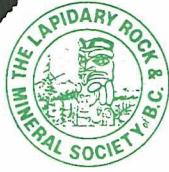




LAPHOUND NEWS



VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



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Website:-www.vlms.ca

December 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 Cres., Victoria, B.C. Phone: 250-479-6214		
Email address is editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca			

December Meeting

Monday, December 3, 2012
Place: Burnside Lawnbowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Rd.
Time: **6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:00pm. NOTE CHANGE**

Program

For the Pot Luck Christmas Party the club provides turkey, ham and buns. Along with your pot luck donation you will need plates, cups and cutlery for each person 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 you may bring non-perishable items. We will dine at 7:00 p.m. promptly so be sure to come in plenty of time to put out your donations.

Executive Meeting

Last Monday of every month
Place: Les Passmore Centre, (club workshop)
Time: 7:00 p.m

Mineral Show Meeting

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Field Trips

NO FIELD TRIP IN DECEMBER!!!
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gilles Lebrun.

Island Zone

The VLMS is still looking for Members who will take Executive positions on the Island Zone Committee. It only involves three meetings a year. It is a great opportunity to become aware of and be involved in all the Lapidary clubs on Vancouver Island. I have some members who have shown interest but I am still looking for members who will serve as President and Treasurer/Secretary. Please phone my home if you are interested. 250- 472- 8554.
Patrick Lydon, President.

President's Message

Patrick Lydon.

Dear Members, it is hard to believe that another year is nearly over, and now we prepare for our most enjoyable Christmas Dinner, courtesy of Molly Beddington (birthday 12 - 11 -1918, one day after the armistice) and her daughter Barbara MacKenzie. Details will be in the Laphound

news. This important occasion is followed in January 2013, by our AGM, when a new Executive Committee will be elected. I encourage all members to consider putting themselves forward for election by contacting the Secretary or myself regarding their aspirations. This is a friendly and tolerant Club and new members will be given assistance on the executive. Please make inquiries regarding positions that are becoming vacant and available and we will forward names to Cameron Speedie, the Past President, who will make the final recommendations. Be brave and be like President Obama! Best wishes to all our members for the Holiday Season.
Patrick Lydon, President.

Minutes of the General Meeting – November 5, 2012

Call to order and welcome by Patrick Lydon, President

Guests welcomed to the meeting.

Minutes: October 2012 published in LHN – no errors or omissions. Motion by Leni Gagnon to accept and seconded by Mike Farley . **All Accepted** as read. **Carrie**

Treasurer Report: as of October 31, 2012 read and accepted

Motion from Herb Hellmoldt to accept as read; seconded by Brad Woollven. **All in Favour** and **Motion Carried.** (actual amounts will no longer be printed in newsletter)

Correspondence: Upcoming Rock & Gem Shows announced at various locations and print out material made available for same for pickup.

Sunshine Corner: Lorena will be in hospital for knee surgery next week.

Workshop: Genie has been acquired and another would be even better as quite busy in workshop with great attendance. Beginners Lap course just finished and Basic Silver smithing starts this Saturday.

Membership: membership cards to pick up and name tags; cost of mail out for *Rockhounder* has gone up and collection from those who already paid requested to pay a deficit of \$2.00.

Library: members who have library books not returned as far back as 2011 will be contacted by librarian to return

Field Trip: October 21st Island View beach had no visible specimens to see due to high tide. November 18th, E. Sooke Park next trip planned.

Rock & Gem: need volunteers for Can West Show coming up in Feb. (date to be announced) and if none offered we will not be attending to promote our club.

- November 20th @ 7pm to next meeting
- Our show theme will be *Treasures from China*.
- Show case pieces from any members are encouraged to display and they will have a chance for winning a prize
- Need volunteers to take over Spin and Win and some other roles as well for setup on March 15th.
- Discussion as to whether to go to a larger hall will be had at next meeting. We need to have a large volume of volunteers in order to put in a larger space and to accept more vendors who have been making requests for a space in our show.

Island Zone: committee for member representation from all different clubs on the island. They are to serve two years in those roles. Request still of membership to come forth to volunteer for Secretary and President roles. Next meeting on 24th of November in Parksville... only 3 meetings in a year to attend. Contact club President or Secretary.

