



LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



VOLUME 58-9 December 2015

Website: www.vlms.ca

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Programs	Vacant
Librarian	Sylvan Burnside Christine Patton
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Membership	Margaret Braithewaite
Field Trips	Gilles Lebrun 250- 382- 6119
Sunshine Corner	Lorena Taylor & 250- 384- 0755
Refreshments	Barb MacKenzie
Workshop	Brian McMillan Karen Rowe
Editor	Jennifer Good 778- 350- 4568 editorvlmsnews@gmail.ca

NEXT MEETING:

When: Monday, December 7, 2015

Place: Burnside Lawnbowling
Clubhouse
274 Hampton Rd.

Time: 7:00 pm (Note early time!)

PROGRAM: Christmas Dinner! Please bring a dish to share.

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: No Field Trip for December.

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 Karen.

You must have taken the lapidary course before you can use the machines. If you are interested in taking a course, contact Brian or Karen at vlmsworkshop@gmail.com

President's Message

I was reading in the news of a dam collapse in Brazil. I recall traveling through the area it happened in and when we went through there remarked to myself on the impact that the mining activities were having on the area; basically they had completely removed a mountain and placed the tailings in a huge tailing lake (i.e. 3km x 2 km with a depth of about 50m of tailings). It was this tailings lake that emptied down the valley and onto the unsuspecting town. If you wish to see the area it is very visible on Google Maps - search for "Bento Rodrigues - State of Minas Gerais, Brazil" - the mining area is to the NW of the town.

You may say - well what has this got to do with me? Actually a lot - it seems the companies operating in the area include Vale and Alcan so these are Canadian companies doing things in foreign countries they wouldn't be allowed to do here. As well the products produced from the materials mined are for consumer use.

I would like to encourage you to consider a few things - holding Canadian companies responsible as their actions abroad represent all Canadians - that the consumer goods we all use have a cost beyond what you pay at the checkout and that we need to perhaps look at reducing our appetites for them - and that as Rockhounds and mineral collectors we have a responsibility to behave well towards the Earth.

We only have one planet - we have to use it wisely!

Cheers,
Cameron



Collapsed dams at a Brazilian mine have killed at least one worker and left 13 others missing, according to the chief executive officer of Samarco, the joint venture of BHP Billiton and Vale in charge of the Germano iron ore mine.

Source: www.channelnewsasia.com

Christmas Dinner
December 7, 2015
7 pm

It is that time of year again! VLMS celebrates Christmas together by enjoying a turkey dinner ☺ Barb has generously offered to cook the turkey and stuffing again. Please come with a potluck dish to share.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

VLMS members, this will be my last edition of the Laphound News. I took over from Lenny last February and it has been fun way to get to know the club and meet members. Thank you to so many of you who were so kind and encouraging to me, and gave me gifts of sweet rocks to thank me for volunteering! You have made me feel very welcome and since I have not done anything like this before I think very gracious in your compliments for my management of the LN. My reason for giving it up is I'm going back to school in January to finish my Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Uvic and anticipate being busy writing papers etc.

I am so grateful to my kind and enthusiastic successor Rae, who quickly offered to help out when I announced the need at the last meeting. Rae will produce the Laphound News for January, I look forward to seeing what she can do with it!

- Jennifer Good

FIELD TRIPS

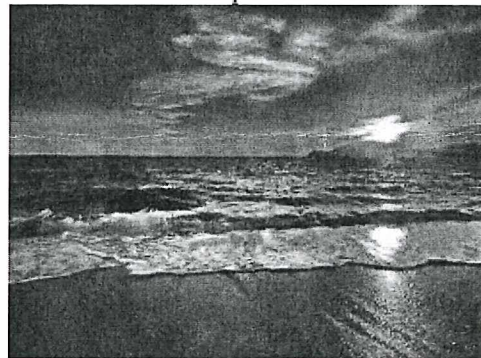
No field trip for December is planned due to anticipation of inclement weather. Enjoy this busy time with family and friends.

Sunshine Corner **Lorena Taylor**

Lorena has been in contact with Jane Haines who is out of hospital and feeling better.

Lorena is giving up her position as Sunshine Corner Coordinator and at the club meetings selling tickets for the raffle. We need a member to step up and take over this position. Please consider helping out, and you can contact Cameron Speedie to express interest.

