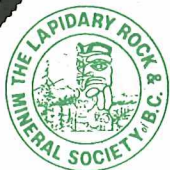


Rose Marie



# LAPHOUND NEWS

**VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 5114, Station B

Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



Volume 57-1

Website: - [www.vlms.ca](http://www.vlms.ca)

February 2014

## BOARD

President	Mike Hill
Vice President	David Hosking
Past President	Patrick Lydon
Secretary	Vanessa Steffens
Treasurer	Greg Shea
Members	Brian McMillan
At	Yvan Gagnon
Large	Rose Marie Spicher Leni Gagnon

## NEXT MEETING:

**When:** Monday, February 3, 2014

**Place:** Burnside Lawnbowling  
Clubhouse  
274 Hampton Rd.

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM:** A talk from David Mullett on his Rockhounding in Switzerland.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING:

**When:** Last Monday of every month  
(no meeting July, August & December)

**Place:** Club Workshop, 286 Hampton

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

## GEM SHOW 2014 MEETING:

**When:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014

**Where:** 274 Hampton Rd.

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

## FIELD TRIP:

**When:** Sunday, February 23, 2014

**Where:** Exploring Bear Mountain

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. meet at Juan De Fuca Seniors building.

If you are going, phone Gilles

## COMMITTEES

Programs	Vacant
Librarian	Sylvan Burnside Christine Patton
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 250-479-6214 <a href="mailto:editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca">editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca</a>

Yesterday is experience. Tomorrow is hope. Today is getting from one to the other as best as we can.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

**Mike Hill**

The AGM is over and the members of the board are setting their collective sights on another good year for our club. We are now in the midst of organizing our 2014 Rock and Gem show. We are getting down to the crunch and we still need more people to volunteer some of their time. I encourage you to phone or email and let us know what times you can come out to help. In this instance it is not what you do for your country but what you can do for your club.

## LIBRARY REPORT

**Sylvan Burnside/Christine Paton**

Quite few books have been returned, especially at the last meeting. Thank you very much. However, there are still some that have been kept out for way too long. We need to do another inventory of all the books. Members have been asking for some of the overdue books.

## VLMS REPORT TO ISLAND ZONE MEETING ON NOV. 30, 2013

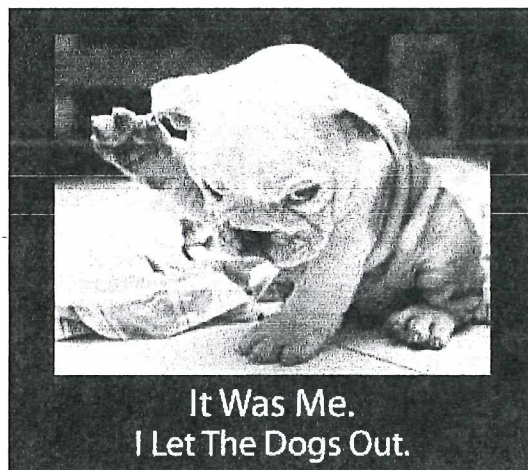
**Patrick Lydon**

The Victoria club continues to enjoy growth and activity and the workshop is working to full capacity with the help of Brian McMillan and Vanessa Steffens, Brian has been able to acquire new equipment at bargain prices so the workshop is a hive of activity. Our President, Mike Hill, is one of the most popular presidents I have seen and his good humor and his bundantgood sense helps him to roll

through the agenda's with remarkable agility. Our hard working editor, Leni Gagnon continues to strife to enlarge our "Laphound News" our monthly newsletter. She hopes to have it circulated to all six island clubs shortly.

Mrs. Gerri Speedi (Irwin) has bravely offered to act as Show Chairman again 2014 and the event will be in the Leonardo Da Vinci once again and the dates are March 14 -16. The theme will be "Birthstones".