Programs: DVD Gold Trails was show donated for viewing by Creston Club. Xmas potluck is next month (replaces Program): 6:30 hall open to setup and dinner at 7pm... Turkey served and members to bring a potluck dish to accompany this. Bring own cutlery, plate and drinking cup; request for bar to be open and yet to be confirmed. Bring a wrapped gift of your gender for value of \$10.00. January will be our Annual General Meeting and regular General Meeting. Nothing as of yet for February and still looking for ideas.

Laphound News: editor would like to change format so members will see this over the next few issues.

Unfinished Business: none

Presidents Report: January will be the Annual GM with voting of Executive and Committees.

Announcements: none

Display Table: Brad went to Mediterranean and had specimens from there; Giles specimens from NW Territories and some Laurel stone from Mead Creek; Brian has grit from grinding for sale.

Member Event: enjoyed by all

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Gerri Irwin and seconded Leni Gagnon.



Membership Report

Kathleen Kane & Murdo Smith.

Membership renewals are well underway so thanks to everyone who has renewed for 2013. Please note that the membership desk will BE CLOSED for the December Christmas dinner but will be open again at the business meeting on January 7th. Please note that the renewal deadline is February 15, 2013.

Starting in January, we will be implementing a new process with regard to issuing nametags: a new member will be required to attend three Club meetings or functions before being issued a nametag. At each monthly meeting, there will be a sign-in sheet for new members to indicate their attendance.

Huge thanks to Ann Abolins who generously volunteered her time at the November meeting to assist us at the membership desk. Much appreciated, Ann!

-Respectfully submitted by your Membership Coordinators Kathleen Kane and Murdo Smith

Editor's Remarks

Leni Gagnon.

Over the next few months I will try to change the format of our newsletter to make it more eye catching. In January I will be attending a SCRIBE meeting in Quartzite, Arizona. SCRIBE stands for Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors (pretty fancy name, huh?). When I'm down there I hope to be able to get some ideas from other clubs about improving our newsletter.

Sunshine Corner

Lorena Taylor.

Lorena Taylor is recovering from knee surgery.

Library Report

Leni Gagnon.

I have found over the last few months that my duties as Newsletter editor is keeping me very busy. I am also the librarian, and although it is not as time consuming, I feel that I am not giving it my best. I miss meetings because of our travels. Therefore, I would like someone interested in keeping the library neat and up-to-date (the duties are not onerous) to volunteer to take over the library. Your time would be taken up during the meeting, as there is no access to the building at other times. (Unless otherwise arranged) If interested, please contact me, Patrick or Carrie.

VLMS Rock & Mineral Show 2013

Gerri Irwin.

The planning for 2013 show is going well.

Just a reminder to members to get started on your lapidary project to be entered in the competition at the show.

We are still looking for volunteers for the show.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

It is not the Plan that is important. It is the planning.

SHOWS AND EVENTS

- Jan/Feb 1 -28 Quartzite Mineral Show
Various sites throughout the city
- Jan/Feb 31 - 17 Tucson Mineral Shows
Various locations throughout the city

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE

TURQUOISE

Turquoise is beautiful and popular stone that has been in use for thousands of years. It was used in Egypt as early as 3000 BC. It was found in King Tut's tomb. There is evidence that it was used much earlier in history. It is one of the first minerals to be mined; it has been mined in Iran for over 2000 years.

The name Turquoise is derived from the French word "Pierre Turquoise" meaning "Turkish Stone" as it came to Europe from Iran through Turkey in the 16th century. Today most of the best quality turquoise comes from China. Although. Good quality turquoise can be found in the South Western USA.

The native people of the South Western USA favored the turquoise as jewelry. They believed that it protected them from demons.

Turquoise is a secondary mineral formed in hydrothermal copper deposits, in veins and pockets of volcanic rocks and phosphate-rich sedimentary rocks. It is found in arid regions.

The intense color of turquoise is often veined with brown limonite or black manganese oxide. The color ranges from a dark greenish blue to sky blue to robin's egg blue. The replacement of copper by zinc and iron is what makes for the green colors. Low quality stones will often be dyed Howlite or stabilized.

Although turquoise is a popular stone often used in cabachons, making beads, and sculptures it is quite fragile and care must be taken if it is to last. Many people do not know that it is sensitive to sunlight, that is surprising as it is found in arid, warm areas that get a lot of sunlight. Turquoise is also sensitive to soap, water, perspiration and grease. It should not be over polished, as that will make it turn green and less attractive.

