



LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

PO Box 48164 Uptown PO
Victoria, BC V8Z 3L0



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Website :: www.vlms.ca

VLMS Board

President :	Doug MacLeod	president@vlms.ca (250-888-8440)
Vice-President :	Mel Fenton	gotstonedjewelry@gmail.com (250-589-1245)
Registrar:	Becci Simmons	membership@vlms.ca (250-476-2676)
Past-President:	Allana Shilito	mrz_p@hotmail.com (250-857-2153)
Secretary:	Sarah Hamilton	secretary@vlms.ca (250-974-7272)
Treasurer:	Dave Jackson	treasurer@vlms.ca (778-676-1150)
At Large:	Debbie Frank	gemfinders@telus.net (250-360-6434)
	Rae DeFrane	constellocean@gmail.com (250-589-9723)
	Brian McMillan	soniamac@telus.net (250-385-2700)
	John Anderson	johnsusannah@telus.net (250-812-9303)

VLMS Committees

Programs:	Karol Jorgensen	kmarcj@gmail.com (403-559-6165)
	Arlene Modderman	tohezoo@shaw.ca (250-656-5136)
Librarian:	Kathryn Hawkins	librarian@vlms.ca (250-652-4940)
Show Chair:	Sarah Hamilton	showcommittee@vlms.ca (250-974-7272)
	Vanessa Steffens	(250-385-8525)
Field Trips:	Sean Maier	fieldtrips@vlms.ca (250- 382- 6119)
Webmaster:	Becci Simmons	web@vlms.ca (250-478-2676)
Workshop:	Brian McMillan	soniamac@telus.net (250-385-2700)
	Doug McLeod	lapidaryworkshop@vlms.ca (250-888-8440)
Editor:	Gary Brooke	laphoundnews@vlms.ca (250-475-3440)
Social:	Susannah Andersen	johnsusannah@telus.net (250-812-9303)
	Barb MacKenzie	barb.mackenzie@shaw.ca (250-727-0954)
Events:	Nick Aktarian	xresos@yahoo.com (250-589-1434)
Island Zone:	Dave Jackson	dehavillanddave@yahoo.ca (778-676-1150)
	Sarah Hamilton	sarahstarfish@gmail.com (250-974-7272)
	Doug MacLeod	president@vlms.ca (250-888-8440)



The Newsroom

Announcements

Covid

We are still in a holding pattern. Virtual Board of Director meetings are being held and there is some field trip activity. In case you have forgotten what your elected and appointed officials look like, I present them below.

Elected Positions



President

Doug McLeod

president@vlms.ca



Past President

Allana Shillito

allana.shillito@vlms.ca



Treasurer

David Jackson

treasurer@vlms.ca



Vice President

Mel Fenton

vicepresident@vlms.ca



Membership

Becci Simmons
membership@vlms.ca



Secretary

Sarah Hamilton
secretary@vlms.ca



Member at Large

John Andersen
john.andersen@vlms.ca



Member at Large

Rae DeFrane
rae.defrane@vlms.ca



Member at Large

Brian McMillan
brian.mcmillan@vlms.ca



Member at Large

Debbie Frank
debbie.frank@vlms.ca

Appointed Positions



Laphound News Editor

Gary Brooke
laphoundnews@vlms.ca



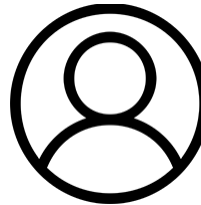
Librarian

Kathryn Hawkins
librarian@vlms.ca



Field Trips

Sean Maier
fieldtrips@vlms.ca



Program Coordinator

Arlene Modderman
arlene.moddermann@vlms.ca



Program Coordinator

Karol Jorgensen
karol.jorgensen@vlms.ca



Show Chairman

Sarah Hamilton
showcommittee@vlms.ca



Social Committee

Susannah Andersen

susannah.andersen@vlms.ca



Social Committee

Barb McKenzie

barb.mckenzie@vlms.ca



Workshop

Doug McLeod

lapidaryworkshop@vlms.ca



Workshop

Brian McMillan

brian.mcmillan@vlms.ca



Senior Island Zone Representative

David Jackson

treasurer@vlms.ca



Junior Island Zone Representative

Doug McLeod

president@vlms.ca



Intermediate Island Zone Representative

Sarah Hamilton

secretary@vlms.ca



Webmaster

Becci Simmons

web@vlms.ca

Club Events

Meetings (Doug)

Regular member meetings will recommence when Covid-19 permits. Virtual BOD meetings have been conducted using the Google G-Suite capability that Becci has set up for us.

