

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 2013

Board

President	Mike Hill
Vice President	David Hosking
Past President	Patrick Lydon
Secretary	Vacant
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	Jessica Hedberg 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, September 9, 2013

Place: Burnside Lawnbowling
Clubhouse
274 Hampton Rd.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Program: To be Announced

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.

Field Trip:

When: September 15, 2013

Place: Jordan River (fossil hunting)
Time: Meet at 9:00 am at the Juan De
Fuca Senior Center.
If Going, Phone Gilles

REMEMBER: Club Meeting for
September is on the 9th not the
2nd

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**Mike Hill**

It has been a good summer with many activities going on. One such activity was our Zone's Gemboree held this year in Black Creek. Jack and Jan Boyes of the Ripple Rock Club were our hosts. Thank you Jack and Jan. The surroundings were beautiful and the activities and company enjoyable. It was good to see that VLMS was well represented.

With September coming and the resuming of our club meetings, we have to put our thoughts on to thinking "How To Improve Our Club".

Hopefully, we will have a new secretary. Vanessa Steffens has agreed to become the secretary (with the approval of the membership). The efficient running of the club can continue. Thank you Carrie Maier for doing such a good job as our secretary.

That being said, we are still looking for a Program Coordinator. This position is as important as that of secretary if we want our club to flourish. Members are more likely to attend meetings if they know that a good program will be presented.

Don't forget that there is a Suggestion Box available at each meeting. So let us know what kind of programs or speakers would interest you at our meetings. This could make the job of Program Coordinator less daunting to take on.

As the song lyrics says, "Be a rock - not just another grain of sand".

SUNSHINE CORNER:**Lorena Taylor**

Congratulations to Patrick Lydon for coming in 3rd at the Gold Panning Championship in Barkerville, BC.

Betty has recovered from a fall she had while getting off a city bus.

Joan McCormack, Life member, along with Lewis, of Ripple Rock, and Courtenay Gem and Mineral Club has passed away.

She was visiting her daughter in Edmonton when she suddenly passed away. Joan was a lovely lady and her death came as a terrible shock to those who knew her.

EDITORS REMARKS**Leni Gagnon**

Yvan and I have had a good but quiet summer. It has been strange for us to be home during the summer but we are taking off on the 22nd of August. We will go to Eatonia, Saskatchewan first to visit with our grandson, then we will head south for the Denver Mineral Show. We also hope to go to Utah to see some of the Canyons and such.

I did manage a great accomplishment (for me) these past couple of months. I put in a concentrated effort to finish my mineral database. I've been working on it for over 4 years and thought it was about time to get over with. Mind you, it will be out of date again when we get back from Denver.

Yvan and I also took the Basic Lapidary course with Vanessa Steffens. Thank you, Vanessa. The course was interesting, but to tell the truth, it is not my thing to do. It hurt to see a beautiful stone cut, even if the eventual outcome is another beautiful product. I like the natural beauty of the stone best.

Anyway, I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and now it is time to get back to work.

GEMBOREE & ISLAND ZONE
MEETING

Patrick Lyden

regarding the Execut

Congratulations to the Courtenay Gem and Mineral Club on their very successful Gemboree Meeting at the home of Jack and Janice Boyes near Black Creek on the 26th -28th of July. I have now received a copy of the financial report of the meeting and the Club appears very happy with the results. Some 40 Zone members attended and the details of the monies will be included in the agenda for our next meeting on Saturday 30th November at the home of Marion Barclay in Parksville. Suffice to say that a profit of \$1577 was divided between the Courtenay Club and the Zone Executive. We all had a great time at the Meeting and I hope somebody got a photo of Jack Boyes as auctioneer. I can still see him standing in the hot sun with his gavel and wooden box, shouting out the figures, and it somehow reminds me of the movie Ben Hur and "ramming speed"! The auction was a great success. Janice expressed a great deal of

appreciation to all who helped at the Gemboree but I will not mention names as I am afraid I will leave some people out. I will not comment on the Executive Meeting until I have the official Minutes from the Secretary. I must apologise to Linda Strand of the Parksville & District Rock and Gem Club who had asked me to place a Club report on the Agenda, but I failed to do so. This will be dealt with at our next meeting. I will submit another report to the Zone regarding the Executive meeting at a later time. Congratulations to the Courtenay Club on a job well done. Please note the date of our Parksville Meeting - November 30th 2013. Enjoy your Summer. Best wishes, Pat Lyden, Zone President.

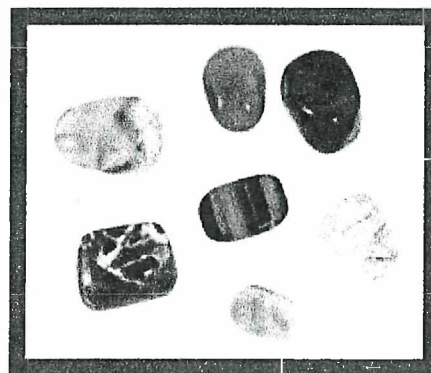
THOUGHT OF THE DAY

We can't do great things in life....
We can only do small things with great
love.