Turquoise may dry out in hot temperatures. Sudden temperature changes will cause the stone to crack. Examples of this is when sunbathing and then plunging into the cold water or taking food out of the freezer.

Source: Minerals and Gemstones by Dr. D. Cook & Dr. W. L. Johnson
Collecting Rocks, Gems & Minerals by Patti Polk
Various sites on the Internet



A turquoise belt buckle



ENROLLING TRILOBITES IN HIGHER MATHEMATICS

Gary Kaiser

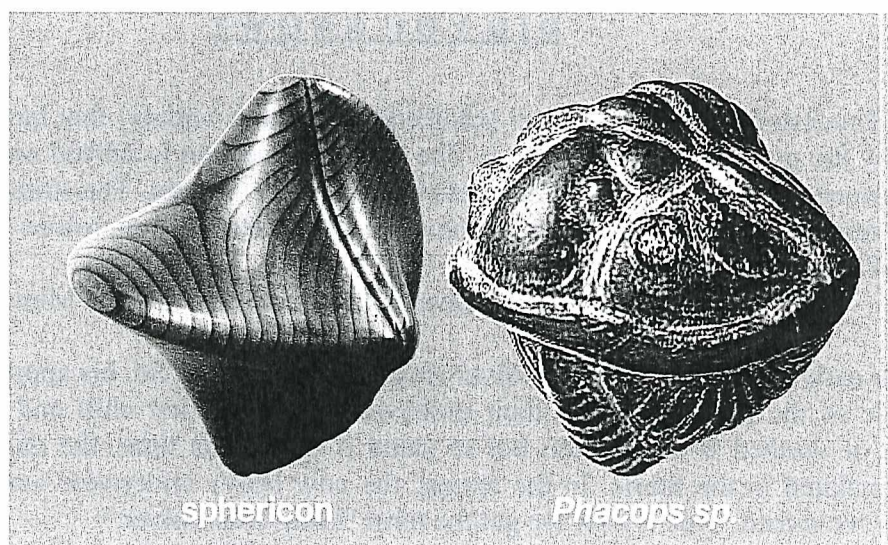
One of the most popular and interesting of the common fossils is the curled or enrolled trilobite. Flat trilobite fossils are often preserved with jewel-like detail but enrolled examples make perfect little sculptures that beg to be handled. In life, curling up defended the animal by using the tough back plates to protect the fragile gills and legs. It seems like a simple idea but it must have been effective. Modern animals, that share some aspects of the trilobite's body plan, such as millipedes or sow bugs, still use similar tactics.

The fine detail of trilobite fossils makes it is easy to conjure up a picture of the living animal slipping across the fine silt of the sea bottom – the same fine silt that would eventually preserve its form so well. At the approach of danger, it curls, locking its head and tail together so that tidal currents can roll its buoyant body away. If the predator remains curious, it is also soon confused. The enrolled trilobite prey does not roll predictably, like a marble; it lurches irregularly from side to side. Long before animals invaded the land, trilobites were exploiting some little known aspects of higher mathematics.

The shape of an enrolled trilobite is basically a sphericon. A sphericon is a new geometric form discovered by Colin J. Roberts in 1999 and described later that year in *Scientific American* (see ref.). Where a sphere has one surface and no edges and a top-shaped double cone has two surfaces with one edge, the sphericon has two edges and one surface. On a flat surface a ball rolls in a straight line. The double cone is guided by its edge to roll in a circle. The sphericon is guided by its two edges alternately. Since each one is only half a circle and they are set at right angles to one another, the sphericon's path changes by 90° as the edges change. The result is a simple zig-zag that is surprisingly difficult to track. The fact that the enrolled trilobite is not a perfect sphericon, makes its path even more chaotic.

Where millipedes, sow bugs, and even the armadillo learned to curl into a ball to frustrate predators, the trilobites, and only the trilobites, attempted the sphericon.

Ref. Stewart, Ian. 1999. *Mathematical Recreations: A cone with a twist*. *Scientific American*,



An enrolled trilobite (right), showing its coarse similarity to the two-edged, single sided sphericon (left).

