

LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5114, Station B

Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



Vol. 55 – 2

Website:- www.vlms.ca

March, 2012.

L A P H O U N D N E W S

President	Patrick Lydon	Show Chairman	Gerri Speedie
V. President	Mike Hill	Librarian	Leni Gagnon
Past President	Cameron Speedie	Sunshine Corner	Lorena Taylor
Secretary	Carrie Maier		Phone; 250-384-0755
Treasurer	Greg Shea	Field Trips	Gilles Lebrun
Members	Barbara Smith		Phone: 250-382-6119
At Large	David Hoskins	Workshop	Brian McMillan
	Brian McMillan	Programs	Vacant
	Brad Woollven	Membership	Kathleen Kane
Editor	Leni Gagnon, 472 Meredith Crescent, Victoria, B.C. Phone: 250-479-6214		
	Email address is editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca		

March Meeting Monday 5th March. Time: 7.30 p.m. Place: Burnside Bowling Clubhouse, 374 Hampton Rd.

Program Information on the Rock and Gem Show

Executive Meeting To be announced.

Show Meeting To be announced.

President's Message**Patrick Lydon.**

“Roses are red, Violets are blue,
The show is upon us, what can we do?”

As I write this short message on Valentine's Day, I hope all the membership is enjoying this special day of love and commitment which is so popular with all age groups. However the 55th Rock & Gem Show is just a month away and Gerri and Don need all the help they can get to keep the show program on track. At our next meeting in March sign up sheets will be available and this allows volunteers to indicate where they can best serve the Society. Please do not wait to be asked but come forward and indicate where you would like to help out. The Show is on only once a year and it is our only opportunity to make a significant impact on the public to increase our membership and to raise some monies for our society. So have another glass of champagne tonight, but then –

“To horse and away, Long is the night that cannot find the day.” (Patrick Shakespeare)

HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!!

**Editor's Remarks****Leni Gagnon.**

First of all, let me thank Barbara and Murdoch for all the years that they have edited the Laphound News. Their time and work have been very much appreciated.

Now it is time for me to take over for them. It will be an interesting learning experience. My skill at the computer leaves a lot to be desired. Hopefully, my skills will get better. I have created an email address expressly for the Laphound News. Please feel free in sending me articles, tips and other articles to include in the newsletter.

This coming month will be our annual Rock and Gem Show. This undertaking takes a tremendous effort from many volunteers to make it a success. So I encourage each one of the members to step up and do their part. As my grandmother was always fond of telling me, “Many hands make light work”. Helping each other will give us an opportunity to get to know each other better and thus make the club stronger.

Minutes of the General Meeting of 6th February, 2012.....

VLMS General Meeting – Feb 6 , 2012

Call to order done by Patrick Lydon, President.

President's Club medallion made of Dallasite was worn by President and he gave thanks to those who were involved in the making of it (Jay Prazuia, John Hodder and silver work by Wally Priedolins). Visitors were acknowledged and welcomed.

Minutes: As read or as printed in the Laphound News.

Motion made from Carrie Hrycuik to accept.

Carried.

Treasurers Report: to January 31, 2012

Balance Forward	\$ 22 664.02
Credits	1 105.44
Debits	<u>90.03</u>
General Ledger	\$ 23 679.43
Petty Cash	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$ 23 709.43

Motion from Gerri Irwin to accept report and seconded by Mike Farley.

Carried.

Correspondence: emails from BCLS

1) Editor advising members when Rockhounder magazine issues will be sent forth and cut off dates for submissions; that due to computer crash issues of late that the Fall edition will be coming by our next club meeting; that a photo contest for the 2013 BCLS Calendar is under way and a prize plus putting it in with one of 13 featured pictures is open to all (see criteria on their website). Request made for submissions to her no later than June 30, 2012.

2) BCLS Gem Show, ``From Mines to Gems`` on April 13-15th in Abbotsford. Notifications of R&G show from Port Alberni Club to be held March 10-11th; and Rock, Gem and Jewellery Show in city of Port Angeles `` Vern Burton Community Centre on March 24-25th.

Sunshine Corner: announcement that we have a few members who are unwell but prefer to not be made known. Cards of get well were sent to them.

Workshop: Brian announced that attendance was good that past weekend... one Genie broke down and he worked on it. It is hoped that he will have the dates coming up for courses but not organized at this time. Presently, from 11-3pm Saturday it is available to all members to use. Bucket donation in w/s going well for people to put money in when using shop. A member offered to teach gold panning and others are encouraged to come forth with offering ideas and skills. They are to contact Brian or Brad.

Basic Lapidary and Opal Classes: none as of yet (see under workshop).

Membership: reminder that this meeting was last opportunity to renew or sign up for membership as so send off BCLS so can attend field trips, etc and covered by insurance.

Library: nothing to report.

Field Trip: 19th of this month to look for items that might have washed up as a result of the Japanese Tsunami and do some gold panning both at French Beach. Meet at new location, Senior's Centre parking lot near Juan De Fuca Recreation Centre @ 9:00 a.m. Call ahead and let Giles know if attending.

