

# THE ROCKET

March 2022

deadline for next issue  
April 8, 2022

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

(This month's colour = Azure blue and Yellow of the Ukrainian Flag)

**Future Meetings:** Our monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month.

**Next Meeting:** Friday – March 25 at 7PM  
At Hastings Community Centre Hall  
*everything is back to full capacity vaccine cards still needed.*

## Programs:



The program at our next meeting will be on **Granite 2.0**. Linda Foy will be our presenter and will bring lots of samples to touch and play with - and a few anecdotes about local granite.

Picture source: <https://www.dreamstime.com/macro-photography-natural-mineral-geological-collection-muscovite-mica-greisen-stone-white-background-muscovite-mica-image132268841>

## Last Meeting Programs:

It was one of those challenging Zoom meetings, but Linda did a valiant job of giving a presentation on granite, one of our most overlooked stones. We hope you've been inspired to look at all the granite around us with appreciation.

Picture source: <https://www.energy muse.com/k2-meaning>



## Membership

Just a reminder from our membership chairperson (Nickell):

**Attention members! To be a member in good standing**, all members need to “opt in” to the Hastings Community Association. We used to have to pay for the HCA memberships, but now it's free and easy as pie! Just ask to “**opt in**” to the Hastings Community Association at the front desk at the centre! You will be added to the HCA's mailing list, and have voting power as a member of the Association. It's important for our club to maintain a presence in the HCA.

Also, the HCA will have an AGM at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 via Zoom. You might need to email [hastingscommunityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:hastingscommunityassociation@gmail.com) to RSVP for the Zoom link.

# Workshop Hours

Hastings Community Centre has removed all restrictions on the number of people that can attend a workshop. Our workshop instructors decided that people no longer needed to make a reservation.

If you a member in good standing, have taken the required lapidary workshop training course, and are double vaccinated "passport" with ID to show, you can drop in at the workshops and use the equipment on a first come, first served (shared) basis. Be prepared to work on another project if you need to wait to use a particular piece of equipment,

|                       |           |                     |         |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Lapidary:</b>      | Monday    | 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm   | Richard |
|                       | Wednesday | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm   | David   |
|                       | Thursday  | 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm   | Sante   |
|                       | Saturday  | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm   | Bob     |
| <b>Silversmithing</b> | Wednesday | 9:00am – 12:00 noon | Marilyn |
|                       | Saturday  | 9:00am – 12:00 noon | Robert  |

## Upcoming Events of Interest: Shows

Vancouver Gem Show



PNE FORUM  
25-27 MARCH 2022

*Vancouver*  
GEM SHOW

Friday 1-9, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-5  
[VancouverGemShow.com](http://VancouverGemShow.com)

We are looking for volunteers from our club to staff our table and demonstrate &/or talk about our club and the hobby. 4 hour shifts are usual because they get entry to the show.

This time they are wondering if we can provide some labour for tables setup/tear down. A couple of people that can move empty tables around would be greatly appreciated for Thursday 8am - 1pm and Sunday 5pm to 9pm.

Check with Linda Foy or Crystal Chow (Rockhounds secretary) as soon as possible.



Exquisite Jewellery, Crystals and Gemstones  
Collection Minerals, Fossils and more!  
90 vendors from all over Canada

# BC Gem Show

The **British Columbia Lapidary Society** hosts the **BC Gem Show** in BC each year.



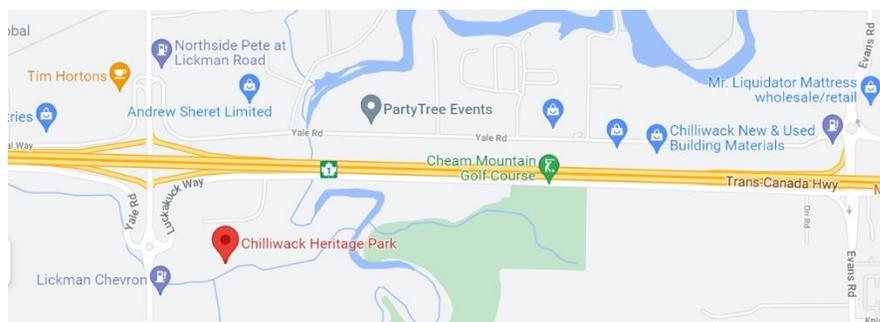
**Door Prizes, Dealers, Demonstrators, Club Exhibits, Displays, Spin and Win, Grab Bags, Gold Panning. Fun for the whole family!**

