Pl.  
Victoria, B.C. V8N 2N3  
Phone:-250-721-3913

Tom Rowe  
2531 Cornwall Ave.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6K1C1  
Phone:- 778-677-0373

Rebecca Simmons,  
4711 Kasani Pl.  
Victoria, B.C. V9C 4C7  
Phone:- 250-478-2676

\*\*\*\*\*



**Field Trip.**

**Gilles Lebrun.**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November we will have a trip to Island View Beach. Meet as usual at 9 a.m. at Colwood Corners. If you intend to participate please phone me at: 250-382-6119.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exceptional Zambian Emerald**

**via Stone Chat.**

Gemfields PLC announced the discovery of an exceptional 6,225 carat emerald at it's Kagen Mine in Zambia.

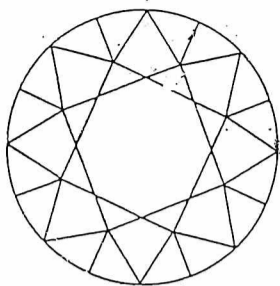
The emerald was recovered during normal mining operations on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 and is being examined by Gemfields experts to establish a clearer understanding of it's value and significance. They will continue to evaluate the gem before any final decision is taken in terms of it's future.

The emerald has been named "Insofu" (or Elephant, in the vernacular of the Bemba people indigenous to this region.). In consideration of it's size and honour of the World Land Trust's "Elephant Corridor Project", of which Gemfields is a participant.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wanted.**

Two expanding drum sanding wheels, size 8" x 3". Will also consider the arbor that goes with them. Contact Neil Christensen, phone 250-652-0397.



**Diamonds.**

**Via Geminews.**

The Four Cs.

Diamonds are judged on several factors that determine their beauty. Most diamonds never reach the customer market because they are too flawed. Often these diamonds are used for industrial purposes – as an abrasive for drill bits or for cutting diamonds and other gems. If you have ever purchased a diamond you've heard of the "4 Cs".

1. Cut – This refers to a diamonds geometric proportions and how it has been cut. When a diamond is cut facets are created and the diamonds finished shape is determined.
2. Clarity – This is the measurement of the diamonds flaws or inclusions which are seen in the stone. Clarity levels begin with flawless to Very very slight (VVS), very slight (VS) and Slightly Included (SI)
3. Carat – This is the weight of a diamond. One Carat is equal to about 200 milligrams.
4. Colour – In referring to transparent diamonds, the colour scale runs from D to Z, beginning with Icy White – the colour of the most expensive transparent diamonds – and ending with a light yellow.

Other unique qualities of the diamond include it's transparency, luster and dispersion of light. A diamond that is created from 100% carbon will be completely transparent. Diamonds often contain other elements that can affect their colour. Although we often think of diamonds as being clear, there are also blue, red, black, pale green, pink and violet diamonds. These natural coloured stones are the truly rare ones and thereby can sometimes be the most costly.

Diamonds are made in the molten magma deep inside the Earth. Only nature can create diamonds, but it is people who have created the artificial rarity that has spurred demand for these gems. Carbon is one of the most common elements in the world and diamonds are a form of carbon. Naturally occurring diamonds are no more rare than many other precious gems. The truly rare transparent diamonds are those rated as flawless, meaning that they do not have the slightest imperfection.

Diamonds were not always so popular with the American public and they were not always so pricey. A diamond placed on a mounting on a ring has a makeup of 100 to 200%. The only reason we pay so much more for diamonds today than for other precious gems is because the diamond market is controlled almost entirely by a single diamond cartel, called De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., which is based in South Africa.

De Beers stockpiles diamonds mined from countries around the world and releases a limited number for sale each year. De Beers produces half of the world's diamond supply and controls about 2/3 of the entire world market, according to a Washington Post report. At times, just to keep prices up, De Beers has bought tremendous numbers of diamonds from countries attempting to inject large quantities into the market.

Top four producers are, Botswana, Russia, Canada and Angola.

