



# LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



**Volume 61-1 :: May 2018**

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

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# The Newsroom

## Announcements

### Strawberry Social 2018

The much anticipated Strawberry Social will be held on Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Les Passmore Senior Centre. Signs will be posted on the day of the event at the Burnside Lawn bowling hall, to redirect those who may have not received the newsletter or attended a recent meeting.

### Club Events – Island Zone Gemboree (Allana)

VLMS is hosting this year's Zone's summer Gemboree – July 26-29. This activity allows each Island club to share their "stomping grounds" with other clubs and to enjoy new camaraderie. Participation in the Gemboree, involves two parts: 1) mail your completed Gemboree registration form to Allana Shillito, and 2) contact Sooke River Campground to book your site in the VLMS camping area. For those members who chose to sleep in their own beds at night, please make sure you are at the camp grounds by 9 am each morning in order to be included in our daily trips.

To get the Gemboree form (an email copy was sent out a while ago) contact me at [mrz\\_p@hotmail.com](mailto:mrz_p@hotmail.com). The Contact info for Sooke River Campground is [camping@sookecommunity.com](mailto:camping@sookecommunity.com) (email) or [www.sookecommunity.com/camping/](http://www.sookecommunity.com/camping/) (website)

We will visit the club's great spots on the West Coast. As well, we will visit working quarries and, with claim owners' permission, find some new spots. The focus will be learning how to identify and label your samples. Each entry package will include tools and resources to teach you how to identify your finds. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Annual Club Auction

The annual club auction was held on Monday, May 7 in lieu of the general members meeting. A total of 46 lots (ranging from rocks, equipment, jewelery and accessories) were up for the members to bid on. Nearly \$1500 worth of goods was distributed to the lucky bid winners.

### Competition Case at the Rock and Gem Show

Submissions (and subsequent ranking) for the competition case at the 2018 Rock and Gem show are listed below:

**Junior Basic Lapidary:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Madeline deLange; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kieran Lansdell

**Adult Basic Lapidary:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Rob deLange

**Advanced Lapidary:** 1<sup>st</sup>: David Hosking; 2<sup>nd</sup>: David Jackson

**Advanced Wire Wrapping:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Sarah Hamilton; 2<sup>nd</sup>: David Jackson; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mike Hill

**Basic Silversmithing:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Sarah Hamilton

**Advanced Silversmithing:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Joanne Neilson; 2<sup>nd</sup>: David Jackson

## **Vacant Position**

The VLMS board is looking for a volunteer to fill the vacant "Programs" position. Applicants are responsible for securing Presenters for select monthly meetings. Please contact Vanessa if you can help out.

## **Meetings**

The next members meeting will be held as follows:

**Date:** June 4, 2018

**Place:** Les Passmore Centre, 286 Hampton Road, Victoria BC

**Time:** 7:30 pm

## **Field Trips (Gilles)**

The next field trip to Bear Mountain is planned for May 27, 2018. Participants are to meet at 9 am at the Juan de Fuca Rec Center as normal. Please confirm with Gilles if you are attending.

## **Courses (Vanessa)**

We have just wrapped up another Basic Lapidary course and Basic Silversmithing course and are planning more over the next few months to meet the requests for courses being made by the membership.

## **Reports**

### **President (Vanessa)**

Summer is nearly upon us and with that a reminder that this year is our turn for hosting the Vancouver Island Gemboree. The last two years, hosted by Cowichan Valley and Campbell River rock clubs, respectively, have set the bar high for us, but I am confident that this year, with good club support, we can put forth an event equally enjoyed by all attending. Put your registration forms in as soon as possible or risk missing out on the fun. Also, as we are hosting the Gemboree, there will be no club picnic this summer, so be sure to register for the BBQ and pancake breakfast along with the field trips or events of that day. <http://vlms.ca/2018-gemboree/>

Please note, as advised in the April meeting, the June Strawberry social will again be held at the Les Passmore Senior centre. This is the last meeting before summer break. The Les Passmore centre is located next to the Lawn Bowling hall, at the end of Hampton rd. Please advise if you have any food allergies that would otherwise stop you from enjoying this annual social event.

