MEREDITH CRESENT

LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5114, Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3

Volume 56 – 3 Website: - www.vlms.ca April 2013

Board

President	Mike Hill
Vice President	David Hosking
Past President	Patrick Lydon
Secretary	Carrie Maier
Treasurer	Greg Shea
Members at Large	Vanessa Steffens
	Yvan Gagnon
	Brian McMillan
	Leni Gagnon

Committees

Programs	Vacant
Librarian	Sylvan Burnside
	Christine Paton
Show Chair	Gerri Irwin
	Vanessa Steffens
Membership	Kathleen Kane
	Murdoch Smith
Field Trips	Gilles Lebrun
	250- 382-6119
Sunshine Corner	Lorena Taylor
	250- 384-0755
Refreshments	Molly Beddington
	Barbara MacKenzie
Workshop	Brian McMillan
	Vanessa Steffens
Editor	Leni Gagnon
	editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca
	250-479-6214

Next Meeting:

When: Monday, April , 2013
Place: Burnside Lawnbowling Clubhouse
274 Hampton Rd.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Program: Speaker David Mullett
" Stones from New Zealand"

Executive Meeting:

When: Last Monday of every month (except when it falls on a holiday) (no meetings in Dec., June & July)
Place: Les Passmore Centre, (Club Workshop)
Hampton Rd.
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mineral Show Meeting:

When: Tuesday, April 16, 2013
Where: To Be Determined

Field Trip:

When: April 14, 2013
Place: Mt. Tzuhalem (near Duncan)
Time: Meet at 9:00 am at the Juan De Fuca Senior Center.
If Going, Phone Gilles

PRESIDENT"S MESSAGE:
Mike Hill

We have just had another successful show. A lot of work has gone into the planning and of course, it took the help of a lot of people. I'd like to thank all the people who gave so generously of their time. A special thank you to Gerri Irwin and Vanessa Steffens for their planning and organizing skills. The vendors were happy with the weekend and certainly the people who attended appreciated the show. So, once again, a big thank you to all the volunteers.

VANCOUVER ISLAND ZONE REPORT, March 2013: Patrick Lydon

The new Executive of the Island Zone was appointed at the Fall meeting of the Zone in the beautiful home of Marion Barkley in Parksville on Saturday, November 24th 2012. The Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Society was scheduled to take its turn as bearer of the mantel and accordingly, Patrick Perry Lydon was acclaimed President, Greg Shea will be the new Secretary Treasurer, and Mike Hill will come on board as Junior Member from Victoria. Details of the proceedings from this meeting are contained in the Island zone Website under the report from the Secretary. I can verify that the meeting went on some two hours and the attitude was of interest and concern. All of our sister Lapidary Clubs on the Island continue to have active involvement and they also continue to function independently in their own areas. There was an expression of interest in up-dating and improving the Zone website, and thanks to the hard work of Cameron Speedie, who is a genius in such matters, we now have the foundation for such a device. I invite interested Members to review this Website and to clarify the important events and dates of activities in the coming year. Please check out the dates of our up-coming Shows on the website (Don't forget Alberni March 9-10, and Victoria 15-17th).

A few members expressed some concern; the personal concern of Linda Strand, Senior Delegate from the Parksville & District Club is appended to the minutes from the November meeting. I have since received a letter from Michele Heath from the Cowichan Club who expresses similar ideas regarding the usefulness of the Zone as it stands. These are not the comments of unhappy campers! They express thoughtful and insightful observations that are of interest to us all and they will be front and centre in the next meeting of the Zone in Victoria on March 17th at 1.00 at the Burnside Bowling Hall. The other major item of business will be the final arrangements for the Gemboree at Black Creek in July 26-28th, courtesy of the Courtenay Gem and Mineral Club. This promises to be a fun event this year so please mark it down on your calendar. Respectfully submitted, Patrick Lydon. President.
Report to the BCLS AGM 2013.

SUNSHINE CORNER: Lorena Taylor

Wally Priedolins is finally home from the hospital and he says that he feeling great. He came to the show on Saturday morning to show support and say "Hi" to all his friends.

MEMBERSHIP: **Kathleen Kane**

Thanks to a successful Rock and Gem Show we have a number of new members and renewals. Many thanks to everyone who helped out the membership desk at the show. We have now made our final report to the BC Lapidary Society so our provincial membership cards will be arriving soon.
-Kathleen Kane and Murdo Smith

LIBRARY: **Sylvan Burnside**

Due to the number of un-returned library books we are forced to change the sign out policy for the library books.

1. Show your VLMS member card
.
2. Sign out only 2 books at a time.
3. Return books at each meeting.
4.

EDITOR'S REMARKS: Leni Gagnon

As you may have noticed I am trying out a new format for the Laphound. I have had several remarks that the format that was being used was out-dated and that we should modernize it. I would really appreciate your feedback and suggestions. As you have also noted that the minutes of the general meeting have been omitted. You will get them as a separate document.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Your worst enemy cannot harm you as much as your own unguarded thoughts.

Buddha

The only place SUCCESS comes before WORK is in the dictionary.

