

LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5114, Station B

Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



Volume 56-9

Website: - www.vlms.ca

December 2013

BOARD

President	Mike Hill
Vice President	David Hosking
Past Present	Patrick Lyden
Secretary	Venessa Steffens
Treasurer	Greg Shea
Members	Vacant
At	Yvan Gagnon
Large	Brian McMillan Leni Gagnon

COMMITTEES

Programs	Vacant
Librarian	Sylvan Burnside Christine Paton
Show Chair	Gerri Irwin Yvan Gagnon
Membership	Jessica Hedberg Murdo Smith
Field Trips	Gilles Lebrun 250-382-6119
Sunshine Corner	Lorena Taylor 250-384-0775
Refreshments	Molly Beddington Barbara MacKenzie
Workshop	Brian McMillan Vanessa Steffens
Editor	Leni Gagnon editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca 250-479-6214

NEXT MEETING:

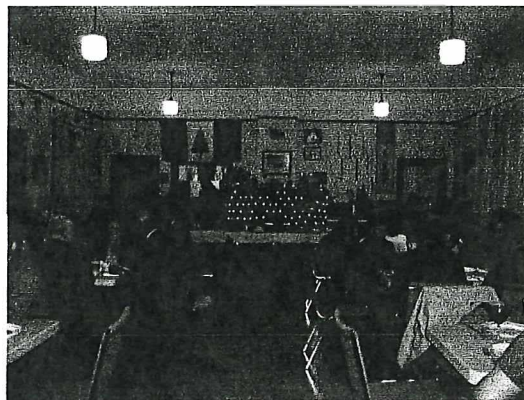
When: Monday, December 2, 2013

Place: Burnside Lawnbowling
Clubhouse
274 HAMPTON RD.

Time: 6:30 - Dinner at 7:00

PROGRAM: POTLUCK DINNER

For the Pot Luck Christmas Party the club provides turkey, ham and buns. Along with your potluck donation you will need plates, cups and cutlery for each person and a gift costing no more than \$10.00, 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.



Potluck Christmas Dinner 2012

Isn't it much better to be a hammer than a nail.

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

No meeting in December

GEM SHOW 2014 MEETING:

No meeting in December

FIELD TRIP:

None in December

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike Hill

I hope to see you all at the Potluck Dinner. It is a perfect chance to socialize and get to know each other better.

Please keep in mind that in January we will be having our Annual General Meeting and will be voting in a new Executive Board. If you know of anyone who would make a great leader, contact Patrick Lydon.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Leni Gagnon

I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. It seems like it goes by faster every year.

This year has seen some horrific natural disasters all around the world, especially this month, with the Haiyan Typhoon in the Phillipines. It was the largest typhoon ever recorded. It makes you wonder if we'll keep seeing more such disasters on this scale or larger. We on Vancouver Island have

been very lucky to escape any major disaster (knock on wood).

We also live in a world of plenty. Most of us do not lack the basic necessities of life.

May I suggest that we add two other recipients of a Christmas gift – A donation to the United Way to help the people less fortunate in our own area, a donation to the Red Cross.

Donations of even a few dollars would go a long way to help some poor family who has lost everything they own.

As you may notice in this edition, I (meaning Yvan) have discovered how to make our pictures a lot smaller. In a regular email I am only able to send out 5 Megabytes of material in one attachment. Most of the pictures I would like to put into the newsletter are in the Megabyte range by itself; now we can reduce each picture into the Kilobyte range, therefore, now we can add more pictures. As I have said before, I am learning as I go along. Now all I have to do is remember is how to do it the next time.

If you have an interesting picture you would like to share with the members you can send it to me. Remember a picture is worth a thousand words but a comment or story to go with it would be icing on the cake.

Yvan and I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2014.

Begin where you are but don't stay there.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jessica Hedberg/Murdo Smith

The membership desk at the November club meeting was very busy handling membership renewals and new member applications. So far the process is going along smoothly. The membership desk will not be open for business at the December meeting as this is our Christmas Party, but the British Columbia Lapidary Society still expects our annual membership report submitted to them by the middle of February 2014. It would therefore help if those who will not be at the January or February meeting were to send in their renewal, mailed to the club at the address given at the top of the Laphound News.

New members who joined at the November meeting were Daphne Duggan and Agnes Vollmeir. We welcome them and hope they enjoy their time with us.

LIBRARY REPORT

Sylvan Burnside/Christine Paton

Patrick Lydon donated his book he just wrote to the Library, the book is called "The Gold Will Speak For Itself", the copy has currently been signed out, but will be returned next meeting. If you wish to purchase a copy please contact Patrick. Thank you Patrick for this donation to our Library.