### **Rock and Gem Show 2018 (Allana)**

The 2018 Show was a success despite the great weather that normally keeps people away from the show. This year bucked the trend and we had some of our best door numbers in years. I'd like to

publicly thank all those members who took time out of their busy weekdays to attend the show meetings and guide decisions that needed to be made - sometimes quite quickly. The volunteer numbers covered the basic duties but more volunteers are always welcomed. In terms of numbers of visitors, Friday and Sunday recorded the second highest volume (ever) for the respective days. Moreover, Saturday broke a 4 year record. In total, we had over 2100 visitors.

During this year's show, we introduced a new Artisan Demonstrator, Barb Creber (Port Alberni club) and two new vendors: Forest Crystals and Raincoast Jewelry. These new vendors replaced two of our regular vendors who were unable to make the show. Because we had a few less show cases, the aisles were allowed to be a bit wider. Show costs were the lowest in years and we were actually able to offer some of our vendors a reduction in rental and no increase to other vendors.

### **Membership (Margaret)**

The membership of our club has grown to 163 adults and 29 juniors. BC Lapidary Society has forwarded member's cards for all who paid their dues before April. If you have not picked yours up they will be available at the Strawberry Social on June 4th at the Silver Threads Centre. After that they can be picked up at the workshop during open hours. Those who joined in April or later, when cards are received they will be included and available as the others.

### **Field Trips (Gilles)**

The annual rock and gem show served as the field trip for March. By all accounts it was one of the most successful shows ever.

### **Sunshine Corner (Susannah)**

In honour of Murdo Donald Smith (passed January 18, 2018), Glenn Murray Dyer (passed December 22nd, 2017), and Gregory G. Shea (passed August 24th, 2017), a Memory Corner was created at the annual Rock and Gem show. In addition, free passes were provided to their widows and extended families. On March 9th, 2018, Richard Harris passed away, and a card expressing our condolences was sent to his widow, Marylyn. On April 14th, 2018, a get well card was sent to Barbara MacKenzie after her hospital stay, and this was followed up by a pot of hydrangeas on May 9th, 2018. We hope that she will soon be able to return to us, as we miss her and her freshly baked cookies at our monthly meetings.

### **Library (nothing to report)**

### **Island Zone (Vanessa)**

Sarah Hamilton, our club secretary, has stepped forward to volunteer to be the junior representative for VLMS to the Island Zone.

Please note that the latest Island Zone report will be posted on our club website once received. The next Island Zone meeting will take place on Sunday July 29th, at the Gemboree.

### **Workshop (Vanessa)**

We are also aware that open workshop times are in high demand. In response to these conflicting pressures on space, we will now be planning all courses either on Tuesday evenings or Sunday afternoons. These additional time slots will only be rented from the centre for course times

scheduled. All Saturdays and Thursday evenings will still be open workshop available to all qualified club members. Those members still looking for courses and not sure if your names are on the waiting list or not, are encouraged to email the [vlmsworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:vlmsworkshop@gmail.com) address to confirm.

The workshop has been generously gifted a 14" vibrating flat lap machine, courtesy of new member Doug Smith.

### **Editor (Gary)**

Most of the information presented in these newsletters is solicited. Unsolicited contributions are welcome – contact [gab.bns@gmail.com](mailto:gab.bns@gmail.com).

## **Trivia Quiz – Ramblings of a Rockhound – by zorba\_scank**

A visit to the East convinced Corporal Slag to get in touch with his inner self. Being a troll, this somehow got translated into a deep interest in rocks and all things geological. All of the questions below have something to do with the letter R. Answers can be found in the Appendix.

*"[www.funtrivia.com/trivia\\_quiz/SciTeck/Random-Ramblings-Of-a-Rockhound-348097.html](http://www.funtrivia.com/trivia_quiz/SciTeck/Random-Ramblings-Of-a-Rockhound-348097.html)"*

