



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

September 2012.

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		
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September Meeting

Monday, September , 2012
Place: Burnside Lawnbowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Rd.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Program

Not available at this time

Executive Meeting

Monday, August 27, 2012
Place: Les Passmore Centre, (club workshop)
Time: 7:00 p.m.

President's Message

Patrick Lydon.

As I write this message, the Sun is shining, the Women's Olympic Soccer team are being awarded their first (but not last) Olympic Medal, and most of our members are enjoying a great Summer as we prepare to return to Club activities on Monday September the 10th at 7.30PM. We have had the sad news of the passing of some of Senior Members and that will be discussed at our Meeting. Due to the lack of appropriate facilities and key members we have had to forego our Summer Picnic this year. Large and complex decisions will be required shortly so I urge all members to attend our September Meeting. Enjoy your summer! Patrick Lydon, President.



Minutes of the General Meeting of June 4, 2012

Call to order and welcome guests in attendance done by Vice President, Mike Hill, acting on behalf of President's absence.

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

Motion made by F. McMahon to accept and seconded by M. Farley. All were in favour.

Motion Ca

Treasurers Report: As of May 31, 2012

Balance forward	\$26 454.86
Credits	2 176.30
Debits	<u>1 677.18</u>
General Ledger	\$26 953.98
Bank Balance	\$26 953.98
Petty Cash	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$26,983.980

Motion to accept made by M. Farley and seconded by H. Hellmoldt. All were in favour.

Motion Carried.

Rock and Gem Show: Report is still being finalized as expenses and payments are still coming in and to be completed. The club Auction was not as big as in the past this year.

Correspondence: Texada Island Artists Studio Tour – August 11 & 12, Blubber Bay; A Jade Work

in North Vancouver July 23-25, 195 Pemberton Ave; Reminder from BCLS deadline for

submission the BC Rockhounder and about calendar contest (by June 30th) as previously

brought to club members attention; Annual Picnic – Parksville District R&G club, June 16th

@ 261 Kenmuir Rd, Qualicum Beach.

Sunshine Corner: Nothing to report.

Workshop: A motion to be approved by membership was brought forward from Brian and Brad, operators, for needs for a fund of \$1,000 for capital expenses within given fiscal year. This would be for equipment purchases, maintenance of same/parts, etc. Discussion was had within the membership and that final approval requested to be required by Executive before doing so. It was brought to the attention that this had already been discussed within the Executive and approved for voting from the members for this motion. Mike Farley seconded the motion followed by Vanessa Steffens. All were in favour. **Motion Carried**

Island Zone: Gemboree went well but not a lot of people showed up, so not a big success. Thanks those that helped. Auction held covered expenses but not much to contribute to the Zones. A member

mentioned that it was difficult to find information, as it was limited on the LHN sent out in the prior month. It was questioned as to whether the Gemboree has outlived its usefulness or was it just the wrong month to have it; as well it may need a different location. Issues to be discussed within the Zone. C Speedie stated that a combined effort vs. individual clubs doing hosting in a rotation method would something to discuss and improvements to be made for this.

Program: Strawberry Social this evening.

Membership: Name tags were available for pickup and BCLS cards. Discussion about mailing out

Rockhounder magazine to individuals once cost is ascertained but expects it to be more than at present.

This will be organized possibly by the next renewal for membership.

Library: Nothing to report.

Field Trip: Next trip will be to Loss Creek, June 10th; gold panning, garnets, flower stone. Please contact Gilles.

Laphound News: No report.

Gem Show: Rock & Gem show for next year report by Gerri

· Looking for a lot of help for next year as there will be a huge gap with Don not being at the help

· Rumour not true that we are going to Esquimalt location – this has not been established;

· Leonardo Centre will be location until further notice;

· Looking for a new Chair person for the next show.

President's Report: none

Unfinished Business: Suggestion box still to come.

Announcements: None

Display Table: various things to view and purchase

New Business: Summer picnic was discussed as no location this year and need people to organize it

Asked for any suggestions from membership. G. Bently offered help for call outs once it is

known if we go ahead with the picnic. Potluck dishes and main grill food only required. If it is going to happen it will also be posted on the VLMS website.

Member Event: Auction held.

Adjournment: Motion by H. Hellmoldt and seconded by G. Irwin.

Editor's Remarks

Leni Gagnon.