Field Trips (Sean)

Field trips are back!!! As we are currently limited to a maximum of 10 people on a field trip - we need to collect names in advance. Please use the form (available from Sean or on the website at fieldtrips@vlms.ca) to indicate your intention to join the trip. If your plans change and you no longer plan to join, make sure you contact Sean to cancel your booking. This may enable other people who are waitlisted to join the trip.

Social Distancing and other usual protocols must be observed, however mask wearing is not mandatory outdoors if social distancing is maintained. Here is a link to info on Face Masks. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks>. If you feel

safer please feel free to wear one. A Covid Screening questionnaire will be sent out two days before each trip. You will need to come by your own transportation individually or in a family group.

The next field trip, to the Meade Creek area north of Cowichan lake, is scheduled for May 30th. This is an easy hike and possible finds include Rhodonite. Gold panning is also an option. Suggested things to bring:

- Gold panning pans
- Water (for drinking)
- Rock hammer
- safety glasses (eye protection)
- gloves
- hiking boots or good treaded running shoes
- Masks (not a bandana) for covid

The meeting place will be at the Ice Cream Mountain ice-cream shop at 9 am. If Members wish to attend, please ensure that you fill out the Covid screening questionnaire by Saturday May 29th, 7pm.

October Show (Vanessa)

As most of you already expect, the October show will very likely be another no-show, due to the current global pandemic. As vaccinations continue and restrictions change we can hope for the return of outdoor markets. However, at present, it is still unlikely that large indoor events will be approved for the remainder of this year. If there are any changes to restrictions that would otherwise change this expected further postponement, the October show chair will update members via email or in the next Laphound News.

Courses (Vanessa)

Due to the continued closure of the Les Passmore Senior Centre, the monthly metalsmithing drop in (otherwise known as the Metalsmithing Workshop), as well as, all silversmithing courses, continue to be postponed for the time being. Once the centre has been reopened for workshop rentals, the two previously-booked drop-in dates will be rescheduled and plans for courses may resume.

Reports

President (Doug)

The BOD has met a few times mostly as an informal get together. The last time we put the initial information out for the Pam Dyer Bursary made available to Post Education Earth Sciences Programs. Becci has updated the info and application forms on our website. Please check it out under club info. Becci is also working on a Marketplace page on our website which will be available to those Members who wish to advertise where they sell at markets, on Etsy or other Social Media sites. Thank you, Becci, for all your efforts.

Our Treasurer David has been working behind the scenes keeping our books up to date. Last year we obtained club credit cards to make monthly, local and online purchases much easier; they also help members to avoid using personal cards. This process has been very trying, even to get a change of address accomplished, so thanks to Dave for his efforts.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank Sean for getting field-trip activities available to the membership once again.

Bus Trip to the Abbotsford Show (Doug)

No plans for this year due to Covid.

Website (Becci) (vlms.ca)

There are two new posts with photos on the field trips on the News page. A photo gallery of dallasite has been added to the Club info page. Details of the Pam Dyer Memorial Bursary have also been added to the Club Info page, along with a link to the application form.

Membership (Becci)

We have had no new memberships this quarter, thus, the membership total currently stands at 98; this number breaks down into 130 adults and 31 juniors.

Field Trips (Sean)

Here are some photos associated with field trips held in April and May of 2021.