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

SHOWS AND EVENTS

APRIL

12-14 **BC GEM SHOW**
Ag- Rec Building
CFV Fairgrounds
32470 Haida Drive
Abbotsford, BC

19-21 **DENVER COLORADO**
Ramada Plaza Central
4849 Brannock St.
Denver, Colorado

20-21 **YAKIMA ROCK & MINERAL CLUB**
Washington National
Guard Armory
2581 Airport Lane
Yakima, Washington

MAY

4-5 **COURTENAY ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB**
Courtenay Royal Canadian
Legion Hall
367 Cliffe Ave.
Courtenay, BC

17-20 **RENDEZVOUS 2013**
Ashcroft River Inn
2167 Community Place,
Kamloops, BC
N.B.--Contact Pam Lott
e-mail jp62@shaw.ca
if attending as she is taking
numbers for food ordering

DARVAZA WELL – "THE DOOR TO HELL"

By Leni Gagnon

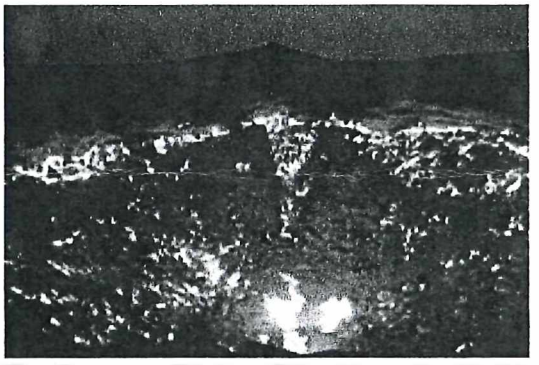
Have you ever wondered what Hell may look like? There is a place here on Earth where you may possibly get a glimpse of it.

In the middle of the Karakoum Desert in the country of Turkmenistan (a former Republic of the Soviet Union) is the Darvaza Well, otherwise known as 'the Door to Hell'. It is more than 80 meters wide and 20 meters deep. It looks very much like a volcanic crater but, in fact, it was accidentally man-made.

In the 1950's the Soviets were prospecting for natural gas, built a rig and began drilling. It was in 1971 that the ground beneath the rig collapsed and the crater was created. Noxious gas began leaking out of the crater and after a short while the Soviet geologists decided to light a fire in the hole, thinking that within a few days the gas would stop leaking and the fire would go out. However, the geologists had no knowledge of the extent of natural gas and the fire has burned constantly since that time. How long it will continue to burn nobody knows.

Despite the isolation of the area and difficult accessibility to the area many people come to see the burning pit of flames. The intense heat allows for only a few minutes of viewing at one time. The hiss of the escaping gas can be heard from ½ mile away and the glow of the fire can be seen from 25 miles away at night.

In 2010 the Turkmenistan President came to inspect the area. He decided that it presented an ecological threat and ordered the crater be closed. To this date the door to hell is still open. So if you want to see how Hell may look, there is still time to go and look through the door to Hell.



The Darvaza Well – "The Door To Hell"

Source: Several sites on the internet as well as e-mail.

SHOP HINTS TUMBLING APACHE TEARS

By Murdoch Smith

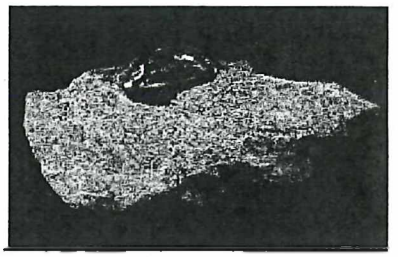
The original author of this article is not known, but I have followed these tumbling instructions and I have had good success with them. I have found it important to:

follow the spirit of the instructions as Apache Tears are a unique material and I have made some modifications as described below.

Apache tears should be tumbled on their own. Do not mix them with other obsidians or any other stones. Rough grinding is not a problem. Proceed as

in a normal tumbling operation and tumble in the rough stage for at least 340 hours. Make sure the tumbler is a little more than half full. Much of the beauty of Apache Tears is due to the rounded "tear-drop" shape, so be vigilant about inspecting between changes of grit for the development of flat sides. Check to make sure that the stones are smooth and free to tumble in the barrel. A good practice is to run the larger stones for 48 hours or slightly longer and then add the smaller stones to the load to achieve the half full barrel condition that is necessary for good tumbling.
Proceed from rough grinding to fine grinding, but reduce slightly the quantity of fine grit that you use. In the fine tumbling stage run for at least 250 hours or until the grit is completely worn. Wash and dry the stones and inspect the ***dry*** stones for any blemishes. For this inspection the stones must be dry, a film of water can hide a lot of blemishes.

When satisfied go to the prepolish stage and reduce the tumbling speed by putting sawdust, plastic chips or scraps of leather into the mix in the barrel to prevent any spilling that may occur. The prepolish stage should be about 150 to 170 hours. You are now ready for the polish stage. During the polish stage thicken the liquid in the barrel by adding enough sugar to make a syrup, have the barrel at least half full and tumble for the length of time appropriate to your polishing compound, especially if you are not using tin oxide.



GETTING TO KNOW BETTY GOODWIN

I had the pleasure of spending some time with **BETTY GOODWIN** when she came to support us at the show this past weekend. I found her to be a very interesting person.