## When

May 13, 14 & 15  
Friday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Sunday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

## Where **NEW LOCATION**

Chilliwack Heritage Park  
44140 Luckakuck Way  
Chilliwack, BC



**Adults - \$6.00**  
**Students (6 - 17) - \$2.00**  
**Under 6 (accompanied by an adult) - Free**  
**3 Day Pass - \$12.00**  
**Tickets available at the door**

**Rocklovers-Round-Up Tailgate Sale Cancelled for 2022**

**Mask wearing and vaccine passports are required.**

We've been contacted and offered **6 showcases** at the **BC Gem Show** out at Chilliwack (Chilliwack Heritage Park. 44140 Luckakuck Way, Chilliwack, BC) during May 13, 14 & 15.

Set up of the showcases will be on Thursday May 12 morning, then you can collect your pieces on Sunday May 15th after 5pm. You can always share a showcase with other members if you want. If needed, the club can offer some honorarium for gas for members who are willing to display and help set up the showcases.

(Contact Crystal if interested...supposed to be by March 18)

**BC Lapidary Society Gem Show** The Gem Show Committee is looking for assistance to run the spin & win, the Kid's Corner, at the big show in Chilliwack in May. We are thinking a club could take on a day – Friday, Saturday, or Sunday – so that no one feels overwhelmed. They have asked if The Hastings Rockhounds could take on a day. It works best with 2 volunteers at the table.

## More BC Lapidary Society News

Have you noticed the classifieds on the **BC Lapidary Society website**? For anyone setting up a home workshop or interested in some “rockhounding” equipment, this can be a great source. At last look I saw grit for use in tumbling rocks, dental equipment, a tromel, a Little Torch Kit, a 6-inch Diamond grinding wheel, and a spool polisher.

Members of the British Columbia Lapidary Society may contact the webmaster to have items for sale posted on this page. It is up to the discretion of the webmaster to determine the suitability of the items requested for posting. Also check out the BC Lapidary Market group on Facebook.

## And the best BC Lapidary Society News of all...

**The BC Lapidary Society is pleased to announce the winner of the inaugural Lapidary Arts Award (2022) is Guenter Otto from the Hastings Centre Rockhounds!**



Here is just a sample of his work.

Testimonials from other club members were only part of our club's submission nominating Guenter for the award. Here is only a sampling of their words:



John Prychon - He is a metalsmith (gold & silver), gem carver, lapidarist, designer, and miner. Not too many people could list all of these on one resume, and he is proficient in all.

Paul Pinsker - I would like to emphasize how generous, creative, and meticulous Guenter is in all aspects of his work, and how he motivates others to stretch ourselves.

Linda Foy - Guenter is known throughout the world for his work, yet he is very humble. ...He is always willing to try something new, then share his knowledge with others... His Club presentations have included showing raw materials from his fire opal and sunstone mines as well as demonstrating the techniques used to fashion them into gorgeous, creative jewelry in his studio.

In February 2018 Guenter gave a fascinating program for our club general meeting.

# Congratulations Guenter!

# Rendezvous 2022

Coombs, BC, June 2 — 6, 2022  
Coombs Fair Grounds  
1014 Ford Rd.  
Coombs, BC

The Registration form for Rendezvous 2022 is now on the BC Lapidary society website. Rendezvous is our Society's annual gathering which has taken place since 1958 (well, until the COVID pandemic). Rendezvous 2022 will feature:

Field Trips  
Camaraderie  
Mini Rock Show and Sale  
BCLS Annual General Meeting

The BCLS will strive to make Rendezvous 2022 open and welcoming to all while following the required COVID protocols set out by the Provincial Government at the time of the event.

This year Rendezvous and Gemboree have been combined into a single larger-than-usual event focused on bringing us all back together after 2 years of COVID retreat. Rendezvous 2022 will be hosted by our Vancouver Island clubs including Victory Lapidary and Mineral Society, Cowichan Valley Rockhounds, Parksville & District Rock & Gem, Courtenay Gem and Mineral Club, Alberni Valley Rock & Gem, Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club (Vancouver Island Zone).

Visit the web site at <https://www.bclapidary.com/rock-hunting-rendezvous.php> for the registration form and everything Rendezvous. Let's make a point of getting back together again and rocking BC!