1. Ralph Mine (Goldstream) Field Trip – April 18.

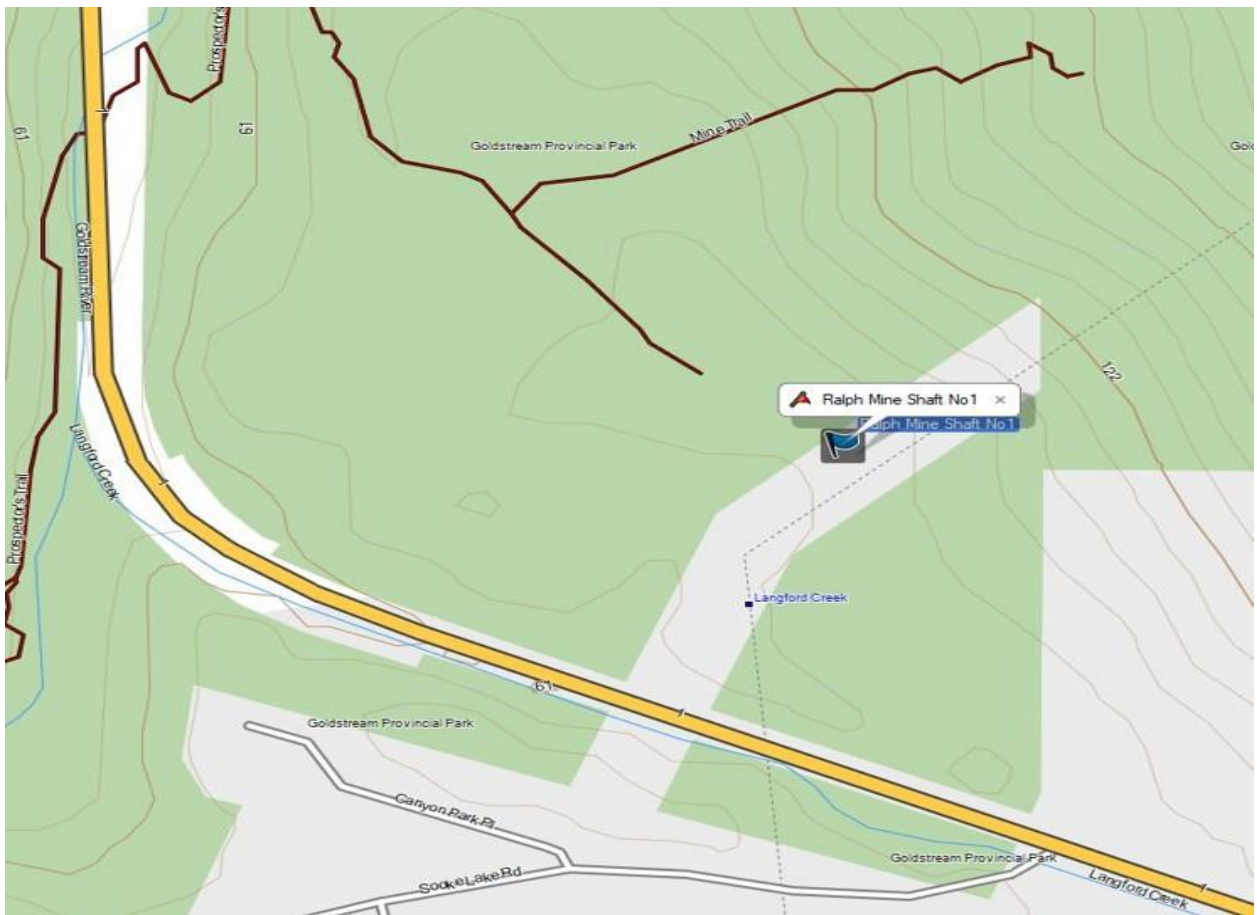


Figure 1. Ralph Mine Location



Figure 2. Ralph Mine participants.



Figure 3. Trail to the Ralph Mine.



Figure 4. Warning sign posted at Ralph Mine.



Figure 5. Ralph Mine shaft (no entry).



Figure 6. Clinozoisite found at Ralph Mine site.



Figure 7. Bornite (peacock ore) found at Ralph Mine site.

2. Muir Creek (Gordon Beach west of Sooke) Field Trip – April 25.



Figure 8. Gordon Beach.



Figure 9. Muir Creek (gold panning anyone?).



Figure 10. Fossils from the beach.

3. Burnt Bridge (Koksilah River west of Cowichan) Field Trip – May 16



Figure 11. Koksilah River.



Figure 12. Material in-situ.



Figure 13. Material in-situ.



Figure 14. Quartz crystals.



Figure 15. Quartz crystals.

Finally, Sean conducted a survey of Members interested in attending the field trips – he gave the respondents four choices upon which to express their level of interest....the results are shown below.

Location	Votes so far FOR the location	Against the location	Indifferent
Pegmatites	+1		+7
Quartz crystals (maybe)	+2		+6
Gold panning	+1	+3	+4
Rhodonite	+1		+6

Table 1. Field trip survey.