Mother Theresa

The difference between genius and
stupidity is that genius has its limits.

Albert Einstein



SHOWS AND EVENTS**SEPTEMBER**

7 - 15 **DENVER COLLISEUM
MINERAL, FOSSIL &
GEM SHOW**
Various venues around city
Check internet for info.

14 - 15 **CLALLAM COUNTY
GEM & MINERAL
ASSOCIATION**
Vern Burton Community
Center, 308 East 4th St.
Port Angeles, WA.

22 - 23 **FRASER VALLEY
ROCK & MINERAL
SHOW**
Old Age Pensioners Hall
3015 273 St., Aldergrove,
BC

OCTOBER

26 - 27 **PORT MOODY ROCK
& GEM CLUB**
Kyle Centre
125 Kyle St., Port Moody,
BC

26 - 27 **SURREY ROCKHOUND
CLUB**
Sullivan Hall, 6306 152 St
Surrey, BC

NOVEMBER

2 - 3 **DELTA ROCKHOUND
GEM & MINERAL CLUB**
South Delta Rec. Centre,
1720 - 56th St.,
Tsawwassen, BC

SHOP HINTS

1. To get rid of excess solder on a piece of jewelry, take a strip of silver 1/8 inch by 3/4 inch, cut a small slit in one end, heat the spot and touch the slitted strip to the excess. The solder will flow up the strip.

SOURCE: Backbenders Gazette
December 2003

2. Polishing Tiger Eye- For that gloss finish, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on it. Leave for a couple of minutes, then give it another polish.

SOURCE: Chips/Roadrunner
March 2004

3. To repair a spread apart link in a small broken chain, insert a toothpick in the 2 adjacent links. The faulty link is held in place for the pliers to pinch it together again.

SOURCE: Pegmatite via Gneiss Times
via Staro-Lite May 2009

Old mineral collectors never die - they just petrify.

LAPIDARY TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

The summer is coming to an end and you've collected all these beautiful specimens that you going to turn into works of art in your workshop this winter. However, it is important that your workshop is in order and safe before you begin. Make sure that all your equipment is in good working order, and your tools are rust free.

REMEMBER

If you don't practice safety in your collecting of minerals or working in your shop, you may end up not being able to enjoy the fruits of your labour.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR WORKSHOP?

By Mal McMurdo

How often do you think of the quality of air and safety of the environment in your lapidary shop?

We are safety conscious when climbing a ladder, lighting a fire, using volatile fluids or driving.

Are we as safety minded in our shops? Have you stopped to think about all the fumes and gasses that come from the chemicals we work with, I think not.

Many aspects of our hobby have some inherent danger in the dust or fumes that develop with their use.

The following list identifies many known substances that have toxic characteristics. This list, while not complete, identifies a large number of the potential problems.

When using any item listed, make sure you use power ventilation – a bathroom or kitchen exhaust fan generally works well for this. Remember, you need a fresh air intake supply for these fans to work well.

ABELONE – grind and polish only when wet. Be aware that any odor detected is highly toxic.

ACETONE – an industrial type solvent containing harmful vapours, can cause dermatitis.

ACETYLENE – an asphyxiant.

AMMONIA – irritant to eyes, lungs and skin.

ALCOHOL (WOOD) – highly flammable.

ASBESTOS – loose fiber when inhaled can cause asbestosis.

BENZINE (GAS, NAPHTHA, ETC) – Vapour may affect the respiratory and nervous systems.

CARBON DIOXIDE – asphyxiant

CARBON MONOXIDE – causes drowsiness, illness, unconsciousness.

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE – flammable, can cause headaches and drowsiness. May cause acute poisoning.

CHLORINE – restricts the air passages of the lungs.

COPPER – can cause dermatitis and metal fume fever.

CYANIDES – highly toxic to skin, eyes and lungs.

ETHEL BENZENE – causes dizziness, trembling, labored breathing and unsteady movements.

GOLD PLATING SOLUTIONS – those with a cyanide base form deadly hydrogen cyanide gas if mixed with

another acid. Use plating solutions that are cyanide free.

HYDROGEN SULPHIDE – by-product of liver of sulphur and water. **DEADLY POISON.**

LEAD – is known to enter the body from dust, fumes, and water. It can damage the brain and neuromuscular systems.

MANGANESE – in dust or vapours can damage the nervous system.

MALACHITE – work wet as the dust created when worked dry is toxic.

PROPANE – highly flammable and toxic.

QUARTZ, AGATE, SANDSTONE, GRANITE, CHERT, FLINT – all are of the silica rock family. The dust from these contributes to silicosis of the lungs.

SPAREX – is a diluted acid and should be handled accordingly and care.

STYROFOAM – when heated or burned it releases toxic gasses.

While it is not healthy to fear everything, one should be aware of hidden dangers in apparent innocent looking materials that we all use extensively in our hobby.

