

THE ROCKET

February 2023

deadline for next issue
February 10, 2023

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Roz MacLean – editor

Future Meetings: Our monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month.

Next Meeting: Friday – February 24 at 7PM
at Hastings Community Center Hall

This meeting will be a “hybrid meeting.” For those unable to attend in person, please contact our secretary, Crystal, for a zoom link for the meeting.

Next Meeting Program:

The club has received donations from 3 sources. Paul Pinsker, the late Ray Buchanan, and one other person. Linda has planned a **Rock Auction** of these items that are too good for a grab bag etc. Come prepared to bid on some great rocks.

Linda will also give a talk on Amethyst – the birthstone for February.

Program from last Meeting:

Harley Waterson gave a great talk on Jasper with lots of pictures in his power point presentation and samples on his display tables. He passed the samples around and answered many questions. We literally ran out of time as he had many examples, resources and information about Jasper formation.



Harley Waterson with Biggs Jasper sample
photo: Richard Kotecki



Photo: Joyce Wong

Field Trips

Kyle has some great ideas and plans. There will have more information at the February meeting. Come get involved.

We are preparing for our show

As mentioned at the last meeting, funds raised at the show support our club activities and especially the workshop. It is also a lot of good club fun.

There will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting- prepare to volunteer for something.

Volunteers needed are for:

entrance and greeters
refreshments
demonstrations
showcases
club sales table
silent auction
spin and win
grab bags
set up
clean up
and anything else needed!

Thanks, Linda.

Food/Concession

With only one more meeting before our club show (March!), we need to start thinking about food donations for the concession stand! Our homemade sandwiches and baked goods are always popular, and a good money maker for the show. Also, our poor vendors who are stuck at their tables all day really appreciate the convenience and amazing selection we always have. For those who don't know, we usually sell a variety of sandwiches, snack items, and cookies. We also try to have lots of cold drinks, and to keep the hot coffee flowing all day too. So that being said, **there will be sign up sheets at the next meeting for people to volunteer to bring food items.** Please have a think about what you would like to contribute. There are a few rules that food items much follow:

1. There is no food storage capacity at the Centre. Bring food each day (in the morning there will be a drop off zone). FOOD WILL NOT BE STORED OVERNIGHT. Sealed drinks can be stored.
2. Bring a list of ingredients for the food items you bring
3. Individually wrap all items if they are not easily servable (example: cookies don't need packaging, but sandwiches do)
4. Prepare sandwiches and non-baked goods fresh each day. No one likes a soggy day old-sandwich.
5. Generally, homemade goods are preferred over store bought and a selection of gluten-wise, sugar free, whole wheat, lactose free etc... items are always appreciated.

In addition to food items, there is also a need for coolers, ice packs, paper plates, napkins, cream and sugar for the coffee and more. So, if you're not handy in the kitchen, there are loads of other ways you can contribute to the concession stand as well.

Thanks All, Nickell

Filling Grab Bags for Our Show

We need volunteers to put the grab bags together. Tuesday, February 28 at 6:45pm in the workshop. Here is a chance to help the club prepare for our show. Come out and wrap the specimens for our grab bags. We are welcoming first timers and those who were out before. It is lots of fun and an opportunity to laugh, chat and have some snacks together...many hands make light work and the joy goes into each bag as well! Linda says, "Thanks in advance."

Calling all sewers and Rockhounds. Do you have a fabric stash you could raid to support our club?



We need about **300 grab bags** for our show. This fund raiser is such a popular part of our annual show that teachers, budding rockhounds and other people just wait to attend to get 'their fill'.

You can help by making some bags. A piece of fabric 18 cm X 44 cm (7 inches by 17 ¼ inches) that is folded once and sewn, then folded over at the top and sewn to make a channel with an opening to put a draw string through. It will make a finished bag 16 x 20 cm (6 ¼ inch x 7 ¾ inch). You can put the draw string in or others will. Linda will bring samples at the meeting for those wanting one.

The type of materials needed for the bags is up to you- but the kids like bright colours and texture if possible- fuzzy always goes first!

Thank you, Anna for some grab bags.
Photo: Richard Kotecki

We can always use Rock Donations.

"Rocks don't go rotten," says Linda

Donating some of your Rocks now will free up space as we approach good rockhounding weather and then there are always the shows as places to find new rocks.