Social Committee (Susannah)

1. John and I contacted Gilles LeBrun at the end of March. In his own words, he claims to have "a little problem but is really, really good". He has had visits to the oncologist, surgeons and a specialist. We had arranged to meet with him at his home, but there was an increase in Covid-19 cases at John's work, so we had to postpone visiting him until a later date.
2. I contacted Bruce Clarke, son of Charles Elmer Clarke (who passed away on June 10th, 2020). I wanted to indicate to Bruce that we would not be having a March Show to showcase his father's life. Perhaps at a later date, when things normalize and he is still open to it, we will do so.
3. We sent a card of condolence, on behalf of the Club, to a club member, whose dear friend had passed away. They both had sold at booths at our March and October shows, and she had known this friend for 30 years.

Library (Kathryn)

I hope this newsletter finds everyone managing well under our current conditions. Any suggestions for topics or books to enhance our VLMS Library are always welcome, please let me know. We always appreciate any donations of books for our Library or for our book sales (eventually?). If anyone has books borrowed from our Library please find them so they can be returned when we finally get together again. I look forward to seeing everyone soon, please take care, and enjoy your collections of minerals and fossils.

Workshop (Doug)

The club has been given items from an estate which can be used in the shop or put up in our annual auction (that is, when we can finally have one). The items include: an 8 in trim saw, a Lapidary machine that accommodates 2 Genie wheels, a belt wheel and a buffering plate, a large lighted magnifying glass on a swing arm, a small flat lap similar to what we already have (a cheaper version but it works), a Fordom-type flexible shaft tool, four glass-covered display cases (each ~30 inch square), a small inexpensive microscope and a tub of indexed mineral samples. Note, we can put the 2 high-grit wheels from our Genies onto this donated machine to give us more 3000 grit wheels and more flexibility in the shop.

I have been experimenting with using a Fordom flex tool for stone and gem carving or easier projects. Dremel and other brand flex tools can also be successfully used. For example, the King brand is available on Amazon for about \$40 with flex shaft included. We also have one in the shop that works well by all accounts. There are many reasonably priced models available as well as expensive diamond burrs, cutting wheels and rubber, felt and other polishing devices for the enthusiast. I will put links to some You Tube videos and tool availability in an email soon.

Island Zone (Doug)

A virtual Zone meeting was held on May 6, 2021. The main topic of discussion centred on the organization required for the 2022 BCLS Rendezvous which will be organized and hosted by Vancouver Island Zone in the spring. Note, it is Port Alberni's turn to host the 2022 Island Gemboree, however, the BCLS Rendezvous will be held in its place.

Guidelines from BCLS have been emailed to zone members to go over and to be prepared to volunteer for duties at the next meeting. Preliminary discussions for a location were held but put off to do more research for the next meeting. The next virtual meeting will be on Tuesday May 17th.

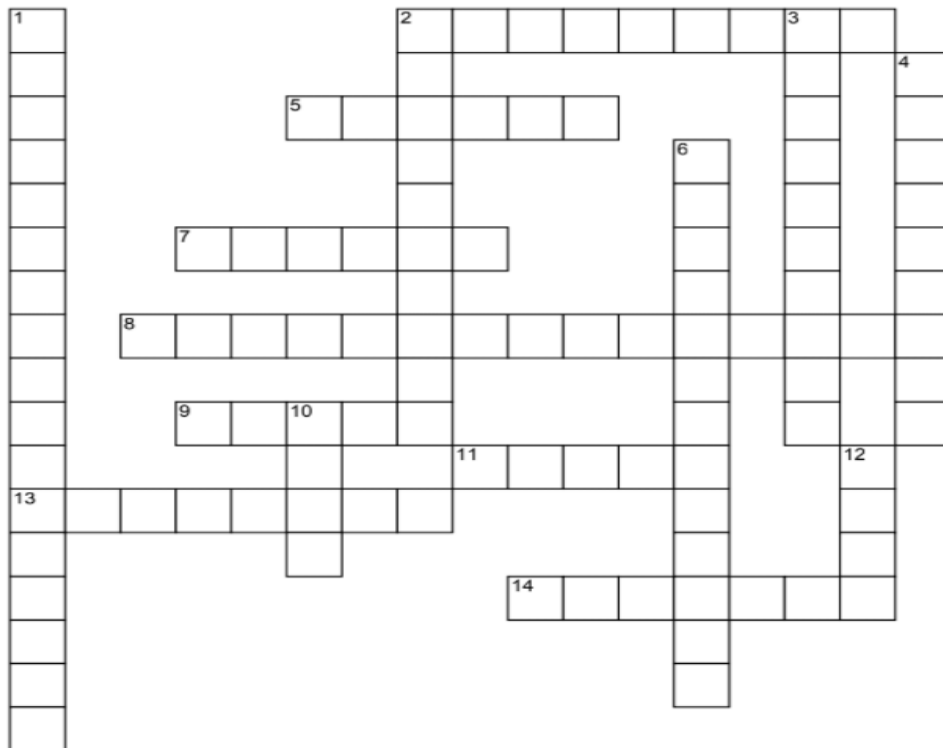
Editor (Gary)