## Updates on Granite

Pre-Covid, **Paul Pinsker** gave a few tours of Downtown Vancouver Buildings' Stone work, most recently in 2018. Our last program presented by Linda Foy reminded him of these tours. Nearly all the sites visited feature granite or granodiorite. Here Paul highlights the buildings that used granite or granodiorite in their décor.

- Cameron Kerr Sculpture on QE Theatre Plaza  
Kerr born in Campbell River. One of 5 marble and **granite** sculptures originally displayed here in 2012, this is the only keeper. Carved in China w/Kerr's supervision. Weighs 5 tons.
- British Canadian Securities Building  
Completed 1912, architect was Scotsman Harry Griffith out of Victoria; 9 storeys cost \$299,000. BCS was a land investment company, but eventually sold the building to the Dominion Trust Company, who went bankrupt. There was a court

fight with the mortgager over the safety deposit boxes and their contents. Most were ruled “part of the building”, but the mortgager didn’t get the 300 freestanding ones.

“Chicago Style”, with 3 sections: stone base, brick trunk, and baked unglazed terra cotta capital, covering a reinforced concrete structure. Has a **granite** foundation with trim of Bedford stone (from Indiana, aka Salem limestone). Edwardian era use of Classical Revival ornamentation. The double height “Chicago windows” feature metal-clad wooden sashes and cast-iron spandrels. Virtually unchanged from the original, and has won an award for its faithful restoration of its interior: the entrance foyer (with coffered ceiling and terrazzo, tile, and marble flooring, Cutler mail chute, and marble treads), hallways, and banking hall (with ornamented cast plaster vaulting and marble wainscot).

- **Standard Building**  
Designed by Seattle’s Russell, Babcock & Rice for developer/politician J.W. Weart (Speaker of the House in the Legislature). The 15-storey height soared over the 10-storey normal limit in the Edwardian Revivalist style, and was completed in 1912. It was originally called the Standard Bank Building. The lavishly decorative lobby includes imported real and fake marble (knock on the “marble” concierge desk – it’s wood). Enveloping the steel frame structure, the exterior is of brick and unglazed terra cotta, atop a base of **granodiorite**, a medium- to coarse-grained igneous rock similar to **granite**, formed by intrusive magma rich in silica and, hence, its inclusion of quartz among other constituents.
- **Wosk Centre for Dialogue**  
Designed by architects Somervell & Putnam, and completed in 1920, the neo-classical style Union Bank Building was part of the collection of financial institutions clustered near Hastings and Granville. Bank of Toronto (later TD Bank) acquired it, to become its Vancouver headquarters until 1971. By 1984 the building was without any financial tenant, and soon faced demolition. That fate was averted by preservationists and, finally, the intervention of furniture salesman Morris Wosk, whose donations led to the site’s 1999 transformation and creation of the current meeting spaces, under the stewardship of SFU.

The façade combines **granite** and terra cotta; other distinctive features are the tall ground floor windows and ornamental cornice. The former grand banking hall is now the stunning Asia Pacific Hall, a state-of-the-art meeting space for over 150 attendees.

- **Birks Building**  
Neo-Classical Revival, Beaux Arts-style “temple bank” designed by Toronto architect firm Darling & Pearson, and completed in 1908 for the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Prior, in 1899, Trorey’s jewelry business moved onto the northeast corner of Hastings and Granville, where they planted an elegant street clock that became a landmark. Montreal jewellers Birks bought Trorey’s, thus opening their first Vancouver store in 1906, and the clock became known as the

“Birks Clock”, a place to meet even after Birks moved, with the clock, to Granville and Georgia in 1913. Birks remained at that corner even after the much-loved, historic and iconic high-rise Birks Building was heartlessly demolished in 1974, as there was not yet any system for designating and protecting heritage buildings. In the early 1990’s the old former Bank of Commerce underwent renovations and in 1994 Birks moved in. Their clock came, too, and was later restored by Ray Saunders (of Gastown Steam Clock fame) in time for the 2010 Olympics.

The building is entirely of local **granite**, features a colonnade of Ionic columns, carved arches and scroll work, a copper cornice, and imposing bronze doors on Hastings. Inside features beautiful Italian marble.

