



LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

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



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Website :: www.vlms.ca

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The Newsroom

Announcements

Meetings (and Barbeque)

We are going to try and go ahead with the September members' meeting. As most of you know, our members' meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month; however September is a special case because the first Monday is part of the long weekend, so in September we move the meeting back one week. This year the September members' meeting will be on **Monday, September 13th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm** (note slightly earlier start time).

Usually our meetings are held in the **Burnside Lawn Bowling Club at 274 Hampton Rd, Victoria, BC V8Z 1H1**. However, this September we would like to do something special. We are going to rent the upstairs room of the **Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St, Victoria, BC V9A 3K4** for the evening and bring in a caterer to run a BBQ from the parking lot at the club's expense. Lori, from Lori's Little Kitchen, (alias Lori's Takeaway Cafe, known and loved by Yvan and Leni Gagnon, and Barbara MacKenzie), will do the catering. She will supply: barbecued hotdogs, hamburgers, sandwiches, pasta and green salads, a fruit plate, baked goods, and beverages.

The plan is to provide a time and space where we can catch up with each other after a long hiatus and share the tall stories of what we've been doing to fulfill our rock cravings over the last year and a half when we haven't been able to meet in person. You are encouraged to bring rocks/ photos of rocks and indulge your passion (for rocks).

For reasons of planning the catering and for Covid contact tracing, we are asking all members who would like to attend to plan in advance and **fill in this Google form** (please note, **this is an event for members only**). The form is available at [Da Vinci BBQ and Member's meeting](#) or on the VLMS website.

Rough-to-Ready Member's Fair

As the BC Stage 4 reopening plan, starting September 7th, permits the hosting of large indoor events, we will again be hosting the VLMS October Rough to Ready Member's Fair (rock show). A poster, promoting the fair is shown below in Fig. 1. It is important to note that established Rough-to-Ready vendors have a limited time advantage. Please review the Vendor-table request form (available on the VLMS website or from Vanessa), print, complete and return via email attachment to the showchair@vlms.ca email address, or reply back to arrange an alternate form submission. Forms not received by August 22nd will be competing with new vendor application requests. Also note that

Table fees have increased whereas table availability has decreased i.e., due to Covid, we must provide for increased social distance spacing.

Those Members not wishing to participate this year, please respond back at your earliest convenience simply stating, "Thanks, not this year" and your established vendor status will continue to the following year.

4TH ANNUAL ARTISIAN FAIR HOSTED BY MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIA LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY

ROUGH TO READY ROCK FAIR

2021



WHERE

Leonardo Da Vinci Centre
195 Bay Street, Victoria, BC
(at Wilson St.)

A Rock Show highlighting the talents and passions of the members and friends of the Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Society.

WHEN

Sat. October 16th, 11 am to 5 pm
Sun. October 17th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

ADMISSION

12 years and older: \$2
Children under 12: free
Admission at door – cash only

Doors will close to new admissions 30 minutes prior to closing



Figure 1. Rough-to-Ready show poster.

Field Trip

A field trip to Meade Creek is being planned. Meade Creek is just outside of Youbou (Lake Cowichan area, Teleglobe Canada Rd, Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G1). This area promises to yield Rhodonite and Laurel Stone, and, in addition, normally provides for a gold panning experience. Please bring extra water, bug spray, sunscreen, hats, and, of course, your rock hammers. Note, with respect to gold panning- I checked out the creekbed earlier in August and it was bone dry.

The meeting point will be at the **Juan de Fuca Parking Lot at 09:00 AM August 22nd** (I can't easily get to or from the other meeting point by bus easily).

Courses

Courses are dependent upon the availability of the workshop (see Workshop report below) and consequently, no new courses are scheduled until further notice. There is one Lapidary course in progress which will resume when the shop reopens. Also, there are 2 open Metal-Smithing workshops tentatively planned for the end of September and end of October, however, exact dates have not yet been confirmed. As soon as we can lock in the dates with the Les Passmore Centre, emails will be sent to past participants and to the club's distribution list (fingers crossed that active case numbers will start to decline again soon).