1. Corporal Slag was pleased that he was able to identify the volcanic rock rhyolite. Which of the following igneous rock shares the same chemical composition as rhyolite?  
A: Basalt; B: Granite; C: Gabbro; D: Pumice;
2. Sedimentary rocks can be classified based on the grain size of the constituent grains. Which of the following rocks is most likely to be categorized as rudaceous?  
A: Conglomerate; B: Shale; C: Sandstone; D: Marble;
3. In its natural form, titanium dioxide occurs as which mineral in igneous and metamorphic rocks?  
A: Riebeckite; B: Rutile; C: Rhodonite; D: Rhomboclase;
4. Corporal Slag picked up a rock containing the iron ore haematite. Keen to flaunt his recently acquired knowledge, Slag stated that the crystals were reniform in shape. What kind of shape does the description reniform indicate?  
A: Columnar; B: Prismatic; C: Kidney shaped; D: Fibrous;
5. The next rock specimen had crystals of the mineral corundum. If the colour of the crystals was red, which precious gem stone had the Corporal found?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_; (one word starts with letter R)
6. While collecting rock samples at the Banff National Park in Canada, Slag came across Moraine Lake in the Valley of the Ten Peaks. To what is the deep blue colour of the lake attributed?  
A: Radium crystals; B: Raccoon droppings; C: Round pebbles; D: Rock flour;
7. Rift valleys are long troughs enclosed by steep faults on both sides. Which of the following lakes is formed within a rift valley?

A: Lake Michigan; B: Lake Baikal; C: Lake Titicaca; D: Lake Erie;

8. Ridges are narrow, elongated, raised features on the surface of the earth that usually occur in the form of continuous chains of mountains. Which of the following types of ridges are formed by the action of glaciers?

A: Eskers B: Caldera ridges; C: Shutter ridges; D: Dune ridges;

9. Another rock specimen that Corporal Slag examined appeared to have a feature termed as 'ripple marks', a type of structure formed due to the action of water or wind. What type of rock would the Corporal have been looking at to have seen such a structure?

A: Igneous; B: Sedimentary; C: Metamorphic; D: Any of these;

10. Rock crystal is a clear transparent variety of which common mineral?

A: Feldspar; B: Olivine; C: Garnet; D: Quartz;

## Fun Facts

### *Lappy the Lapphound*

"All that glitters isn't gold  
....but it might be opal!!!!



### *Foxy the Foxhound*

"Diamonds are a girls' best friend  
....cubic zirconia... not so much !!!!



### Foxy's New Worry

It was Sunday, it was hot out and Foxy, Lappy, Dotty, and Pippa were beating the heat in Foxy's air-conditioned condo. Lappy and Foxy were sitting at the kitchen table pouring over some books on gemstones. Foxy was helping Lappy prepare for a very big assignment.

**Foxy:** "You will have to be careful in distinguishing between Chrysacolla<sup>1</sup> and Turquoise<sup>2</sup> – if the Chrysacolla is a deep blue it will probably be soft but if it is more on the green side then it could be just as hard as turquoise and hard to distinguish."

**Lappy:** "What about the geodes<sup>3</sup>?"

**Foxy:** "Well, I would look for "perfection" in the geode – natural geodes are imperfect and when man fabricates gemstones and things in general, they turn out to be "too perfect" sometimes, and therefore easy to spot."

Despite the fact that Lappy was over, Foxy had a sense of foreboding, Dotty was glib (as usual) and Pippa was getting frustrated.

**Pippa:** "Say that again, who is going where? What are those two lovebirds talking about over there?"

**Dotty:** "Lappy and Chief Inspector Bailey-Cooper are going to Arizona on some sort of secret mission."

**Pippa (until now kept out of the loop):** "What?...A secret mission? I don't understand – why Arizona and why Lappy?"

**Dotty (gushing):** "It is so exciting."

**Foxy (her voice wavering):** "Lappy was offered a job with the K-9 unit. The Chief Inspector wants him to help with some special international assignment involving smuggling across the Mexico-Arizona border"

**Pippa:** "Wow, that is good isn't it....for Lappy, I mean"

**Dotty (smiling):** "And for my Chief Inspector"

**Foxy (frowning):** "I am not so sure...it could be very dangerous."

**Lappy (smiling nervously):** "I will be alright."

**Pippa (trying to calm the situation):** "Surely they wouldn't be going if it was dangerous."

**Dotty (totally oblivious):** "The Chief Inspector can handle any situation, I am sure."

**Foxy (tears welling up in her eyes):** "That may well be but Lappy has no experience in such matters. I just hope you are right."

Lappy, sensing Foxy's considerable angst, didn't really know what to do or say so he gave her a little nuzzle and that seemed to make her feel a bit better.

