

LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



Website:- www.vlms.ca

Vol. 54-9

December 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.		

December Meeting: Monday 5th December. Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Rd.

Program: This will be our Annual Christmas Party. Details in this newsletter.

Executive Meeting: Thursday December 29th at 7:00 pm at the workshop, Les Passmore Seniors Center.

Show Meeting: Tuesday January 17, 2012 - 7:00 pm at Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Rd.

President's Message

Cameron Speedie.

We are well on our way to wrapping up another year; I hope it has been prosperous and happy for you. I would also like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As you may know I will not be leading the club next year. The VLMS is in good shape and I am happy with what we have achieved over the last 2 years. The continued success of the VLMS depends on its members, and their willingness to help. There will be a need for some new people on the Executive. If you are interested please contact Magdalene Magon. Newer members are welcome too as we need fresh ideas to keep the club dynamic.

We also need your support for the Rock and Gem Show - so please attend the meetings and come out to assist with the show. It really is fun and again new ideas improve the show. Please get those membership fees in as well!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

“Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.”
Will Rogers.

Editor's Remarks

Barbara Smith.

I am trying to downsize my collection, if anyone is interested in specific minerals please check with me as I may have what you want.

Merry Christmas to you all.

VLMS General Meeting Minutes –November 7, 2011

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Call to order and welcome by Cameron Speedie, President

Minutes: October 2011 published in Laphound News - Motion by Herb Hellmoldt to accept and seconded by Mike Farley **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Report: by Greg Shea as follows: To October 31, 2011

Balance Forward	\$24,003.96
Credits	\$916.89
Debits	\$548.09
General Ledger	\$ 24,372.76
Outstanding Cheques	\$100.00
Bank Balance	\$24,472.76
Petty Cash	\$47.66
Total	\$24,520.42

Motion by Mike Farley to accept as read, seconded by Gerri Irwin.

Carried.

Correspondence: no correspondence at this time

Sunshine Corner: John Burns will be in hospital this week.

Workshop: If you want to use the shop on a Thursday call Brian or Brad to open up.

Silversmithing coming up on the 10th and it is full

Basic Lapidary: Starting November 12th and next sessions will be in January -Saturdays

Opal Classes: Possible when Cameron can find time to fit in teaching and enough requests.

Membership: Renewal please as soon as possible as a lot of work to get it organized.

Library: More books donated by Mike Hill.

Field Trip: November 20th at 9:00 a.m., Island View Beach parking lot (go directly to this location). Jasper, agates to find and it is easy walking. Please let Giles know if you want to attend. Note: Trying to keep membership aware of other clubs up island for other field trips that they are having so encourage members to check website of these outings as our club can also attend these.

Laphound News: Nothing to report

Gem Show: Meeting every third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, at club hall, except for December. Next meeting is November 15th. All members are welcome to attend. Theme title for next show is: "Beauty from the Beaches" and looking for samples for show case related to this. Idea of a one page coloring book for Kid's corner shown to membership by Don Myer. Gerri Irwin informing members that at present the Committee is crunching numbers to see what club can afford in terms of a larger venue for 2013 show and Esquimalt Archie Brownie Arena is in strong contention. Better overall space, tables available, etc.

Unfinished Business: Nothing to address

New Business: Greg Shea informed us that John Gunton, geological engineer who did a lot of work in the oil patch in Alberta (petroleum geology but knowledgeable in all areas) – had done talk on earth's faults for Cowichan club (and others). Membership showed an interest in having him come to our club. John is also keen to do field trips for the club.

Island Zone: No recent news as haven't met recently.

Programs: Trip to Cuba from this past October by Gerri and Cameron is this month's; December is Christmas dinner; January will be Annual Meeting and Elections for 2012 club Executive. Note: Club Auction will be in May.

Presidents Report: Club is doing well overall

Announcements:

Elections coming up in January and if interested in helping out with Executive contact Magdelene Magon

VLMS General Meeting Minutes –November 7, 2011 (continued)

December Christmas dinner at 6:30 pm: club provides the turkey, ham & buns and members to bring a potluck dish to contribute. Gift exchange for party and suggest \$10.00 value. Females to purchase for a female and vice versa for males. Bring own plates and cutlery.