Reports

President (John)

Hello Fellow Rockers,

My love of rocks has challenged me to step up to the role of Interim President. First, let me send a big **THANK YOU** to Doug McLeod for all the work he has done, pouring out his heart and soul, in his roles as President and Workshop Manager, especially in these difficult times "Thanks Doug"!

Second, I would like to send a big shout out to all the Board Members:

- (i) Yvan Gagnon, for agreeing to step up to the role of Vice-President;
- (ii) Becci Simmons, for all her expert IT experience and her heart's willingness to help anybody;
- (iii) Sarah Hamilton for fielding all the peoples' idiosyncrasies in keeping the recording of it all within the Bylaws;
- (iv) Dave Jackson, for all the time and energy you spend on the financial aspects of VLMS;
- (v) Gary Brooke, we really appreciate the professionalism that you execute in bringing us the Laphound News. We all love your stories! Thanks!
- (vi) the Members at Large (Debbie Frank, Brian MacMillan and Susannah Andersen) for your support.
- (vii) to all the other VLMS Committees for hanging in there during this rough season;
- (viii) and finally, to Vanessa Steffens, Allana Shilito, and Sarah Hamilton for organizing the October Rough to Ready Show.

We hope that this report finds all the members enjoying the beautiful weather this summer. We are looking forward to meeting you all again at the September 13th General Meeting and meal at the Da Vinci Center. Please fill out the Registration Form if you wish to attend.

On a slightly personal note, several of us have been rockhounding in the North Island and have made new discoveries. We will bring a sample for everyone at the General Meeting, so please come and find out what it is.

Workshop (Doug)

There is nothing more from Silver Threads other than they will look at when we can return to the shop sometime in the fall.

Island Gemboree

There has been no activity in the Island Zone due to Covid.

October Show - Rough to Ready Member's Fair (Vanessa)

Yes, the show is a GO! Thankfully with the province's reopening stages, stage 4 will permit all indoor shows and events and the third weekend in October (16th and 17th) has been confirmed with the Leonardo daVinci centre as our member's weekend to show off with our rock related talents, collections and passions.

Returning vendor forms have recently been sent out to previous show vendors and new open vendor forms will be sent out to the rest of VLMS members using the club distribution list on Aug 23rd. Island club contacts will be send form invitations on Sept 14th, for distribution to their memberships.

Table fees have increased this year and table availability has decreased due to increased spacing for safety measures during these ongoing challenging times.

If you are interested in being part of the October Rough to Ready Member's Fair show committee, please send an email to the showchair@vlms.ca mailbox and we will be in contact with you soon.

Social Committee (Susannah)

On June 15th, the day when the Covid laws were relaxed to allow 50 people meeting outdoors, Barb MacKenzie and I applied to Saanich's Beckwith Park, for the purpose of having an end of summer barbecue August 28th or 29th, 2021. However, after waiting 6 weeks for Saanich's reply, to no avail, we cancelled the application.

Instead, we have arranged to have a barbecue celebrating our welcoming back of the VLMS Full Membership Meeting on:

Monday, September 13th, 2021, from 6:30to 8:30pm, at the Da Vinci Center.

Lori, from Lori's Little Kitchen, (alias Lori's Takeaway Cafe, known and loved by Yvan and Leni Gagnon, and Barbara MacKenzie), will do the catering. She will supply: barbecued hotdogs, hamburgers, sandwiches, pasta and green salads, a fruit plate, baked goods, and beverages.

Those who intend to attend the barbecue need to fill out a form, in order for Lori to know numbers to cook for.

We are waiting for Saanich's announcement regarding the Covid laws for September 15th, to see whether further activities will be arranged this fall.

A get-well card was sent on behalf of the Club to someone who had fallen with a fracture at the beginning of July. In August, in communication with Brian MacMillan, his beloved wife Rose-Marie had a severe back issue. A card was sent to her on behalf of the Club.

Membership (Becci)

We have had 7 new memberships since the May Laphound News came out. A breakdown of our membership numbers is below in Table 1.