Laphound News: nothing to report. Once Leni is back she will be taking over. Gem Show: Announced first that Can West Hobby Show went well to promote our club the last weekend. Thanks were given to Lorena and Gord for bringing in food; and to all volunteers.

Rock Show: Gerri spoke on the details of the show and explanation of volunteer roles to sign up. Workshop table is usually for those who are in courses, etc. Security will be an emphasis particularly those that come in a 1/2 before the show. It is a strong concern to protect vendors and therefore, Gerri is contacting Victoria police the day of the show to see if they have time to do a walk through. There will be less space this year due to renovations at Leonardo De Vinci and as Page 1a result, hall rental cost will not go up until next year. Juan de Fuca centre is continuing to be where we are looking for our future shows but answers to a few things have yet to be obtained

around this. Grand prize will be Panorama flight. Advertising in all bead shops downtown at this time and welcome all to put up posters, including ones that can be placed in your car. All volunteers are welcome. A table at Flea Market on Sundays has been set up; promoting membership and show.

Feb. 21st next meeting.

Unfinished Business: Carrie conducted a show of hands for interest in having various items with our club logo placed on it for purchase at cost - in order from most to least request were as follows: shirts, hats, pens, shoulder bags, mugs and vests. There will also be a surplus purchased to give as gifts, etc. from club to others as way of thanks or other needs as Executive see fit.

New Business: none.

Island Zone: nothing new to report.

Programs: power point slide show and discussion on identifying rock specimens, in depth, by John Gunton and arranged by club member, Treasurer, Greg Shea.

Presidents Report: nothing new to add.

Announcements: Greg Shea stated as a reminder this coming that on Feb 28th, Chris Yorak, RBC, Newcombe Room, will be having a discussion on Geology of Southern Vancouver Island, 12- 1pm. You will not find it on the RBC website. Bring a lunch. Greg is also attempting to coordinate with Cowichan Rock Club and our club – Britannia Mines field trip. All day trip to leave from Nanaimo. Sign up sheet with options of preference from members on when, how, etc. so can create a solid plan was presented to all to make an entry. April would be best time and need at least 15 people – car pool, rent a bus, etc. yet to be decided. Contact him for further details.

Display Table: various rocks and mineral including a large specimen of magnetite with epidote and quartz crystals by Sean... items with garnet and opal from Frank, Brian selling grinding powder. Member Event: enjoyed by all.

Adjournment: was made by M. Farley and seconded by Giles Lebrun.

Field Trips

Gilles Lebrun.

There will be no field trips this because we will have the show to keep us busy.

Membership

Kathleen Kane.

We've now completed our membership renewal process for the 2012 year. Thank you to all those new and returning members who helped the process go smoothly this year. The latest records show that we have 49 individual memberships, 21 couples, one family and three youths for a grand total of 96 members. We will now be reporting this to the BC Lapidary Society along with the dues payable to them. Those dues will ensure registered members are covered by insurance during club-sanctioned field trips.

But just because the reporting will be over with for another year doesn't mean we're done with the membership duties for the year. Your membership coordinators will still be processing new members whenever they want to join. We typically sign up many newcomers at the Rock & Gem Show, so please be ready to welcome them to the meetings following the Show.

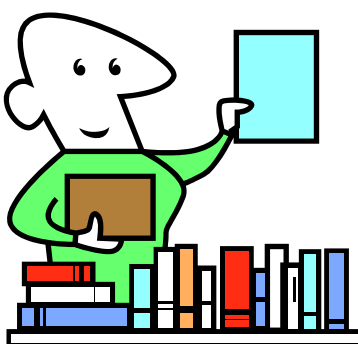
Sunshine Corner**Lorena Taylor.**

Martin (Marty) John Nickels passed away on February 8, 2012. He will be sadly missed.

Tom Vaulkhard is now living at the Kiwanis Pavilion on 3034 Cedar Hill Road, Room 127. He is doing well and would enjoy a visit from his friends. The best visiting times are in the afternoon. Telephone 250-598-2022.

Library Report**Leni Gagnon.**

Have you borrowed that great book that had all the information that you were looking for? Have you had it more than 2 months? Then please return at this coming meeting so that others may enjoy it too. You can always check it out again at another time.

**SHOWS & EVENTS**

March 16 – 18 **VLMS Rock and Mineral Show**

Leonardo Da Vince Hall, 195 Bay St., Victoria, B.C.

24 – 25 **City of Port Angeles**

Vern Burton County Center, 308 3 4th St., Port Angeles, Washington

30 -32 **Mt. Baker Rock and Mineral Club**

Bloedel-Donovan Park, 2211 Electric Ave., Bellingham, Washington

April 13 – 15 **Abbotsford Rock and Mineral Show**

Agricultural Recreation Building, Central Fraser Valley Fairgrounds,
32470 Haida Drive, Abbotsford

Memoriam**M. & B. Smith.**

Marty Nickels

Martin John Nickels spent his youth in Regina where he and his brother had some great times. During the second world war he served in convoy duty in the north Atlantic. He was always smiling and had an infectious laugh. Along with rock collecting he loved fishing and his 58 Chevy Impala. He had a very good memory and never forgot a name.

