

THE ROCKET

March 2018

email: Edrocket18@gmail.com
deadline for next issue April 13

Next Meeting:

March 22, 2018 7:30pm at Hastings Community Center
(but arrive 7 ish for some social time and set up)

Programs at the meeting:

March: Rockhounds Quiz (with prizes) by Paul Pinsker and Linda Foy-presenter
Plus Show-and-Tell (bring your treasures)

Social (volunteered at the February meeting to bring treats for March):
Hazel, Allison, Grazyna

Our Annual Gem and Mineral show is March 17-18. Spread the word, Volunteer and we'll see you there! *Contact Sante for more information.*

HASTINGS COMMUNITY CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS Presents

Fossils
Workshops
Spin & Win
Door Prizes
Food
FUN FUN FUN
Bring the kids!

Books
Minerals
Gemstones
Education
Beads
Meteorites
and more!

Gem & Mineral show 2018

March 17-18 BY DONATION 3096 E Hastings St. Vancouver 10 am - 5 pm

Photograph by Stephen Hightings

Programs:

At our February meeting we had a great program presented by Gunter Otto, a member of our club. We learned about Sunstones from around the world, but especially Oregon. He brought in samples and handouts about Sunstones. We are so fortunate to have a member who works with the rock from mining to sculpting and faceting.



Thanks to Allison for the pictures.

Program for March meeting is a quiz with prizes!

Paul P. has made up a quiz....actually - quite a long one.
(25 plus bonus questions)

It will be lots of fun - and there are wonderful prizes to be won for correct answers.

Here are samples of some of the questions:

(6) What is the symbol in the Periodic Table for lead? Bonus: What is the name of the ore of lead?

(7) What is an alloy? Bonus: What two elements comprise bronze?

(16) What gives amethyst its purple colour? Bonus: Amethyst's yellow/brown cousin is called what?

Come and learn something new, participate and laugh a lot.
There will be plenty of opportunities to win something nice.

WE ARE CELEBRATING! Our Club is 60 this year.

Our club formed in **1958** and within a short time club members were participating in local and BC shows.

The first display was at a Hobby Show held in Burnaby Mountain Park on June 27 and 28, **1959**. It looks like they had pretty good weather, but were prepared for anything. (Mrs. Beulah Cook & Murray are in the photo).

By October we participated in our first BC Gem and Mineral Show in the “Gardens” building at



Hastings Park. The November issue of The Canadian Rockhound described event: *“The Hastings Centre Rockhounds had as the centre of their display a beautiful group of Rosy-Brown quartz crystals over a foot in diameter, the centre crystals were about 5 inches high, this mass of crystals were sprinkled with pyrite crystals. There were found in a vug in a mine at Yellowknife. This new club also displayed cabochons, jewelry, and polished specimens.”*

We participated in the BC Gem and Mineral Show every year after that. In 1960 the display by Hastings Centre Rockhounds was a log house booth which inside had several cases of crystals and artifacts collected by the members. Today’s displays are not nearly as elaborate and follow specifications for size.



By 1966 we were ready to host our first show at the Hastings Centre. It was reported in the Vancouver Sun with a large photo of students from the local elementary schools holding up gift rocks to be identified after they toured the show. Times do change though...the 1966 show was on Wednesday and Thursday evening from 6pm until 10 pm. (The students must have had a special show time). This year (2018) our show has daytime hours on the weekend!

It is fun to look back and see how things were in our club’s early days. Keep an eye out for our club scrapbooks and photo albums. They may appear at this year’s show to **celebrate our 60 years**.

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 - 1pm
	Sunday	10am – 1pm
Silversmithing:	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon

SILVERSMITHING



Have a box of lovely cabochons from all your lapidary work? Hastings Rockhounds has a silversmithing workshop with all the tools to get you started on a project. Saturday from 9-12:30 there is an Instructor, Crystal Chow present. Crystal has been doing lapidary and silversmithing for 9 years and will see you off to a good start. Have nothing to work with? No problem. We have a kit of materials for the first project that we sell for \$25. It is an open workshop so everyone works on their own. If they are stuck there is Crystal or someone else that has done it before. We have a few books, magazines and CDs to get hints, ideas and patterns. There are many more books available meeting nights in the club's lending library. On Wednesday there is another open workshop from 9-12:30.



The silversmithing tools are available for all. If Mike Ma is there, the forming tools and hydraulic press etc, for metal working are available. The workshop is available for other crafts such as wire wrapping, soap stone and bead working if an Instructor is available. Come try it out.

Photos courtesy Crystal.

March 8 Sante held the usual Thursday evening workshop. Unexpectedly, all the participants were women! Great way to celebrate International Women's Day.

This is one photo, there were other women on the other machines too.

Photo Roz



Upcoming Events of Interest:

Rendezvous : May 18 – 21, Rock Creek, BC - hosted by Penticton Geology and Lapidary Club. At our last meeting Verne recommended registering early, especially for the limited Rock Candy Mine Field Trip. <http://www.bclapidary.com/Rendez.html>

Shows:

March 17 & 18, 2018 Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Vancouver, BC

April 6, 7 & 8, 2018 BC Gem Show, Abbotsford, BC

April 14 & 15, 2018 Courtenay Gem & Mineral & Parksville Rock Club Courtenay, BC

April 28 & 29, 2018 Richmond Gem & Mineral Club, Richmond, BC

May 13, 2018 Creative Jewellers Guild of BC 5th Annual Show and Sale, Van Dusen Gardens

