



LAPHOUND NEWS



VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5114, Station B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



Volume 57-6

Website:- www.vlms.ca

September 2014

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Refreshments	Molly Beddington Barbara
MacKenzie Workshop	Brian McMillan Vanessa Steffens
Editor	Leni Gagnon 250-479-6214 editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca

NEXT MEETING:

When: Monday, September 8, 2014

Note: Date change

Place: Burnside Lawnbowling
Clubhouse
274 Hampton Rd.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Report on Summer Camp
in Port Alberni - by Sean and Carrie
Maier.

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

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

Place: Club Workshop, 286 Hampton

Time: 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP:

When: Sunday, September 21, 2014

Where: Mt Tzouhalem (Duncan)

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

If you are going, phone Gilles

WORKSHOP:

When: Thursday evenings

Where: 286 Hampton Rd.

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

When: Saturdays

Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

NOTE: When classes are being run,
the Saturday hours will be from 1:00 -
3:00 pm. check with Brian or Vanessa.

You must have taken the lapidary course before you can use the machines. If you are interested in taking a course, contact Brian or Vanessa.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike Hill

Welcome back everyone. I hope you have had an interesting summer. Did all you rockhounds find any good rocks to work with this winter?

First, I want to express my shock and sorrow at the loss of Pam Dyer. Pam was an ideal member, always willing to do her part and willing to teach others her skills. She taught me her pricing system to help me with my business.

John Hodder, another helpful member of the club passed away after a long illness. He too, shall be missed.

We have lost several wonderful people this year who have made the club successful throughout the years.

The executive has decided to name our new VLMS bursary, "The Pam Dyer Memorial Bursary". I trust that this has the club's approval. We did not have time to consult all the members before it was announced at Pam's Celebration of life.

The club also made a donation of \$100.00 to "Angels Under Our Wings". It is a charity where Pam volunteered and where she adopted her dogs. Anyone else wishing to make a donation, see Leni.

Sean Maier has also been an active member since he and his Mom, Carrie joined VLMS in 2008. He has graduated now from high school and will endeavor to become a geologist. It is my pleasure to congratulate Sean on becoming the first recipient of the Pam Dyer Memorial Bursary.

Several positions in committees are now or will be vacant. We urgently need people to fill them. Please think about how you can do your part. If you are interested, talk to any of the executive and see which position would suit you best. Challenge yourself.

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

Leni Gagnon

Hello everyone! Welcome back for another year of meeting with friends and learning more about our hobby.

As you know, we finally made it to Alaska. It was all that and more what we hoped it would be. The scenery was fantastic and breathtaking, the wildlife fun to watch and beautiful; the people were friendly and helpful. I was surprised at how many French Canadians are living in the Yukon and Alaska.

Not many rock shops up that way, one near Whitehorse in someone's basement, one in Fairbanks in someone's garage and 2 in Anchorage. They certainly don't have the variety or quality you find in the more southern areas. However, I did manage to buy a very nice piece of mammoth ivory about a foot long.

We were gone for 7 weeks. It is good to be home again but strange to be home during the summer months. It has also been a distressful time as I have had bad news of the passing or illness of several friends. It was a great shock of learning about Pam and how she died.

She taught me a lot about gems and about kindness. I will miss her greatly.

ISLAND ZONE

Patrick Lyden

This preliminary report of the Zone meeting at Port Alberni on Sunday August the 3rd 2014, is necessary due to the extraordinary developments in the Victoria Club. The official minutes of the meeting will be circulated at a later date by the Secretary. The meeting was held at 1.00 PM in the scenic campgrounds of the China Creek Marina. There were representatives from all Clubs and Alanna Pryhitka, stood in for Greg Shea as Secretary.

The first order of business was to announce the shocking death of Pam Dyer, a long standing member of the Victoria Lapidary and mineral Society. Her death is being investigated by the Police. The Police will not reveal details at this time. She was a devoted and highly respected member and a gifted artist. The Meeting stood in silence for a few minutes, as a token of our regard for this Lady and I indicated my intention to represent the Zone at her Memorial Meeting in Sooke the following Friday.