Betty was born in Winnipeg, as she says, "Many many years ago". She has lived in various parts of the country beforte finally settling here in Victoria.

Betty was a single mother who supported her three boys by working as a secretary and stenographer. To have fun with the boys she would take them to the beach to go beach-combing. Betty loved the beautiful sheels and began collecting them and eventually selling shells to some businesses in town, who would sell them to the tourists.

She doesn't rember exactly when she joined the club, but between us we figured it to be some time in the nine-teen sixties. She said that the club has moved their meeting places several times since she joined. She has been a Life Member for a number of years. Betty used to write articles for the Laphound News under a pen name. She has promised to send me some copies of those articles. So don't be

surprised if they turn up in future issues of the Laphound.

Betty has fond memories of the enjoyable field trips where members would go out in their campers and explore Vancouver Island. Several families would go together and spend the whole whole weekend together. There were trips down south as well. Everybody had a good time exploring together.

Recently Betty has moved into a new place where she will have the company of other residents and activities in which to particpate. She says that she will stay there until her finances are depleted and then she'll see what happens next. In the meantime, she is treating this time as a great vacation.

Betty may be small in stature but she is a lady with a big heart.

MINERALS OF THE WRONG FEATHER DON'T FLOCK TOGETHER

by Dr. Bill Cordua

Most rockhounds know that certain minerals are often found together. For example, malachite often is found with copper, and gold is often found embedded in quartz. What many don't realize is that identification can be aided by understanding what minerals are never found together. For example, lazurite, sodalite, and corundum are never found associated with quartz. As another example, beryl does not occur with dolomite in our local limestones. Well, why not? Doesn't that seem a bit arbitrary? Isn't —never! sort of a strong term to be used by a scientist?

It turns out that there are good chemical reasons why this is so. In some cases, it is simply a matter of a particular rock type not having the needed chemicals to make the minerals. There is no chemical compatibility between dolomite and beryl in limestone.

Why not? In order to make beryl, you need to have beryllium, a chemical present in, at best, trace amounts in most limestones. By analogy, you can't make a chocolate cake with no chocolate — no matter how hard you try. The fact that chemicals tend to segregate in certain places in our earth leads to the commonly observed mineral associations. Certain granites have a lot of beryllium in them. It's an element that tends to accumulate in such magmas. Thus, beryl is found in granites along with the typical quartz, feldspar, mica and tourmaline.

In other cases the mineral won't form because the proper temperature, pressure or other geochemical conditions (such as acidity) were not achieved in the rock. For example, diamond won't form in a rock, unless certain conditions are met. In yet other cases, there is a true chemical incompatibility. It is because of this that quartz is never found with olivine, corundum, sodalite, or lazurite. These minerals are just not chemically stable together.

Does this mean if you put a piece of corundum next to a piece of quartz they'll explode? Of course not. The point is that the two minerals will simply not form together in the same environment. If corundum forms, quartz won't form and vice versa. The reason is that corundum forms only in

a low silica environment and quartz only in a high silica one. Let's consider a hot magma. There are no minerals in the magma — only loose atoms darting around. As the magma cools these atoms begin to bond together to form minerals. Let's suppose this is a low silica magma. There are lots of other chemicals around, such as aluminum. The aluminum likes to link to what silica there is to form feldspars. But since this is a low silica magma, there isn't enough to go around. The extra aluminum has to go somewhere, so, when it gets concentrated enough it forms corundum.

Now, let's suppose this is high silica magma. All this aluminum finds silica and makes feldspar. Now there is silica left over, so quartz eventually forms. In the first case, you have a rock formed consisting of feldspar and corundum; in the second case you have a rock formed consisting of feldspar and quartz. You can never get a rock with quartz and corundum forming together in it.

There are similar relationships between quartz and sodalite, olivine and several other minerals. So if someone offers you a specimen of corundum crystals embedded in quartz, start looking for the glue!

SOURCE: Rockytier, July 2005 via the Vug Examiner 2/06; via Star-O Lite Dec 2009

DID YOU KNOW

The refuse annually dumped in the sea is more than 3 times heavier than the weight of the fish caught each year.

SIZE CATAGORIES FOR MINERALS

Thumbnail: up to 1.25inches in size
Miniature: up to 2 inches
Small Cabinet Specimens: from 2 to 5 inches
Large Cabinet Specimens: over 5 inches

Source: Shirley Fiske of the Mineralogical Society of Arizona

IT'S ALL IN THE SPELLING

CARAT – a standard unit of mass used for precious stones, especially diamonds, is equal to 200 milligrams.

KARAT – a unit of proportion og gold in an alloy equal to 1/24 part of pure gold.

CARET – a mark on printed or manuscript material to show where something such as a letter or word should be inserted.

CARROT – Bugs Bunny's favourite food.

Source: Calgary Lapidary Journal February 2010

FOR SALE

Assorted rocks including petrified wood, rhodonite, flowerstone and other assorted slabs. There are tools and books and a small display case.

Please call Barbara at 250-479-7881.

SPRING IS HERE??????????

FIND THE 10 DIFFERENCES