



LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5114, Station B

Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



Volume 62-4 :: Nov 2019

Website :: www.vlms.ca

VLMS Board

President :	Alanna Shilito	mrz_p@hotmail.com (250-857-2153)
Vice-President :	Leni Gagnon	dapper51@shaw.ca (250-479-6214)
Registrar:	Margaret Braithwaite	margaretbraithwaite@shaw.ca (250-380-2076)
Past-President:	Vanessa Steffens	vsteffens@telus.net (250-385-8525)
Secretary:	Sarah Hamilton	sarahstarfish@gmail.com (250-974-7272)
Treasurer:	Dave Jackson	dehavillanddave@yahoo.ca (778-676-1150)
At Large:	Debbie Frank	gemfinders@telus.net (250-360-6434)
	Yvan Gagnon	dapper51@shaw.ca (250-479-6214)
	Brian McMillan	soniamac@telus.net (250-385-2700)
	John Anderson	johnsusannah@telus.net (250-812-9303)

VLMS Committees

Programs :	vacant	
Librarians :	Kathryn Hawkins	pug4@telus.net (250-652-4940)
Show Chair:	Alanna Shilito	mrz_p@hotmail.com (250-857-2153)
Field Trips:	Gilles Lebrun	(250- 382- 6119)
Refreshments:	Barb MacKenzie	barb.mackenzie@shaw.ca (250-727-0954)
Workshop:	Brian McMillan	soniamac@telus.net (250-385-2700)
	Doug McLeod	wesmac12@gmail.com (250-888-8440)
Editor:	Gary Brooke	gab.bns@gmail.com (250-475-3440)
Sunshine Corner:	Susannah Andersen	johnsusannah@telus.net (250-812-9303)



The Newsroom

Announcements

Club Events

December's Christmas Special

The December 2nd meeting date is wholly devoted to our annual Christmas Social Festive. The club will supply turkey and pork but members and guests are encouraged to bring a vegetable, appetizer or dessert entre to share. Also, please remember to bring your own plates and eating utensils, as well as a wrapped gift for gift exchange, if you would like to participate. Gifts are suggested to be of approximately \$10 in value, gift-wrapped and should be gender neutral. A box will be made available for those who also would like to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank. Any questions, please direct to the VLMS mailbox, vlms@vlms.ca

Annual General Meeting

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting is to be held on January 6, 2020 at the Les Passmore Senior Centre (****please note the location change; it is next door to our usual meeting place****). This meeting is an important one since it involves the election of the club's Board of Directors and the placement of the Appointed Positions. Several Board and Appointed positions are up for renewal; some positions currently have members willing to renew their position and some do not (a list is provided below). Please contact vlms@vlms.ca if you are interested in supporting our club by volunteering for one of the following Board of Director roles:

- a) President,
- b) Vice President,
- c) Secretary,
- d) Registrar (Membership), and
- e) 2 Members-At-Large.

The Programs appointed position also needs to be filled.

2020 VLMS Rock and Gem Show – Leonardo Da Vinci Centre – March 20-22, 2020

It is never too early to start getting ready for our Annual Show. Mark it in your calendars and stay tuned as to how you can help make our annual, hosted event to continue to be a show-stopping success. Planning meetings have already started – to volunteer to help out, contact Allana.

Meetings

The next "meeting" is wholly devoted to the Christmas club social and will be held as follows:

Date: Dec 2, 2019

Place: Burnside Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, 274 Hampton Road, Victoria, BC

Time: 6:00 pm (doors open) with a sit down meal for ~6:30 pm.

Field Trips

The next field trip is scheduled for Nov 24, 2019. Two locations (Blue Grouse and Sunnyside mine sites near Lake Cowichan) are being considered ... weather permitting of course. Doug will organize the carpooling for the Field Trip so let him know if you are attending. Note, those close to town can meet at the VLMS workshop at 9 am; those in North Saanich can meet at the shop or take the Mill Bay ferry and meet at the Serious Coffee Shop at the intersection of Frayne Road and the Trans Canada Highway at Mill Bay; those on the west shore and beyond can also meet at the Serious Coffee Shop. Members should arrive at the Serious Coffee Shop at about 9:30. Anyone having any other ideas for a carpool location, please let Doug know.

