



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

November 2013

Board

President	Mike Hill
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Past President	Patrick Lydon
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	Yvan Gagnon
	Brian McMillan
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Membership	Jessica Hedberg Murdoch Smith
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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, November 4, 2013

Place: Burnside Lawnbowling
Clubhouse
274 Hampton Rd.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Program: Digging for Sapphires

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.

Gem Show 2014 Meeting:

When: November 19, 2013

Place: Lawnbowling Clubhouse

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip:

When: November 17, 2013

Place: Island View Beach

Meet at Juan de Fuca 9:00 a.m.

If Going, Phone Gilles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**Mike Hill**

One of the best ways to bring new members into the club is to talk to your friends about your interest in lapidary, rocks and minerals, etc. Show them examples of your work or some the interesting specimens in your collection. Once you've peaked their interest and they start asking questions, invite them to one of the meetings.

The club can benefit from new members, so I challenge all members to bring at least one friend to a meeting in the next year. It is then the challenge to make the meetings interesting to keep them coming and join the club.

Therefore, we need a program coordinator to plan interesting meetings. Anyone interested in the position please call me.

INTEREM ISLAND ZONE REPORT**Patrick Lydon**

"Troubles come not as single spies, but in battalions"! This quotation from William Shakespeare was very true for me in the past two months. In September I developed a retinal problem and will have surgery on the 16th of December. I will be out of commission for some two or three weeks afterwards. On the 6th of October, I was driving to the BCLS AGM meeting in Surrey, but as I crossed the 2nd narrows bridge, the warning light for a puncture came on, and I had to find a service station. By the time I got to the Sullivan Hall, the meeting was over. Later I found that the Island Report that I had faxed on

the 19th of September had a problem and actually went to the secretary's "junk box", and was therefore not available to the AGM. It has been retrieved since then.

This short note is to alert all Island Clubs of the sad situation. However, we must put the past behind us and prepare for the next Zone Meeting in Parksville in the home of Marion Barkley on Saturday, November 30th. An Agenda and other details will be prepared by Greg Shea and I and will be sent out in early November.

"The readiness is all" is my favourite Shakespeare expression and we must be ready for Parksville.

I encourage all "Contact persons" within the Island Zone Clubs to contact Leni Gagnon, Editor of the Victoria Club Laphound News, and her e-mail is - editorvllmsnews@shaw.ca to arrange for electronic delivery of that paper which contains excellent information and has details of our Club Field Trips. Other Clubs should send their information to Leni. We hope to involve the American Clubs in Washington State in this information sharing as well.

Zone Members, the Parksville meeting is an important opportunity to review our situation and to make realistic plans for the future. All Clubs should ensure that they have a delegate present for the meeting. At the Gemboree meeting, a motion was passed to have an emblem made for each voting member, and this should ensure that only Zone representatives are able to vote. Dave West was asked to develop these items. They may look like a Field-Marshalls baton, and have twice the power!

Please prepare for Parksville!
Inform Greg Shea of items you want
on the Agenda. Final notice of the
meeting will be sent in early
November.

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Leni Gagnon

I would like to thank everyone for all
the positive feedback on the Laphound
News. It gives me encouragement to
try even harder.

Constructive criticism is also
appreciated. That is the way to
improvement.

It is not easy to come up with articles
that would be of interest. I always
think that just because something
peaks my interest doesn't mean it
would interest everyone else's.

I would really like to see more articles
submitted by the members. That way
the Laphound News would truly be a
club newsletter. So, if you have read
an interesting article, gone on a trip,
discovered something new to you,
share it with club. I will be more than
happy to put it into the Laphound
News.

If you have moved or changed your
email address please inform me so
that the Laphound News will get to
you.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jessica Hedburg/ Murdo Smith

Between now and the middle of
February the membership desk at the
club meetings will be very busy
handling membership renewals and
new member applications. Club

members could ease this load by
submitting their membership
renewals by mail and to ease this for
all concerned a copy of the renewal
form for the year 2014 is included
with this issue of the newsletter as
well as a copy of the new member
application form. The membership
desk will not be open for business at
the December meeting as this is
normally our Christmas Party, but the
British Columbia Lapidary Society still
expects our annual membership
report submitted to them by the
middle of February.