Source: with permission from the author.




GETTING TO KNOW YOU


WALLY PRIEDOLINS

Wally was born in Latvia where he lived until he was 16 years old. It was then that he went to Sweden where he eventually joined the navy. He immigrated to Canada in 1951 where he married and had 2 children. In 1990 Wally moved to Victoria.

Wally loves the outdoors. He likes to hike, go canoeing and kayaking and walking on the beach. He used to walk on the beach with his children to look for rocks and other interesting things. Wally didn't know anything about rocks and so, when the kids started asking him the names of various rocks he decided to take a course on identifying rocks. He took some courses at the Vancouver Technical School.

When he went to the beach and picked up an agate he would ask the instructor, "What do you do with it?" The answer was, "You cut and polish it." Wally's next question was, "Where and how?" It was then that he joined the Hastings Rockhound Club. He learned how to cut stones. He showed his children and they each cut one stone and promptly lost interest but Wally was hooked.

For 11 years Wally has taken his holidays in Spencer, Idaho and spends his time searching for opals. He has met an instructor there who can take a rough opal and make a finished ring out of in a matter of minutes. It may take Wally a little longer but he makes some beautiful jewelry.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Touchstone is a flinty Jasper (chalcedony a quartz variety) that has been used since 1530 to show the purity of gold and silver. The metal in question is rubbed on the dark surface of the touchstone and then a drop of nitric acid is applied on the spot. The strength of color from the ore that remains on the streak indicates how pure the metal is. Touchstone is also known by the names of basanite or Lydian stone.

Source: 1001 Questions Answered about the Mineral Kingdom

2. In the early days, Paul Revere's silver shop was not heated. So, his apprentices, like most people of the period, donned their underwear with the first chill and neither removed them or washed it until it too hot to stand it. Over this time, the daily dust of silver accumulated in the fabric. In the spring, the now heavy underwear was burned and the silver reclaimed. This is how we get the term "Long John Silver."

Source: Cedar Valley Gems 11/07; via Rock Hustler's News 02/08



FOR SALE

Assorted rocks including, petrified wood, rhodonite, flowerstone and slabs. There are also some odd tools and books.

Please phone: Barbara at 250-479-7881 for more information.

FOR SALE

Yurika one of our long-standing members has moved and is downsizing so has decided to sell some of her equipment.

If you are interested these items are for sale; all offers considered:

Polishing arbour
 Lec Facetor
 Laps for shaping and polishing
 Pixie - 6 wheels plus end polisher disc
 Lortone tumbler - 2 tubs
 Foredom flexible shaft
 Spot welder
 Casting centrifuge
 Oven (Jelenko) for melting wax
 Electric cord hanger

Please phone Yurika at 778-868-1788 if interested in any of the above items.

FOR SALE:

Robert Belz has lapidary tools, beads, fossils and rough rock for sale.

For more info, contact Robert Beld at 1-250-715-0734

EVENT:

Stone Haven Gems will be having a Pop-Up Holiday Sale

Date: December 15-23.

Hours: 11:00 a.m. until 6:pm.

Where: #8 Dragon Ally in Chinatown (between Fisgard and Herald)

Grand opening party December 14 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Christine will be happy to help you with your Christmas shopping. On sale will be Crystals, Jewelry, Minerals and Fossils.

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

EVERYONE



-FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN-

A ROCKHOUND'S GIFT

What would this Rockhound like to find
 Beneath his Christmas tree?
 Of all the gifts he'd like to have
 What would the best one be?

Some or precious gem of color rare
 To treasure and admire?
 Or a piece of opal gleaming bright
 With iridescent fire?

Grit or polish or perhaps some rough
 Would make a nice gift too.
 These would gladden a rockhound's heart
 All the year through.

A faceter or cab machine,
 Or a new lap would more
 Than anything, help work those rocks
 This rockhound has in store.

But more than any of these gifts
 He much rather would receive
 The respect, love and fellowship
 He worked so hard to achieve.

These gifts he would deem priceless,
 His to cherish and hold dear,
 Because they came from friends he made
 In his travels far and near.

So should you wonder what kind of gift
 This rockhound would like best,
 Give him a smile, a warm hand clasp,
 And forget about the rest.

By George Cihacek

Source: Loop Scoop 12/87, via The Tumbler 12/96