

# THE ROCKET

deadline for next issue  
May 10

APRIL 2019

Club email: [secretary.hrc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hrc@gmail.com)  
Newsletter email: [Edrocket18@gmail.com](mailto:Edrocket18@gmail.com)

Members are reminded to bring their membership cards to meetings and the workshop as there is an attendance requirement at meetings in order to attend the workshop. Any concerns, please contact the Executive.

**Next Meeting:** Friday – April 26 at 7PM  
at Hastings Community Center Hall

## PROGRAMS

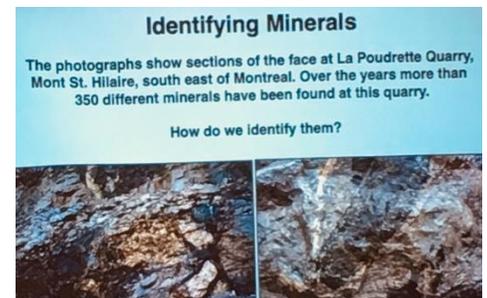
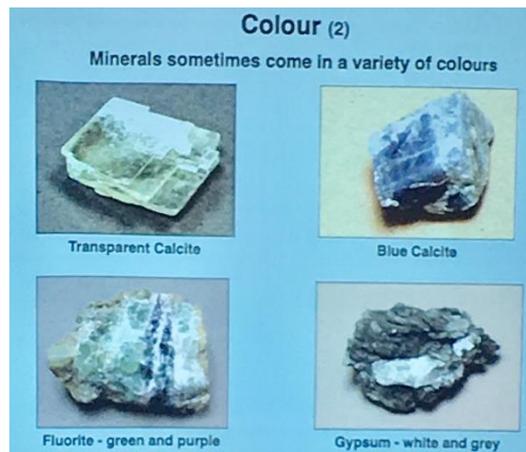
Paul is hoping we get a large turnout, as we have a very special speaker:

**Dr. Philippe Belley of the Faculty of Science at UBC.**

He will give a presentation about newsworthy mineral discoveries in the Canadian High Arctic, including awesome outcrops of beautiful, bright blue Baffin Island Spinel. (Remember our January newsletter highlighted stone?)

### Last meeting Programs:

Our feature speaker at the last meeting was Erica Williams of the Port Moody Rock & Gem Club. She graciously gave our Club a talk taking us through the processing of raw materials all the way to finished product.



Thanks, Mike Ma for photos.

# Workshop Hours

**Lapidary:** Monday 6:30pm – 9:30pm  
 Wednesday 1:00pm – 4:00pm  
 Thursday 6:30pm – 9:30pm  
 Saturday 1:00pm – 4:00pm

**Metalwork:** Monday 9am – 2 pm  
 Sunday 10:30am – 1:45 pm

**Silversmithing:** Wednesday 9:00am – 12:00 noon  
 Saturday 9:00am – 12:00 noon

**Soapstone Carving:** Tuesday 6:45 pm – 9:30 pm  
 There is room for 10 people. Please contact Linda Foy before showing up for the first time.



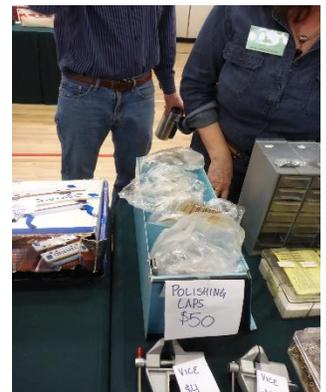
## Our Hastings Rockhounds Gem and Mineral Show 2019 Was March 16 & 17 : *CRYSTALS & THEIR FRIENDS*



Thanks for your cooperation and participation



Thanks, Esther for photos.



We had demonstrators, games, prizes, refreshments, showcases, and vendors.  
 Lots of supplies, ideas and equipment for Rockhounds,



## Showcases from our club members

Photos from Roz (I tried to get names. Let me know if these are wrong or omitted. I'll get corrections in next issue.)