Courses

The second Basic Lapidary course for the fall season is underway. Two more Basic Lapidary courses are planned for the New Year. There is presently one Basic Silversmithing course tentatively planned for the New Year; it begins January 19th and concludes on January 26th. Members who wish to participate in the courses must ensure that they are on the appropriate wait list: (i) basic lapidary (workshop@vlms.ca) and (ii) silversmithing (silversmithing@vlms.ca).

Reports

President (Allana)

Wow, November already! This is the last newsletter before our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Jan 6, 2020. Please note that at the AGM, elections are held for the Board of Directors:

- a) **President**,
- b) **Vice-President**,
- c) **Secretary** ,
- d) Treasurer ,
- e) **Registrar (Membership)** ,and
- f) 4 Directors-at-Large (**2 positions need filling**).

At the AGM, names are also accepted for the following volunteer or appointed positions:

- g) **Programs Coordinator** ,
- h) Librarian ,
- i) Members' Event Coordinator ,
- j) Laphound News Editor,
- k) Social Committee,
- l) Workshop Committee ,
- m) Show Chair,
- n) Webmaster,

o) Wagon Master (Field trips)

Items (a-o) above represent a grocery list of positions that make our club great; those items “**bolded and italicized**” indicates that the incumbent wishes to step down and therefore we require members to step forward to fill the position. Please note that the Program Coordinator position has been “vacant” for some time - we require someone to help arrange educational talks or the “Programs” we provide at our monthly meetings. Also, note that the Social Committee is new in the sense that it combines two older club functions, namely: (i) Sunshine Corner and (ii) Refreshments; we could use extra hands to help out. Finally, other volunteer positions may come up as the current volunteers leave – if you are unsure of what is entailed in a particular position, talk to the incumbent at our next meeting! Members that wish to put their name forward or stand for nomination should contact a Board Member.

As I reflect on almost a year as president, I am humorously struck with the promise I made myself, “Don’t make the same mistake twice – always make new ones.” I am always awed by Nature’s rules that govern to make beautiful crystals, rock specimens and life in general. I am also grateful that I don’t have to remember all those rules... I have learned so much this year. How a number of individuals put in that extra to make this club shine. How many rely on this club to learn and to deepen friendships in that learning. I am grateful for the patience of others as I muddled through my term as President.

The “Rough to Ready in R’October” changed focus to a non-profit event to promote the wonderful things our club has to offer. As usual, growing pains, “roses and raspberries” were present. We have details to iron out as the perennial discussion of professional vendor versus amateur hobbyist, type of vendor and the angst of last minute changes. These issues are ongoing and keep the show chair on their toes. All feedback is welcomed to allow us to challenge and make a better event. Feedback can be left as an email to the club (vlms@vlms.ca).

Another change that has been discussed lately is to alter one of our club meetings to better accommodate/celebrate our junior members. Perhaps flip the meeting to leave the business to the later part to allow for a special program for our juniors to participate in. As education is a large part of our club, using the junior members to guide better practices is always a positive move in my opinion. I welcome comments and suggestions towards dedicating such a meeting date for this activity.

In closing, we are entering the winter season and unpredictable weather. I wish for all to be safe and respect everyone’s predicament as inclement weather may alter meeting dates or attending meetings. Please be safe. No single meeting is worth personal harm. It is my hope a phone tree, along with social media, can be installed to notify members of changes. Our Christmas dinner will be held at the Bowling Club but the January meeting will be held at the Les Passmore centre to allow a larger, more accessible meeting to occur. Should a weather event happen, we will postpone the meeting agenda until the next meeting.

Thank you for your patience and please have another great year of everything rockhounding.

Membership (Margaret)

VLMS membership numbers stand at 137. This number is comprised of 207 adults and 27 juniors for a total of 234 individuals. I have submitted to BCLS all the membership renewals received to date – sadly, this represents only 45 memberships and leaves quite a number left to do. Once again, I urge all members to hand in their renewal application form and the fee by the December meeting/party so that I can get it to BCLS. Note, the BCLS is required to remit our insurance fees by year-end and any delay in our submission causes unnecessary problems for them.

On another matter for your consideration, I have been asked about running for this position at the AGM in January. Personally, I would like to take a step back. Therefore, I encourage members to try this position in which one gets to know all our members. For the record, the information needs to be entered and maintained in a fairly simple spreadsheet program (which I had never dealt with before i.e., only basic computer required). Please don't be afraid to give it a try. Best wishes for the coming season.