Welcome Back Everyone! I hope that you all had a good summer. Yvan and I were away from May 26 to July 15. We traveled across the U.S. to New York City with many stops and adventures along the way. We came back across Canada with stops in Montreal and Saskatchewan to visit with family members. It is not always easy travelling by car with a small dog but we had a great time and hope to share some of our adventure with you at some time.

If anyone had an adventure or any information you wish to share with your fellow members don't be shy, just submit it to me and I'll be happy to pass it on for you. Let's make this an interesting year for the Laphound News readers.

Field Trips

Gilles Lebrun.

Place: Lost Creek

When: September 16, 2012

Meet at: Juan de Fuca Senior's Center

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Instructions: Please phone Gilles to let him know if you'll be going.

Membership

Kathleen Kane & Murdo Smith.

Welcome back. September means it's membership renewal time.

You can renew starting in September and it will be effective until the end of 2013. The renewal deadline is February 15, 2013, which will ensure you are included in the BC Lapidary Society insurance that covers members during field trips, workshop and other club activities.

Here is the in-person renewal process:

- Present your cheque or cash to a membership co-ordinator.
- Check the membership list to see if there are any changes to your personal information.
- Obtain your receipt and 2013 club membership card.
-

Note that we will be processing new or renewal memberships ½ hour before the business meeting, then again at the coffee break. Please observe these time constraints in order to allow the membership co-ordinators to take part in the meeting events.

To renew by mail, please complete the renewal form from the website and mail it, along with your cheque, to the address shown on the form.

MEMBERSHIP HELP REQUESTED

Since the membership desk can be a flurry of activity before meetings, we are looking for volunteer(s) to assist us so the volume of membership renewals can be processed more quickly and efficiently. If you can spare even 30 minutes at one meeting, it will help spread the workload. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kathleen through the club e-mail at vlms@vlms.ca.

We're looking forward to another fun year.

Sunshine Corner**Lorena Taylor.**

Two of our long time members have passed away during this summer. Violet Tait passed away in May and Tom Vaulkhard passed at the end of July. Many of the younger and newer members of the club will not have met Tom and Vi, but the older members of the club will remember them with fond memories.

Cameron tells us that Gerri had rather major surgery about a month ago, there were some complications from her previous illness that will extend her recovery period but the outcome was favorable. Gerri hopes to be back to work in another month, but is still fairly weak and has to use a cane or walker at the moment. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Gerri.

The good news is that Betty Goodwin is home from the hospital. We hope you are feeling better, Betty!

Library Report**Leni Gagnon.**

Please return all library books that you had over the summer. I would like to start fresh and give everyone a chance to look over those really great books.

Has anyone learned of a very interesting book, which you think would be an asset to our library? Have you found that our library is lacking in certain subjects relating to our hobby?

Let me know and we'll look into acquiring the books or obtaining information.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE**Source: Wikipedia****BLUE SAPPHIRE**

The sapphire is a variety of corundum, with the ruby being the other variety. Any corundum gem, which is not red, is said to be sapphire. When we hear the word sapphire the color blue comes immediately to mind. Sapphires can come in many different colours. Corundum in its pure state is colourless. Blue sapphires get their colours from the inclusion of traces of iron and titanium.

The word sapphire comes from the Greek word "Sappheiros" meaning "blue stone". Originally the word was for the mineral Lapis Lazuli.

The usual colour range for blue sapphires vary from pale blue to a deep indigo. Sapphires exist in various mixtures of primary blue and secondary hues, shades and vividness. The finest sapphires have a primary blue hue is at least 75% blue and no more than 15% violet. There can be no green or have a gray mask as these are considered to be negative qualities and will lower the cost of the gem considerably.

Sapphires symbolize loyalty and fidelity; this where the saying from which we get "True Blue".

The cost of the gem depends on its color, clarity, size, quality and even its geographic origin. Significant deposits of sapphires are found in Australia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, East Africa, and the U.S. and other places with less significant deposits. The sapphires from India (Kashmir area) are the rarest of all because those deposits were depleted long ago. In modern times the gems from the Mogok Valley in Myanmar are well regarded. Sri Lanka is the world's largest producer of sapphires larger than 100 carats.

Most sapphires sold today have been heat treated to eliminate the impurities and improve the colour of the gem and clarity and is usually permanent.