PLEASE NOTE

The membership application forms
will be an attachment sent out with
this issue and the minutes of the last
meeting. - editor -

ROCK AND GEM SHOW 2014

Gerri Irwin/Yvan Gagnon

The planning for the VLMS 2014 Rock
and Gem Show is now underway. The
committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday
of the month. As usual we will be
counting on the membership to
volunteer their services for a few
hours to make this event a success. We
can't depend on our past laurels for
success. This year's theme will be
BIRTHSTONES.

As usual we will have showcases to
exhibit our treasures and labours.
There will be the competition
showcase as well. So now is a good
time to start your projects for the
competition.

If you are interested in having a showcase then call Leni Gagnon to book your space as we have only a limited number of showcases.

We are looking for donations of slabs and tumbled stones for the Rock Sale table and small items suitable for the prizes at the Spin an Win table. We did very well at these two tables last year but we have very little stock left. The revenues from these two tables go directly to the club.

LIBRARY REPORT

Sylvan Burnside/Christine Paton

It has been a very busy time for me right now dealing with family emergencies but now I hope to get back to working on a new library list. I am still missing books and keep hoping they will be returned soon. If you have borrowed books in the past please take another look around to see if one may still be hiding out at your home.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Lorena Taylor

Betty Goodwin has donated a box of specimens of minerals and fossils from her personal collection to the club. These specimens will be used as prizes at the Members' Event at the monthly meetings. Thank you Betty for your generosity. I know how difficult it can be to let go of the things we treasure.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The mark of the highest originality lies in the ability to develop a familiar idea so fruitfully that it would seem no one else would ever have discovered so much to be hidden in it.

Johann Von Goethe

SHOWS AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 2 - 3 **DELTA ROCKHOUND
GEM & MINERAL CLUB**
South Delta Rec. Centre,
1720 - 56th St.
Tsawwassen, BC
- 23 - 24 **KITSAP MINERAL &
GEM SOCIETY**
Kitsap Co. Fairgrounds
1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd.
Bremerton, Washington

DID YOU KNOW

The mapping of the world's largest cave in Sarawak Borneo has been going on for over 30 years. It is now done using lasers and to date the cave measures over 320 km (200 miles). The Sarawak Chamber in the Gunung Mulu network is 700 meters (2300 feet) long and 100 meters (330 feet) high.



In 1958 a submarine sailed beneath the frozen Arctic Ocean. It found out that the ice rests on water and not on land.

THE BARWELL METEORITE

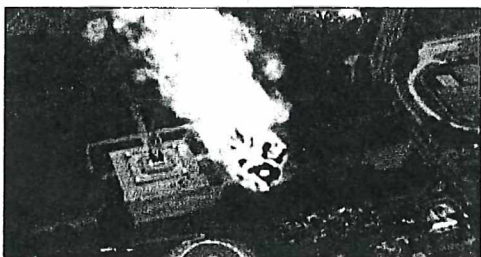
Leni Gagnon

While we at the Denver Show, I bought several specimens of meteorites to add to my collection of meteorites. As usual, I did some reading up on them and found the information on the Barwell Meteorite interesting and amusing.

On December 24, 1965 the villages of Barwell and Earl Shilton were showered by fragments of a meteor fall. No one was hurt but there was some damage.

One meteorite went through the front of a car, destroying the engine. The owner made a claim on his insurance to get it fixed. The insurance company denied his claim saying, "It was an Act of God". The man then decided to approach the priest of the church and asked for the money. He explained to the priest that if it was an Act of God then the church should pay for damages done. The owner never did receive the money.

The Barwell Meteorite is the biggest meteorite fall in Britain to date.



SHOP HINTS

HOW TO CUT OBSIDIAN

Author Unknown

Gold Sheen: To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands as if they were a stack of plates and you wish to unstick them. It is not plentiful but opal-like colours do sometimes occur in the mahogany sheen

Iridescent: There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded and the colour lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian the surface has to be chipped to find the colour.

The banded type will have several colours or shades, while the unbanded will have only one. Cut the banded parallel to the bands to get effect. To get rainbow effect cut the stone at approximately 15-degree angle across the bands.

Midnight Lace: Lace patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to produce. Though obsidian is comparatively soft, it is still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise that wet sanding should be done, since obsidian is heat sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the best choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian try cerium oxide on Lucite but keep it wet.