- **Royal Bank**  
Designed by S. G. Davenport of Blewett Dodd Architecture and completed in 1931. This towering mix of Art Deco and Neo-Romanesque design served as the regional headquarters for Royal Bank until 1973. Features an Italian Renaissance style banking hall. Various types of stone employed in the interior, the walls primarily of Indiana limestone and the floors of large travertine tiles. Exterior of Nelson Island **granite** at the base (just north of the Sechelt Peninsula), with Haddington Island stone (quarried off northern Vancouver Island near Alert Bay) above to the roof. The latter is andesite (igneous) and is considered by many to be the finest building stone available due to its durability and ease of profiling and carving.....the BC Provincial Parliament Building in Victoria and the Hotel Vancouver are built of this stone.
- **Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre/Pan-Pacific Hotel**  
In preparation for the 2010 Olympic Games, the lobby of the original Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre added significant works of West Coast First Nations art. Noteworthy is the inlaid stone floor design “Moon Journey” by local artist Susan Point. **Granites** are used to portray four whales circling the moon, with the dorsal fins doubling as ravens. The number four has particular cultural significance in referencing the directions, the seasons, and the elements – earth, wind, fire, and water. The convention centre also hopes to convene people from the four corners of the globe. Two levels up in the hotel lobby is a fountain (apparently of porphyry) which replicates the Pacific Rim.
- **Marine Building**  
Acclaimed by many as Vancouver’s finest heritage building, the Marine Building was designed by local firm McCarter & Nairne in art deco style. It was completed in 1930, the tallest building in the British Empire (21 storeys, 321 ft/98m), at a cost of about \$2 million. Due to the stock market crashing during its construction, however, occupancy lagged and, after failing to sell to the City of Vancouver for a new City Hall, the property owners sold to Guinness Brewing for just \$900,000. Elevators were designed to move at 700 ft/min, nearly five times faster than the typical speed.

The building has been likened to a “Mayan temple” and has a rich history. Richer are the ornamentations inside and out, dominated by its titular maritime theme. Stone, terra cotta, and brass, wood, plaster, and glass all feature

artistically in the building, capped by a pyramid-like copper dome. Many designs in the lobby are of marble and travertine. The exterior base consists of polished **granodiorite** from Kelly Island (Sunshine Coast) and a mainly brick tower. The terra cotta is ornately detailed in sea life and other maritime themes cladding much of the exterior. The original architects' offices remained in the building nearly 50 years from its opening.

- **Old Stock Exchange Building**  
Designed by Fred Townley and Robert Matheson (who also designed City Hall) and completed in 1929, just in time for Black Friday and the Great Depression, this 11-storey landmark heritage building served as the city's stock exchange until 1947. It is in a "modernist gothic" style, clad in terra cotta and brick on an apparently **granodiorite** base, with a barrel vault lobby whose intricate gilt and painted stone work features heraldry and other emblems of medieval England. The lobby ceiling features shields of provinces and territories; the conservators are to be particularly commended for their work revealing the westerly gable and "bringing it back". Walls are faced with polished Tyndall Stone, a burrow-mottled limestone found near Winnipeg. The recent construction restored the building and attached a 31-storey office tower designed by the renown Swiss architect Harry Gugger in collaboration with the local Iredale Group. Completion of the LEED Platinum project occurred in January of 2018; however, work continues in fitting out the hotel space within the site. The stone floor of the new tower lobby continues right out to the curb in a repeating 3-band wave form entitled "WAFT", by Neil Campbell done in 2017 as part of City of Vancouver's Public Art Program.

In 1989 Forbes Magazine christened the VSE "the scam capital of the world". With listings mainly of mines and junior industries, the VSE faced accusations of stock manipulation. A 1978 study found 5 in 6 lost money investing in the VSE. There were winners, though, such as Murray "the Pez" Pezim, who got rich on gold discoveries in Hemlo Valley (1981) and Eskay Creek (1989). VSE moved to the Stock Exchange Tower at Pacific Centre in 1981, just in time for the biggest recession since 1929. After a short-lived merger in 1999, the exchange eventually became absorbed by the TSE.