Most of the information presented in these newsletters is solicited. Please note, the Fun Facts section of each Newsletter involves the evolution of several fictitious characters (of the canine variety) in storylines that are designed to highlight mineral and gem-related terminology and facts for Members. Since the characters are NOT re-introduced with each edition, new Members might find it more satisfying to read previous editions (all available on the VLMS website) in order to fully appreciate the nuances of each of the characters and hence the stories themselves.

The Quartz Family Crossword

This challenging exercise was suggested by Vanessa. Answers provided in the Fun Facts section below – so try it on your own now!!!

The Quartz Family



www.rocksandminerals4u.com

ACROSS

- 2 A clear red chalcedony
- 5 one of the most common of minerals in the continental crust
- 7 an opaque red variety of cryptocrystalline quartz
- 8 the chemical formula for quartz
- 9 _____quartz is a brown type of quartz
- 11 the name of a group of silicates made of chalcedony.
- 13 a purple variety of quartz
- 14 a yellow variety of quartz

DOWN

- 1 crystals are only visible with magnification
- 2 one of the cryptocrystalline varieties of quartz, the mineral in agates
- 3 a green variety of cryptocrystalline quartz
- 4 a chatoyant gemstone containing asbestos
- 6 mechanical pressure generates electrical charge
- 10 a black and white banded variety of cryptocrystalline quartz
- 12 _____quartz is a pink type of 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!!!!



Free At Last

Foxy and the gang had finally begun to feel free of the pandemic – they had all been vaccinated twice and decided to get together for a social at Foxy's downtown condo. It had been almost a year since their last get together. In attendance were Lappy (and Foxy, of course), Finn and Dottie, Pippa and Charlie, and Bonnie and Roddy (Roddy Jr, who was now a year and a half old, didn't mind being left at home with Roddy's Mom since he found her easy to torment!). A lot of water has passed under the bridge during the pandemic. For example, Lappy had "moved in" with Foxy – he couldn't believe that he had lived for so long in squalor with his buddies; Finn and Dottie, though not taking a similar step just yet, were definitely seeing a lot of each other – Dottie was "over the moon" and Finn had to admit that Dottie entered his thoughts more than he could ever have imagined. Finally, Pippa and Charlie had made it official, they were a "couple". Bonnie and Roddy were totally absorbed by their young son, Roddy Jr, who was now a year and a half old, growing like a weed and full of mischief.

On this night, after a delicious meal prepared by Foxy (complemented by a Chiraz wine selected and brought by Finn), Charlie suggested the group decided to tackle the Quartz¹ Crossword. Charlie and Pippa had prepared copies of the crossword puzzle so that everyone could conveniently view the clues and the puzzle. The group surveyed the puzzle.

Finn (the first to speak): "This is not easy"

Foxy (a little more upbeat): "I think there are a few that we can get straight-off – surely we know, 13 and 14 across?"

Dottie (feeling kind of proud of herself): “I think 13-across is amethyst²”

Pippa (surprised): “Wow, Dottie, I agree and I have got to say that I am totally impressed that you knew that!”

Lappy (also surprised): “Well done, Dottie. I think 14-across has to be citrine³...what do you guys think?”

Roddy (not so sure): “Isn’t citrine a type of fruit?”

Bonnie (giggling): “Roddy, dear, I think you are thinking of citrus fruits”

Roddy (non-plussed): “No, I’m not. The word ‘citrus’ only has 6 letters so it doesn’t fit the bill.”

Charlie (stepping in): “Actually, Roddy, you make a good point about ‘citrus’ not having enough letters but I think Lappy is correct.”