If you are using material that is new to you, **READ THE LABELS AND HEED ANY WARNINGS.**

SOURCE: Tumblewood Tales, Oct.
1995

A ROCK IS A ROCK – BUT

All people don't think of the same thing when you say "rocks". I have heard of a 2-carat diamond in an engagement ring referred to as a "rock" and some others can think of the Rock of Gibraltar. Rocks to a farmer are only a thing to dull the plow, while another sees them as materials to build a beautiful fireplace with. To some, a rock tells a story of the ages and to another it is a good stone to put on the top of a sauerkraut crock. To small children, a rock is sometimes just the thing to throw into the water and see it splash, while to others, they are stepping stones to cross the creek on.

Some see rocks as beautiful scenery, while another see the same rocks as an obstacle to build a road through. Some see only the rough exterior, while others envision the beauty to be revealed when it is cut and polished. Even in "rockhounds" there's a variation---some see crystals for a specimen cabinet, some for cutting into a faceted gem, some think only in terms of dollars, some see something to OOH and AH over, some as something to clutter up the house and dust.

Whichever way YOU look at rocks— here is wishing you GOOD HUNTING.

SOURCE: Spokane "Rock Chips";
Lapidary Journal 1970

Q: If H₂O is water, what is H₂O₄?

A: drinking, bathing, washing and swimming.

THE VICTORIA BREAKWATER

Leni Gagnon

Many people enjoy going for a walk along a breakwater. In summer, it is a good way to catch the breeze coming off the water and cooling down on that hot day and, of course, watching people as they enjoy their day too. In winter, watching the play of waves and the clouds make for a different experience. Each breakwater, no matter where it may be, has its own unique attraction to its users.

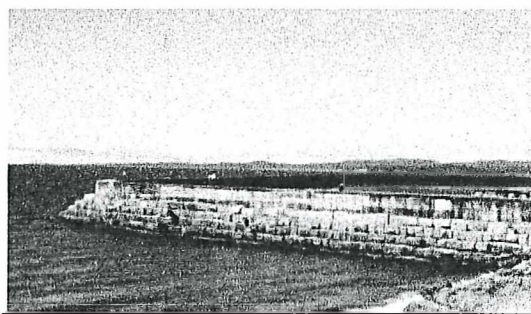
The Breakwater at Ogden Point has a special place in my heart. As a young girl I had mobility problems with poor balance. So going to the breakwater was a thrilling adventure – a gamble and triumph over - with life and limb. As I got older it became a place where I could think in peace. In later years, I haven't gone on it because my sense of wanting to be safe had kicked in.

The breakwater's construction was completed in the latter part of 1916 with 1.5 million cubic feet of stone. The stones are large, roughly squared blocks of granite. Probably making the breakwater the largest dimension stone project in BC's history.

The granite was quarried on Hardy Island. Hardy Island is located at the mouth of Jarvis Inlet, on the Sunshine Coast of BC. These particular granite blocks were unsuitable to be used for decorative facing or for monument stone because it had black knots up to 30 centimeters in diameter. However, could be easily cut into large blocks. Also used in the construction was basalt and crushed stone from Albert Head.

Weathering from the constant contact with the sea water could be a huge problem if the stone was too soft. However, the granite is very durable and the breakwater hasn't shown any signs of erosion.

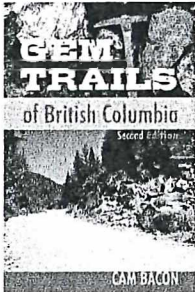
This past year, another feature has been added – a railing along the top. It has been controversial for many people, not wanting to see the naturalness of the breakwater being spoilt. However, for many people with various mobility problems, it has added a safety feature that now allows them to enjoy a walk along the breakwater as well. I am looking forward to a close up and personal encounter with the breakwater in the near future.



Source:

Wikipedia
& Other sites

NEW BOOK Announcement



Gem Trails of British Columbia [2nd edition] by Cam Bacon
 ISBN: 978-0-88839-724-9
 5.5" x 8.5", softcover, 104 pages
 73 colour photos / 37 maps
 \$12.95
 Hancock House Publishers

This updated and expanded second edition of GEM TRAILS of British Columbia continues to lead rockhounds along the province's beautiful back roads to active and accessible collecting sites for gems, minerals and fossils.

Maps, photos, descriptions and collecting tips help novice and expert rockhounds plan week or weekend trips through ten regions of British Columbia.

- _ Highway 99 North
- _ Chilliwack to Hope
- _ Hope to Princeton
- _ Hope to Merritt
- _ Hope to Cache Creek
- _ Cache Creek to Kamloops
- _ Cache Creek North to 100 Mile House
- _ North Kamloops to Little Fort
- _ North B.C.
- _ Kootenays

FOR SALE

.....Two Books in OneJEWELRY by Madeline Coles; published by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. ----- \$25

.....The Complete Book of Jewelry Making by Carles Codina; published by Lark Books \$25

.....The Design and Creation of Jewelry by Robert von Newmann; published by Krause Publications \$20

These books are in excellent condition with no visible wear;!

Ruth Eardley: 250-642-4002
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