A large number of Members of the Victoria Club attended the Memorial

Meeting, and Cameron Speedie gave an eloquent account of how important Pam Dyer had been to the BCLS in the past fifteen years. She was tireless in her efforts to help and support the activities of the Club and her lapidary skills were legendary. Cameron indicated that a large annual Bursary would be named in her honor and that Pam would not be forgotten by the Club she loved so much. On behalf of the Zone, I offered \$100 to Pam's favourite charity "Angels under our Wings" a rescue charity for dogs. The Memorial Service was very touching but I could see that many members were overwhelmed by the experience.

Back to the Meeting in Port Albernie - Presidents Report - Patrick expressed our gratitude to the Port Alberni Club for hosting the Spring Meeting of the BCLS on Vancouver Island. This was the first time such a Meeting was held on our Island.

An appropriate First Aid Kit has been purchased for the Executive Club. This will be carried by the Executive President for all future meetings.

The Minutes of the March 16th Meeting at Burnside Bowling Club was read and approved and the details will be included in the Minutes of this meeting.

Club reports were submitted by two clubs and will be included in the Minutes.

The transfer of the Executive Committee from the Victoria Club to the Campbell River Club (Ripple Rock Club) will take place at our next Zone Meeting, which will take place at the home of Marion Barclay, in Parksville

on the 3rd Saturday of November, the 15th of November at 1.00 PM. Details to follow.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Lorena Taylor

We have had 2 members pass away this summer – Pam Dyer and John Hodder. They will be greatly missed.

PAM DYER



*In Memory of Pam Dyer
(1950-2014)*

Pam joined our society in 1999, and instantly she was part of our community. She taught herself how to cut opal which any lapidary will qualify is one of the most fickle materials to work with. Not satisfied with just cutting beautiful stones she also taught herself how to do investment casting and goldsmithing, no easy feat. Pam used a wood spool machine for her work, a slow process

but one she mastered and was able to turn out world class stones.

We hold a competition at our rock and gem show for work that member's have produced. If Pam entered a category there tended to be no other entries as it was a forgone conclusion you would not even meet the bar she set for her work let alone exceed it. She never was too concerned about winning though - it was about her own personal challenge to produce work she was happy with.

What was really extraordinary though was Pam's willingness to share and help others. If someone showed an interest she would have then behind her wood spool working and if the interest persisted she would teach them on her own time.

Pam was always there for others. When ever there was a need it was "when do you want me there?". For me it was Pam's sincerity as a person that was so precious - In my mind the measure of a true friend is not one that is there when times are good but one that is there to support you when times are bad, Pam was such a friend.

Although her life had more than it's share of problems, Pam was always there to help others going through their problems, willing approach you to find out what was wrong, to listen, provide comfort and advice or if need be a well placed kick in the hind end to get you moving in the right direction.

A tragic loss such as this must be grieved but we must also carry forward the spirit of the person we

grieve - I am sure Pam would want us to continue in her spirit and embrace caring for the community. Her spirit lives on in her acts of kindness and selflessness, and no better tribute can be put forward by those of us left behind. The world truly has lost a precious gem and we will miss Pam but we will not forget her.

The Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Society would like to extend to Pam's family our deepest condolences and our heartfelt sorrow on your loss, and extend our hearts and hands to any assistance we can offer.

We recently introduced a bursary program in the club for deserving students - I am happy to announce that the program will be called the Pam Dyer Memorial Bursary. As well the club will be donating to Pam's favourite charities.

JOHN HODDER

John Hodder passed away on August 11 after battling a long illness.

John and his friend Jay have been members of the club since 2000. John was an outgoing man who loved people and enjoyed talking with members at the meetings. He loved being a member of VLMS and greatly missed coming as his illness kept him from coming.

John and Jay have tumbled many rocks that they donated to the annual rock and mineral show to give to the public. This was much appreciated by the club as well the visitors to the show.

PAM DYER MEMORIAL BURSARY

As you may remember the members of VLMS passed a motion that we have a club bursary for two deserving individuals for the amount of \$1000.00 each. This will be an annual bursary. It will be known as THE PAM DYER MEMORIAL BURSARY.

This year's winner is one of our own members, **SEAN MAIER**. Congratulations Sean, well done!!

There were no other applicants this year because of time restraints but we hope to see more applicants next year.

SECURITY ALERT

You may have noticed at the top of my e-mails that the words "security alert" have come up. This is the first time that this happened. I was very concerned and contacted Shaw to see if I had contracted a virus on my computer. Shaw's explanation is that if there is a mass mailing of more than 25 addressees, this will trigger the reaction "security alert". The e-mail system reacts as if this could be a spam mailing. Shaw says that by including the sender in your list of contacts, the alert should go away. The alert should not cause any problems with your e-mail.