Field Trips (Sean)

The following excerpts from “minfile” reports represents some information regarding what Members might expect to find at the Blue Grouse and Sunnyside mine sites near Lake Cowichan (see map below):



Figure 1. Map of Lake Cowichan area.

A) Blue Grouse (<http://minfile.gov.bc.ca/Summary.aspx?minfilno=092C++017>)

“The ore bodies occur in limestone and tuffaceous members which are folded in a series of overturned folds. The beds are displaced by a series of thrust faults which have a general east

strike and dips of 10 to 20 degrees south. Garnet-epidote-actinolite skarns are developed in limy tuff, limy sediments and limestone, apparently interbedded with the upper portions of Karmutsen Formation basalts.”

B) SunnySide (<http://minfile.gov.bc.ca/Summary.aspx?minfilno=092C++108>)

“Chalcopyrite-bearing skarn is developed at the contact between Parson Bay Formation limestone (Sutton member) and Karmutsen Formation basalts. Lenses of chalcopyrite occur in a quartz gangue along the contact zone which is up to 100 meters wide. Garnet- epidote-actinolite skarns are also developed in limy tuff, limy sediments and limestone, apparently interbedded with the upper portions of Karmutsen Formation basalts.”

Social (Susannah)

The club has sent a get well card and best wishes to Carrie Maier; Sean indicated that his mom had been very sick. Also, it has come to my attention that Patrick Lydon has not been well - a get well card and the club’s best wishes are on their way to Patrick.

Library (Kathryn)

We are looking for suggestions for books and/ or DVD’s that might improve our VLMS Library. If you have any specific titles, or even topics of interest please let me know. You can connect with me at our meetings, or email at pug4@telus.net. All ideas will be greatly appreciated; perhaps our members could think of what they look for in our library but can’t find?

At our Rough to Ready Show in October we sold many books and magazines; we have added that money to our funds for new purchases. The library is looking for donations of books or magazines for our next sale at the Spring Rock and Gem Show. We are most in need of Rock and Mineral Identification books, but donations of any items related is appreciated. If you have replaced your own books with newer editions please think of donating your older books to our sale, they help to encourage interest in the subject for potential new members of the club.

We have been going through our holdings at the club, and in the next few meetings we will have some older items available for free. Items will include bound copies of the Lapidary Journal, B.C. Geological Survey books, and Maps (of areas in B.C.). The VLMS Library will be open next at our January 2020 meeting. I wish all a Very Merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year!

Workshop (Doug)

The workshop attendance is keeping up quite well. The extra hour on Thursday evenings is giving those who can’t make it other times a decent amount of time in the shop.

The small flat lap, that Brian Robillard fixed, is back working. It still does have a little wobble in the shaft but can be used successfully for small projects such as polishing the backs of cabs. Our dream is still to purchase the larger Diamond Pacific Flat Lap. The belt sander is also working with 100 and 220 grit belts. I like it especially that the wheels are rubber backed so no flat spots to have to smooth out. I went for a visit to the Juan de Fuca shop. It is interesting that their finest grit is 800. From there they use Tin Oxide for final polishing. Most of their equipment is older belt machines. We have also started using our buffing wheel with Cerium Oxide; I like the results so far.

I am doing the second Lapidary Basic training course for this fall now. The students have varied from young couples to retirees. There is enough of a waiting list to hold another two courses. I have had queries about younger children joining with a parent to take the class.

Metal-Smithing (Vanessa)

As approved at the meeting of November 4th, we now have a once a month metal-smithing workshop. The monthly workshop is intended for any club member in good standing that can adhere to the following requirements:

- \$5.00 drop in fee (at present) ,
- Existing experience in metal-smithing,
- Own projects to work on,
- Metal smithing supplies (such as metals inventory), and
- Some basic supplies preferred.

The club supplies soldering tools, a rolling mill, miscellaneous metal-smithing tools and a safe environment to work within. Please note that this workshop is for metal-smithing only i.e., no lapidary. The monthly workshop will held in the club workshop from 11 am to 4 pm, on the following scheduled Sundays: Nov 17th, Dec 8th, Jan 12th, Feb 9th and Mar 8th.

There is presently one Basic Silver-smithing course tentatively planned to begin January 19th and conclude on January 26th. Course attendants will be selected from club members currently on the waiting list.

