



THE ROCKET

May 2014

Next meeting is May 22, 2014 at 7:30

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The theme is SAFETY this month.....just like the government themed program; most accidents are preventable (have a word with yourself). Be cautious of your space and the surroundings around you.

If there is an unsafe situation, change it if possible; if you can protect yourself (and others) from harm then do so. In our workshop, the hazards are few but real...yes, the diamond wheels are less hazardous to you than the old corundum ones, but they still are spinning and can catch (and pull) very fast! That is why there is to be no long sleeves, hair, jewelry or hanging stuff to get caught up. (please) Water on the floor, or buckets perched up on the machine, are a hazard for others around you. It is not just yourself that you need to be aware of- our workshop is a shared space.

The silversmith and metal works have hazards too, not just with the OPEN FLAME propane torches but also with the various chemicals and metal bits flying. I guess what I am really trying to say is that I would hate to hear that someone got hurt during one of our workshop sessions. We have a simple first aid kit and bandages for the minor cuts, but if there was a serious injury (and /or permanent) then it may affect the club for everyone. The insurance we have is third party and really only protects you from being hurt by others, not yourself. We have never had a serious injury and I hope we never will.

PLEASE, please, please take care and follow the safety rules that are laid out for you.....we are only concerned for your health and wellbeing. If someone tells you to follow the rules (because you are not) remember it is just because we care about you. Stay safe.

One more place to consider is out in the field; make sure you come home safe and sound - rocks are heavy! When they decide to move they have a tendency to go downhill; so watch those above or below you. On the river bars- the rocks are not always cemented in place and can wiggle and shift as you are jumping on them (or walking loaded down with rocks). Watch where you walk -especially in tall grass (snakes). Remember the interior of our Province (Armstrong rendezvous May long weekend) is RATTELESNAKE country....they like to sun themselves to warm up.....Have fun. Linda

HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS

Minutes of Membership Meeting April 24, 2014

President –Linda F. –At 7:45 Linda called the meeting to order and thanked everyone. She explained that our Treasurer would be absent but could be contacted at home if needed. A reminder that the bookings for Rendezvous should be made as soon as possible. The Tuesday night soapstone carving for the show will continue on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. Daytime groups may be arranged if desired.

Secretary – Marilyn S.-Gave the magazines to the library and set out copies of the BCLS minutes and the Agenda for the AGM at Rendezvous. Report of our minutes M/S/C

Programming-Paul P.-Reported that tonight Sigge R. and Thomas H. would give Safety Instructions. Then we would have a “Show and Tell” of about 6 members’ treasures. May, we will have Kathy Unglert from UBC as a speaker. June is our wind up party. Sometime in the Fall Paul would like to have a jade specialist as our program.

Rep. to Centre-Michael E.- The AGM for Hastings Community Association will be Wed. June 4 at 7 pm. The advertising should be out soon. We would like all to attend. There are 2 amendments on the agenda. Michael gave a brief explanation of the organization for the benefit of our new members. Lynda T. also expressed her opinion we all should attend.

Publicity – Linda F.- Volunteers are needed to maintain the website as Arlene has time commitments. Ginger S. and Athena W. volunteered.

Newsletter-Marilyn Olson and Marilyn Maxwell- Items, pictures and reports must be in this weekend as the Rocket will be going out early.

Library-Crystal Chow and Manda Mok-new magazines are in plus 5 new books bought at the show.

Social-Brigitte R., Marilyn M., and Marilyn O.-Brigitte thanked those that brought for this meeting and called for others for the next meeting. Wade, Jean, Tisen, Caron, and Ginger volunteered.

Membership-Vera S.- There were 48 members signed in plus 11 new. The door prize was won by Brigitte R. The BCLS membership cards are available now.

Field Trip Leader- Wade S.- Reported a trip was going out Sunday to Yale for nickel silicate. All details available on the BCLS website.

Bonnie G.- A discussion on the feasibility of having more of a childrens' section. What room and where. If enough volunteers were available. What would be appropriate. Bonnie to gather more information.

New Business-A motion was made that we donate \$100.00 to the scholarship fund. M/S/C

Birthday Draw-won by John Prychon

Meeting adjourned 9:40



About Our Organization

The Hastings Club has been active for over 50 years. It was founded in January 1959.

Interests of members, range from all aspects of lapidary arts - to rock, mineral and fossil collecting. We have a well equipped workshop where we cut & polish cabochons & stones. We also organize regular field trips to various hunting areas.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month (not July, August or December) at 7:30 pm-Community Hall at the Hastings Community Centre.

Soapstone carving sessions:

Do you want to learn to carve soapstone?
Here is an opportunity to learn and play with soapstone while helping the club in the process.

We have all the supplies and tools required, we just need your participation.
Since this is a club benefit workshop there is NO COST to you!

The only thing is that you do not get to keep your carving; they are fishes for spin and win prizes at our annual show! The time is Tuesday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

I am hoping that this practice with soapstone will turn into regular soapstone carving sessions; I talked to some carvers from the Maple Ridge club and would like them to come and help us learn this skill.