Rainbow: Cut parallel to flow layers. Examining fractured surfaces using an

overhead single lamp bulb can see the layers. These are not always straight; it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained.

Grinding Obsidian Cabs: Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "shattering" experience as obsidian fractures conchoidally, and this is a sure way to do it.

Polish Obsidian: Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polish will result in blisters and scratches. After obsidian is sawn, be sure to bevel the edges on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of obsidian gets into your eye it could be very hard to remove it as it transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass. The edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it can be removed.

Source: Quarry Quips May 2004;
via Rock Buster News Oct 2006;
via Shin-Skinner News 2007;
via The Calgary Lapidary Journal
Dec. 2007.

Q. Why didn't the miner want to move to the Pacific Northwest?

A. He didn't like the idea of a place called Ore-gon.

LAKES, SEAS AND OCEANS

Lakes, in comparison with the seas, are shallow indeed. The deepest freshwater lakes are Lake Baikal in Russia, which is 1700 meters deep at its deepest part, and Lake Tanganyika in Africa with a depth of 1436 meters. Compared with these two, Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water, has only a maximum depth of 406 meters. In clarity, the open seas have it all over the lakes. The water of Crystal Lake in Wisconsin has clarity approximately the same as Puget Sound.

Once they are formed, lakes always tend to growing more shallow and smaller as the streams entering them bring more and more eroded materials.

Of all the lakes, Lake Baikal is by far the oldest, at least 25 million years old. Of Course it does not compare with oceans, which have existed since almost the beginning of our world. Lake Baikal sits on the planet's land depression, and is formed of at least three tectonic plates. It is said that earthquakes rattle the area ever few hours.

The largest ocean in the world is the Pacific Ocean covering 165,200,000 square Km. The average depth is 4280 meters with its deepest depth being in the Mariana Trench at 10,911 meters. The Pacific Ocean includes the South China Sea, Sea of Okotsh, Bering Sea, Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan.

The second largest Ocean is the Atlantic Ocean, covering 106,400,00 square Km. The average depth of the

Atlantic Ocean is an average of 3,339 meters deep and the deepest depth is in the Milwaukee Deep at 8,380 meters. The Atlantic encompasses the Caribbean Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Norwegian Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Hudson Bay, North Sea, Black Sea, Baltic Sea and parts of the Greenland Sea.

The Indian Ocean covers 28,350 square Km. Its average depth 3890 meters and the deepest in the Diamantia Deep at 7,275 meters. The Indian Ocean includes the Gulf of Aden, Andaman Sea, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Great Australian Bight, Laccadive Sea, Gulf of Mannar, Mozambique Channel, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

The Arctic Ocean is almost the size of Russia at 14,056 square Km. It is also the shallowest ocean with an average depth of 1038 meters with the deepest depth of 5,450 meters in the Litke Deep. The Arctic Ocean encompasses the Baffin Bay Barents Sea, Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, East Siberian Sea, Greenland Sea, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, Kara Sea, Laptiv Sea and White Sea. The Arctic Ocean is connected to the Pacific Ocean through the Bering Sea and the Atlantic Ocean through the Greenland Sea.

The Southern Ocean better known as the Arctic Ocean is also the youngest ocean at a mere 30 million years old. It was created when the continents started to separate at Drake Passage.

The Southern Ocean's northern boundaries is indeterminate as it connects with Pacific, Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean Some geographers

say that it shouldn't be considered a separate ocean but its waters are distinctly different from the other oceans. This difference is caused

The average depth of 4500 meters. The greatest depth is 7,236 meters at the south Sandwich Trench. The Southern Ocean includes the Weddell Sea, King Haakon VII Sea, Lazarev Sea, Riiser Larsen Sea, Cosmonaut Sea, Cooperation, Davis Sea, Mawson Sea, D'Urville Sea, Sonroc Sea, Ross Sea, lake. Also several lagoons, nearly entirely surrounded by land are salt water and are sometimes called lakes.