June 2 & 3, 2018 Kokanee & Selkirk Rock Clubs Show, Castlegar, BC

June 9 & 10, 2018 Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club Show, Campbell River, BC

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

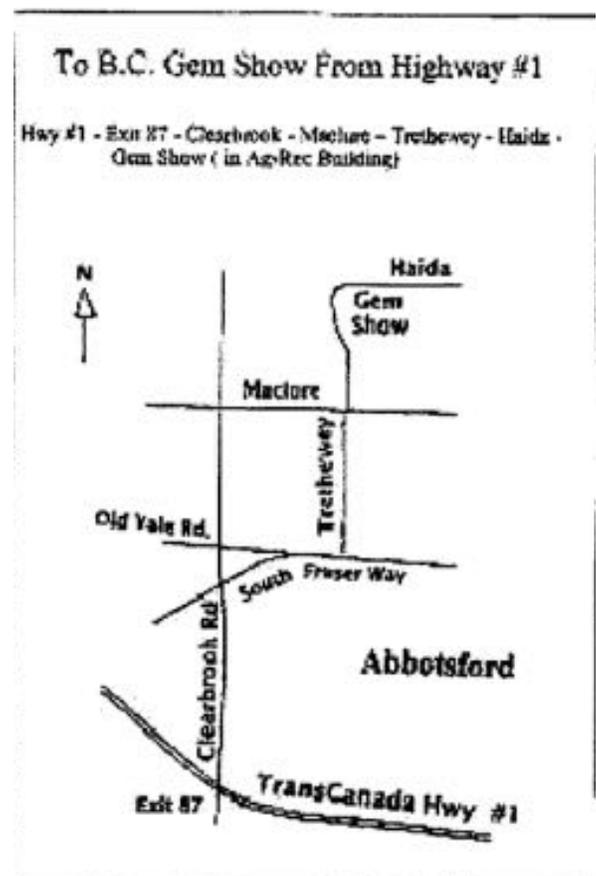
Sunday: 10am - 5pm

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)**



2018 Summer Camp Information



We are pleased to announce that the 2018 Summer Camp will be taking place August 6 - August 11, 2018 at Takysie Lake, BC.

For those of you who have yet to experience it, Summer Camp is an opportunity for BCLS members from all over the province to gather, socialize and rockhound in a different area of the province. Generally, it is four days of organized field trips and five nights of social activities. The Lakes District Rock and Gem Club has again graciously agreed to co-host the event with the BCLS at Takysie Lake, about an hour south of Burns Lake, after last year's event was cancelled due to forest fires. A few members braved the smoke and closed highways last August to check out the area, and were very happy with the resort and the lapidary materials available in the area.

More information about this year's Summer Camp and facilities information can be found by viewing the two links below. Please pre-register with Phillip Crewe by phone or by email before-hand so we have an idea of numbers. Phillip can be reached at 604-526-3045, or by ... this email. (paukenmeister@gmail.com)

General Event Information:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/dca3433691ff359f6a1513a59/files/117de701-1ac5-48fe-a641-a38828d4e7be/2018_summer_camp_information.pdf

Facilities Information:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/dca3433691ff359f6a1513a59/files/c9556e4e-055a-4030-9689-689549b275ba/2018_summer_camp_facilities.pdf

Regards,

Phillip Crewe

Summer Camp Team



Aquamarine is the birthstone for March

Like the changeable month of March, there are different birthstones for March depending on the culture, country and time period. To standardize birthstones the National Association of Jewelers (American) adopted a list in 1912. The birthstone

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquamarine> for March was bloodstone with Aquamarine as the alternate. In 1952 the Jewelry Industry Council of America updated the list and switched the primary/alternative gems for March. The birthstone for the zodiac sign Aries (March 22-April 20) is bloodstone. So I do need to do an article on bloodstone. Perhaps in the next cycle of months we'll look at alternate birthstones.

Aquamarine is the alternate stone to Peridot for celebrating a 16th anniversary and the primary stone for the 19th anniversary. This gemstone is believed to protect sailors, guarantee a safe voyage and bring good health.

Aquamarine is a blue green form of Beryl with hexagonal crystals. The color comes from different ions of Iron as impurities in the pure beryl mineral beryllium aluminium cyclosilicate (chemical formula $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$) Green-yellow beryl, such as that occurring in Brazil, is sometimes called chrysolite aquamarine. The deep blue version of aquamarine is called maxixe. At different times fashion has favored a more green type of aquamarine and now favors a bluer type of aquamarine and the darker tones get a higher price.

According to the IGS buying guide hollow tube inclusions cause the optical effects of star or cat's eye aquamarines, but these are rare.

Aquamarines are often heated to enhance the blue color of the stone. The heat treatment results are variable, but stable so not something for the average lapidary. Aquamarine is 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale and considered durable for jewelry as long as it is protected from scratches and knocks. It can be cleaned with soapy water and an old toothbrush. Be sure the stone does not have inclusions or filled fractures before using any other method.

Aquamarines are found around the world: Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Brazil, Colombia and Sri Lanka. They are also found in the United States and Canada. One source <http://www.alpinegems.ca/GemLocalities/bcgems.html> mentions claims for aquamarine in BC near Passmore, McDame, Bennett, Atlin, Cassiar, Prince George, and Skookumchuck Creek. An article by Lee A Groat et al. in Geoscience Canada: Journal of the Geological Association of Canada, Volume 32, Number 2 (2005), includes a map of Emerald and Aquamarine showings in Canada.



<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/GC/article/view/2699/3129>



1964 club "Mystery Field Trip"

Rockhounding and 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). Edrocket18@gmail.com