Editor (Gary)

Most of the information presented in these newsletters is solicited. Unsolicited contributions are welcome – contact gab.bns@gmail.com. Best wishes to all our Members for a happy holiday season.

The Fun Facts section (below) has turned into an ongoing saga involving several, talking canine characters doing people things. For new members, previous Newsletters, in which these characters are introduced, can be found on the VLMS website (Members Section). For those who do not have access to the internet, here is the cast:

- a) **Lappy the Lapphound** (Lappy is an intelligent and up-front kind of guy. He has landed a job with the Esquimalt K-9 Detective unit ... he has a keen interest in rocks and gems.)
- b) **Foxy the Foxhound** (Lappy and Foxy are an item. Foxy is very smart and has studied geology and crystallography at UBC ... she too loves rocks and gems and indeed has a Blue Topaz necklace which is one of her most prized possessions.)
- c) **Chief Inspector Bailey-Cooper the Border Collie** (the Chief Inspector's first name is Finegal, or Fin for short, and he is the head of the Esquimalt K-9 Detective unit. He recruited Lappy for the K-9 unit after Lappy helped solve an important case involving the VLMS member's Rough to Ready show.)
- d) **Dottie the Doberman** (Dottie is one of Foxy's dear friends. She is a bit of a flake and was guy-crazy but has recently narrowed that down to being just Fin-crazy as she has developed a major

crush on Fin – he has been a bit reserved and measured in his response to her overtures but deep down.... he likes her... a lot.)

- e) **Pippa the Poodle** (Pippa is also one of Foxy’s best friends. She is very prim and proper and on occasions can be quite “uptight” and over protective of her good friend Foxy. Recently, she took a course at UVic in an attempt to upgrade her knowledge in geology.)
- f) **Charlie the Chihuahua** (Charlie is a graduate student in the Earth and Ocean Sciences department at UVic. She recently mentored Pippa in a continuing-education course in geology. They have struck up a very close relationship.)
- g) **Roddy the Rottweiler** (Roddy is an Inspector with the K-9 unit. By all accounts, Roddy is not the brightest bulb in the box. Fortunately, he knows it and does not try to stray too far beyond his limited capabilities. He is loyal and a hard worker.)
- h) **Bonnie the Beagle** (Bonnie is Roddy’s wife. She “manages” him nicely – they have one child named Roddy Jr who is a bundle of energy and the centre of his father’s universe.)

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 !!!!



The Crown Jewels

The end of a long hot summer had come and gone – it was now well into fall and felt like it as Lappy, Foxy, Dottie, Fin, Pippa, Charlie, Roddy, Bonnie and Roddy Jr huddled around a “campfire” on the beach along Ocean Boulevard bordering Esquimalt Lagoon. To say “campfire” is really a bit of a stretch, as in reality, it was a propane-fired heater that the Chief Inspector had brought along – he normally used it to keep warm when sitting on his balcony overlooking the golf course at Bear Mountain.

The group had spent the afternoon alternating between scouring the beach for “pretty” stones (as Dottie put it) and playing a game of Frisbee golf (Lappy had brought his Frisbee and they managed to set up a challenging course amongst the logs and driftwood that littered the beach) . It was a good day of fun and was followed by a picnic of sorts as the girls had coordinated with each other to bring the components of a hearty meal. The meal was well received - food always tastes better it seems on these occasions when the combination of fresh air and physical activity seems to stimulate the palette. But now the sun had gone down and the temperature dropped substantially ... everyone was feeling a bit drowsy, especially after partaking of a sip of some Grand Marnier that Lappy had brought along. Of course, the exception was Roddy Jr – the day’s activities alone were enough to completely tucker him out ... his eyes drooped as he snuggled under a blanket next to Mom. The propane heater was

designed to produce a flickering light show intended to mimic a real flame – it seemed to mesmerize everyone, at least temporarily.