Ray



Vivian and Marilyn



Anna:



Richard



Paul



Debbie



Mike & Metalworks



Alison



Nigel and Susan



Crystal and Manda

David



And some final shots: Hazel's 7 year old grandson Ayden was so inspired by our show, which he has attended since he was 3, that he went home to inspect and clean his rocks!



## *Field Trips:*

### ***Katie was also at the Tucson Show.***

Some of her pictures tie in with our theme this month of Rock Crystal, and we had to include one of the dinosaur footprint from her trip which included northern Arizona.



If you've been out **Rockhounding or on a Field Trip** we'd like to hear about it. You don't have to share your secret site but we'd like to know about your finds. If you know someone you'd like us to feature, tell me your suggestions and I'll follow up with them. Thanks, Roz (Editor).  
Edrocket18@gmail.com

## *Mystery Project:*



***One of our club members completed their first ring. I took the photo at the club show but lost the paper where I wrote down whose project this is. Can you help? Have you spotted this ring on a club member? Please let me know.***



# BC Gem Show, Abbotsford : We were there

Club members gave demonstrations, were at the tailgate show on Saturday as vendors and buyers, and/or entered showcases.



Paul, Sharon and Andrew at the Sales Table on Friday  
Thanks to Port Moody's Erica Williams for photo



Guenter demos carving photo Roz



Metalworks showcase entries Thanks Mike Ma for photo



Club Showcases photo Roz



## Club News

A new member to our club, Dawn, brings lots of experience in her journey into metalworks. She is now retired and eager to forward and pass on her good works. She invited [Eugenia Chan](#) to demo and in 2 weeks hence on either Sunday/Monday class will bring in her enamel kit from Thompson (unleaded enamels) to allow others to physically engage in torch firing using stencils -..a hands on class. Talk with Mike Ma for more information.

## Recent News:

### 2019 Rendezvous

Rendezvous is the British Columbia Lapidary Society's annual gathering and features field trips, displays, auctions, and our annual general meeting.

Rock Creek, BC, June 7 - 10, 2019

Rock Creek Fairgrounds

380 Kettle Valley Road South

Rock Creek, BC

This year Rendezvous is being organized by the Penticton Geology and Lapidary Club with the BCLS. See the BCLS webpage for more information.

## Upcoming Events of Interest:

## Shows

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

May 4 & 5, **Richmond Gem & Mineral Club**, Arts & Cultural Centre, Richmond

May 12, **Creative Jewellers Guild of BC**, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Vancouver

June 1 & 2, **Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club**, Community Hall, Campbell River

June 1 & 2, **Kokanee and Selkirk Rock Clubs**, Castlegar Recreation Complex

July 7, **Tailgate Sale, Surrey Rockhound Club**, Sullivan Hall, Surrey

July 19–21 **Okanagan Gem Show**, Rutland Centennial Hall, Kelowna

By 1120 Rock Club of Kelowna and the  
Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club

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Wolfgang Behrenbruch, (a dealer, not one of our club members,) had some nice quartz crystals at the Tailgate show on Saturday at Abbotsford. Some were maybe clear enough to be called Rock Crystal.



An alternate birthstone for April is **Rock Crystal;**



It is especially recognized in Britain as an alternate birthstone. Rock Crystal is also the birthstone for Monday, and is a traditional gift for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries. Some say it is for Pisces as a Sun Sign or Leo's planetary stone. Others claim it is appropriate for all zodiac signs.



*Herkimer diamond (Rough) Geology.com*

*Faceted Rock Crystal from Gemdat.org*

Rock Crystal is one of many varieties of quartz. All are silicon dioxide  $\text{SiO}_2$  with traces of other elements. Those traces determine the colour and other characteristics (think of Amethyst, Citrine, Rose Quartz or Smoky Quartz.) Rock Crystal is the purest variety of quartz, transparent and completely colourless. (Now you see why the theme colour for this issue is a very light blue with outline.)

*Crystal* comes from the Greek *Krustallos* meaning *ice* or *icy cold*. Some ancient philosophers believed the mineral to be a form of supercooled ice. The idea continued until modern geology began to develop in eighteenth century Europe.