- **SFU Segal Graduate School of Business**  
Another heritage treasure designed by Americans Somervell & Putnam, and completed in 1915 for the aspiring Merchants Bank of Canada, this temple bank of 3 storeys was made to look like a more impressive two-storey edifice. A year after the 1922 absorption by the Bank of Montreal, the building was doubled in size, the main entrance on Granville shifted more centrally southward per the design by architect K.G. Rea. The site remained the Vancouver headquarter bank until BMO moved to the Bentall complex on Burrard in 1974. By the 1990s BMO had no further use for the building but, fortunately, Vancouver businessman/developer Joseph Segal bought it and donated it to SFU for a graduate school of business. Sensitive renovations by local heritage specialist Paul Merrick Architects culminated in the opening for instruction in 2006.

The Class A Heritage Building features an ornate coffered main floor plaster ceiling by famed local sculptor Charles Marega, marble-clad columns, mixed-

stone flooring, marble stairs with **granite** noses, and a large old brass clock inside. Outside displays an ornately-carved façade, especially the mid-height cornice, and a prominent copper cornice topping the building exterior.

- Vancouver Block Building

Designed by Parr & Fee Architects for Dominic Burns, who made his fortune in meatpacking, this landmark commercial building was built in 2 years and completed in 1912. Sitting mere steps from the highest point of land on the Downtown Peninsula added to the structure's prominence. Placement here confirmed the corner of Granville and Georgia as the most prestigious location for commercial development in the city. The 15-storey steel-frame edifice is an excellent example of Edwardian Commercial style. With its front and rear facades clad in ivory-toned terra cotta, its 2-storey rooftop penthouse for Mr. Burns to reside in, its ornately detailed cornice and its crowning clock tower, the upper portion of the structure bears a resemblance to a wedding cake. The busy exterior ornamentation might reflect the rampant growth of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Vancouver, particularly the ground floor and the upper floors, the latter with the heavily bracketed cornice supported by caryatids. At street level four pilaster elements stand atop **granite** bases. Terra cotta was popular in the Edwardian era because it gave the appearance of cut stone while being easy to form into sculptural reliefs. Greco-Roman ornamentation frames the clocks. The clocks are noted for the neon illumination of the hands and dial marks, added in 1927.

The interior boasts marble-panelled walls and marble ceilings, contrasting (green) marble trim, an open marble staircase with marble wall panelling and balustrades, and grey terrazzo flooring with marble banding and checkered borders in office corridors.

## Colours for this month's newsletter

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Ukraine) The **flag of Ukraine** ... consists of equally sized horizontal bands of blue and yellow.<sup>[1]</sup> The combination of blue and yellow as a symbol of [Ukraine](#) comes from the flag of the [Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia](#) used in the 12th century. As a [national flag](#), the blue and yellow bicolour has been used since the [1848 Spring of Nations](#), when it was hoisted over [Lviv Town Hall](#). It was officially adopted as a state flag for the first time in 1918 by the short-lived [West Ukrainian People's Republic](#) and subsequently used by the [Ukrainian People's Republic](#). When Ukraine was part of the [Soviet Union](#), the [flag of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic](#) was used and the bicolour flag was outlawed. The blue and yellow flag was provisionally adopted for official ceremonies in September 1991 following [Ukrainian independence](#), before officially being restored on 28 January 1992 by the [Parliament of Ukraine](#).<sup>[2][3]</sup>

.... The roots of Ukrainian national symbols come from pre-Christian times when yellow and blue prevailed in traditional ceremonies, reflecting fire and water.<sup>[13]</sup> .....



The **Principality** or, from 1253, **Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia**... historically known as the **Kingdom of Ruthenia** ... was a medieval state and vassal of the [Golden Horde](#) in the Eastern European regions of [Galicia](#) and [Volhynia](#) that existed from 1199 to 1349. Its territory was predominantly located in modern-day [Ukraine](#) and [Belarus](#).

The **Golden Horde**... was originally a [Mongol](#) and later [Turkicized khanate](#) established in the 13th century and originating as the northwestern sector of the [Mongol Empire](#).<sup>[9]</sup>

The following is a reprint of an article from March 2018...a blue stone. Other blue stones: Agate, Chalcedony, Lapis Lazuli, Lazulite, Azurite, Fluorite, Indicolite (Tourmaline), Tanzanite, Dumortierite. You can probably name others.



## Aquamarine is the birthstone for March

*by Roz MacLean*

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.