### **Between a Rock and a Hard Place**

Lappy and the Chief Inspector had been in Arizona for few days. It was hotter than Lappy could ever have imagined but both K-9 members were getting acclimatized - they were learning the importance of drinking lots of water. These first few days had passed quickly as they were attending daily meetings in Phoenix, with their US counterparts, being briefed on their upcoming assignment. The issue, it seemed, was a smuggling operation across the Mexico-US border involving gemstones – well, sort of. Indeed there were gemstones involved; for example, some intercepted contraband indicated that agate chalcedony<sup>4</sup>, chrysocolla, turquoise and fire agate<sup>5</sup>, were being carried across the border. Additionally, it seems, the mules sometimes carried "geodes" some of which were man-made (very good replicas made from acrylic and then painted) and filled with cocaine. The fact that gemstones were being smuggled, though itself a concern to the authorities was not the top priority - what was more concerning was the prospect that the gemstones were being used as a front for drugs. The K-9 units had been called in because the "mules" in this case were of the canine variety. The movement of the "goods" occurred mainly at night and an informant's tip suggested the transports involved extremely rough customers. The Chief Inspector had specifically recruited Lappy because of his broad knowledge of all things rocks and gems, because he was fit (now that his hip problem had cleared up), and, above all, he was bright and quick to the mark when presented with a complex situation. The fact that Lappy lacked law-enforcement experience was a bit troubling, of course, but the Chief Inspector was confident that with his oversight, Lappy would dovetail nicely with the team. Assigned to guide the "Canucks" was Arturo the Xolo (pronounced sho-lo) who was a "legal" Mexican-American, and was very familiar with the territory along the Arizona-Mexico border. All training activities were coordinated by Tulo the Terrier, who was Arturo's superior and, though friendly enough, didn't seem to be a big fan of bringing in the Canadians to assist in the operations – it was just a feeling that Lappy got from observing Tulo. The team (Arturo, the Chief Inspector, and Lappy) was assigned a region known as Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness west of Lukeville (on the border and near Hwy 85). This area is part of the Sonoran Desert<sup>6</sup> complete with all associated flora (saquero cactus<sup>7</sup>, organ-pipe cactus<sup>8</sup> (of course), and a variety of shrubs) and fauna (rattlesnakes<sup>9</sup>, scorpions<sup>10</sup>, coyotes, pumas<sup>11</sup>, wild burros and, occasionally, sheep that wandered north from a big farm just south of the border. The introductory meetings lasted for about a week – they were to be followed by a period of on-site training.

After several days of group hikes during which Arturo did his best to familiarize both the Chief Inspector and Lappy with the environment, Lappy was becoming more comfortable with his new surroundings and, in particular, the trails. On the fifth night, Lappy was particularly excited since it was to be his first solo patrol along the southernmost route. He was also a bit nervous, of course, but he didn't let on. He had been out about two hours and things were going smoothly despite the "night noises" that, at times, made the hair on the back of his neck stand

up. It was dark but the moon provided just enough light that Lappy could easily make out the trail. He had his powerful detective-grade flashlight but chose not to use it. "Only another 30 minutes or so", he thought to himself after hearing some coyote "yips" in the distance – he had just reached the southeast corner of his patrol route and turned for home. Just then a rabbit bounded out of the shrubbery to Lappy's left and jetted across the trail. "That is strange", a startled Lappy thought to himself. "Rabbits aren't usually out and about at this time of night". Just then he heard a "baleful moan" from off the trail and from whence the rabbit had come. To be sure, Lappy was now more than a bit frightened and on high alert. Should he report back to camp and bring backup or should he investigate directly. "What if someone was really in trouble? It could take an hour to return to this spot" - Lappy decided that he had to investigate immediately. He removed his backpack, retrieved the first aid kit, and slowly edged off the trail and into the shrubs. Before he had gone some twenty feet off the trail, he could make out a shape (appeared to be canine) lying on its side. Lappy could hear the raspy breath as he approached. As the shape materialized, Lappy realized he was dealing with something quite grotesque. The "dog" was rail thin, appeared to be hairless, with long legs attached to a body with a pronounced arch along its spine. There were curious linear markings on the haunches above the hind legs. What was particularly scary (to Lappy at least) was the head – it seemed too large for the body, the ears seemed too small. As the strange beast lay gasping for breath, it exposed an impressive array of teeth. Lappy noticed some sort of an injury on one side of the beast's head just above the left ear – the eyes were closed.