Summary for meetings	
Adult Couple	25
One Parent Family	8
Single Adult	64
Two Parent Family	9
Student	0
Total memberships	106
Adults	141
Children	34

Table 1. Membership breakdown.

Field Trips (Sean)

Field trips for the fall season are being planned. Provided Covid and the weather cooperate, there are several good options.

Library (Kathryn)

I hope this report finds everyone well, I am looking forward to when we can all meet again as it has been too long. If you do have any of our library books on loan, please make sure you know where they are so they can be returned when we meet again in our usual location (Burnside Lawn Bowling clubhouse). With hopes of our VLMS Shows returning, we will be looking for donations of books and magazines (Rock and Mineral related), to add to our collection or use in our sales. If you have any requests for books to add to our library, or any topics of interest, please let me know.

Editor (Gary)

Most of the information presented in these newsletters is solicited. Unsolicited contributions are welcome – contact gab.bns@gmail.com.

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 !!!!



A Cold Case

Fin was tired. Lately, he had been consumed with a “cold case” that only came to his attention due to the prolonged isolation and downtime associated with the pandemic. Now, he couldn’t get it out of his head. The circumstances seemed straightforward enough – in the year 2000, a downtown jewelry store was the subject of a break-in whereby several unique stones (set in silver and gold) had been stolen. Entry into the store had been gained through a small square opening (approximately 8 inches on the side) cut in a front glass window. The perpetrators had never been caught and the stones were thought to have been lost forever. What had confounded the investigators at the time was the fact that it did not seem possible for a thief to fit through the opening cut in the window – yet, the jewelry was missing. It appeared to be the perfect crime....until, fast forward to the summer of 2021, when a most unusual item of jewelry, a dazzling opal¹ set in silver, reappeared as part of the contraband recovered from a drug bust. Because the piece was so extraordinary, the current investigators had searched the databases and found a match to a piece of opal jewelry recorded as being stolen some 20 years previously. Upon further review of the database, the current investigator had discovered something intriguing about the old case file – it had been documented that a single, long strand of hair was found caught on one of the edges of the opening in the glass window. Perplexed, because the hair was determined to be animal and not human, the current investigator turned to the Victoria K9 unit led by Chief Inspector Finegal Bailey-Cooper with assistance provided by Lappy the Lapphound and Roddy the Rottweiler. On this day, Fin had called a meeting to discuss the case – it was late in the day.

Fin (wearily): “Let’s get started”.

Lappy (inquisitively): “What’s up, Chief Inspector? This isn’t our usual meeting time.”

Roddy (agreeing): “Yah, I promised Roddy Jr. that we would go to the park when I get home – he will be disappointed”.

Fin (apologetically): “I apologize for the timing but a month ago I was handed a Cold-Case file and I thought it would be over by now. The deadline for my input is next week, and quite frankly, I haven’t made much headway despite spending hours and hours grappling with the details of the case. I think I need some fresh minds to help me”.

Lappy (enthusiastically): “Sure, Chief Inspector, what would you like us to do?”

Roddy (somewhat confused): “A Cold-Case? With all due respect Chief Inspector, it is August and damn hot out there”.

Fin and Lappy looked at one another in quiet disbelief. Perhaps it was the time of day but Fin (who usually was incredibly patient with Roddy) was about to lose it – Lappy sensed it and quickly jumped in because he knew that Roddy would never understand.

Lappy (calmly): “Roddy, I think the Chief Inspector meant “Old-Case file” and not Cold-Case file.”

Roddy (as if nothing had happened): “Ah..I love old cases – what are the details, Chief Inspector”.

Fin never ceased to be amazed at how quickly Lappy could respond under pressure – in this case, he had saved the Chief Inspector from doing something he had long prided himself on not doing i.e., losing his cool. Fin nodded in appreciation to Lappy and then went on to describe the salient details in the case as they were presented to him a month ago.

Roddy (matter of factly): “I think it is obvious that a drone or a robot was involved”.

Lappy (playfully): “A hairy robot?”