This is happening because of Canada's new Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) that came into effect on July 1st. I was told that it wouldn't affect sending out newsletters, but apparently it does.

Therefore, if you want to continue receiving the Laphound News, please

let me know. If you don't want to receive it, I can unsubscribe you and you can read the Laphound News on our website, if you so desire.

SHOWS AND EVENTS

September

- 13-14 **CLALLAM COUNTY GEM & MINERAL ASSOCIATION**
308 East 4th Street
Port Angeles, Washington
- 20-21 **FRASER VALLEY ROCK & GEM CLUB**
3015- 273rd Street
Aldergrove, BC
- 20-21 **RICHMOND GEM & MINERAL CLUB**
7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, BC
- 20-21 **SOUTH WASHINGTON MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY**
120 Fair Lane
Castle Rock, Washington

October

- 18-19 **SURREY ROCKHOUND CLUB**
6302 152 Street
Surrey, BC
- 25-26 **PORT MOODY ROCK CLUB**
125 Kyle Street
Port Moody, BC

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

PORTAGE GLACIER, ALASKA

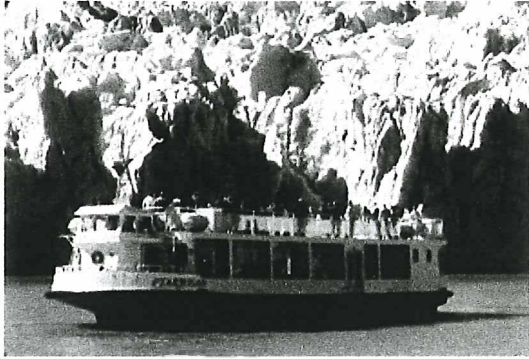
Our trip to Alaska (yes, we finally made it) was all that we had hoped it would be. Between the fabulous scenery and seeing the wildlife our senses were on overload. The locals were friendly and very helpful. It was during a conversation with a server in a restaurant in Anchorage that we found out about the tunnel to Whittier. It sounded very interesting, so we decided to go see it for ourselves. We were unaware that on the way to Whittier we would come across an even more interesting place, Portage Glacier.

We drove south from Anchorage on the Seward Highway towards Whittier. Along the way we saw the scenic beauty of Turnagain Arm. The town of Portage had been there but the 1964 Alaska Earthquake had caused the land to drop 6-12 feet. The people of Portage had to abandon their homes and the only remains now are a few houses that are sinking into the mudflats.

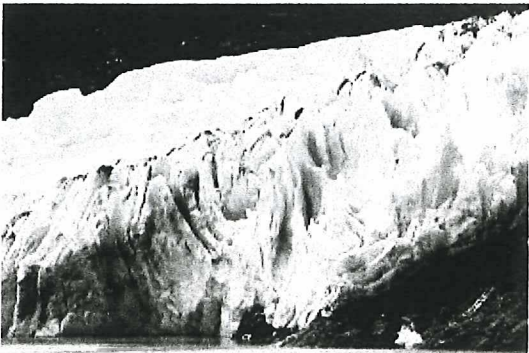
Shortly before we reached the tunnel to Whittier we saw a sign to the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center for Portage Glacier and the boat tour to the glacier. We followed the road to the lake hoping to see the glacier but we couldn't. We decided to see how much the tickets for boat would be and the length of it, as we couldn't leave our dog Keysha for long. We

bought the tickets for the hour-long tour.

We boarded the MV Ptarmigan along with a few other tourists for a very informative boat ride to the glacier.



The park ranger was very knowledgeable and was able to field all our questions. We came within a couple of hundred metres of the glacier itself. Although we did not witness any calving (breaking up off the ice into the water) there was plenty of evidence of it. The boat bumped into several ice clumps in the water, but unlike the Titanic, the Ptarmigan was able to take the hits. The ice looked a beautiful blue, a light blue that was striking to see.



Once back at the Visitor Center we looked at the displays and walked down to the lake to see if we could see the glacier from there. We could not because the glaciers had retreated but

a small iceberg had floated close to shore. It had melted into beautiful piece of abstract art with fragile flowing lines.