The beauty and durability of the Sapphire has made a favourite gem among royalty. Many crowns are adorned with sapphires. One of the largest faceted sapphires is the Logan Sapphire,

which is 423 carats and which is on exhibit at National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Reference: Wikipedia
 Gemstones By Karen Hurrell & Mary L. Johnson
 Gems of the World by Cally Oldershaw

SHOWS & EVENTS

- September 8-9 Clallam County Gem & Mineral Association
 Earth Treasures Gem & Mineral Show
 Vern Burton Community Center, 308 East 4th Street, Port Angeles
- September 8-16 Denver Colliseum Gem Show
 Outside tents
 12-16 inside Colliseum, 4600 Humboldts St., Denver, Colorado
- September 22-23 Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club
 Old Age Pensioners Hall, 3015 – 273 St., Aldergrove, BC

REMEMBERING

Irene Phillips & Barbara Smith.

VIOLET TAIT

Vi Tait was born in July 1914, and passed away in May 2012. An early member of the club; Vi possibly joined the club in its second meeting of the Club formation. Before I knew it, Vi. Holker was actively involved and Editor of the Laphound News. Her first husband died and she married George Tait.

These were the years, when a number of our members were able to enjoy being "Snowbirds" in the U.S.A. George and Vi, with their camper and friends, moved about in the Barstow, California area and gathered interesting materials. These treasures were brought back to the Club, to work on and show other members. Some of the lucky people who were traveling with them were May Hall and Mother, Bill and Chris Dibb, Art, Olive and son Jim Gillan, Georgie and Tom Vaulkhard and others. She will be missed by all her friends.

REMEMBERING

Barbara Smith & Irene Phillips.

TOM VAULKHARD

Tom Vaulkhard passed away July 30, 2012. A Friend...Helping in many ways, during his long membership in the club. When we first met Tom and Georgie, his wife, they were actively caring for the Club Library. Then, as years moved along, they became Commercial Dealers at our Hobby Show and also owned the Rockhound Shop. Travelling, preparing for the Shows, gathering interesting cutting materials and beautiful mineral specimens for all to buy and enjoy, both at the Show and the Shop took up a lot of their time. An enjoyable and busy way of life. During the earlier years, "Rockhounds" were interested in "Thundereggs" which were available and popular. Patrons of the Show, lined up by the Club Workshop Saw to have their eggs cut and admired. The Club Workshops, were an active and very interesting area for new and old members. Tom was always good-natured, smiling and helpful to all who visited the Rockhound Shop. He shall be missed.

DID YOU KNOW ?

KAMBABA JASPER is actually one of the oldest fossils on Earth. This Jasper is really a

Stromatolite that dates from the Precambrian Period (2.2 – 2.4 Billions Years Ago and even older).

STROMATOLITES are the oldest fossils on Earth but there are live colonies of Stromatolites living today. These can be found in Australia, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, and Bahamas. Freshwater Stromatolites can be found in Kelly and Pavilion Lakes in, B.C.

Ref: Various sites on the internet

SHOP HINTS

Don't wear gold rings when working with chlorine bleach. It can cause broken prongs and hairline cracks in gold jewelry. The chlorine attacks the alloy in the gold.

Bugle Newsletter November 2005 issue

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A happy life is just string of happy moments. But most people don't allow the happy moment, because they're so busy trying to get a happy life.

Abraham

Trip to Greenwood

Barbara Smith.

My daughter and I left on the first ferry from Swartz Bay to Tsawassan. After breakfast and an uneventful trip across, we arrived on the mainland amid rain, which stayed with us all the way, except through Manning Park where it was snowing. We had a picnic lunch at Bromley Rock, while sitting in the car. The scenery was great but of course would have been better in drier weather.

We passed through small towns and eventually arrived at our destination. Greenwood is quaint with old houses and shops. It has one main street and a few side streets. It has a pretty little white church on a hill built in the early 1900's

Greenwood is the smallest city in Canada with a population of 676 residents. It is located in the Kootenay district of B.C. It first came into prominence during the gold rush there in 1895 and was incorporated as a city two years later. It has kept its city status even though the population has decreased considerably. In 1899 the population was 3,000. Placer mining began here in 1862. Claims were staked along Boundary Creek around 1884 where a high concentration of copper ore was found. By 1910 the gold boom had faded. Supposedly there are lost mines in the area.