Fin (giving Lappy a “don’t go there” type look): “Good ideas Roddy but a drone would not be able to open the display cases. A robot is an interesting one though and worthy of thought. According to the information I have, it has been discounted because the opening in the window was several feet off the floor and so it would seem unlikely that the robot could navigate that sort of a drop, climb up to the display case to recover the jewelry and then re-negotiate the distance up to the opening.”

Lappy (more seriously): “In addition to the opal, do we have a list of the other items stolen?”

Fin (in response): “Yes, there were five pieces taken in addition to the opal, in no particular order we have: a sapphire² ring set in silver, a brooch consisting of a central emerald³ surrounded by smallish garnets⁴ again set in silver, a diamond⁵ pendant set in gold, a pair of gold studs each set with a brilliant ruby⁶ and, finally (this is strange one), a set of jeweler’s precision tweezers that are used to position the stones in the settings before the final fastening. ”

Roddy (losing focus): “When I was a kid, I remember finding a beautiful “sapphire” ring as the prize in a box of Wheaties – I should have been more careful but it didn’t fit me and I ended up losing it”.

Lappy (rolling his eyes): “Wow, that is too bad Roddy – think of how rich you would be today!”

Fin (regaining control): “Gentlemen, let’s stay on task, please! What do we make of the fact that there was a single strand of hair caught in the opening in the window? ”

Roddy (his brain in full gear): “What if the thief had a pet monkey with long hair? I was watching the Nature channel on the TV the other night and it was about monkeys with long hair. So the thief cuts the hole and sends the monkey into the store to retrieve the stolen items – in the process, a strand of the monkey’s hair gets caught on the window.”

Lappy (engaged): “That is actually not a bad thought Roddy, but wouldn’t the monkey have to be trained to open the correct display case and pick out the right items? I just don’t know that would be possible unless the thief already had samples of the jewelry in the first place. Besides, Chief Inspector do we know what type of animal the hair belonged to?”

Fin (deep in thought): “No, Lappy we don’t know – I imagine that the hair is still part of the evidence in the case but I would have to check. It would take some effort and time to establish the origins of the hair. There has to be a simpler explanation that monkeys, robots and drones. ”

Lappy (mind churning): “What do we know about the owners of the store at the time of the robbery? Are they still around? Would it be worth interviewing them?”

Roddy (eager to help): “I am pretty good at interviews and I don’t have much on my plate at the moment.”

Fin and Lappy (in unison): “Let’s find out more about the ownership before we commit to any interviews!”

Fin (thinking quickly): “Roddy, I do have an important assignment for you so I think you will be too busy to conduct any interviews. I know you are passionate about apple pies and one of the local bakeries has been complaining about a strange person hanging around – so I want you to set up a stake-out opposite the bakery.”

Roddy (mind turning to apple pies): “Yes sir, Chief Inspector, when do I start?”

Fin (mission accomplished): “Tomorrow morning and I think you ought to go home now and rest up for the big assignment.”

Roddy left the group feeling quite important with his new assignment – he would let the bakery know that he was on a stake-out and perhaps they would bring him an apple pie for his efforts!

For their part, Fin and Lappy pursued the avenue of ownership of the store. Indeed, the jewelry business had changed hands shortly after the robbery. The previous owner (Mr. Bigley, who still resided in Victoria) had made a claim on his insurance for the stolen items and was compensated with a lot of money – the items were very valuable. Fin and Lappy decided to interview Mr. Bigley. Mr. Bigley was now very old and frail – he had a small apartment, lived by himself and spent his time at his jeweler’s bench, looking at some of his most prized jewelry items that he had kept as keepsakes from his time at the store. The interview was conducted at Mr. Bigley’s apartment. The apartment was small. Lappy surveyed the premises carefully and noted that it wasn’t over furnished – a small kitchen table with two chairs, a reclining chair in the living room and the jeweler’s workbench along the far wall near the window. What was odd was that beside the jeweler’s bench was a mat on the floor covered in blankets. Both Fin and Lappy, upon entering the apartment, had instantly recognized a distinct canine smell – they couldn’t quite pinpoint the type of dog but their noses didn’t lie.

Fin (in his most professional voice): “Mr. Bigley, we have been tasked to look into the robbery that took place at your store some twenty years ago but has remained on our files as unsolved. We would like to ask you some questions regarding the business just so that we get a clear picture of what happened.”