VLMS is enjoying a very active level of interest and new members are evident. We approach our elections and committee chairpersons. The Laphound News will crry the details. We look forward to the new year and we are confident that our president, Mike Hill, will manage to sail our ship of state (HMS Dallasite) safely to port.



**It Was Me.  
I Let The Dogs Out.**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THE GEM SHOW!!!! CONTACT GERRI IRWIN IF YOU HAVE SOME TIME.**

**SHOWS AND EVENTS****FEBRUARY**

- 1 - 28        **QUARTZITE, ARIZONA**  
 Various Shows  
 (check internet for individual shows)
- 1 -16        **TUCSON, ARIZONA**  
 Various Shows  
 (check internet for individual Shows)

- 8-9            **WHIDBEY ISLAND  
 GEM CLUB**  
 51 Jerome St.  
 Oak Harbor, Wash.
- 14 - 16        **OAMS GEM &  
 MINERAL SHOW**  
 1945 SE Water St.  
 Portland, Oregon

**MARCH**

- 1 - 2            **MAPLE RIDGE  
 LAPIDARY CLUB**  
 12460 Harris Rd.  
 Pitt Meadows, BC
- 8 - 9            **ALBERNI VALLEY  
 ROCK & GEM CLUB**  
 3720 Moore Rd.  
 Port Alberni, BC
- 14 - 16        **VICTORIA LAPIDARY  
 & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
 95 Bay St.  
 Victoria, BC
- 29 -30        **MT BAKER ROCK  
 & GEM CLUB**  
 2214 Electric Ave.  
 Bellevue, Wash.

**APRIL**

- 11 - 13        **BC GEM SHOW**  
 32470 Haida Dr.  
 Abbotsford, BC
- 26 27        **WEST SEATTLE  
 ROCK CLUB**  
 4736 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
 Seattle, Wash.

**FUTURE FIELDTRIP**

Is anyone interested in going to the Abbotsford Gem Show in April? We could form a convoy and/or share rides. If you are interested please let Mike Hill know.

**CAVANSITE OR PENTAGONITE?**

I really like the mineral cavansite. The beautiful brilliant blue colour and its bouquet shape appeal to me. So I just had to get a specimen for my collection. At a later time I decided to buy another specimen of it. It seemed a little different but not much. It didn't seem as rounded but had more spike-like features. Much to my surprise I was told that it was not cavansite but pentagonite.

They were so similar that I just had to find out just what difference was. They both have the same chemical formula  $\text{Ca}(\text{VO})\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , hardness 3 - 4, crystal structure - Orthorhombic. It is thought that cavansite was formed in low temperatures and pentagonite in high temperatures. Cavansite has a 4-fold or 8-fold ring symmetry and pentagonite in 6-fold ring symmetry

and occasionally in 5-fold ring symmetry (allowing pentagonite to form twins; cavansite does not). It is said that pentagonite is a dimorph of cavansite.

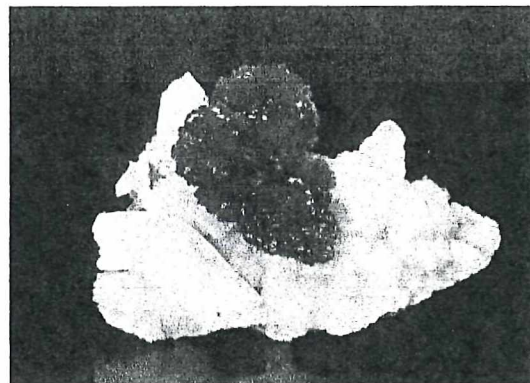
Another surprise came at its place of discovery. Every specimen of either mineral I know of has come from Wagholi, Pune District in India. No – in 1967 cavansite was discovered in Owyhee Dam Lake, Lake Owyhee State Park, Malheur County, Oregon. In 1973 pentagonite was discovered there as well. To date Oregon and India are the only two places where both cavansite and pentagonite are found, with the majority of them found in India.