Finn (after penciling the answer for 13 across into the puzzle): “In that case, 10 down has to be Onyx⁴, don’t you think?”

Pippa (stepping up once again): “Would Silica⁵ work for 5-across?”

Foxy (agreeing): “It does Pippa, let’s pencil it in and see where we are at.”

Dottie (excited once again): “Isn’t pink quartz called rose quartz⁶? I think I read that somewhere.”

Charlie (nodding): “Dottie, you have outdone yourself, you are correct. 12-down is definitely Rose.”

Roddy (feeling a bit left out): “What has the clue to 6-down got to do with this puzzle. Everyone knows that electric charge comes from an AA battery or from those outlet things on the wall.”

Charlie (politely as possible): “That is true Roddy but certain types of material actually generate an electric charge when you squeeze them. They are called piezoelectrics⁷. Now, your everyday quartz that you find on the beach would be hard to use as a piezoelectric but a single crystal of quartz is used.”

Roddy (impressed): “Who uses pizza-electrics?”

Charlie (thinking for a second): “Well, for example, sound underwater is a pressure signal and if you want to obtain a record of that signal you would use a piezoelectric sensor (a hydrophone) that converts the pressure signal to an electrical signal that, in turn, you can record. This would be a ceramic sensor and not quartz. ”

Roddy (indignant): “I never stick my head underwater to listen to sounds. Why would anyone do that?”

Bonnie (to the rescue): “Roddy, environmentalists listen to whales and the navy listens for submarines – the point is exactly as you say we don’t have to stick our heads underwater to listen we use a piezoelectric sensor to do it for us.”

Roddy (as the rest of the group nods in agreement): “Cool, that is way better than using my head.”

Foxy (refocusing the group): “Okay, everyone agrees that 6-down is piezoelectric.”

Lappy (after some thought): “2-across has got to be Carnelian⁸.”

Finn (agreeing): “I agree Lappy, does anyone know what ‘chatoyancy’ means?”

Pippa (seizing the moment): “Chatoyancy is something we covered in the course I took last year. A chatoyant gem is one which shows bands of reflected light based on the alignment of inclusions within the material.”

Finn (nodding): “That is sort of what I thought. In that case, I think the answer to 4-down could be Tiger’s Eye⁹.”

Foxy (summarizing): “Well, we have made some good progress I think. Surely we know the answer to 8-across....Charlie?”

Charlie (perplexed): “Well the answer is Silicon Dioxide but that actually doesn’t fit unless you use a ‘-’ between silicon and dioxide...I admit to being confused by it.”

Roddy (jumping in): “Isn’t it silicone dioxide?...that would work.”

Charlie (acquiescing): “It works either way so let’s go with Roddy’s suggestion but, for the record, silicone¹⁰ is a man-made polymer used in all sorts of applications and not something that would be found in a chemical formula – the correct answer has to be silicon dioxide.”

Foxy (putting her paw up to be recognized): “I am thinking that 3-down is either Aventurine¹¹ or Prasiolite¹² but if we go with Carnelian as 7-across then we have to go with Aventurine for 3-down.... it fits providing we accept the solution to 8-across.”

Finn (moving right along): “Is Smoky Quartz¹³ brown?”

Charlie (giggling a bit): “I see where you are going Finn. Smoky Quartz is typically a gray color but it is sometimes referred to as ‘brown’ quartz.... so I think Finn is thinking that the answer to 9-across is Smoky and it does fit.”

Foxy (taking stock): “Agate¹⁴ works for 11 across.”

Pippa (on a roll): “Yes, good one Foxy, and how about Jasper¹⁵ for 7-across?”

Finn (keeping up): “Well done group. We are almost done. I am now wondering about our proposed solution to 5-across. I am convinced that all the clues point to 2-down as Chalcedony¹⁶ but that means that 5-across is not correct.”

Roddy (musing): “I read in Reader’s Digest that one of the most common minerals in the earth’s surface is quartz.”

Charlie (surprised): “Roddy, you are a genius.. it is a bit strange that the Quartz Crossword would have Quartz as one of the answers but I think you are right...it fits.”

Pippa (breathing a sigh of relief): “That leaves 1-down and I was thinking the answer could be microcrystalline ... but it doesn’t quite fit.”

Charlie (proud of her girlfriend): "You are close Pippa....I think the correct technical term is Cryptocrystalline¹⁷."