**Lappy (hesitantly):** "Hello ...." Lappy had his powerful flashlight trained directly on the beast – he sensed that his "hello" registered.

**Lappy (trying again):** "My name is Lappy – I am a member of a special canine crime-force unit investigating drug-smuggling in this area. Are you hurt?"

**Beast (barely audible):** "Aqua...aqua"

**Lappy:** "Here you go" and he carefully poured some water from his canteen onto the Beast's lips. The Beast let out a sigh opened his eyes slightly. Lappy was taken aback and had to muster all his inner strength not to jump back away from the beast – the eyes were blood-red. He gave him more water which the Beast was now able to eagerly lap down. Lappy thought to himself – "You are one ugly Dude, my friend"

**Lappy (somewhat falteringly):** "You ... you ... have an injury on your head above your left ear....will you let me put some salve on it. If you don't get this treated it almost certainly will become infected." The Beast did not say anything but most importantly he didn't say "no" so Lappy rummaged through his first aid kit to retrieve the Polysporin tube. He applied the ointment to the wound as gently as he could. The Beast winced a couple of times but did not otherwise move.

**Lappy (again forcing the issue):** "Do you have a name?" Once again, there was no response.

**Lappy (deciding to try some Spanish that Arturo had taught him):** "Como te llamas?"

**Beast (again barely audible):** "Chupe (pronounced Choop-ay)."

**Lappy (feeling a bit more at ease):** "Can you tell me what happened?"

**Chupe:** "No entiendo"

Lappy was stumped for the moment. He had left his backpack on the trail before coming into the bush – he didn't go anywhere without his small Spanish dictionary/thesaurus.

**Lappy:** "I will just be a minute...I need to get something from my backpack on the trail." With that he hurried back to the trail to retrieve his pocket-sized "Spanish" cheater and then retraced his steps back to where Chupe lay. To Lappy's amazement, Chupe, was gone .... the first-aid kit was there, his canteen was there (but empty) but no Chupe.

**Lappy (muttering to himself):** "Well I'll be ..... I guess all he needed was a bit of water". Lappy collected his stuff and returned to the trail ... he made careful notes in his log about the location and the nature of the encounter (but did not include a detailed description of Chupe or reference his name – he did not know why). Lappy then returned to camp without further incident.



The following morning, Lappy briefed the Chief Inspector and Arturo on his previous nights experiences (as laid out in his notes). Both Arturo and the Chief Inspector were impressed by Lappy's handling of the situation. The rest of the day was uneventful ... it was the Chief Inspector's turn to go "solo" on the night-time patrol so Lappy could relax a bit. That evening when the Chief Inspector was out on patrol, Arturo and Lappy lounged by the campfire – it was one of Lappy's favorite times of the day as Arturo was full of stories about his past exploits – he sensed that he had Lappy's full attention and enjoyed embellishing the stories slightly. On this night, he had just finished a story about a confrontation that he once had with a puma (Lappy's eyes betrayed his excitement – Arturo went in for the kill).

**Arturo:** "Of course, pumas are tough to deal with but not as tough as a Chupacabra<sup>12</sup>,"

**Lappy:** "Chupacabra? What is that?"

**Arturo:** "It is a heinous dog-like beast that reportedly lives off of blood from farmer's sheep"

**Lappy (every muscle in his body, tense with excitement):** "Wow, have you ever seen a Chupecabra?"

**Arturo (satisfied that he had snared his prey ... laughing):** "I am just kidding, the Chupacabra is just a myth" and he went on to describe the beast (his version, at least). The hair on the back of Lappy's neck stood straight up, he was shaking – the description he heard matched his recollection of Chupe almost exactly.

**Lappy (regaining his composure):** "Wow, you had me going there for a minute".

They both had a good laugh (Lappy's was a nervous laugh but Arturo didn't seem to notice). It was a long time before Lappy fell asleep that night as he mulled over, and over, the confluence of his experience on the trail and Arturo's tale. He had kept his secret but he still did not know why.

Two nights later it was once again, Lappy's turn to go on "solo" patrol. There had been no sign of any "smugglers" over the course of several days and the crew was getting a bit frustrated by the lack of any "substantive" action. This night would change all that – for Lappy, at least.