My next surprise came about the colour. Both species vary in colour from greenish blue to a blue. I have never seen anything but the beautiful brilliant blue.

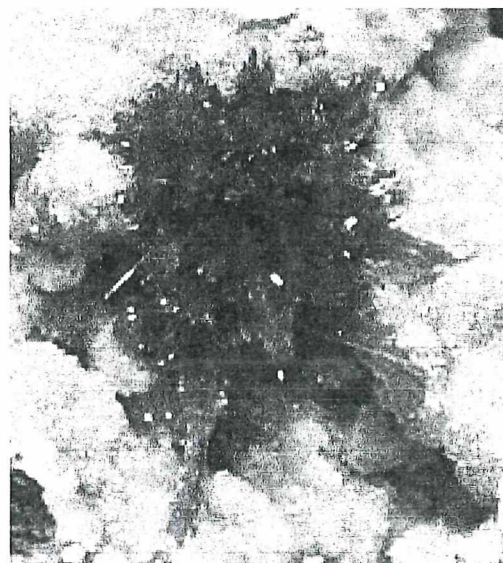
Cavansite was named for its composition calcium vanadium silicate and pentagonite was named for the 5-fold ring symmetry which allows it to twin. Both species are not considered to be an ore mineral for commercial use but are sought after collector minerals because of their rarity and colour.

No matter how you look at them, they are both beautiful species and I am happy to have them in collection

Source:  
Mindat, Wikipedia &  
American Mineralogist Vol 58, 1973



cavansite



Pentagonite

Picture source:

Internet

### SHOP HINTS

Brad Smith

### **PICKLE PROBLEMS**

Dropping a hot item into the pickle after soldering causes a hiss that sends small droplets of the acid pickle into the air. This will rust your nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. My solution is to use a coffee cup of water next to my solder block to quench the piece before dropping it in the pickle.

Also, a hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than with a hot pot so that it works about as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth peanut butter bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

### **BRYCE CANYON**

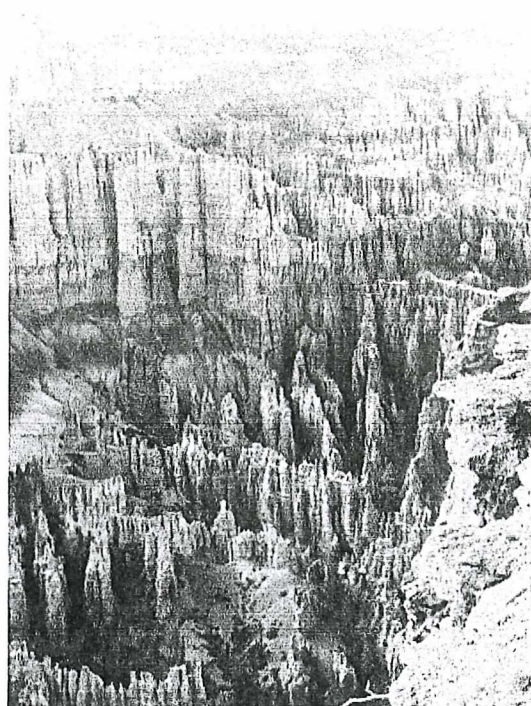
**Yvan Gagnon**

We left Denver and carried on to Arches National Park (which I wrote about in an earlier Laphound issue).

We left Arches National Park and wondered if anything could come close or surpass it. So we approached Bryce Canyon and the scene was a bit different. No great features to welcome us but the terrain was certainly different. Instead of a barren desert like landscape, there was a forest of various types of trees. We were greeted by ponderosa pines and other types of conifers. It is like the Grand Canyon, you don't realize you are there until you are right there. Mule deer and other small animals were interesting to watch.