Suddenly, Fin asked who had won the golf match and that seemed to initiate renewed banter about the day's activities – Roddy was sure that he had won the golf game since his score was the highest. Pippa started to explain to him but was derailed by a gentle kick from Charlie who, along with everyone else, knew it was pointless. Bonnie had found a very nice piece of Dallasite¹ and was quick to remind everyone of that fact. For her part, Dottie had found several smaller pieces of quartz² that she initially thought might interest the group – that is, until Pippa (with her now found knowledge of rocks and things) pointed out that the type of common quartz that Dottie found is the second most abundant mineral in the earth's crust (behind feldspar³) and, as such, is not of much interest.. Pippa went on to say that had the quartz been of the amethyst⁴, citrine⁵ or prasiolite⁶ variety or even “blue quartz⁷” or “rose quartz⁸”, it might have been worth keeping. Dottie was taken aback by Pippa's seemingly expert comments but she didn't seem offended – Charlie was very proud of her new friend and protégé. Finally, Foxy had explained how the wave action at the beach-ocean interface acted like a big “rock tumbler” and helped produce the smooth and rounded surfaces on the green amphibolite⁹ stones of all sizes prevalent on the beach - she had collected a few smaller samples and stashed them away in her back pack. As the Grand Marnier continued to work its magic, the group again turned quiet.

Lappy, who had been deep in thought as he watched the flickering lights on the heater, broke the silence.

Lappy (barely audible): “Does anyone have a good story to tell?”

Roddy (sensing an opportunity): “Have I told you about our efforts to potty-train Roddy Jr?”

Bonnie (heading him off at the pass): “Roddy, dear, that is that last thing this group wants to hear about”. There was a global sigh of relief around the circle Roddy was a bit put off but knew this was a battle he would not win.

Dottie (she would do anything to hear Fin's voice): “Fin, you must have some exciting stories to tell”

Fin (after some internalizing): “Well, I could tell you the story of my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather Finlay Bailey-Cooper who was instrumental in protecting the Crown Jewels during World War II”.

Lappy (astounded): “That was many generations ago, how on earth could you know that story?”

Roddy (in agreement): “Yah, I don't even know who my father was let alone by great-grandfathers”.

Fin (matter of factly): “My Dad told me this story as his Dad had told him”. At this point, Fin had everyone's attention (even Roddy Jr seemed to perk up). And so, the story began.

It was September 1, 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun. By July of 1940, Germany had expanded the territories over which it maintained control to Norway and Denmark through Northern France. Additionally, in this time frame and much to the distress of London in particular and other major British centres as well, Germany attacked Britain by air. Citizens became well-drilled in heading for the air-raid shelters when the sirens

sounded and then dreaded what they might find when they able to leave the shelter. Joan Davies was one such Londoner – she had just turned 20 years of age and lived in Manor Park of East London with her Dad, Stepmom, two younger brothers and a younger sister. Each day Joan reported to the Air Raid Warden for duty with her local community search and rescue unit. Their assigned task was to search out survivors (or otherwise) amongst the rubble (piles of Portland stone¹⁰, marble¹¹ or simply bricks and mortar) caused by bombings from the night before. The job was made easier with the presence of two very intelligent canine service members: Rip (a mixed terrier known as the Blitz dog¹² who attained a great deal of notoriety over the course of the war) and Findlay Bailey-Cooper, a border-collie with keen senses. One day when Joan arrived for her duty, she noticed that Findlay was nowhere to be seen – naturally, a sense of foreboding overcame her. She inquired of the Warden and was relieved to find that Findlay had been seconded for a very special job at Headquarters – that is all the information he could offer.

Findlay reported to HQ on November 27, 1940. Findlay's first briefing laid out the most pressing issue at hand; that is, the bombing of London had been unrelenting – invasion of the British Isles by the German military machine was becoming an ominous possibility. Not surprisingly, protection of the King, his family and the royal assets were deemed top priority. As part of that process, it had been determined that the Crown Jewels needed to be hidden away. The Crown Jewels constitute 140 ceremonial items worn by members of the Royal family in the conduct of their duties – these items contain, for example, the Imperial State crown (worn by Queen Elizabeth II during her coronation) which is set with 2,868 diamonds¹³ including 17 sapphires¹⁴, 11 emeralds¹⁵ and hundreds of pearls¹⁶, including four known as Queen Elizabeth I's earrings. It also features the Black Prince's Ruby¹⁷. For safety, these items were stripped of their major jewelry components and then stored in a "chamber" carved out of limestone¹⁸ on the acreage belonging to the Tower of London. Almost comically, the individual gems (removed from the Crown Jewels) were stored in a tin biscuit container and buried under Windsor Castle. Findlay's duties included "surveillance" on the perimeter of the Tower of London – he was part of a special task force designated to protect the Crown Jewels (or rather the Crown Jewels without the jewels!!).