Display Table: Brad Woollven had a spectacular tourmaline specimen. Robert Belz had some crystal quartz and epidote specimens; fire agate samples from Cuesta Mine, Golden Valley, AZ which is open to the public for a dig fee of \$20.00 per person. Brian McMillan has 50lbs of 80 grit that he purchased at a good price from the US; he has 5lb buckets for sale. Regarding Club table for sale items, members are able to sell 5 items at a time, priced and itemized ahead of time to help those monitoring it.

Member Event: Enjoyed by all.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Herb Hellmoldt and seconded by Mike Farley.



Sunshine Corner.

Lorena Taylor.

Gordon Taylor is home now and progressing. John Burns was still in hospital at time of writing but he hopes to be home soon. We wish them well.

Membership Report

Kathleen Kane.

**WELCOME
New Members.**

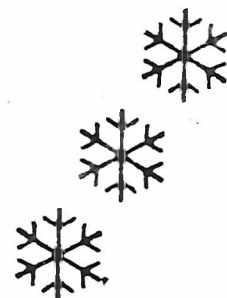
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627 Nelson St.
Victoria, B.C. V9A 6P9
Phone:- 250-508-5481

Jen Paton
919 Leslie Dr.
Victoria, B.C. V8X 2Y6
Phone:- 250-298-9267

Christine Paton
3131 Donald St.
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1Y4
Phone:- 250-537-9170

Returning Member

Joanne Seguin
9-811 St. Charles St.
Victoria, B.C. V8S 3P4



SHOWS & EVENTS

- December 5th V.L.M.S. Christmas Party, at Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton
- January 25 – 29 2012 Quartzite Gem & Mineral Show, Quartzite, Arizona.
- February 9 – 12 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, Convention Center, Tucson Arizona.

Field Trip.

Gilles Lebrun.

There will be no organized field trips for December or January but if any members are interested we will go to Murdo & Barbara Smith's home and see what they have to offer. If you are interested please call me at 250-382-6119 when we will arrange a time to visit. (There will be freebies and some to purchase.)



VLMS Christmas Party.

Our Christmas Pot Luck Party will be on Monday 5th December. The club will supply the turkey, ham and buns. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, cups along with your pot luck donation. Also bring a gift to exchange. Ladies bring one for a lady and men for a man costing under \$10. Also at this time we will collect non-perishable donations for the food bank. We will start supper at 6.30 p.m. promptly so make sure you arrive in time to put your donations out.

Show Committee Report

After three committee meetings the 2012 Rock and Gem Show is coming together. The November meeting had a good attendance of fourteen members, but there is room for more members to participate. Even if you are not able to attend the meetings, you can still help those who are heading the various show functions. Call them and offer your services and ideas. Leslie Zemenek is heading Show publicity and advertising and she would like some ideas from members, call her at 250-380-1883 or email her at leslie@lesliezemenek.com. Other features of the show where you can offer your help is security, organizing the display cases, spin and win, setting up the show on Thursday and taking the show down on Sunday and storing the show material on Monday.. Call the Show Committee Chair or Co-chair, Gerri Irwin or Don Meyer to discuss your offer of help. They have a list of the names of the people heading the various functions.

Benitoite.

California's State Gemstone is Benitoite. It's hardness is 6.5 on the Moh's scale and it is a lustrous blue gem, a barium titanium silicate usually found in natrolite which shows the blue to advantage. Included in the host rock are black neptunite, jonesite and joaquinite - rare minerals. The crystals are dichroic, showing two colours, usually blue and clear or gray, occasionally some are pink. The crystals are pyramid shape with six dominant faces, sometimes the crystals are almost flat triangles.