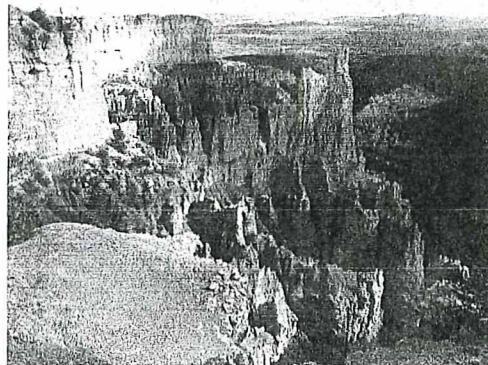
As we travelled through the front gates, we flashed our annual pass and were waved through. If you're planning to visit more than two national parks, the annual pass is the way to go.

Bryce is pretty high up in the plateaus. Leni could not take the walks to the top of some of the viewing points because of the thin air. The elevation in some places exceeds 9,000 feet.

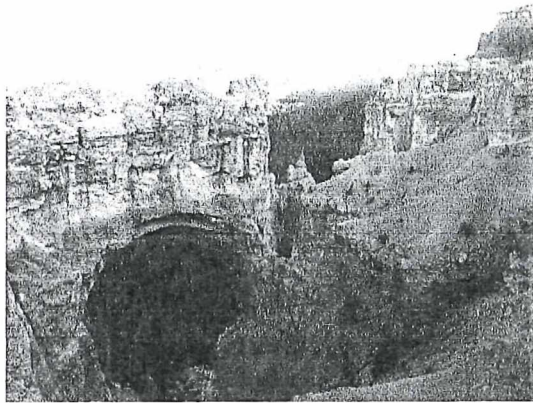


Bryce Canyon was named after a settler named Ebenezer Bryce. He raised cattle there for a while, but the terrain and climate were harsh, so he eventually pulled up stakes and moved to Arizona.

The park is called Bryce Canyon, but it isn't really a canyon. It's really a string of amphitheatres that have seen the freeze/thaw cycles, over 200 of them per year, combined with erosion forces that have made Bryce what it is today: a magnificent set of hoodoos arrayed in circles or semi circles.



There are also arches in this park; not in the numbers and lengths as Arches National Park, but just as neat. The pillars are red, yellow and white, signs that iron oxide and limonite are present in the rock.



It took us most of the afternoon to check out Bryce Canyon. We had stopped at the gift shop for some souvenirs and information. We drove along the rim of some of the amphitheatres, stopping at most if not all of the viewing areas and it seems that one was just as or more spectacular than the other. The sun was setting and the colours that one can observe are just fabulous, especially the reds. They seem to change into this deep, deep red that give the canyons this surreal look.

Then it was off to get a place to stay. So instead of driving an hour or two to the next town, we bit the bullet and had ourselves this nice cabin not far from the entrance to the park. Sure it was a bit more expensive, but you could see stars as if you were standing in the middle of the desert with no surrounding lights. The Milky Way was clearly visible.

The park was truly an amazing place to visit and if you're headed that way, check out what mother nature has to offer.

Source: National Parks Brochure  
Wikipedia  
Self-guided Tour CD  
Pictures Yvan Gagnon

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

There are 59 species of mammals, 75 species of birds, 11 species of reptiles and 4 species of amphibians in Bryce Canyon National Park.

Early scientists thought that the rock formations called The "Hoodooos" could cast a spell because of the magical spires and towering arches.

On a clear night there are about 7500 stars visible at Bryce National Park.

On a clear night the visibility at Bryce National Park often exceeds 100 miles. This is due to the good air quality, the low humidity and high elevation.

### **2014 - MAKE IT BETTER**

#### **Pablo**

1. Keep it simple.
2. Count your blessings first
3. Whatever you did last year  
DO IT BETTER!!
4. Go step by step, one day at a time.
5. Create/make your own opportunities.
6. Believe in your abilities at all times.
7. Quitting is NOT an option  
Keep Going!
8. Finish what you started.

**FOR SALE**

A selection of lapidary material including rhodonite, agate, jasper, tigereye etc. A lot of this material is in slab formation and some in rough and beach stone formation. There are also some small finished pieces. The chest of drawers that houses the material is included in the sale along with some lapidary books.