Thank you to Lorena for her several years of service! She has been following up with members and their families with many kind phone calls and cards when they have fallen ill or passed away. Her service has helped people feel cared for by the club and has nurtured a compassionate community spirit. We will miss her smiling face at the raffle table! But now she will have the opportunity to win prizes too.



Rock and Gem Show 2016

Alanna Shilito is the chair for this year's Rock and Gem Show. She is already busy planning and needs our help! It takes many volunteers to help it run as beautifully as it does, and recruitment has already begun.

Please contact Alanna to offer you support.



Photo: Rock and Gem Show 2015

Library Report **S Burnside/ C Paton**

I spent two Mondays doing Library Inventory. When I started inventory I had 42 missing books I am down to 32. Some of the missing Library books were borrowed dating back to 2011.

To all members that have borrowed books from VLMS library, please return on November 2, 2015 or please contact me to arrange to drop them off to me. My number is 250 360 - 0418 or email burnsidesylvan@yahoo.ca. I will send out emails to those who have not returned books.

I will not accept members telling me they have already returned them or I gave them to so and so to return for me and I returned them at the Christmas party. Those that do not return library books will not be able to borrow from the library again and they will have to pay to replace them.

Thank you Sincerely Sylvan Burnside
VLMS Librarian

If you're looking for VLMS Crests, Pins or Stickers they are available at the Library. Crests are \$3.00 each Pins are \$6.00 each and Stickers are \$2.00 each. If there is any other VLMS items that you feel we should have such as T-Shirts, Hats, Jackets, Mugs ect. please let me know so we can talk it over with Council in.

MEMBERSHIP COMITTEE **Margaret Braithwaite**

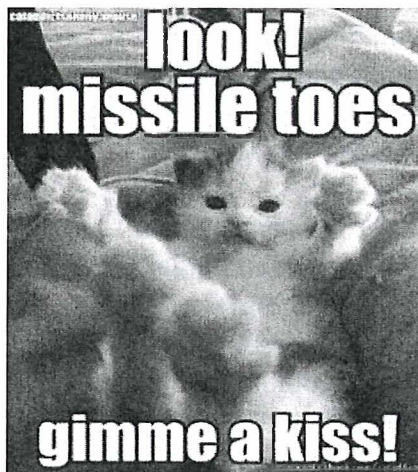
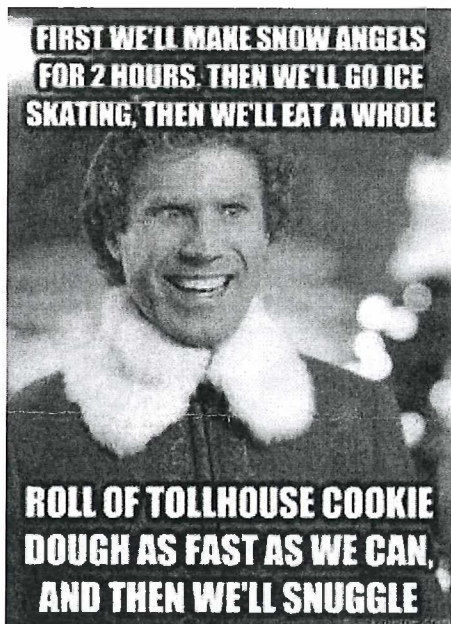
At our last meeting with the help of Arlene Modderman we renewed 19 memberships to bring our paid memberships for 2016 to 50 representing 65 adults and 4 juniors. As this is a little less than half of 2015 figures I urge you to send in your dues. I will accept them by mail prior to and at the Christmas Pot Luck but any paid after that date will not be included in our submission to B. C. Lapidary Society which they must receive before December 31, 2015.

Those members unpaid and therefore not "in good standing" will be in-eligible to vote or stand for the Board at our AGM in January and will be uninsured to participate in field trips or workshops.

SHOWS AND EVENTS

5-6—EDMONDS, WASHINGTON: Winter Bazaar; Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse; 8802 196th St; Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Admission is Free; vendors welcome; contact Mike Collins, PO Box 5657, Lynnwood, WA, (206) 714-6861

JOKE CORNER



BCLS Announcement

Hello Victoria club members,

Time (and quantity) is running out to get your 2016 calendars before Christmas and year end. If your club members want any, please place your order with the attached form and payment asap so that you don't miss out!