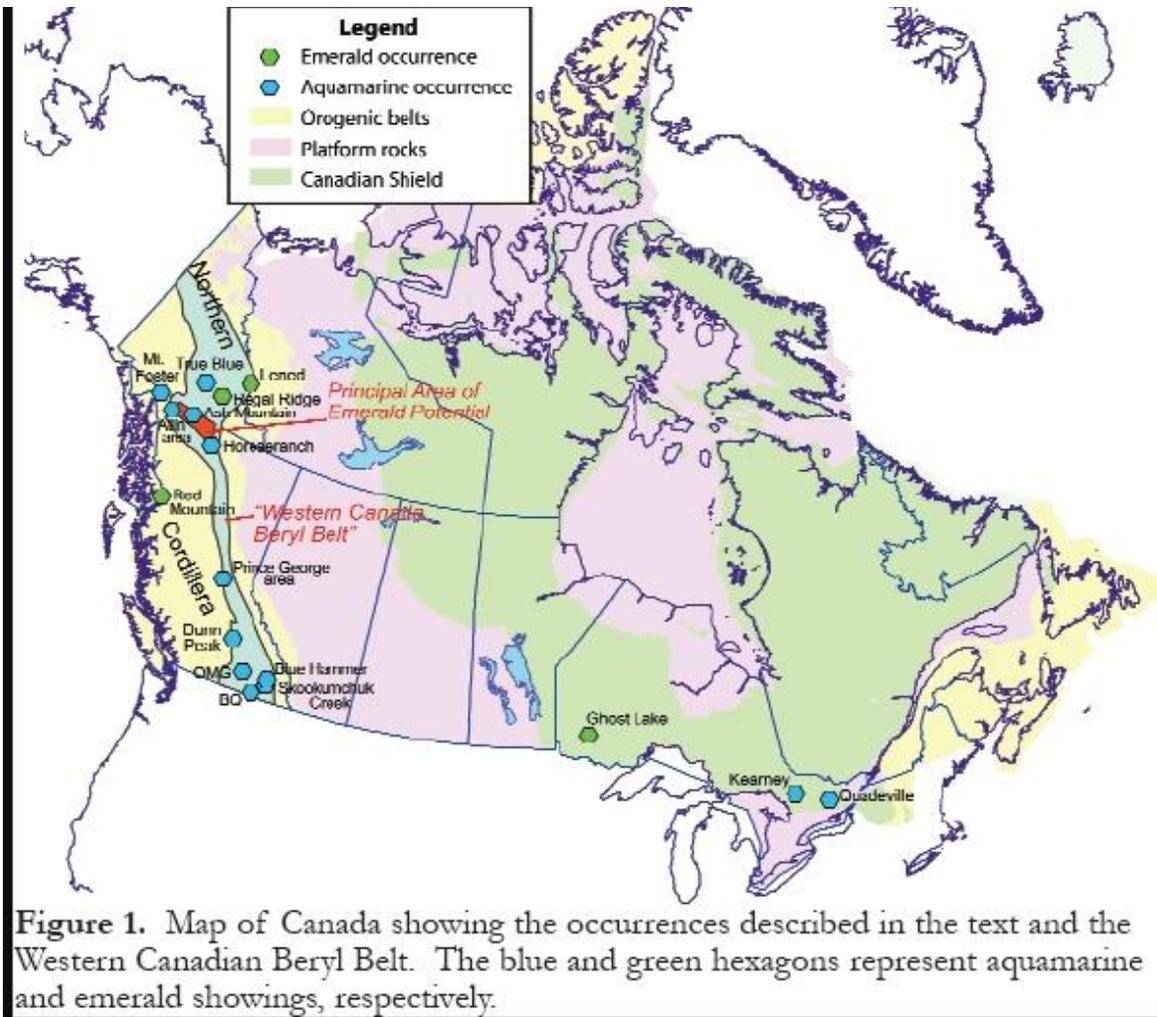
Aquamarine is the alternate stone to Peridot for celebrating a 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the primary stone for the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This gemstone is believed to protect sailors, guarantee a safe voyage and bring good health.

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>

## Colours for this month's newsletter cont'd...

In further consideration of this month's tribute colours, there are many Yellow Stones such as honey Amber, "bumblebee Jasper", Fluorite, Diamond, Topaz, Garnet, Epidote, Apatite, Wulfenite, and Heliodor or Golden Beryl. You can probably add to this list too.

If you know a stone that combines yellow and blue please let me know. Thanks, the editor.

**Heliodor:** A round faceted heliodor with a golden-yellow color from Madagascar, measuring 5.97 millimeters in diameter and weighing 0.72 carats.