Our condolences to his family and friends, he will be missed.

What is Lapidary?

Wikipedia

A **lapidary** (the word means "concerned with stones") is an artist or artisan who forms stone, mineral, gemstones, and other suitably durable materials (amber, shell, jet, pearl, copal, coral, horn and bone, glass and other synthetics) into decorative items such as engraved gems, including cameos, or cabochons, and faceted designs. Hardstone carving is the term in art history for the objects produced and the craft. Diamond cutters are generally *not* referred to as lapidaries, due to the specialized techniques which are required to work diamond. Gemcutter typically refers to diamond cutters or producers of faceted jewels in modern contexts, but artists producing engraved gems, jade carvings and the like in older historical contexts.

The arts of a sculptor or stonemason do not generally fall within the definition, though chiseling inscriptions in stone, and preparing laboratory 'thin sections' may be considered lapidary arts. But, figurative engraved gems and cameos are certainly the work of artists. In modern contexts, the term is most commonly associated with jewelry and decorative household items (e.g. bookends, clock faces, ornaments, etc.) A specialized form of lapidary work is the inlaying of marble and gemstones into a marble matrix, known in English as "pietra dura" for the hardstones like onyx, jasper and carnelian that are used, but called in Florence and Naples, where the technique was developed in the 16th century, *opere di commessi*. The Medici Chapel at San Lorenzo in Florence is completely veneered with inlaid hard stones. The specialty of "micromosaics", developed from the late 18th century in Naples and Rome, in which minute slivers of glass are assembled to create still life, cityscape views and the like, is sometimes covered under the umbrella term of lapidary. In China, lapidary work specializing in jade carving has been continuous since at least the Shang dynasty.

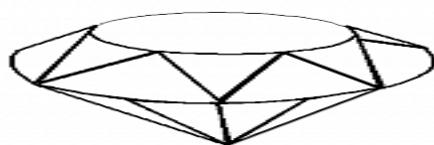
Categories

Apart from figurative carving, there are three broad categories of lapidary arts. These are the procedures of tumbling, cabochon cutting, and faceting. The distinction is somewhat loose, and leaves a broad range within the term cabochon.

Rural Thai Gem Cutter

Most lapidary work is done using motorized equipment and resin or metal bonded diamond tooling in successively decreasing particle sizes until a polish is achieved. Often, the final polish will use a different medium, such as tin oxide, glasitite or cerium(IV) oxide. Older techniques, still popular with hobbyists, used bonded grinding wheels of silicon carbide, with only using a diamond tipped saw. Diamond cutting, because of the extreme hardness of diamonds, cannot be done with silicon carbide, and requires the use of diamond tools.

There are also many other forms of lapidary, not just cutting and polishing stones and gemstones. These include: casting, faceting, carving, jewellery, mosaics (eg. little slices of opal on potch, obsidian or another black stone and with a clear dome (glass or crystal quartz) on top. There are lapidary clubs throughout the world. In Australia there are numerous gemshows including an annual gemshow, the Gemborree which is a nation-wide lapidary competition. There is a collection of gem and mineral shows held in Tucson, Arizona, at the beginning of February each year. This group of shows constitutes the largest gem and mineral event in the world. The event was originally started with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Show and has now grown to include dozens of other independent shows.



MARCH BIRTHSTONE

Via Pebble Trails

AQUAMARINE or BLOODSTONE

The present day listings of birthstones show two birthstones for the month of March, which gives an individual an alternative stone if desired. The “faceted gemstone is AQUAMARINE. The BLOODSTONE that is usually cut in a “cabochon” or as a signet stone is the other of the two alternatives.

The AQUAMARINE gemstones are a variety of BERYL is some of the oldest known minerals. It's color is usually a pale blue to a blue/green, hence the name. The name is derived from the Latin word “aqua” (water) and “marine” (of the sea). Aquamarines occur naturally in relatively large amounts and in big crystals, so it is not as expensive and rare as an emerald (another variety of beryl). Aquamarine deposits have been found in many parts of the world. With the largest crystals found coming from Brazil. Gem folklore has it that possession of this gemstone brings wisdom. Today, practically all the attractive blue aquamarines used in jewelry are the originally greenish yellow varieties that have been treated to 400 – 450 degrees C. Annealing at this temperature produces stones of a beautiful stable blue color.

Chalcedonies are a special group of quartz minerals. One of the minerals included in this group is Jasper. A green variety of JASPER with numerous red spots caused by HEMATITE is called BLOODSTONE. Bloodstone is also known as “HELIOTROPE”. The red spots in the stones were considered by the Greeks to be blood cast into the stones by the Gods. Being tough, chemically resistant, abundant and available in large uncracked lumps and attractive, this mineral is suitable for making attractive jewelry and for carving decorative art objects.

For Sale

16” Slab saw with stand

Phone: John Cook at 250-721-5210