It took Findlay nearly two weeks to become fully accustomed to his daily routine – he was to make "rounds" of the Tower of London complex every two hours from the time he came on duty at 6 am until he left duty at 2 pm when he handed off to a fellow canine – there were three shifts of 8 hours each covering the day. A round involving observing and assessing activities on the border of the nearly 12 acre Tower of London site – Findlay was not involved in security within the confines of the moat, outer ward inner ward areas. Findlay was in uniform but operated on his own - he paid close attention to changes in the details of his surroundings – a key component of surveillance, he had been told. After weeks on the job, Findlay had come to recognize some familiar faces belonging to shop keepers, patrons of the shops, or simply citizens out walking their dogs. One such dog walker had caught Findlay's attention – not because of any outward wrong doing but for the reason that both the dog and the owner looked somewhat out of place. It was war time and the activities on Findlay's route seemed (to him at least) directed and purposeful – even the dog walkers seem to be on a schedule with no room for error. Perhaps it was the reality of the bombings that forced people to utilize their time above ground in the most efficient manner.

It was Monday afternoon when the unusual dog walker first caught Findlay's attention; his dog was a beautifully groomed female English Setter. The dog walker was tall, middle-aged, and well-dressed in a bowler hat and long tweed overcoat; he always carried a black briefcase. He wore a monocle and he

walked with a cane but as far as Findlay could tell had no noticeable physical ailment – the cane, which he twirled with some gusto as he walked, seemed to be more of a prop than anything else. The dog clearly belonged to the “upper crust of dogdom” as she carried herself with an air of superiority – even her leash seemed to be of high quality leather and had tassels that dangled at periodic intervals along its length. What intrigued Findlay was the fact that she and her master appeared to be pacing off distances associated with salient features on the outer perimeter of the Tower grounds and, in particular, around the entrances – each day was focused on a different entrance way. Periodically, the man would stop and write something in a small notebook that he kept in an inside pocket. At one point, the man stopped by a bench, sat down and then removed a piece of paper from his briefcase which he unfolded – Findlay thought it might be a map although he could not be sure as he was not close enough to tell. At this point, Findlay made a mental note to himself to collate and record all sightings of this pair.

Findlay has just finished his shift on the fifth day of observing near identical behavior by the mystery man and his dog. As he made his way to his quarters, he was about to pass by southeast corner of the Tower of London acreage when he spotted the mystery man and his dog talking to a man in uniform that had come out of the entrance between the Well and Cradle Towers. The man in uniform appeared to be giving directions and, at first, Findlay thought nothing of it. However, then the man in uniform reached into his coat pocket and removed a small notebook which he gave to the mystery man – it was a transaction that shocked Findlay yet it was unmistakable. Abruptly, the man in uniform returned through the entrance onto the Tower of London grounds.

Having observed suspicious behavior by the mystery man and his dog, Findlay, who was off-duty and had nothing scheduled, decided to follow them. The mystery pair made their way west along the Thames River towards the Tower Pier, turned north and then west again on Lower Thames Street. As Findlay followed he thought that he saw the dog drop a tissue or something - she was having trouble keeping up with her Master who seemed determined to maintain a high pace. When Findlay reached the spot where he saw the object dropped, he found a silk hankie with the name “Hadu” embroidered in one corner – he picked it up and put it in his pocket. The mystery pair maintained a brisk pace as they made their way to Queen Street where they turned north and then west again on Queen Victoria Street. When they arrived at the Black Friar pub, situated in a wedge-shaped building fronted on Queen Victoria Street, they stopped and waited – Findlay also stopped and maintained his distance. Suddenly, a man appeared from the small alleyway behind the Black Friar that connected Queen Victoria Street to Watling Street. He too wore a bowler hat and a long overcoat and carried a brown brief case – he exchanged greetings with the mystery pair. The mystery man tied the Setter’s leash to one of the chairs in the outside public seating area of the Black Friar and then he and the newcomer disappeared into the pub.

Findlay approached the Setter and introduced himself.

Findlay (politely): “Excuse me Mom, I noticed that you dropped this a-ways back”. He produced the hankie and gave it to her and then continued “My name is Findlay”.

Setter (without thinking): “Danke”.