Foxy (clapping her paws): "Well done everyone."

And with the conclusion of the crossword challenge, the evening wrapped up. Everyone agreed that it was a relief to be able to meet once again and they vowed to do it again soon.

Acknowledgements

Once again I would like to thank all those members who contributed to this Newsletter. With regard to the Fun Fact's section, Charlie is correct ... the answer provided on the web to 8-across is "silicone dioxide" but this is clearly incorrect since silicone is not a chemical element.

Appendix

Fun Facts Rocks and Gems (all information obtained from Wikipedia on the web)

1.



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.

2.



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.

3.



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.

4.



Onyx primarily refers to the parallel banded variety of the silicate mineral chalcedony. Onyx is a variety of layered chalcedony that has parallel bands. The colors of its bands range from white to almost every color. Commonly, specimens of onyx contain bands of black and/or white.

5.



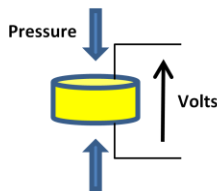
Silica, also known as silicon dioxide, is an oxide of silicon with the chemical formula SiO_2 , most commonly found in nature as quartz and in various living organisms. Silica is typically the major constituent of sand. Silica is also one of the most complex and most abundant families of materials, existing as a compound of several minerals and as synthetic product.

6.



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.

7.



Piezoelectricity is the electric charge that accumulates in certain solid materials (such as crystals, certain ceramics and biological matter such as bone, DNA and various proteins) in response to applied mechanical stress. The piezoelectric effect is a reversible process: materials exhibiting the piezoelectric effect (the internal generation of electrical charge resulting from an applied mechanical force) also exhibit the reverse piezoelectric effect, the internal generation of a mechanical strain resulting from an applied electrical field.

8.



Carnelian is a brownish-red mineral commonly used as a semi-precious gemstone. Carnelian is a variety of the silica mineral chalcedony colored by impurities of iron oxide. The color can vary greatly, ranging from pale orange to an intense almost-black coloration. It is most common in Brazil, India, Siberia and Germany.

9.



Tiger's eye is a chatoyant gemstone that is usually a metamorphic rock with a golden to red-brown colour and a silky lustre. As members of the quartz group, tiger's eye gains its silky, lustrous appearance from the parallel intergrowth of quartz crystals and altered amphibole fibres that have mostly turned into limonite.

10



A silicone is a polymer that is typically colorless and a rubber-like substance used in sealants, adhesives and lubricants. Silicone is often confused with silicon, but they are distinct substances. Silicon is a chemical element and is a hard dark-grey semiconducting metalloid in its crystalline form. Silicones are compounds that have very different physical and chemical properties.

11.



Aventurine is a form of quartz, characterised by its translucency and the presence of platy mineral inclusions that give it a shimmering or glistening effect. The most common color of aventurine is green, but it may also be orange, brown, yellow, blue, or grey. Chrome-bearing fuchsite (a variety of muscovite mica) is the classic inclusion and gives a silvery green or blue sheen.

12.



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.

13.



Smoky quartz is a brownish grey, translucent variety of quartz that ranges in clarity from almost complete transparency to an almost-opaque brownish-gray or black crystal. Like other quartz gems, it is a silicon dioxide crystal. The smoky colour results from free silicon formed from the silicon dioxide by natural irradiation.

14.



Agate is a rock consisting primarily of cryptocrystalline silica, chiefly chalcedony, alternating with microgranular quartz. It is characterized by its fineness of grain and variety of color. Although agates may be found in various kinds of host rock, they are classically associated with volcanic rocks and can be common in certain metamorphic rocks. They are very common in BC.

15.



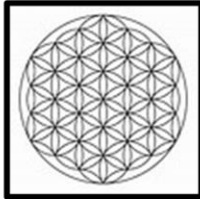
Jasper is an aggregate of microgranular quartz and/or chalcedony and other mineral phases. It is opaque, and usually red, yellow, brown or green in color; but it is rarely blue. The common red color is due to iron inclusions. It can be highly polished and is one of the traditional birthstones for March. Jasper is common throughout BC.

16.



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.

17.



Cryptocrystalline is a rock texture made up of such minute crystals that its crystalline nature is only vaguely revealed even microscopically in thin section by transmitted polarized light. Onyx is also a cryptocrystalline. Agates such as the fairburn agate are also composed of cryptocrystalline silica.