On the Friday we acted like tourists and explored and took photographs. We had an enlightening tour of the Greenwood Museum which, though small, contains a wealth of information. We also had a tour of the courthouse, which has lovely stained glass windows and jail cells in the basement. One store had beautiful bowls and other wooden articles made from trees killed off by pine beetle infestation.

During the Second World War hundreds of Japanese Canadians were interned in town here. They were given one tiny room (approximately 8' x 8') with bunk beds for a family of four with the use of a communal stove. Their land and belongings had to be left behind and they were only allowed one suitcase each. All their homes were confiscated and never returned. After the war they were supposed to return to Japan but many could not settle there and they returned to Canada. There are still some of these families in this area.

The following day we made the self guided tour of the Phoenix area.

Phoenix, originally called Greenwood Camp, was a boom city east of Greenwood. It was the highest city in Canada in its time at 4,630 feet above sea level. Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Company operated the mine there, which was mainly famous for the large amounts of Copper ore extracted, there were 13,678,901 tons processed between 1891 and 1919. By the end of the First World War the price of copper plummeted and the mine closed. Most of the residents moved to other areas, some thinking they would return to the area later. Vandals wrecked a lot of the houses so it was decided to dismantle most of the buildings. Later Logging companies came into the area and they burned what was left of the town so now the only thing one sees is the open pit area and the earth works of the dam for the tailings pond built there. The cenotaph was moved from the city to higher ground and can be seen along the main road; also the cemetery is still there on a hillside. In its heyday the area was very sports oriented and had tennis courts, hockey teams, baseball and curling teams. Those teams traveled around the country and won a lot of prizes. There were woman's teams too. Photos from that era and some prizes are on display in the Greenwood museum.

During this time three smelters were working in the area.

In the city there was an opera house, Ballroom, Banquet hall, Hotels, stage line, railway, hospital, ice rink and churches. Electricity and phones were available.

The mine was reopened in 1956 when the copper prices improved and work continued there till 1976. Exploration is still ongoing in the area.

We ended the day in Grand Forks and walked a little way on the Canada Trail. The rivers in the area were swollen and overflowing and we watched the fast moving waters from a bridge on the trail.

The next day we returned to Grand Forks and tried to find out about the Big Rock Candy Mine which is close by. Unfortunately they only open the mine for tours later in May, as the roads are bad from the snow. There are some lovely fluorites from this mine.

We visited Christina Lake, which is very pretty, and supposedly the warmest lake in Canada. Then we headed back to Greenwood and explored round Rock Creek, another gold strike area.

On Sunday we rose early and headed west, collecting apples and some fancy vinegars from a fruit stand in Keremeos. We were in time for the 3 p.m. ferry and took the buffet lunch. We arrived home at 5.15 p.m. after a very enjoyable few days.

Ref. Greenwood Museum, Phoenix Forest & History Tour Brochure



Courtesy Greenwood Heritage Society

BIEBER FEVER?

Leni Gagnon.

Justin Bieber is the heartthrob of today's young teens. His name crops up all over the place. He has as the say "arrived". As a person of more mature taste, I don't see what all the excitement is about.

However, I have recently found something that does ROCK my world. This summer, while travelling we found a dealer (Excalibur Minerals) who specializes in species of minerals. He has over 3200 of them out of the approximate 4500. As a collector of mineral species, this just blew my mind. We made arrangements to go and see his warehouse while we were in Peekskill, New York. He showed us around and then set us up with boxes of minerals to choose those specimens we might like to buy.

After drooling over several boxes and choosing a few, I found a specimen called Bieberite. I was so surprised – Bieberite. The first thought that came to mind was, “HOLY COW! Did Justin Bieber at the young tender age of 18 already have a mineral named after him?” I just had to get a piece to show my granddaughter (she was duly impressed). Although I told her that it was not named after her “FAVOURITE PERSON IN THE WORLD!!!!” she just knew that it had to be named after him.

I knew that, of course, the mineral was not named for Justin. It was actually discovered in 1845 and was named for its discovery locality, Bieber, Hessen, Germany. It is a secondary mineral formed through the oxidation of sulfide and arsenide ores containing cobalt. It is often a post-mining product.

Bieberite's chemical formula is $\text{CoSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and has a hardness of 2. It is red-pink in colour and has a vitreous, earthy luster.

Move over Justin Bieber! Bieberite, the mineral and not what the collection of Bieber fans is known as, is what can ROCK my world.

Happy Labour Day!
The last long weekend of the summer
BACK TO SCHOOL!!!!