In 1907 Jonathan Mitchel Couch went prospecting for mercury in the Coalinga region. He made camp on a hillside in the Diablo Range. The next day when walking up the hill he spotted a white sparkling slope where he discovered lots of loose blue crystals. Thinking they were blue diamonds he took some back to town where he met with his partner R.W. Dallas. On returning he staked his claim tho' there seems to have been some controversy over this. His son was vehement in assuring everyone that his Father staked the area himself, but someone staked a second area later. Dallas and Hawkins had grubstaked Couch so they were three partners. Some of the gems were sent to Professor Louderback who realized they were unusual. He arranged to look at the claim where he named the gem after the San Benito County. Dallas ended up getting control of the claim and squeezing Couch out. This gem has not been found anywhere else on earth. (So far.)

Ref. Rock & Gem Magazine and others.

A Senior Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas at Rock-Away- Rest
And all of us seniors were looking our best

Our glasses how sparkly, our wrinkles how merry,
Our punchbowl held prune juice plus three drops of sherry.

A bed sock was taped to each walker, in hope
That Santa would bring us soft candy and soap.

We surely were lucky to be there with friends,
Secure in this residence and in our Depends.

Our grandkids had sent us some Christmasy crafts,
Like angels in snowsuits and penguins on rafts.

The dental assistant had borrowed our teeth,
And from them she'd crafted a holiday wreath.

The bedpans so shiny, all stood in a row,
Reflecting our candle's magnificent glow.

Our supper so festive – the joy would not stop,
Was creamy warm oatmeal with sprinkles on top.

Our salad was jello, so jiggly and great.
Then puree of fruitcake was spooned on each plate.

The social director then had us play games,
Like "Where are you living?" and "What are your names?"

Old Grandfather Looper was feeling his oats,
Proclaiming that reindeer were nothing but goats.

Our resident wanderer was tied to her chair,
In hopes that at bedtime she still would be there.

Security lights on the new fallen snow,
Made outside seem noon to the old folks below.

Then out on the porch there arose quite a clatter,
But we are so deaf that it just didn't matter.

A strange little fellow flew in through the door.
Then tripped on the sill and fell flat on the floor.

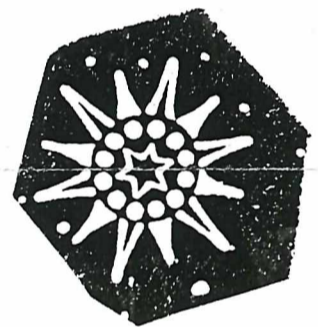
'Twas just our director, all togged out in red,
He jiggled and chuckled and patted each head.

We know from the way that he stuttered and jived.
Our social security checks had arrived.

We sang - how we sang – in our monotone croak,
Till the clock tinkled out it's soft 8 p.m. stroke.

And soon we were snuggling deep in our beds,
While nurses distributed nocturnal meds.

And so ends our Christmas at Rock-Away-Rest,
'Fore long you'll be with us, we wish you the best.



Anon.

Dyed Okenite

Ref. The Vug.com

Okenite is a wonderful mineral that is found in the basalt deposits of India. Very popular in the late 70s and 80s, the furry needles are flexible and bend when touched.

In 2002 brightly coloured okenite was seen on e-bay. Every okenite found was white but these were bright yellow, green or red. These large matrix specimens were highly priced. When regular sized okenite was priced at \$200, these dyed ones were priced at \$1,000 and more. All they do is take some food colouring and water then touch the okenite with the colouring. The specimens absorb the colour quickly but leave the matrix natural. This simple scam went on for years and can still be seen on e-bay.



For Sale.

Lapidary Equipment and Machines.

Hilquist 24"/18" screw feed slab saw with 0.5hp. 220 volt motor.

Lortone 14" vibrating flat lap with two grinding pans and one polishing pan.

Portable two wheel sanding arbor with 0.25hp. 120 volt motor.

Polishing arbor with 0.25 hp. 120 volt motor.

Selection of rocks including jasper, rhodonite, Oregon geodes and thundereggs.

Floor-standing display cabinet.

Phone 250-479-7881 for information and appointment to view.



*Happy moments,
happy memories...
happy holidays*