Findlay (taken aback): “I’m sorry, I didn’t catch that”

Setter (realizing her mistake, but recovered quickly): “I meant Thank you. My name is Hadu”.

Findlay's suspicions that something was untoward about this pair had been confirmed by her mis-step in her first reply – now he knew she was not British. He decided to play along for a bit to see if he could extract more information.

Findlay (casually): “Hadu. That is an unusual but pretty name.... Is it of Dutch origin?” He knew it was German.

Hadu (hesitating ever so slightly): “Er... yes, it is Dutch.” She could sense this discussion was not going to end well and desperately wanted it to finish.

Findlay (quizzically): “Where is your Master?”

Hadu (trembling): “Uh..Uh.. he is in a meeting inside the pub.” Just then the Mystery man reappeared from the club and strode up to Hadu and Findlay.

Hadu (relieved): “This gentleman (pointing her paw in Findlay's direction) noticed that I dropped my handkerchief on the way here and he was just returning it.”

Mystery man (in very proper English): “Yes, quite. Well thank you, Sir. Dorothy, we must be on our way, we still have a ways to go to get to the underground.”

Hadu nervously glanced at Findlay, expecting the worst - but to her surprise he seemed unfazed.

Findlay (politely, ignoring the name issue): “Good day to you both.”

And with that, the pair walked west on Queen Victoria but not before Findlay noticed that the Mystery man was now carrying a brown briefcase. Findlay had a decision to make: should he follow Hadu and her Master or should he wait for the “other” man to come out of the pub and follow him. The decision turned easier as the “other” man (with a black briefcase) appeared from the pub and quickly hailed a cab –leaving Findlay to follow the Mystery man and Hadu. Findlay caught up with them just as they turned south on Little Trinity Lane – Findlay knew they must be heading for the Mansion House tube station. Fortunately, the station was quite crowded and he could remain undetected as they waited for the underground to arrive – it did and they entered the cars (Findlay was one car removed from the Mystery man and Hadu). It took about 15 minutes before they reached the South Kensington Station where the Mystery man and Hadu got off the train – Findlay followed. The Mystery pair made their way to Brompton Road and ultimately to Cheval Place in the posh Knightsbridge area. Findlay noted that address 15 Cheval Place (Apartment 4) and retraced his steps back to the Tower of London. He reported his findings to his superior.

The following week Findlay had returned to his old post in East London. He had heard that the Mystery man had been exposed as a spy for the Germans and had been plotting to steal the Queen Jewels. As a result of his efforts, Findlay had been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct. His superiors added a further reward by granting his wish to return to his old neighbourhood. Joan Davies was very happy to see him upon his return.

Fin (with an air of resignation): “And that is the end of the story”.

With that the group packed up and concluded their day at the beach.

Acknowledgements

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

Appendix

1. Fun Facts - Rocks and Gems (all material obtained from the web!!)

1.



Dallasite is a breccia made of quartz, epidote, altered basalt and pumpellyite. The stone is named after Dallas Road right here in our very own city, Victoria. It is considered the unofficial stone of British Columbia's capital city. Dallasite is found in Triassic volcanic rocks of Vancouver Island and is considered the third most important gem material in the province.

2.



Quartz is rich in silicon and is the second most abundant mineral in Earth's continental crust, second only to feldspar. There are many different varieties of quartz, several of which are semi-precious gemstones. Since antiquity, varieties of quartz have been the most commonly used minerals in the making of jewelry and hardstone carvings, especially in Eurasia.

3.



Feldspar is a rock-forming silicate mineral that makes up about 41% of the Earth's continental crust by weight. Feldspars crystallize from magma as veins in both intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks and are also present in many types of metamorphic rock. Feldspars can contain either Potassium, Sodium, and Calcium.

4.



Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz often used in jewelry- it is the traditional birthstone for February. The color results from iron impurities. The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle in the belief that amethysts heal people and keep them cool-headed.

5.



Citrine - is a yellow-to-golden member of the quartz mineral group. Citrine has been called the "stone of the mind" as ancient cultures believed that it was associated with psychic power. Natural Citrine can be found in Madagascar, France and Russia. However, much of the world's treated Citrine (from Amethyst) comes from Brazil.

6.