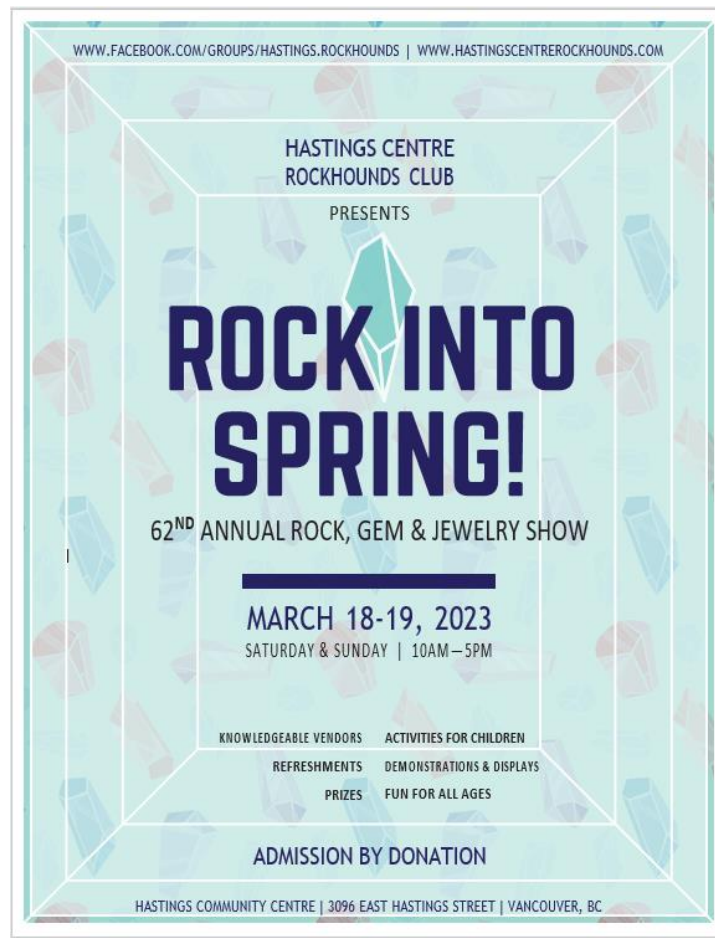
Both rough and tumbled stones are welcome. They can be broken pieces and/or partly polished. They can be items that are 'half done' or not good enough for what you want, but maybe good enough for someone else.

For grab bags - the rocks and pebbles need to be big enough not to be swallowed, but at the same time not too big to fit into the bag, fist size is maximum (5cm square is perfect- 2 inch x 2 inch).

Of course, no toxic rocks - lead sulfate (galena), bumblebee jasper (arsenic), and the like. We never put obsidian in the bags since it can become chipped and then can cut like a knife to anyone trying to clean up the shards. Obsidian is known to be the first surgeon's tools in history.

Members can bring the items for rock donations to either the workshop - marked for the purpose, or to the meetings.

Upcoming Events of Interest:



Hastings Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Show 2023 March 18 & 19, 2023 at Hastings Community Centre

These items (and more) will be for sale by the club



Photos: Richard Kotecki

Shows

The following clubs are having shows and sales. For more information visit the BC Lapidary Society website or the club websites.

February 25, 26, 2023, **Maple Ridge Lapidary Club** Albion Community Centre
March 11 & 12, 2023, **Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club** Alberni Athletic Hall
March 17, 18 & 19, **Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society** Leonardo de Vinci Centre
April 14, 15 & 16, 2023, **Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club** Legion Hall (Upstairs)
April 29 & 30, 2023 **Parksville & District Rock & Gem Club** Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
June 3 & 4, 2023, **Selkirk Rock & Mineral Club** Castlegar Recreation Complex
June 9-11, 2023, **Quesnel Tumbling Rivers Rock Club** Barlow Creek Hall, Quesnel
July 15, 2023, **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Tailgate (July)** Central Heights Church Parking Lot
August 20, 2023, **Fraser Valley Tailgate (August)** Royal Canadian Legion Branch 265 Parking Lot
September 9, 2023, **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Tailgate** Central Heights Church Parking Lot
September 16 & 17, 2023, **Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Show** Old Age Pensioners Hall, Aldergrove

BC Lapidary Society News

March 5, 2023 - Spring BCLS General Meeting via Zoom (<https://www.bclapidary.com/rock-mineral-meetings.php>)

July 1, 2023 – Anticipated deadline for 2024 calendar submissions
<https://bclapidary.com/rock-minerall-calendar.php>

August 15, 2023 – anticipated deadline for scholarships <https://bclapidary.com/earth-sciences-scholarships.php>

BC Gem Show, May 12, 13 & 14 at the Chilliwack Heritage Park

The BC Gem Show is the largest show in the province, featuring displays, dealers, demonstrations, and activities for the kids. Adults \$6, students (6-17) \$2, 3 day Pass \$12. Tickets available at the door. Free Parking.

