

# THE ROCKET

**September 2018**

deadline for next issue  
October 13

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

**Future Meetings:** We have been officially told that our monthly meetings for Sept/Oct/Nov this year will be on the fourth Friday of those 3 months.

**Next Meeting:** Friday – September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM  
at Hastings Community Center Hall

**Social:** Please bring a small snack to share at the meeting as there was no sign up

## Programs:

Professional Geologist Jennifer Getsinger, will conduct a "geology lab" on September 28 on how to identify rocks. She will bring some in, and invites our members to bring in specimens for identification - especially of subsurface materials and ones that aren't exotic crystals...i.e. she's not a gemologist. Mainly, she worked as a PhD/P.Geo for the Geological Survey of Canada, and is now retired.

At our Sept 28 meeting we may also have a mini talk on pyrite – if time permits.

## Workshop Hours

\* Means a change for fall 2018

<b>Lapidary:</b>	Monday	6:30pm – 9:30pm
	Wednesday	1:00pm – 4:00pm
	Thursday	6:30pm – 9:30pm
	Saturday	1:00pm – 4:00pm
<b>Metalwork:</b>	* Monday	9am – 2 pm
	* Sunday	10:30am – 1:45 pm
<b>Silversmithing:</b>	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
<b>Soapstone Carving:</b>	Tuesday	6:45 pm – 9:30 pm

There is room for 10 people. Please contact Linda Foy before showing up for the first time.

## METALSMITHING

Here are some pics of our class projects for early July 2018. In July we will be working on stamping and dies along with the wrought iron binding wire to create a chased bracelet look.



July 24<sup>th</sup> update: here are some projects started and almost finished by classmates



guardian of the tools-  
GOTT - Mike Ma

Thanks Mike for the Photos



## PROJECTS

*Editor's note: It is the fall and probably many of you are starting some great projects. 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. Do you know someone working on (or completed) an interesting project? Please let me know so we can feature their work in our newsletter.*

# ***WE ARE CELEBRATING! Our Club is 60 this year.***

## **Canada Day in the Park**

It was quite busy at the Canada Day celebration. Caring for our table at the event were Verne Brooks, Linda Foy, Paul Pinsker and Mike Ma.

Photo at right: Verne Brooks our President and Shane Simpson, MLA for Vancouver-Hastings, at our club table at the Canada Day Celebration at the Hastings Community Centre in the Park. Verne had just shown a picture of his fossilized Cat's Paw to the MLA.



Paul Pinsker had several lava stones of different specific gravities. Some were lighter than and some were heavier than the specific gravity of water. It was an interesting guessing game for the kids to note which rocks would float and which rocks would not.



Thanks Mike Ma for the photos



## **Rockhounds at HCC Open House**

The Hastings Centre Rockhounds participated in the Saturday, September 8 Open House at the Hastings Community Centre. Verne Brooks, Bonnie Gosse, and Paul Pinsker promoted the Club with a tabletop display of large, really large specimens. These included an amethyst geode, jade and petrified wood bookends, "elestial" (i.e. formed underwater) quartz crystal, sectarian nodule, ocean picture stone, fossil sand dollars, and several other species. At least a dozen visitors also toured the workshop, where silversmithing and lapidary were underway, and we may expect to see some of them at upcoming meetings. Linda Foy also participated in her capacity on the HCA Board.

Our next outreach event will be operating a sales table at the Renfrew Community Centre Crafts Fair on Sunday, November 25. Further details will be forthcoming at our September 28 General Meeting.

## 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.*

September 29 & 30, 2018 **Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club**, Parksville, BC

October 13 & 14, 2018, **Surrey Rockhound Club** , Surrey, BC

October 27 & 28, 2018, **Port Moody Rock & Gem Club**, Port Moody, BC

November 3 & 4, 2018, **Delta Rockhound Gem & Mineral Club**, Delta (Tsawwassen), BC

December 8, 2018, **Creative Jewellers Guild of BC**, VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, BC

## Recent News:

It was an eventful Summer Camp. BC Lapidary Society Summer Camp south of Burns Lake did get started, but was evacuated due to forest fires in the area. There were some field trips, some specimens gathered and some incredible photos by members of some clubs. I've seen some taken by Dave Zirul of the Thompson Valley club and wonder if any of our club members have some photos and specimens. We'd love to hear your stories too.