Lappy was about half-way along his patrol route and came across what they had all come to call "the gorge" – it was a section of the trail that descended into a "deep wash" through two huge boulders that stood almost seven meters high. The trail exited the wash (about 20 meters wide) up a steep embankment on the other side – it was not easy getting in or out of the wash –at least, along the trail. As Lappy was entering the wash through the boulders he heard voices.

**Manny (the Malamute):** "Let's take a break...this pack is heavy."

**Garcia (the German Shepherd):** "Good idea, I need a drink anyway."

Lappy stepped out into the open wash from between the boulders and surprised both Manny and Garcia.

**Lappy (trying to be calm):** "Hello, boys. My name is Lappy and I am with the K-9 drug enforcement task force. What brings you two out this way in the middle of the night?" Lappy turned slightly so that they could see his shoulder patch.

**Manny (stammering):** "We .. we .. are transporting some .. some.. stones for our boss – he has a rock shop in Tucson." The mention of stones got Lappy's attention immediately.

**Lappy:** "I have to inspect your bags if you don't mind."

**Garcia:** "No problemo". Lappy went through Manny's bag first ...it contained several bags of stones... Lappy immediately recognized howlite<sup>13</sup>, calcite<sup>14</sup>, fluorite<sup>15</sup>, and rhodochrosite<sup>16</sup>. He was less certain but thought he recognized axinite<sup>17</sup>, danburite<sup>18</sup>, and dumortierite<sup>19</sup>. Lappy had been instructed to not be heavy handed if the contraband did not include large quantities of turquoise and, of course, the geodes.

**Lappy:** "Make sure you check in with the local authorities when you get to Tucson."

**Manny (relieved):** "Si..Si.. Bueno." Lappy moved to Garcia's bag. He found what looked like spessartine<sup>20</sup>, diopside<sup>21</sup>, vesuvianite<sup>22</sup>, and some geodes. The geodes looked normal enough. What caught Lappy's

attention was the fact that the bag looked full but the overall size of the bag did not match the quantity of stones found.

**Lappy (with a bit of an edge):** “That’s strange, what is in this part of the bag?”

**Garcia (looking at Manny):** “No comprende!”

**Lappy (turning the bag over):** “What is in this part of the bag? Do you have more stones in here?”

**Garcia (busted):** “Ah, si, lo olvidé, mas geodo.” With that he took the bag and pulled up a flap inside the pocket from where he had stored the initial set of stones. He pulled out one of the Geodes – it looked normal from what Lappy could see. “Can I see another one?” said Lappy. Garcia pulled out another geode - Lappy immediately recognized that the geode was a fake.

**Lappy (sternly):** “I am afraid you boys are going to have to come back to camp with me”.

Suddenly, a voice called out from behind Lappy ... “These boys aren’t going anywhere!” Lappy whirled around to see Tulo (much to his surprise) accompanied by two, very tough-looking customers with spiked collars.

**Lappy (not believing his eyes):** “Tulo! ..... What on earth are you doing here?”

**Tulo (with disdain in his voice):** “Don’t be stupid, Lapdog, I think you know very well why we are here.”

Lappy suddenly felt very alone ..... and, very afraid. “What have I got myself into?” He thought to himself.

**Lappy (trying to stall for time):** “If I don’t get back to camp soon, my partners will come looking for me.”

**Tulo (dismissively):** “I hope they bring a body bag.” Lappy was unarmed, he was outnumbered five to one, and he was being backed up against a big rock....there was no escape. He truly was between a rock and a hard place.

Just at the moment when Lappy thought he was done for, a set of long, eerie, deep-throated howls occurred from a location close-by. Suddenly, the aggressive advance of Tulo and his cohorts stopped. In fact, Tulo and his gang, dropped their bags and immediately turned and scampered down the wash. Lappy heard some “yelps” and noises that one might associate with a scuffle but he had no idea on what was transpiring. After a few moments, Lappy heard a noise from the top of one of the rocks guarding the entry to the wash – he turned and there was Chupe.

**Lappy (much relieved):** “Chupe, how can I ever thank you?”

**Chupe (with a teathy grin):** “Adios, Amigo.” With that he turned and vanished into the night.

Lappy collected up the bags of contraband and completed his route back to camp. Once again he made his report about his patrol (including an accounting of the gemstones) but left out some important details that concerned Chupe ... indeed, he left it as “unexplained” as to why Tulo and the rest had suddenly stopped and ran away. The Chief Inspector suspected something was not quite right with Lappy but did not pursue it. The fact that Lappy identified Tulo was critical to bringing the smuggling and the investigation to a close. Arturo’s team was congratulated and feted at a local K-9 gathering and upon its conclusion Lappy and the Chief Inspector returned to Victoria.