There are still many Library books that have not been returned to the Library, in January I will be writing letters to those that have not returned the books and I am considering billing people for those books. Thank you to

those that have returned the books.

The VLMS Library books are donated or purchased in memory of someone after they have passed away. It is very disrespectful for someone to borrow a book and not return it. If it were the public Library they would not be as patient as we have been. I have been Librarian for 10 months now and I am still waiting for book returns.

The Library is not taking book donations at this time for there is no room in the bookcases, unless some one can donate a bigger locking bookcase.

You can always find what you are not looking for.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Lorena Taylor

Molly Beddington celebrated her 95th birthday in November. Happy belated Birthday Molly and we hope you have many more.



Congratulations to Patrick Lydon for his book, "The Gold Will Speak For Itself". If you would like to buy a copy contact Patrick.

ROCK & GEM SHOW 2014

Gerri Irwin/Yvan Gagnon

If you are wondering how or where you could volunteer to help with the show, here are some areas for your consideration. Even if you can only volunteer a couple of hours of your time it would be very helpful and much appreciated.

Thursday setup:

- 9 am start
- Require a couple of trucks to go to Grieves Storage to pick up items such as show cases, rock demo board, clown etc..
- Need some people to stay at Leonardo de Vinci start setting up tables.
- Need measuring tape for isles
- Set up show cases
- Skirting for tables that require it
- Electrical is setup
- Require members to help cook lunch such as chili, buns, salad and dessert for the crew assisting with the setup

Door Greeter:

- Greets people at the door.
- Makes sure people have a stamp on their hand if they are leaving
- Answers questions
- Informs people there are more items down stairs
- Be cheerful

Door:

- Makes sure there is a large enough float and change throughout the show
- Require two people at all times for two hour slots
- Takes in door entrance money
- Hands out flyers sparingly
- Hands out hourly door ticket
- Hands out free ticket for grand prize drawn on Sunday

- Informs people that barrel is down stairs for grand prize
- Will need someone to look for change (normally from other VLMS tables i.e. kids table, spin n win, rock table for spare change)

Rock Table:

- Looking for donations from VLMS members i.e. slabs, rock, minerals, polished stones
- Looking for mineral collection (made up by members)
- Requires one person at the table two hour slots

Spin n Win: (geared towards kids)

- Requires one person at the table for two hour shifts
- Looking for donations i.e. jewelry, boys and girls small toys, polished rocks, minerals
- Looking for donation for adults.

Workshop:

- For those who have taken a beginners workshop can work on a stone
- Normally 3-4 people required as this is also a demonstration of the equipment

Security:

- Require 3-4 people for two hour shifts
- All doors should have someone standing by and make sure they check the persons ID (commercial and demonstrators)
- Watches for people with light fingers (we cannot touch them) phone the police and try to get as much information on them as possible – heck even take photo.

Clean up after show:

- Fold up tables
- Bundle up show cases
- Recycle skirting
- Stack VLMS items going back to Grievances Storage near the door
- Require trucks on Monday to take items back to grieves
- Confirm all vendors are packing in orderly time

Membership Table:

- Take in membership renew or new members
- Give out information about the club
- Be an information source
- Lost and found table
- Beside microphone for announcements and door prizes

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

Do you have a family member or friend who is interested in Lapidary or rocks and minerals? Don't know what to get for Christmas?

Why not buy them a membership to VLMS!!!!

**JOIN VLMS ON FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7428607111/>

Members with facebook accounts can join the group where we can give and receive updates about meetings, classes, workshop, and community events as well as share photos and ideas about club related things.

CALENDARS FOR SALE

Do your club members want calendars for \$10 each? It is a good deal!!

They will be ready to mail out this weekend.

If you have already ordered, and not paid, please send your payment to:

BC Lapidary Society
105 - 3240 Mt. Lehman Road
PO Box 10072
Abbotsford BC V4X 2M9

Thank you for supporting the BC Lapidary Society,

Georgina Selinger, Executive Secretary,
BC Lapidary Society 604-852-1307
bcls10072@hotmail.com
www.lapidary.bc.ca

It takes courage to stand up and speak. It takes even more courage sometimes to sit down and listen.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

Calvin Coolidge

If you didn't start out the day with a smile, it is not too late to start practicing for tomorrow.

SHOWS AND EVENTS IN 2014

JAN - FEB

1 -28 **QUARTZITE, ARIZONA**
 Various Shows
 (check internet for individual shows)

24 - 16 **TUCSON, ARIZONA**
 Various Shows
 (check internet for individual Shows)

In three words I can sum up
 everything I've learned in life:
 It goes on!
 Robert Frost

DID YOU KNOW

In 1957 a lapidary display attracted considerable attention. Shortly afterwards a group met to discuss the formation of a Lapidary club.

The Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Society was formed and incorporated in 1958. The first meetings were held in the Victoria City Hall Council Chambers. The President appointed was Bill Erichsen and George West was the secretary. The annual fees were \$3.00.

The first edition of the Laphound News was put out in 1957. Its first editor was Vi Holker. It cost 10 cents an issue for members.

In 1964 the first VLMS Rock and Gem was held. The budget for the first show was \$35.00 and the club went

into debt for whatever else was required until the final reckoning was made.

Source: Barbara Smith

ORIGIN OF THE RING

The first conception of a finger or toe ring is lost in past time, although there is good reason to believe that it is an adaptation of the cylindrical seal that was first worn around the neck or arm.

In Genesis XLI, 42, it tells of the Pharaoh of Joseph's time, who bestowed a ring upon him as a mark of authority.

From Egypt, also, the use of rings was transmitted to the Greek and Etruscans world. The Etruscans in turn then introduced the Romans to the custom.

The rings of this time were made of various materials such as gold, silver, iron, ivory, and amber, as well as a number of different stones.

Source: Mineralog, August 1992

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Yvan Gagnon

We had planned to visit Arches National Park in February this year when we travelled to Tucson for the gem and mineral show. The park is open year round so we thought we can take a little side trip and have look what it had to offer. When we checked

the weather conditions at the park while in Tucson, we found out that the temperatures were just at or below freezing. We decided err on the side of caution since we didn't even have snow tires. So instead of visiting Arches, we headed to California for the beaches, ending in San Diego at Oceanside beach. We decided to take in the Denver, Colorado show in September. And we went hmmm.... September is a nice time of the year and a good time to take in those particular sights.

So after Denver, we drove west and then south toward Moab, Utah and a bit later in the afternoon arrived at Arches National Park. Wow! Are those impressive sights or what!

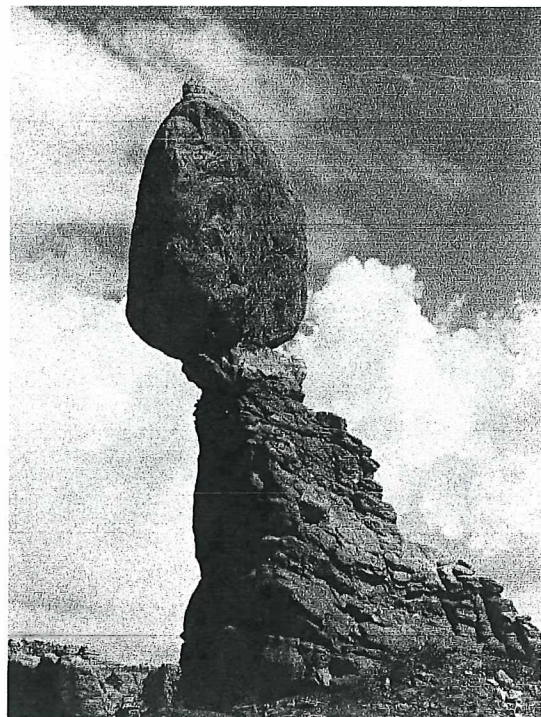
The ocean used to cover the area in which Arches National Park lies. Over time, sandstone covered the salt layer and the weight of the sandstone liquefied the salt. The salt pushed upward and created folds in the landscape. Water and wind shaped the landscape and left some spectacular scenery.

Arches carved into stone are not unique to this particular park. There are arches in many places around the world, even right here in Canada in... Arches Provincial Park in Newfoundland and Perce rock, Quebec. Arches National Park however, is not near a major source of water like a river or an ocean, it's in the middle of a desert. The arches at the park continue to weaken. Since 1970, 30 arches have collapsed. Dry for the better part of the year, the park sees occasional rains that flood roads prevent some travel in the park (this happened while we were there).

Together with the wind, further erode features.

Arches National Park was declared a National Monument in 1929 and a National Park in 1970. Not only does it have arches, but it also shows some unusual and interesting features. Many of these features have been given names because of what they reminded people of. Such names as "The Penguins", "Fifth Avenue", "The Three Gossips" and "Balanced Rock" are but a few of the features that await the visitor.

It is in some respects a surreal landscape. Fifth Avenue is a series of fins, like shark fins that rise from the desert floor and you may feel that you are in a large metropolis with tall buildings.



