

THE ROCKET

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

deadline for next issue
February 14

January 2020
Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com
Newsletter email: Edrocket18@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Friday January 24 - 7PM Hastings Community Center Hall

PROGRAMS

Harley Waterson of the Richmond club is giving us a presentation called "**Petrified**", all about the petrification of substances into stone. Paul is asking our club members to **bring in their coolest specimens of petrified wood, dino bone, or other such type** so we can put on a "Pet Show" to expand upon what our speaker brings to show us.

Workshop Hours

Lapidary

Date & time.

Monday 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
Wednesday 1:00 pm to 4:00pm.
Thursday. 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
Saturday. 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Instructors

Thomas Hui
Vivian Rickey
Sante Gasparin
David Myers

Backup instructors

Olivier Wong
Vera Schmedding

Metalwork

Date & time

Sunday 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.
Monday 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Instructor

Michael Ma
Michael Ma

Backup instructors

Diane Crowe
Grazna Rougeau

Silversmithing

Date & time

Wednesday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Instructor

Backup instructors
Crystal Chow

Backup instructors

Marilyn Sztankovics
Vera Schmedding
Vivian Rickey

Note: A special **Silversmithing Project** will be inserted in an upcoming Saturday Silversmithing workshop. It will be delivered by a guest instructor Dave Foster on a project basis. This time it is a "Spinner Ring". Check with Thomas Hui for project dates: 604-209-8715 and to let him know you are interested.

Rock wrappings for the grab bags will happen every Tuesday @7 at the workshop for January.

Soapstone Carving

Contact Linda Foy for opening Date & time

Last meeting Programs:

We ended our year with a party!!! It was our Year End Social / Annual General Meeting.



We had a **Rock Auction.**



Memberships were also due at this meeting.

(thanks to Vivian and Crystal for photos)



It made for an entertaining and busy evening.

Hastings Rockhounds 2020 Election Results!

President	Esther Searle
Vice president	Diane Crowe
Secretary	Crystal
Treasurer	Elaine
Senior delegate to the BCLS	Paul
Intermediate delegate to the BCLS	Scott
Junior delegate to the BCLS	Nickell
Program	Paul
Library	Manda & Grazyna
Field trip	Anastasia Koutalianos
Publication	Roz
Publicity	Arlene
Show	Sante & Linda
Ways & mean	Vivian
Workshop	Thomas
<p>Rockhounds Rep to Hastings Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bring feedback & info from the Hastings Association meeting back to us. Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This position is important because we need to be a part of the greater community. 	<p>OPEN – Everyone is welcome to take up this position! Feel free to ask if you have any questions about it</p>
Director at large	Elly Brock
Historian	
Sunshine	Debbie

Upcoming Events of Interest: Shows

February 22 & 23, **Maple Ridge Lapidary Club**, Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall, Pitt Meadows

March 7 & 8, **Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club**, Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni

March 14 & 15, Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Hastings Community Centre, Vancouver

March 20, 21, & 22, **Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society**, Leonardo de Vinci Centre, Victoria

April 3, 4, & 5, **BC Lapidary Society BC Gem Show**, Ag-Rec Building, Abbotsford

April 18 & 19, **Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club**, Native Sons Hall, Courtenay

May 2 & 3, **Richmond Gem & Mineral Club**, Richmond Arts & Cultural Centre, Richmond

June 6 & 7, **Kokanee & Selkirk Rock Clubs**, Castlegar Recreation Complex, Castlegar

June 6 & 7, **Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club**, Campbell River Community Centre, Campbell River

July 5, **Surrey Rockhound Club**, Sullivan Parking Lot, Surrey

July 17, 18 & 19, **1120 Rock Club of Kelowna & the Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club**,
Rutland Centennial Hall, Rutland

Our Club Show

"rock into spring" March 14 & 15,

Our grab bags are always a hit at our show and we hope you will participate in their creation. Donations of small stones for the bags are needed and appreciated. No toxic rocks, and please, no obsidian since it can become dangerous if dropped and it shatters. Jasper, Quartz and Agate are great. Rocks should be about 1 ½ inches x 1 ½ inches.

For members who have volunteered/want to volunteer to make the grab bags. The size is 7" x 17 1/4" (inches) or 18cm x 44cm and this will make a finished bag that is 6 1/2" x 8" (16 x 20 cm). There's a sample pinned in the workshop. Bright colours and patterns are popular with the kids!

Rock wrapping sessions for the grab bags will happen every Tuesday @7 at the workshop for January. "It's a chill session, you can chit chat with other members bring some snacks and drink some coffee/tea while wrapping the rock specimens in paper & label them for the grab bags."

More information about the show will be at our general meeting.

Let's all pitch in to make it another great show

Events

December 5-8, club members were at the PNE Gem show and volunteered at our club table to demonstrate some of our activities. (Thanks Crystal for the pictures.)



Projects

Before



Paul Pinsker took a Field Trip into the Northwestern states and came back with some Thunder eggs. It is always a gamble to see if it is a geode (hollow inside). The estimate he was given is a 5 to 1 chance. His cutting was revealing 1 out of 2 tries found a geode. Have a chat with him about his trip and the results of other cuttings.

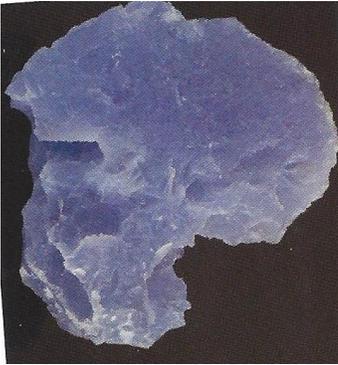
Cut before Christmas, this rock looked appropriate for winter and the weather we've had lately.