There will be **Demonstrations of activities like** Stone carving, cabochon making, wire wrapping, bead making, flint knapping and many more! Kid's Crafts, Spin & Win, Lots of displays of finds and work by clubs throughout the province. Vendors of slabs, beads, specimens etc. They are talking of a return of the tailgate too. We'll keep you posted.

Rendezvous

Rendezvous Quesnel, BC, June 9 — 11, 2023, Barlow Creek Hall, Quesnel, BC. Rendezvous is the British Columbia Lapidary Society's annual gathering and features field trips, displays, auctions, and our annual general meeting. Organized by the Quesnel Tumbling Rivers Rock Club with the assistance of the British Columbia Lapidary Society, it will be held at Barlow Creek Hall and Campground. The Quesnel Club will have a mini show and tailgate sale on the Sunday.



Joe: new trainee



Allison's Happy Place



Donna's new project

Workshop Hours

If you are a member in good standing, have taken the required lapidary workshop training course, you can drop in at the workshops and use the equipment on a first come, first served (shared) basis. Be prepared to work on another project if you need to wait to use a particular piece of equipment,

Lapidary:	Monday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Richard
	Wednesday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David
	Thursday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Tim
	Saturday	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Robert
Silversmithing	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Bob
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Robert



Jo and Roz enjoy Monday workshops
Photos: Richard Kotecki



Bob and Ibsen cut some Jade

Clippings: People see rock related items all the time. This is our chance to share it.
If you see something that might be of interest or give some members a chuckle, please share.

According to rockngem.com (<https://www.rockngem.com/2023-rockhound-holidays/>) **March 13 is National Jewel Day. National Jewel Day** “This special day is set aside to appreciate precious stones and jewelry. From the earliest examples of stone, bone, and shell jewelry, to the most lavish and intricate designs of today, National Jewel Day is meant to recognize them all. Those who choose to participate are encouraged to wear their most spectacular bejeweled pieces and take the occasion to gift jewelry to those important people in their life.”

Also, according to rockngem.com in their January article: **A 2023 Rock Show Bucket List**, there are a few shows in the US if you are planning a trip. These shows are all US, so consider supporting our show and other BC Shows first. If you have a Canadian list, I can include those shows too. (editor)

March 4-5: 69th ‘Owyhee Rocks’ Show, OConnor Field House, Caldwell, ID www.owyheerocks.com
Always the first weekend in March, this club (founded in 1938) holds its annual show.

April 21-23: 60th Parade of Gems, Central WA State Fair Park in Yakima, Washington. www.yakimarockclub.com ... this is the show for volcano lovers, plus demos on volcanic explosions, gold panning and flintknapping, plus Mount St. Helens memorabilia by local artisans to rock your world.

March 9-12: 57th Rockhound Roundup, SW New Mexico Fairgrounds, Deming, New Mexico www.thedgmsclub.com. This internationally recognized show has it all: 100+ dealers, fossil digging, gold prospecting demos, and even a metal detecting contest. After you could search for your own geodes and thundereggs at Rockhound State Park.

March 18-19: 69th Treasures of the Earth Show, Albuquerque State Fairgrounds, NM www.agmic.info
Always the third weekend in March, for 50+ years this show has raised support for Academic Achievement Awards for Earth Sciences graduates at UNM, and features a mineral ID booth plus NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral resources.

Projects by club members

We love to see what other members are working on. Richard Kotecki sent these photos of some of his recent projects. See them up close at our show on March 18 and 19.





Sodalite

Finished

beads:

<https://www.firemountaingems.com/resources/encyclopedia/gem-notes/gmstnprprtssdlit>



Rough

From <https://fiercelynxdesigns.com/blogs/articles/gemstone-info-sodalite>

Lately, I have been trying to focus on lapidary materials and blue or purple is often associated with February. I started thinking of blue rocks I've seen in workshops and thought of sodalite. As a birthstone Sodalite is often associated with November, but it is also associated with Virgo and Libra which covers August through October. As a blue rock it covers February and that is all fitting for a material that is valued for its variety of patterning and its rarity as a blue rock.