Portage Glacier is on the Kenai Peninsula and is part of the Chugach National Forrest. It was first discovered in the 1800's when it was still connected to what are now 5 separate glaciers.



In the early 1900's the Portage Glacier filled the entire Portage Valley (23k long). In 1914 the glacier started to retreat and a lake started to form behind the terminal moraine. Over the years, the glacier has retreated over 5 km. (but it hasn't retreated much since 1999) and Portage Lake has formed from the melting ice. The lake is as deep as the Space Needle in Seattle is tall. No living creatures live in the lake as the water is too cold and silty. The glacier itself extends into the lake over 100 feet deep.

Portage Glacier may not be the biggest of Alaska's estimated 100,00 glaciers it is, however, one of the 616 glaciers that is named. Portage Glacier is certainly memorable and we hope to see it again some day.

Source: *Ranger at Portage Glacier*

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. **Graphene**, The world's strongest material, is a million times thinner than paper (one atom thick) but 100 times stronger than steel.

2. **Salt Glaciers** (Aka *Namekiers*) are large masses of salt placed on a slope that will very slowly flow down the slope; a mass of salt spread on level ground will then spread laterally under its own weight. This is the same ability as ice to deform and flow due to gravity in glaciers.

Source:

Wikipedia

THE HIGHEST POINTS IN EACH CONTINENT

1. ASIA (Nepal/China)
Mt. Everest
8,850 m (29,035 ft)



2. SOUTH AMERICA (Argentina)
Mt. Aconcagua
6,960 m (22,834 ft)



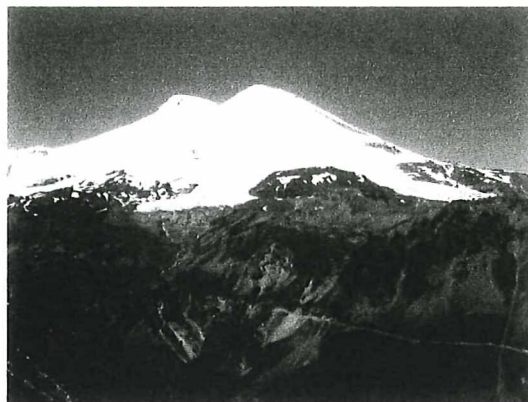
3. NORTH AMERICA (USA-Alaska)
Mt. McKinley
6,168 m (20, 337 ft)



4. AFRICA (Tanzania)
Mt. Kilimanjaro
5,895 m (19,340 ft)



5. EUROPE (Russia)
Mt. Elbrus
5,642 m (18,510 ft)



6. ANTARCTICA
Vinson Massif
4,897 m (16,066 ft)



7. AUSTRALIA (New South
Wales)
Mt. Kosciuszko
2,228 m (7,310 ft)



Other notable heights are in
WESTERN EUROPE (France)
Mt. Blanc
4,807 m (15,771 ft)



OCEANIA (Indonesia- New Guinea)
Puncak Jaya
4,884 m (16,024 ft)



Puncak jaya is the highest point
between the Himalayas and the
Andes. It is also the highest point
in the islands of the world.

Source:
internet

Pictures -

Text - Wikipedia

There is no better designer than nature.
Alexander McQueen

NEW BOOK OUT

WONDERS WITHIN GEMSTONES II By Tony de Goutière GG

Recently I published a soft-cover book
of my favourite gemstone including
photomicrographs. I am sure this is a
book that will appeal to jewellers,
gemmologists and lovers of

gemstones.

It would be wonderful if you could spread the word amongst your members, and include my website that gives details of how readers can purchase a copy. The suggested selling price is \$18.99 Canadian. Examples of pages can be seen on the "Google Preview" of the publisher's book review page. I can also be found on Face Book!

BTW, you have a great website - very interesting.

Thank you in advance and please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

With best wishes

Tony de Goutière GG
Cordova Bay, Victoria
250-658-8566

<http://anthonydegoutiere.com/the-book/>

FOR SALE

Downsizing! If you have a special interest in Petrified Wood, Fossils, assorted rocks and minerals, some, some equipment, I can help you. Call Barb for an appointment, 778-351-4881.

FOR SALE

Rocks, minerals and equipment.
Phone John Konkin at 250-391-1820.



Do you have a good caption for this picture? Send it to me and we'll publish them in next month's LHPN.

*hello,
autumn*