Mr. Bigley (in a quiet voice): “Well, I will try to remember the details – what would you like to know?”

Fin asked about his previous business and how he had come to discover that a robbery had occurred. Mr. Bigley more or less confirmed what Fin and Lappy already knew about the case.

Lappy (out of the blue): “Mr. Bigley, do you have a dog?”

Mr. Bigley (tearing up and in a wavering voice): “Yes well no, good old Morgan. He was a golden retriever with beautiful long hair. He passed away a couple of years ago and I miss his company dearly.”

Lappy (starting to formulate a solution to the mystery): “Sorry to hear about your loss, Mr. Bigley, I have one more question. Could you show me how a piece of jewelry is placed in a setting?”

Fin was a bit unsure of where Lappy was going with these questions but he had learned that Lappy had a keen mind – he was about to hold up his paw and say something to Lappy but something made him hold off.

Mr. Bigley (almost excitedly): “Ahh, choosing the setting and placing the gem in the setting is the key to good jewelry.”

Mr. Bigley shuffled over to his workbench as Fin and Lappy came closer. Mr. Bigley picked up a ring setting that he was working with his left hand (his hand shook so bad that Lappy wondered how he managed to work with jewelry at all) and then reached for a pair of precision jeweler’s tweezers with his right hand. He picked up a stone with the tweezers and brought his hands closer together under a magnifying lamp. Lappy strained to see the procedure through the magnifying window of the lamp – it was then that he saw some distinct marking on the set of tweezers. He had seen those markings before. Lappy nudged Fin and pointed at the tweezers.

Lappy (sure of himself now): “Mr. Bigley, those look like a special set of tweezers – are they common?”

Mr. Bigley (unaware of what was happening): “No, they are one of a kind, I had them made especially for me – I found that I could not use ordinary jeweler’s tweezers as the angle of the nose points just didn’t suit me.”

Fin and Lappy looked at one another. Fin now realized that Lappy had solved the mystery – the tweezers that Mr. Bigley was using were one and the same as the ones involved in the robbery twenty years ago. That could only be if Mr. Bigley had staged the robbery himself – the pieces fell into place. The stolen jewelry never went out the hole in the window because it was never intended too. Fin was certain that if hair samples taken from Morgan’s bedding would match the single strand found at the scene of the robbery.

Fin (reserved): “Mr. Bigley, how old are you?”

Mr. Bigley (again quietly): “I am 91 in the New Year.”

Fin (continuing): “Do you have family?”

Mr. Bigley (with a smile): “Only indirectly, I have supported a number of foster children in Africa through an international agency.”

Fin (wrapping it up): “That is very kind of you Mr. Bigley. Well, I think we have the information we need. Thank you for your time.”

With that Fin and Lappy left Mr. Bigley’s apartment.

Lappy (puzzled): “We had him dead to rights. Why did we let him off the hook?”

Fin (surprising upbeat): “Lappy, sometimes we have to do what is right even though it is wrong! Mr. Bigley doesn’t have much time left in this world and the money he gained through deception seems to have gone to a good cause – not to his own benefit.”

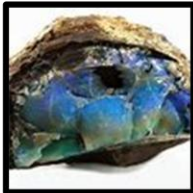
Acknowledgements

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.

Appendix

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

1.



Common opal occurs in seams of rock outcroppings north of Princeton, and also in tertiary rocks at Savona Mt., Agate Mt., Horse Fly River, Slocan Lk. Fire opal has been found along the banks of Deadman Cr. Well-grained opalized wood in black, brown, white, and green hues have been found along Barnes Creek near Ashcroft. Precious opal occurs near Burns Lake and areas near Penticton and Vernon.

2.



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

3.



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.

4.



Garnets are a group of silicate minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Garnet species are found in many colours including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, brown, black and colourless, with reddish shades most common. The mineral's luster is categorized as vitreous (glass-like) or resinous (amber-like). They crystallize in the cubic system with a Mohs hardness of about 6.0 to 7.5.

5.



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.

6.



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.