(Thanks Tim H for pictures)

After



Chalcedony



Renee Newman,
Exotic Gems: Vol 3, p 95
Mohave Blue rough from
Frank Heiser. Photo by David
Rickett of FX Imaging Inc.

Traditionally this article is about birthstones for the month. We've covered the traditional birthstones and some of the alternates. We've also started to look at material that is more likely to be worked by lapidaries. **Agate** is an alternate birthstone for January and **Jasper** is an alternate for March. As I considered these stones, I started down a "rabbit hole" familiar to people starting to learn our great hobby...what is similar and different about lapidary stones and those traditional gemstones? I came across a basic book that helped answer some of my questions. [Rocks & Minerals of Western North America](#) by J. Duane Sept. A gemstone is "a mineral or rock valued for its beauty, rarity and hardness," and usually they are crystals.



photo: Helen Serras-Herman
Rock & Gem, February 2019

Looking at the "cardinal gemstones": Amethyst, Sapphire, Ruby, Emerald and Diamond, that is true. Then I had to define mineral: "a homogenous, naturally occurring inorganic solid with a defined chemical composition." I'm not a chemist so I had to think about that a bit – back to the periodic table of chemistry - a combination of elements. Diamond is one element. The others are combinations of elements so that makes them minerals. But what about the stuff I work with?

Quartz is the most common mineral group amongst stones considered gemstones and amongst stones we commonly find and work with, from Agate, to Bloodstone, Carnelian, Jasper, even Tiger's Eye. They are all quartz, but they look very different. At this point a website called <http://www.quartzpage.de/> was helpful.

Quartz is silicon dioxide, commonly called silica. In a very simplified explanation: If there is lots of time, space and silica at the right temperature and pressure, the silica will grow in an organized pattern and form a large crystal (Macrocrystalline Quartz), like Amethyst, Aventurine, Citrine, Rose Quartz, and Smoky Quartz. If the time, space, temperature and pressure are different, or if the silica amounts are not plentiful, or are interrupted, the crystals may be tiny and form small, even disorganized, in clusters too tiny to see even under a microscope (cryptocrystalline quartz). It is a variety of quartz called chalcedony. If the resulting chalcedony is dense, like a solid gel we call it a type of chalcedony called **Chalcedony**. If the chalcedony is in layers, we tend to call that type of chalcedony Agate. Both types, Chalcedony and Agate, refers to cryptocrystalline quartz that is translucent. Jasper is the opaque type of chalcedony. It gets confusing when we use the same word two different ways, but now I'm into something I work with and find easily when rockhounding.

Geology is a relatively new science and that shows when studying rocks. According to <https://www.gemdat.org/gem-960.html> recent studies have shown that much Chalcedony is a mixture of cryptocrystalline quartz and mogánite, another silica mineral related to quartz but with a different crystal structure.

In the gem trade Chalcedony refers to the white, through blue to purplish cryptocrystalline quartz. But, there is something new again according to <https://www.gemdat.org/gem-960.html>, there is a Yellow, orange and red-orange variety of chalcedony from Botswana known as Citrus Chalcedony.

Chalcedony is a birthstone for June in the Polish, Russian and Ancient Arabic traditions. It is also used for those born at 8pm or under the zodiac sign of Cancer.

It is thought to increase vitality, stamina, and endurance and to promote emotional balance and charity while relieving melancholy, fever, gallstones, and eye problems.

The name chalcedony comes from the Latin chalcedonius (alternatively spelled calchedonius). The name appears in Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia* as a term for a translucent kind of "Jaspis" (believed to be

Jasper). The name chalcedony is probably derived from the town Chalcedon in Asia Minor. Sailors carried stones from there as good luck talisman and they became known through the Mediterranean.

Chalcedony has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7. It is usually cut en cabochon or as beads. It is well suited for most jewellery, even bracelets, because of its hardness. Chalcedony is also a favourite carving material. Chalcedony has been known since the Bronze Age in the Mediterranean region. Seals have been found that date back to about 1800 BC. Chalcedony has also been used to carve intaglios.

Chalcedony is often found as a late hydrothermal deposit or an alteration product in acidic to basic igneous rocks, tuffs and breccias. It is very common as crusts, or as vein and cavity fillings. The names of marketed Blue Chalcedony often reflect where it is from: African Blue, Holley Blue (from near Holley, Oregon), or "Montana Glory Blue", from Beaverhead County, Montana.



Wikipedia: Chalcedony
[cameo](#) of [Titus](#) head,
2nd Century AD



https://www.minerals.net/gemstone/chalcedony_gemstone.aspx

Because the blue colour is most prized it is often dyed so buyers need to be wary of their source. According to gemdat.org, the dye may be detectable by looking for dye concentration between grain boundaries and in fractures. Under light the stone may show mosaic-like markings.

One caution for working with Blue Chalcedony is that some people have observed the colour fading over time in some samples. Many jewellery makers and carvers will leave the stone for awhile, even a few years to ensure the colour is stable. It is recommended to store jewellery out of strong lights.

An excellent article on Blue Chalcedony appeared in Rock & Gem February 2019. <https://www.rockngem.com/blue-chalcedony-a-lapidary-superstar/>. In the article, Helen Serras-Herman refers to many sources of Blue Chalcedony. Renée Newman in her book "[Exotic Gems, Vol. 3](#)" (international Jewelry Publications, 2014) gives a chapter to Blue Chalcedony and has pictures of some from a private mine near Kamloops, BC.

Now we have Chalcedony sorted, we'll look at Agate next month.



photo: Helen Serras-Herman, [Rock & Gem](#), February 2019.