

WE ARE CELEBRATING! Our Club is 60 this year.

In 1958 our club was formed as a new lapidary club in our neighbourhood. Some of the founding members (Mr. & Mrs. Vince Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Thiery, Mr. Jeff Jeffries and Mr. Elmer Lloyd) were members of the Vancouver Lapidary Club who came to assist in the formation of the new club then stayed to take on key roles in that first year. Other founding members were Mr. and Mrs. A. Keith, Mr. George Maylam, Mrs. Eileen Johnson, Mr Bill Seames, Mrs. Delila Griffiths, and Mr. Ernie Cook, Mrs. Hopper, and Mrs. Beulah Cook. There may have been others, but we don't have a full membership list.



The Hastings Centre was interested in having our club in the neighbourhood and as part of the centre. Their director, Len Ryan, also expressed a desire that the Hastings Centre be associated with the new name of the club and we became the Hastings Centre Rockhounds.

The colours of our crest "red and green were chosen as being suitable because of the season our club was organized" (between October and the following January). Mrs. June Thiery had submitted 10 different designs and the group chose one as the crest for our club.



Some of our club members demonstrating at the Gem and Mineral Show at the PNE Forum in December. *Thanks to Mike Ma for the photos.*

PROJECTS -- WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE WORKING ON

This month featuring Lighted Pendants by David Myers

When I am at a rock and gem show looking for slabs I always have my template and my little “Jade” flashlight with me. I’m always looking for another wonderful scene in stone using the 40 x 30 mm template to help me see what I can get out of a slab. With agate materials I often shine the flashlight through the stone from back to front so I can see what is “inside” transparent and translucent slabs. I have often wished that what I see with backlighting could be what I see in a finished stone in a setting that someone could actually wear. I started experimenting with various methods of lighting behind the stone. The first few methods involved having a wire from the back of the setting hanging from a chain, then down my shirt, and into a battery pack in my pocket. I got mixed results initially, but finally came up with a combo of battery and battery holder (with on/off switch) that could fit on the back of a 40 x 30 mm pendant, eliminating the need for the wire down the shirt and the battery pack in the pocket. Here is a series of photos starting with the original slab, the finished stone in the setting, and that same finished stone with the backlighting turned on.



photos: David Myers

I am quite happy with the results I’m getting now and am actively watching for transparent and translucent materials that will look good with backlighting. I am planning on having at least a dozen of these backlit pendants in my member display case at our up-coming Hastings Centre Rockhounds annual rock and gem show in March (17th and 18th). Hope to see you there.

David Myers (Wednesday Lapidary workshop leader – 1pm-4pm)

Editor’s note: I hope to have a member’s project in each edition. This is our newsletter and I would like it to be about our club. Are you tackling an interesting project or do you know someone working on one? Please let me know so we can feature their work in our newsletter.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

To highlight the importance of the mining and mineral exploration industry in B.C., the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) is hosting **Discovery Day**, a free and interactive family-friendly event, on **Sunday, January 21** at the **Vancouver Convention Centre West**.
10AM– 3 PM

This one-day event will give attendees of all ages the opportunity to try their hand at gold panning and even take home real gold flakes! Guests can also explore and learn about the different types of rocks and Ice Age Fossils found throughout B.C. and the Yukon, as well as the importance of the mineral exploration industry to our everyday lives.

Our Club Show is March 17 and 18. This is a call for Volunteers . We need people to set up on the 16th from 5 PM and to take down on the 18th from 5PM. We also need people all during the show. Sante will have more information at the meeting.

Tables are \$75. If you want a table contact Sante by January 25th or at the general meeting.

April 6, 7 & 8, 2018

Annual

BC GEM SHOW

and **Tailgate Sale**, Saturday April 7 only
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Ag-Rec Bldg., CFV Fairgrounds
32470 Haida Dr., Abbotsford, BC

Friday: 10am - 8pm

Saturday: 10am - 6pm

Sunday: 10am - 5pm

Over 40 Dealers

with

**Beads, Crystals, Minerals, Gifts
& supplies for the lapidary hobby
as well as Educational & Club Displays,
Demonstrations, Children's activities, Gold
Panning, & Door Prizes**

**Adults - \$6, Students (6-17) - \$2,
Under 6, Free (accompanied by an adult)**

I'd like to do some articles on our **Rockhounding** or **Field Trips**. If you've been out Rockhounding or on a Field Trip in the last couple of years and have something to show 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 do have a place you can tell us about we could have some great club sharing.

If you know of someone you'd like us to feature, let me know your suggestions and I can follow up with them.

Thanks, Roz (Editor).



Garnet is the traditional birthstone for January across many cultures and is recognized as the birthstone for the zodiac sign of Aquarius (21 January to 21 February). It is also the gemstone for a 2nd wedding anniversary. Garnet signifies “eternal friendship and trust,” making it the perfect gift for a friend says more than one retailer.

Garnet is usually thought of as a red stone, but is available in almost any colour and each variety has a different name. Some names you may be familiar with: Almandine, Rhodolite, Grossular, Hessonite, Tsavorite, Proteus, Pyrope, Spessartite, Mandarin Garnet, Uvarovite, but there are many more. They are all garnets because they have the same crystal structure and similar properties.

About those names: Some say Spessartite (British) and some say Spessartine (American). Both are acceptable according to the International Gem Society.

Also according to the International Gem Society there are Color Change Garnets. In Madagascar they found some garnets that are blue under natural light and red with purple flashes under incandescent light. Some Idaho garnets shift from red to purplish red.

Garnet crystals are usually small. They range from microscopic to 6 inches depending on the variety.

Garnet has a hardness of 6.5 to 7.5

Request/ Inquiry:

Can someone suggest a stone that is both green and yellow -like Green Bay Packer colours? A member is working on a gift and is looking for ideas. Just let me know and I'll pass on your suggestions. Thanks, Roz. (Editor)