A Rockhound's Photography

Dick Stata

I have heard it said that a picture is worth a thousand words; this famous quote's meaning has increased exponentially for me as I have been converting my old 35 MM slides and negatives into a digital format and placing them on my computer. Most of those old slides are memories frozen in time. There are pictures of my daughter as a baby. I had not set eyes on those pictures in over 40 years. It brought tears to my eyes to see photo after photo of a beautiful young woman who has been my adorable wife since 1965. I must have taken photos of every Christmas and Birthday back then. I now have the dilemma: should I save years' worth of decorated trees and parties. I also found I had photos of long deceased friends and relatives and their fond memories. I had other pictures taken so long ago that you can barely recognize those aunts, uncles and cousins, which you only met at

weddings and funerals. I have also discarded many useless pictures, headless people, out of focus shots, under exposed, over exposed. I guess I wasn't as good a photographer as I thought. I also found I had taken scads of scenery pictures that while interesting I could no longer remember where I had taken them. I even had photos of parades and so many buildings that have changed or no longer exist. Time marches on.

I never took very many pictures on my rock collecting trips back then. The old 35 MM was bulky and heavy and I was always afraid I would break it, so it got left in the car most of the time. I did find some pictures of field trips; I laughed at the old collecting photos, picture a herd of bent over behinds and now your trying to remember who the behind belongs to! It is amazing how one glimpse of a 40 year old photo takes you back, and you find you can't help exclaiming. "Hey there's a picture of Bill, remember when we went collecting and he had all that car trouble!"

I have no excuse today: I have a digital camera that fits in my pocket, weighs next to nothing. It will take hundreds of photos and even movies. I guess I do have one excuse, I get so involved in collecting I forget all about the camera. It so easy today to take pictures, you can even do it with a phone, e-mail the picture home and have it on your computer before you even get out of the quarry. Then you can print the pictures, watch a video, or put it into a slideshow, or make a presentation display out of your favourite images. Today is the age of

instant information so I expect anybody can take descent pictures.

If your an Author or an Editor you can spice up an article with a good photo; it can show the Who, Why, Where, What, and if your outside the weather. I would like to say to all the Rock Collecting community, history is being made every day, and you can record it. Take pictures of the big pocket you have found, the prize-winning display, your favourite crystal, all your club members, and friends on your field trips. The list of items to photograph is endless. I do think all of us can hold up a bit on the fieldtrip butt shots, but take that camera with you and make history comes alive.

If you are an old Hound like myself who took slides back in the day, get them converted and you will be amazed at your own past so long overlooked. I had to wait over 40 years to see those photos of my daughter, thank heavens for modern photography. It now only takes a minute. Just think 40 years from now it might be your picture being viewed and someone is exclaiming, "Here's a picture of old Dick, remember when?"

Source: S.C.R.I.B.E. – Jan-March 2012



A VOLUNTEER
Author Unknown

It's not for money, it's not for fame,
 It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman; it's just
 to give a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self,
 That's something you can't buy with
 wealth.

It's not for medals won with pride; it's
 for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart;
 it's that feeling that you've been a part

Of helping others far and near
 That makes you **be a VOLUNTEER!**

Source: Calgary Lapidary Journal, Dec.
 2007

REMEMBRANCE DAY
Yvan Gagnon

Remembrance Day, or Armistice Day is an observance in Commonwealth countries to honour members of the armed forces who fought and died in World War I. Ceremonies take place every November 11th at 11:00 AM, the time at which hostilities were to have ceased. Other countries have similar observances at various times of the year. In Canada in recent years, it has come to incorporate veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, Afghanistan and other missions and operations.

The poppy story is one with a strong Canadian connection. Lieutenant

Colonel John McCrae, a medical officer with the Canadian army, penned the famous poem "in Flanders Fields" that mentions poppies, in May of 1915 at the death of his good friend Alexis Helmer. The poppy was seen a suitable symbol that could be worn to honour and remember those who have fought in wars and conflicts. Strangely, Americans were the first to adopt the poppy in 1920 as a symbol of remembrance. Since then, poppies are chiefly worn in Canada and the UK.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we
 Lie in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies
 grow in Flanders fields.



IT'S ELEMENTAL

Leni Gagnon

This puzzle is solved as you would any other Sudoku using numbers.
I have used the chemical formulas for 9 elements. They are sulphur, copper, gold, carbon, nickel, iron, lead, zinc and mercury.

		B					Pb	Ni
	Au			Hg	B	Fe		
	Zn		Au					Hg
Fe					Ni	B	S	
				Au				
	S	Cu	Hg					Fe
B					Fe		Cu	
		S	Cu	Zn			Au	
Hg	Cu					Pb		