Call Lorraine at 250-658-0925 for arrangement to view and sale.

**FOR SALE**

One floor mounted display cabinet with overall dimensions 42" long x 18" wide x 30" high. This unit stands on two bearers, one at each end.

One display cabinet with overall dimensions 32" long x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x 17" high. This unit normally sits on a table or other cabinet.

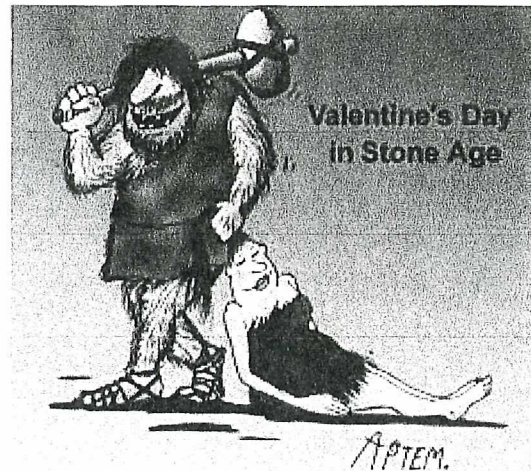
One display cabinet with overall dimensions 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long x 13" wide x 24" high. This unit also normally sits on a table or other cabinet.

Call 778-351-4881 for more information or to make arrangements to view.

**My friend has 6 locks on her door. She said her theory is to only lock 3. That way, if a thief tries to pick the locks, he'll always be locking three of them no matter how he does it.**

There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

Freya Madeline Stark



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

What do you call a dog who collects rocks?

How does a rock wash his clothes?

(answers on page 8)

**WORD SEARCH**

Leni Gagnon

**Minerals for Love and Romance**

Find the 17 minerals listed below which are associated with love and romance. To make it more interesting I have entered one of the minerals in twice. See if you can figure out which one it is.

K J V E N O T S E D O L B E R W R M A N  
J U E F N A A V R L B Y Z O I S I T E  
W D N P E M D V X E U O L C Y Y M T A Q  
L W I Z Y X V H B A T U B A Q Y E G C R  
J X O D I L Z G K E N I L A M B U O T Y  
T E Y J Q T V S O E S N V V T N Q V O H  
T T N W L W E U A A D G A A G Q Z Z V X  
D I A M O N D J L S B A A L D P W E D M  
A E T I V A D L O M R T I U L L H Q X E  
L X E C H R Y S O C O L L A R X O L I W  
L M D U V P N X Q Y M M D P Z E H M T Y  
T A C A P Q E A N J R L V A I G D C C T  
Q L O Z J C A R N E L I A N P L L W T B  
V A P R O S E R Q U A R T Z A X J O W C  
O C P L R H O D O N I T E R S T L G C D  
R H E X D A E H C G B T I F L I R H B T  
C I R Z C Q V F F G Y M S U N S T O N E  
Y T S E B W Z A W A D L Z K K S Q V B  
I E C D B F E T I R D N A X E I A C E V  
X J B M O R G A N I T E E H Z X M B U I

- ~~ALEXANDRITE~~    ~~CARNELIAN~~    ~~CHRYSOCOLLA~~    ~~GOPPER~~    ~~DIAMOND~~
- ~~JADE~~    ~~KUNZITE~~    ~~LARIMAR~~    ~~LODESTONE~~    ~~MALACHITE~~
- ~~MOLDAVITE~~    ~~MORGANITE~~    ~~ROSE QUARTZ~~    ~~RHODONITE~~
- ~~RUBY ZOISTE~~    ~~SUNSTONE~~    ~~TOURMALINE~~

ANSWERS TO RIDDLES

- 1) a rockhound
- 2) on a rock cycle

Handwritten scribbles and numbers: 1799, 17, and a large circular scribble.

Handwritten numbers: 50, 17, 17