Prasiolite is a silicate mineral also known as green quartz or vermarine. Natural prasiolite can be found in Brazil, Poland and Canada. It is often used in jewelry as a substitute for far more expensive precious gemstones. It is a rare stone in nature but natural prasiolite is a very light, translucent green. Darker green quartz is generally the result of artificial treatment.

7.



Blue quartz is simply a term is used for - at least - three different types of quartz: (i) quartz crystals that appear blue due to the so called Tyndall scattering effect caused by tiny inclusions (ii) crystalline quartz that is blue due to more or less evenly distributed inclusions of blue minerals, like tourmaline, and (iii) a coarse grained, massive, macrocrystalline form not unlike aventurine quartz that is also colored by embedded blue minerals, like dumortierite. The image to the left is an example of the last choice.

8.



Rose Quartz is a silicon dioxide crystal and one of the most common varieties of the Quartz family. It is found in abundance around the world and occurs only in massive form, with no crystal faces, edges or terminations. It is hazy to translucent, and is usually found in the cores of granite pegmatites. Its name is derived from its soft rose color, which ranges from very pale pink to deep reddish-pink and is due to trace amounts of titanium, iron, or manganese in the massive material.

9.



Amphibole is another important group of silicate-related minerals, forming prism or needlelike crystals, composed of double chain SiO_4 tetrahedra, linked at the vertices and generally containing ions of iron and/or magnesium in their structures. Amphiboles can be green, black, colorless, white, yellow, blue, or brown. Tremolite (shown to the left) is an example of an amphibole.

10.



Portland stone is a limestone quarried on the Isle of Portland, Dorset. The quarries are cut in beds of white-grey limestone separated by chert beds. It has been used extensively as a building stone throughout the British Isles. Calcium carbonate is the principal constituent of most limestones which are typically formed in a marine environment.

11.



Marble is a metamorphic rock composed of recrystallized carbonate minerals, most commonly calcite or dolomite. Pure white marble is the result of metamorphism of a very pure (silicate-poor) limestone or dolomite protolith. The characteristic swirls and veins of many colored marble varieties are usually due to various mineral impurities such as clay, silt, sand, iron oxides, or chert which were originally present as grains or layers in the limestone.

12.



Rip the Blitz dog (died 1946) was a mixed-breed terrier, a Second World War search and rescue dog and was awarded the Dickin Medal for bravery in 1945. He was found in Poplar, London, in 1940 by an Air Raid warden, and became the service's first search and rescue dog. Rip was not trained for search and rescue work, but he is credited with saving the lives of over 100 people.

13.



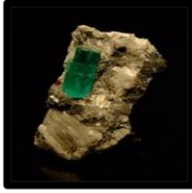
Diamond - is comprised of carbon atoms are arranged in a face-centered cubic crystal structure that is very stable. Diamond is known for its hardness and has relatively high optical dispersion. Roughly 49% of diamonds originate from Africa, although significant sources of the mineral have been discovered in Canada, India, Russia, Brazil, and Australia.

14.



Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum, an aluminium oxide. It is typically blue in color, but natural sapphires also occur in yellow, purple, orange, and green colors; "parti sapphires" show two or more colors. This variety in color is due to trace amounts of elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, copper, or magnesium. Sapphire is the birthstone for September

15.



Emerald is a gemstone and a variety of the beryl (beryllium (Be) aluminum silicate) mineral group. It is colored green by trace amounts of chromium (Cr) and sometimes vanadium (V). Emeralds are found worldwide but the main deposits are found in Columbia, Brazil, and Zambia.

16.



Pearl is a hard, glistening object produced within the soft tissue of a living shelled mollusk. Pearl is composed of calcium carbonate (mainly aragonite or a mixture of aragonite and calcite) and is deposited in concentric crystalline layers. The ideal pearl is perfectly round and smooth and the finest quality of natural pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries. The most valuable pearls occur spontaneously in the wild, but are extremely rare.

17.



Ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium (Cr). Its name comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. Rubies are predominantly found in marble deposits along the southern slopes of the Himalayas.

18.



Limestone is a carbonate sedimentary rock that is often composed of the skeletal fragments of marine organisms. Its major materials are the minerals calcite and aragonite i.e., different crystal forms of calcium carbonate. About 10% of sedimentary rocks are limestones. The solubility of limestone in water and weak acid solutions leads to karst landscapes, in which water erodes the limestone over thousands to millions of years.