Sodalite is best known for its primarily royal blue color and its variation of blues from violet to light blue. Some will say other colours too - from grey through pink. The confusion stems from the name being used twice. Sodalite has been the name used for a group now often called "feldspathoids." According to geology.com they are rare aluminosilicate minerals that contain abundant calcium, potassium, or sodium. The Feldspathoids are a group of minerals with a similar isometric structure and related chemistry. Colours can be white, gray, purple or green but the blue variety is the most familiar and the most common member is sodalite.

Sodalite was not identified as a separate gem material until the early 1800s when it was discovered in Greenland and recorded for the first time. It was named in allusion to the sodium content. Its chemical formula is $\text{Na}_4\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$. Sometimes the chemical formula appears as a multiple of this formula due to the complex cage structure of the material found in its chemistry, but invisible to the eye. According to Kathy Feick at the University of Waterloo Earth Sciences Museum, "Sodalite (Sodium Aluminum Silicate Chloride) (is) The only feldspathoid which contains chlorine in its structure.

In 1891 significant deposits were discovered near Bancroft, Ontario. In 1901 the Princess of Wales (Mary of Teck) was at the World's Fair in Buffalo, New York. She received a gift of Sodalite from that Ontario mine and apparently liked it so much she ordered 130 tons of sodalite for decorating/updating the royal residence (Marlborough House). The Bancroft mine was then named the "Princess Sodalite Mine." Some particularly blue Sodalite is known as "Princess Blue Sodalite."

From The Royal Trust Collection:



"A note in Queen Mary's inventory of bibelots notes the vases were made to order for Queen Mary when Princess of Wales.

Letter opener, handle of Canadian sodalite and gold with a band of gemstones in a trefoil shape and a crown at the tip; gold blade. ...Given by Victoria Mary, Princess of Wales (Queen Mary), to George, Prince of Wales (George V), October 1905.



It is not commercially worth the effort to simulate sodalite, but sodalite might be dyed or treated, or just offered as the pricier Lapis Lazuli. It is important to know the difference.

To complicate matters, lapis lazuli (which is technically a rock) may sometimes contain sodalite (which is a mineral in itself). Sodalite is sometimes also confused with azurite, dumortierite and lazulite because of its blue colour. Some people have even called Sodalite “Canadian Blue” or “Canadian Lapis.” It is properly called Sodalite. It has white veins of calcite and no pyrite as is found in Lapis Lazuli. That is the important differentiation between the two materials.

Sodalite can also be definitely identified with ultraviolet light. It will fluoresce orange. Another member of the Feldspathoids group, hackmanite (sometimes called pink sodalite) exhibits tenebrescence which means it will get a darker pink/purple under ultraviolet light but that will revert over time.

Sodalite will also have a white streak as opposed to a blue streak made by many of it's similar looking blue rocks.

When fractured or cut, sodalite may release a hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), "rotten egg," smell due to traces of water and sulfur.

Sodalite has a MOH's hardness of 5.5-6 and is hard enough for some applications such as pins, pendants, earrings or necklaces, but it can be scratched. Even household dust has a MOH's hardness of 7- 7.5. Sodalite should be cleaned with a soft brush, mild detergent and warm water. Harsh household chemicals may interact with the calcite patches and veins in Sodalite.

Although a recent discovery to geology, Sodalite was known in antiquity. There is evidence of peoples from Peru and Bolivia trading Sodalite. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has a pair of earring ornaments by the Moche of Peru dating from 400–700 CE with part of the micro mosaic is made of sodalite.

Today, Sodalite can be found in British Columbia from the Ice River area near Kicking Horse Pass but much of the material is within Park boundaries where collecting is prohibited. It is also found near Bancroft, Ontario; the Litchfield, Maine; Magnet Cove, Arkansas; northern Namibia; Kola Peninsula of Russia; and the Ilimaussaq intrusive complex of Greenland.



Pair of Ear Ornaments with Winged Runners

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/319459?ft=sodalite&offset=0&rpp=40&pos=5>

“ ...the lower legs and feet are picked out in a royal blue mineral known as sodalite.”