Balanced Rock

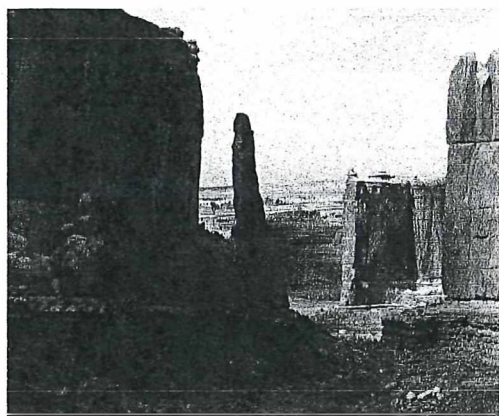
Features like "Delicate Arch" are only accessible by taking a bit of hike. It looks indeed very delicate and is the

longest arch in the park at close to 300 feet.



Delicate Arch

Utah is such a unique place that the whole state could be declared a national park. There are canyons, mountains, deserts and even salt flats. This state should be on your list of places to visit if you're travelling in the area.



Scenic view in Arches National Park

Source: Brochures and Wikipedia
Photos: Yvan & Leni Gagnon

The secret of success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching.

SHOP HINTS

Keep polished cabachons in photo-slide or hockey card "protector" pages. The pages fit in a three ring binder. The cabs are easily visible, but are protected from scratches. Coin collector sheets may also be used.

Source: Clackamette Gem, Jan. 94
Via Glacial Drifter, April 93

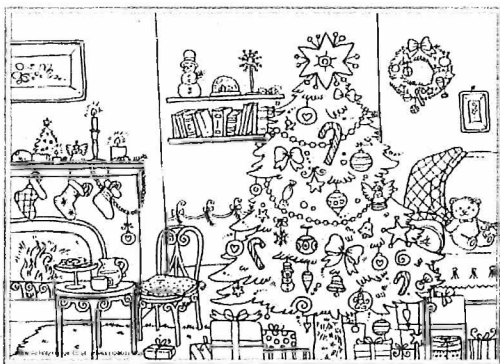
DID YOU KNOW

Rock samples can be dated by a procedure called radiometric dating with a mass spectrometer, which measures the elements rubidium, and strontium in the rocks.

"T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The poem is alternatively titled A Visit from St Nicholas. 'Twas the night Before Christmas' is the first line. The poem was first published anonymously in 1823 and is commonly attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, although some believe Henry Livingston was the true author. Rudolph was created later in 1939 by copywriter Robert May for the Montgomery Ward department store chain, as the main character in a free Christmas promotional story, which extended the 1823 poem, and was subsequently turned into the popular song Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

Source: internet public domain



Another version

**"T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS"**

by Susan Quinn

"Twas the night before and all through
the shop
Not a creature was stirring: not even a
rock.

All the minerals were lined on the
counter with care
In the hopes that Saint Nicholas soon
would be there.
The geodes were nestled all snug in
their beds
While visions of crystals danced in
their heads
And Ma in her opti-visor, and I with
my cabs
Had just settled down for a long
winter's nap
When down in the workshop there
arose such a clatter.

I sprang from my bed to see what was
the matter.
Away to the stairwell I flew, like a
flash,
burst into my workshop and tripped
over the trash.

And then to my wondering eyes
should appear
but an argillite sleigh and eight agate
reindeer.

With a little pearl driver so lively and
quick
That I knew in a moment it must be
Saint Nick.

More rapid than quicksilver, his
reindeer they came
And he whistled and shouted and
called them by name:
"Now Sapphire, now Opal, now Topaz,
now Quartzite,
On Pumice and Garnet, on Ruby and
Pyrite!

To the top of the rock, to the tip of the
file,
Carve away, carve away, carve away,
all!"

Up to the grinder, his reindeer they
flew,
With a sleigh full of polished stones
and St Nicholas, too.
And then in a twinkling on my
workbench I heard
Such a clattering noise, I could not say
a word.

All dusted in gold flakes from his head
to his foot,
His clothes were all tarnished with
ashes and soot.
I swatted my head and was turning
around
When down off the Black and Decker
he leaped with a bound.

A bag full of gravel he had flung on his
back
And he looked like a rockhound just
unloading his pack.
He spoke not a word, but went
straight to his work.

He filled all the grab bags, then turned
with a jerk.

And lay his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chisel he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team, he
gave a shout

And away they all flew to the window

But I heard him exclaim ere he drove
out of sight.

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a
good night."

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



AL BRIDGE



AL BRIDGE

There are 10 differences. Can you find them all?

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

"Let our New Years resolution be this,
we will be there for one another as
fellow members of humanity, in the
finest sense of the word."

Goran Persson



Have you thought about the
resolutions you'd like to make if any?

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
To All
And a
A HAPPY, HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR*