So plan to come and play with soapstone! See you there. Linda

Come show your talent:

design the show flyer for 2015 Show theme is **Pyrite**- fools' gold



-or along that line)

Show dates are March 14 & 15, 2015

Any, and all, submissions are welcome!

Your prize is a gem tree (of your choice)

So, make your mark.....

Submit your design by September 25th, 2014

Email Linda with your design (linmfoy@yahoo.ca)

Workshop Hours

With Instructor

Monday & Thursday 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Saturday 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Mon. 10:00-1:00 **Explorations in Metal Work** Mike M (604 873 9830)

Fri.- Basic Silversmithing 10:00-1:00 Dan C (604 298 0329)

Membership

Runs from January to December

Single \$20 Family \$25

Membership with Hastings Community Centre is required for club membership.

Club Contact Person: Michael Edwards-604-987-1471

What's the birthstone for May? Earthsky –May 2013



People in the Middle Ages believed that May's birthstone, the **emerald**, held the power to foretell the future.

The emerald belongs to the beryl family of minerals that include aquamarine (one of March's birthstones), heliodor, and morganite. Beryl, or beryllium aluminum silicate in chemical jargon, is a six-sided symmetrical crystal. Beryl contains beryllium, aluminum, silicon, and oxygen.

Emeralds vary in color from light to deep green. It's commonly thought that an emerald's color derives from the presence of chromium and/or vanadium replacing some of the aluminum in the mineral's structure. The stone can, however, lose its color when heated strongly.

Several famous historical artifacts were made of emeralds. Among them is the Crown of the Andes, said to be made from emeralds worn by Atahualpa, the last Inca (king) of Peru. The crown is set with about 450 emeralds, collectively weighing 10 ounces (1523 carats).

Emeralds are most frequently found inside a form of shale – a fine-grained sedimentary rock. Emerald-bearing shale has undergone recrystallization caused by changes in the physical environment such as pressure and temperature. Colombia produces the largest and highest quality emeralds. They were also discovered, and subsequently mined, in the Ural Mountains of Russia around 1830. In the United States, emeralds can be found in North Carolina. Around the world, they also occur in Zambia, Brazil, Pakistan, Norway, Austria, India, Madagascar, and Australia.

Synthetic manufacture of emeralds was achieved by German chemists shortly before World War II. But growing synthetic stones of fine quality began in the United States in 1946. There are also excellent imitation emeralds on the market made of colored cut glass.

The emerald's name is indirectly derived from the Greek word "smaragdos," a term applied to several kinds of green stones. The history of emeralds can be traced back to antiquity. They were worn by royalty in Babylon and Egypt. Tools dating back to 1300 B.C., during the reign of Rameses II, have been found in emerald mines in Egypt. Queen Cleopatra's emeralds were believed to originate from mines in Southern Egypt, near the Red Sea.

When the conquistadors first arrived in South America from Spain, they saw indigenous rulers wearing emeralds. They took large quantities of emeralds from the Peruvians during the invasion, but the source of the emeralds was not discovered. Then in 1537, the Spaniards found Chivor in Colombia, now the location of an important emerald mine. They also took over the Muzo mine following the defeat of the Muzo Indians. Mining operations at Muzo have continued almost uninterrupted since the Spanish invasion. It is perhaps the most famous emerald mine in Colombia and is said to produce the world's best emeralds.

There are many myths associated with the emerald. The stone was once believed to prevent epilepsy, stop bleeding, cure dysentery and fever, and protect the wearer from panic. Its magnificent green color was said to rest and relieve the eye. To the ancient Romans, emeralds were dedicated to the goddess Venus because the green emerald symbolized the reproductive forces of nature. Early Christians saw it as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. In the Middle Ages, emeralds were believed to hold the power to foretell the future

Image Credit:



MAY

Pamela Garbe	Karl Friedmann
Roz MacLean	Lisa Turco
Brigitte Rohde	Richard Kuehnel
Eve-Marie Giesecke	Kaisa Skogster
Verne Brooks	Liz O'Hea
Norma Gill	

A lucky May birthday member in attendance will win a “rock” carved by Cliff Smith!!!

Walking Tour-by Paul Pinsker

I will be the guide on the tour of Downtown buildings which feature interesting and exciting stone work, happening on Tuesday, May 27th. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. on the plaza of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (corner of Georgia and Hamilton Streets). The tour (going rain or shine) should take no more than 3 hours, including time for a coffee break along the way. Walking a total of about 2 kilometres, we will visit about a dozen sites, including the old Vancouver Sun Tower, Dominion Building, Royal Bank (Hastings/Granville branch), the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre, Marine Building, and several others of major significance. Those who plan to attend should RSVP to me at pinsker@novuscom.net, including their email and cell phone number and advising me of the number of persons in their party. This should be a lot of fun and good exercise, too.



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Send info for The Rocket to: marolson47@gmail.com