**Chief Inspector:** “Lappy there is something you haven’t told me about what happened that night.”

**Lappy (a bit unsure of how to respond):** “Chief Inspector, I apologize but I am not sure you would believe me if I did tell you, just let’s say that sometimes a good friend is all one needs in a difficult situation.”

**Chief Inspector:** “I have often thought that myself – you continue to surprise me.” And he left it at that.

**Lappy:** “Let’s go meet the girls.”

**Chief Inspector:** “Girls? I don’t think the girls want to meet me.”

**Lappy (laughing):** “That makes two things I know that you don’t, Chief Inspector.”

## Acknowledgements

Once again I would like to thank all those members who contributed to this Newsletter – it continues to be only as useful and complete as the information you provide.

## Forum

### Editorial Comment

Much of the information found in this Newsletter can be found on the VLMS website. Kudos to Becci for doing such a bang-up job with the website.

## Appendix

### 1. ANSWERS to the Rockhound Quiz (typical responder gets 6/10)

- 1) Granite, 2) Conglomerate, 3) Rutile, 4) Kidney shaped, 5) Ruby, 6) Rock flour, 7) Lake Baikal, 8) Eskers, 9) Sedimentary, 10) Quartz.

### 2. Fun Facts - Rocks and Gems

1.



Chrysocolla is a hydrated copper phyllosilicate mineral whose structure suggest that it may be a mixture of the copper hydroxide spertiniite and chalcedony. It forms in the oxidation zones of copper ore bodies. It is typically found as botryoidal or rounded masses and crusts, or vein fillings. Because of its light color, it is sometimes confused with turquoise.

2.



Turquoise is an opaque, blue-to-green mineral that is a hydrated phosphate of copper (Cu) and aluminium. It is rare and valuable in finer grades and has been prized as a gem and ornamental stone throughout history owing to its unique hue. Turquoise is generally found in dry climates: USA, Mexico, Chile, Afghanistan, China, and Tibet.

3.



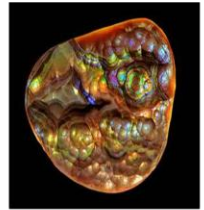
Geodes are structures which occur in certain sedimentary and volcanic rocks.<sup>1</sup> Geodes commonly have a chalcedony shell lined internally by various minerals, often as crystals. When cut in half, visible bands corresponding to varied stages of precipitation may at times show patterns that reveal points of fluid entry into the cavity and/or varied colors corresponding to changes in chemistry.

4.



Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline form of silica, composed of very fine intergrowths of quartz and moganite. These are both silica minerals, but they differ in that quartz has a trigonal crystal structure, while moganite is monoclinic. Agate Chalcedony differs from ordinary chalcedony in that the growth of silica occurs in well-defined layers.

5.



Fire agate is a variety of Chalcedony (Quartz family). It has a translucent deep reddish-brown base, with flashes of orange, red, green and gold. The colors are caused by light interference on thin layers of iron oxide or limonite crystals within the Chalcedony. Fire agates are found in Mexico and south-western US states.

6.



The Sonoran Desert is a North American desert which covers large parts of the Southwestern United States in Arizona and California and of Northwestern Mexico in Sonora, Baja California, and Baja California Sur. It is the hottest desert in Mexico. It has an area of 260,000 square kilometers (100,000 sq mi). The western portion of the United States–Mexico border passes through the Sonoran Desert.

7.



The saguaro is an arborescent cactus species in the monotypic genus *Carnegiea*, which can grow to be over 40 feet tall. It is native to the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, the Mexican State of Sonora, and the Whipple Mountains and Imperial County areas of California. The saguaro blossom is the state wildflower of Arizona.

8.



The organpipe cactus or pitahaya, is a species of cactus native to Mexico and the United States. The species is found in rocky desert. Two subspecies are recognized based on their distribution and height. The Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is named for the species.

9.



Rattlesnakes are a group of venomous snakes. There are 36 known species of rattlesnakes and they have between 65 and 70 subspecies, all native to the Americas, ranging from southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and southern British Columbia in Canada to central Argentina.