In return, Rock Crystal has given its names to other items. According to Britannica.com, vessels and spheres have been carved from large crystals since ancient times. Calling fine glassware "crystal" comes from this practice. Rock Crystal has also been used as a gemstone (usually brilliant-cut) and pebbles from the Rhine river were called "rhinestones." Now rhinestone refers to plastic and glass imitation gemstones.



stunning



Rock Crystal like all quartz has a Mohs hardness of 7. It has a Hexagonal crystal system and is macrocrystalline, meaning it has large crystals visible to the unaided eye. Some people would include in the Rock Crystal category any transparent, colourless quartz with inclusions like rutile needles, or other crystals and minerals. They can produce some gems.

*Rutile in Quartz*

*Hematite in quartz*

*Both images by Julia Griffith at <https://gema.com/news-publications/news-blogs/birthstones-guide/birthstones/birthstone-april-rock-crystal-quartz>*

Rock Crystal is occasionally treated to look like other stones. They can be cracked and dyed but under magnification that will look like a web or have a rainbow appearance. They can be coated with a very thin layer of metallic elements but again, under magnification colour will concentrate along facet junctions or show irregular distribution or even peeled coating.

There isn't much value in treated Rock Crystal. Today the primary value of Rock Crystal is in industrial uses. The crystals can vibrate at such precise frequencies they are useful in very accurate time-keeping instruments and equipment. Because of this piezoelectric quality and heat resistance, Rock Crystals are used in watches, clocks, radios, televisions, electronic games,

computers, cell phones, electronic meters and GPS equipment. There are also optical grade quartz crystals used to make lenses, windows and filters for lasers, microscopes, telescopes, electronic sensors and scientific instruments.

People tried to synthesize quartz since the mid 1800's, but the early efforts had poor results. During the 1900s the demand for high-quality quartz was high and mines could not meet the demand. Sometimes supply was interrupted by war and other events. Many labs tried to grow large crystals and today they produce the quartz crystals used in electronic components and optical instruments. The synthetic crystals are grown using methods mimicking nature's hydrothermal activity. The crystals are grown at high temperatures from superheated waters rich in dissolved silica.

There are celebrated uses for natural Rock Crystal. It has been used as a gemstone and for other ornamental and religious objects for thousands of years. Since medieval time, crystal balls have been used a means of divination. Other cultures have used objects such as cut gemstones, obelisks, pyramids, skulls etc. made from rock crystal for divination, disease diagnosis and healing.

For those interested in the metaphysical and crystals, Rock Crystal is said to stimulate mental clarity, emotional stability and to facilitate and focus meditative states. It is said to help remove toxins from the body and treat ailments of the digestive system, kidneys and bladder as well as the pituitary gland, skin, circulatory system and respiratory system.

The Honours (Scottish regalia) used for coronations in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries included a scepter with a crystal globe two and 1/4 inches in diameter. It was hidden along with other items and forgotten for many years (1707, or perhaps earlier, to 1818). Since 1999 and the formation of the Scottish Parliament they are used to represent Royal Assent.

Rock Crystal can be found all around the world. According to galleries.com the best sources are Arkansas, USA; Cumberland, England; St. Gotthard, Switzerland; Brazil and Madagascar. A well-known source is Herkimer, New York, where double terminated finds are known as "Herkimer Diamonds." On a field trip at a BCLS Rendezvous held in Chase BC many Rock Crystals were found near McGillivray Lake, BC.



*Made of solid silver, the Sceptre is surmounted with three figures supporting a crystal globe, a cut and polished rock crystal, with a Scottish pearl on top. A gift from the Pope, possibly given by Innocent VIII to James IV in 1494*



[Fatimid](#) ewer in carved rock Crystal with gold lid, c. 1000.



The **Lothair Crystal** is an engraved gem from Lotharingia in North-West Europe, showing scenes of the biblical story of Susanna, dating from 855-869. The crack happened during the French Revolution.