Thank you!

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

Meteorite Excitement In Eastern Turkey

Villagers in eastern Turkey have earned more than one million lira (\$350,000; £230,000) from selling meteorite fragments which showered the area in September, it's reported.

Local people in Saricicek, in Bingol province, are still scouring the fields around the village, and some have been able to buy cars or houses using the

proceeds from their finds, **the Haberturk news website reports**. The meteorites can fetch up to \$60 (£40) a gram, according to the report.

The luckiest of the village's 3,200 residents could be Hasan Beldek, 30, who found a 1.5kg (3.3lb) chunk after being pestered to go searching by his mother-in-law. "I couldn't bear it any more so I went out and decided to give it a try," he tells the site. "I searched the area for three to four hours. Then a bright black stone larger than a man's fist looked right up at me."

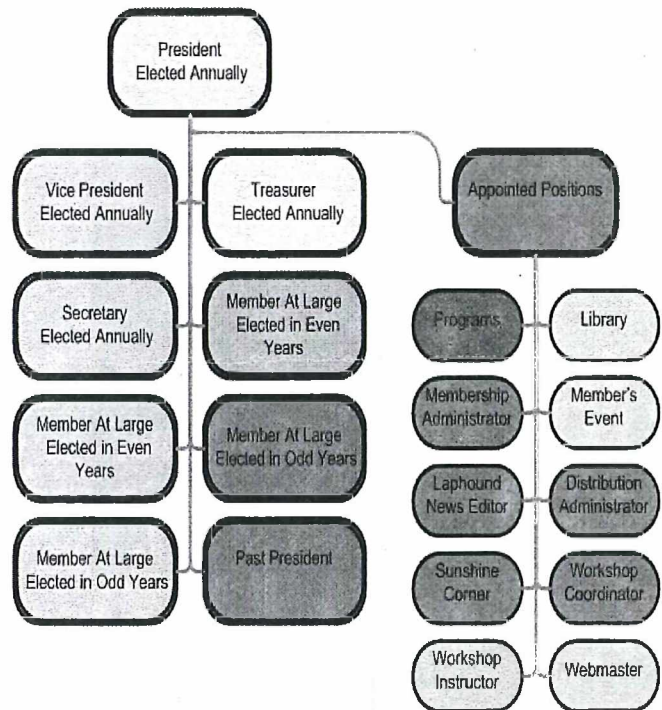
Mr Beldek has already turned down offers of up to 350,000 lira (\$120,000; £80,000) for the rock, because he thinks it could fetch more. Any money he makes will be used to open a pastry shop in Istanbul with his brothers, he says.

A similar space-treasure hunt **gripped Russia's Chelyabinsk region** in 2013, after a huge meteor deposited fragments across a wide area before crashing into a lake. At the time, one scientist noted that while the minerals in the fragments are of no great scientific interest, large meteorites are still highly prized by researchers and collectors.

Source: BBC.COM

Thanks to Dave Mullet for submitting this article.

VLMS Executive Organization



Important call out to Members

We have an opening for two members at large on the executive board for the club. The duties of the members at large include attending executive meetings held the last Monday of the month at 7 pm, where club issues are discussed. Please contact Cameron Speedie if interested.

Members at Large – are delegated to special committees and other duties are required. They are also responsible to engage the membership to provide a conduit to the executive on less apparent issues.

1. There shall be elected four persons to serve as members – at –large on the Executive Committee. At the initial election, two members shall be elected

to serve two years and two members to
serve one year. Thereafter, at each
annual meeting, two members shall be
elected for two years

Members- At – Large may be requested
by the President to undertake special
projects as required

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Gordon Taylor's Lapidary equipment
is for sale by appointment only, please
call Lorena at 250-384-0755



Club name

Mail Calendars to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ calendars @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____ **Total**

Please make your cheque payable to:

The BC Lapidary Society and mail it to:

**The BC Lapidary Society
#105 – 3240 Mt Lehman Road
P.O. Box 10072
Abbotsford BC V4X 2M9**