10.



The Arizona bark scorpion is a small light brown scorpion common to the Sonoran Desert in southwest United States and northwestern Mexico. An adult male can reach 8 cm in length, while a female is slightly smaller, with a maximum length of 7 cm.

11.





Pumas, also referred to as a cougar or mountain lion, is a big cat that averages around 1.5 - 2.7 m (5 - 9 ft.) and can weigh an average of 68 kg for males (150 lbs), 45 kg for females (100 lbs). Most pumas have tawny coats and their underbellies are a creamy white, with dark spots sometimes on their flanks and tail. The puma can exist in a wide variety of environments.


12.




The chupacabra or chupacabras is a legendary creature in the folklore of parts of the Americas, with its first purported sightings reported in Puerto Rico. The name comes from the animal's reported habit of attacking and drinking the blood of livestock, including goats.

13.  Howlite is a borate mineral commonly found in irregular nodules sometimes resembling cauliflower. Crystals of howlite are rare, having been found in only a couple localities worldwide. The nodules are white with fine grey or black veins in an erratic, often web-like pattern, opaque with a sub-vitreous luster. Crystals are colorless, white or brown and are often translucent or transparent.

14.  Calcite is a carbonate mineral and the most stable polymorph of calcium carbonate. The Mohs scale of mineral hardness, based on scratch hardness comparison, defines value 3 as "calcite". Other polymorphs of calcium carbonate are the minerals aragonite and vaterite. Aragonite will change to calcite over timescales of days or less at temperatures exceeding 300°C, and vaterite is even less stable.

15.  Fluorite (also called fluorspar) is the mineral form of calcium fluoride. Fluorite is a colorful mineral, both in visible and ultraviolet light, and the stone has ornamental and lapidary uses. Industrially, fluorite is used as a flux for smelting, and in the production of certain glasses and enamels. Fluorite also gives its name to the phenomenon of fluorescence, which is prominent in fluorites from certain locations, due to certain impurities in the crystal.

16.  Rhodochrosite is a manganese carbonate mineral. In its pure form, it is typically a rose-red color, but impure specimens can be shades of pink to pale brown. It forms a complete solid solution series with iron carbonate (siderite). Calcium, (as well as magnesium and zinc, to a limited extent) frequently substitutes for manganese in the structure, leading to lighter shades of red and pink,.

17.



Axinite is a brown to violet-brown, or reddish-brown bladed group of minerals composed of calcium aluminium boro-silicate. Axinite is pyroelectric and piezoelectric and has found use as both a gemstone and a healing stone – in this regard, it is a strong grounding stone.

18.



Danburite is a calcium boron silicate mineral that is hard and of average density. It is usually colourless, like quartz, but can also be either pale yellow or yellowish-brown. It typically occurs in contact with metamorphic rocks. Its crystal symmetry and form are similar to topaz.

19.



Dumortierite is a fibrous variably colored aluminium boro-silicate mineral that crystallizes in the orthorhombic system typically forming fibrous aggregates of slender prismatic crystals. The crystals are vitreous and vary in color (due to iron content) from brown, blue, and green to more rare violet and pink. It is sometimes mistaken for sodalite and has been used as imitation lapis lazuli.

20.



Spessartine is a nesosilicate, manganese aluminium garnet species. The mineral spessartine is often confused with a type of igneous rock (a lamprophyre) called spessartite. Spessartine occurs most often in granite pegmatite and allied rock types and in certain low-grade metamorphic phyllites. Gems with high spessartine content tend toward a light orange hue, while almandine prevalence induces red or brownish hues.

21.



Diopside is a monoclinic pyroxene mineral that forms complete solid solution series with hedenbergite and augite, and partial solid solutions with orthopyroxene and pigeonite. It forms variably colored, but typically dull green crystals in the monoclinic prismatic class. It is transparent to translucent and found in ultramafic (kimberlite and peridotite) igneous rocks.

22.



Vesuvianite, also known as idocrase, is a green, brown, yellow, or blue silicate mineral that occurs as tetragonal crystals in skarn deposits and limestones that have been subjected to contact metamorphism. It was first discovered within included blocks or adjacent to lavas on Mount Vesuvius, hence its name. Cyprine is a blue variety (copper impurities) whereas Californite is a jade-like vesuvianite known also as California jade.