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 someone you'd like us to feature, tell me your suggestions and I'll follow up with them. Thanks, Roz (Editor). [Edrocket18@gmail.com](mailto:Edrocket18@gmail.com)

## Rockhounds Vancouver Buildings Tour Encore

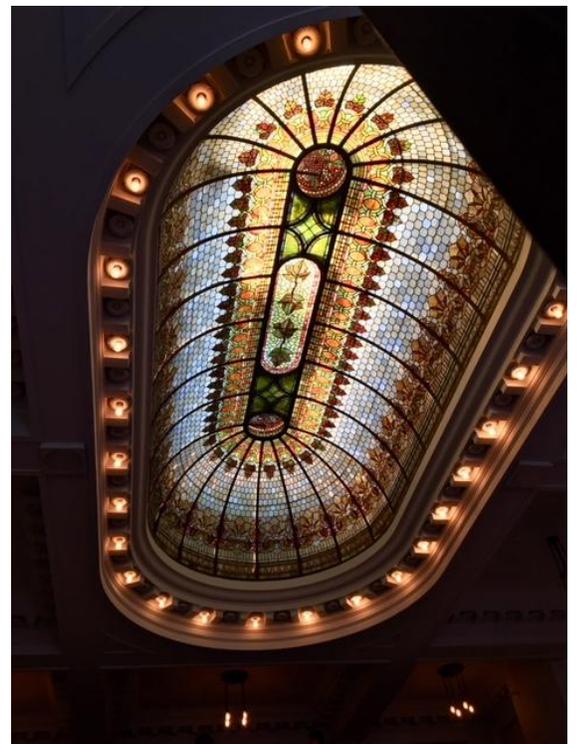
By Paul Pinsker

On June 19, 2018, a small but eager group of Hastings Centre Rockhounds walked about downtown Vancouver on a follow-up tour to that of 2014 to see more sites with interesting stone work. Manda Mok, Debbie Cleveland, Mike Ma, and Joyce Pinsker were guided by Paul Pinsker.

Sites covered on this tour:

**1. The Permanent**, 330 West Pender: Usually closed; however, clipboard in hand we bluffed our way inside amongst the film crew to enjoy the spectacular stained-glass dome.

*Photo by Mike Ma*





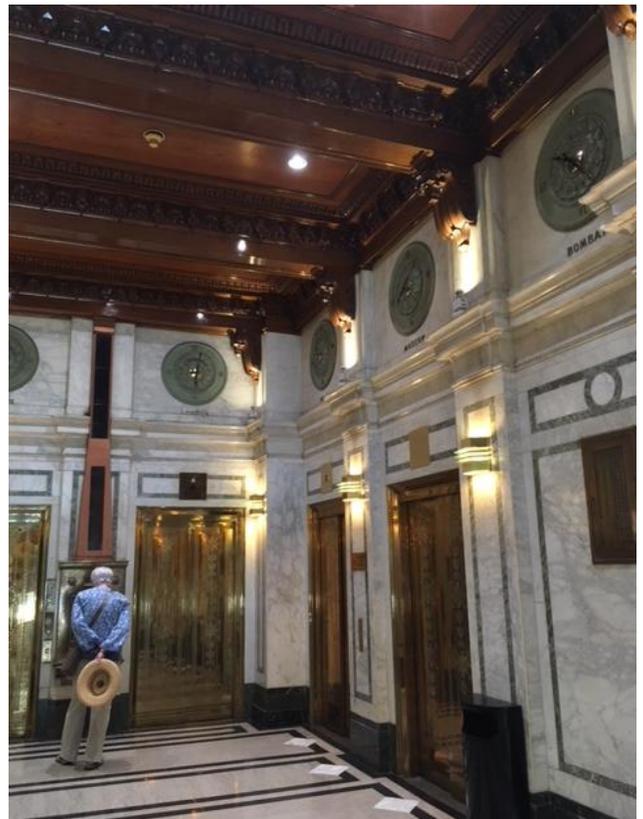
**2. British Canadian Securities Building, 402 West Pender:** Completed in 1912 and virtually unchanged, this “Chicago Style” tower is designed with 3 sections: base of stone (granite with Indiana limestone trim); brick mid-section; and baked, unglazed terra cotta capital (upper storeys). Inside, the foyer features a coffered ceiling and flooring of terrazzo, tile, and marble, the original brass Cutler mail chute, and marble stair treads, while the heritage banking hall features ornamented cast plaster vaulting and marble wainscoting.

*Photo by Joyce Pinsker*

**3. Standard Building, 510 West Hastings (also on our 2014 tour):** Another 1912 vintage, this 15-storey, steel-framed tower is sheathed in brick and unglazed terra cotta, atop a base of granodiorite. Most noteworthy is the lavishly decorated lobby, which includes imported real and some imitation marble (e.g. painted-wood concierge desk), striking elevators, etc.

*Photo by Mike Ma*

**4. Wosk Centre for Dialogue (orig. Union Bank/TD Bank Building), 580 West Hastings:** This 1920 neo-classical gem has a façade of granite and terra cotta, with tall windows and an ornamented cornice. When TD Bank relocated its headquarters to Pacific Centre in 1971 the building fell into decline and disuse until adapted in 1999 as a state-of-the-art meeting space for SFU, funded by businessman Morris Wosk. Staff toured us through the stunning Asia Pacific Hall (formerly the grand banking hall, with its garish coffered ceiling mostly preserved), the atrium, etc.



**5. Birk's Building (orig. Canadian Bank of Commerce), 698 West Hastings:** This 1908 neo-classical "temple bank", one of the city's most handsome buildings, is built of local granite. It features a colonnade of Ionic columns, a prominent copper cornice, carved arches and scrollwork, and imposing bronze doors on Hastings. The interior, decorated with beautiful Italian marble, has been reborn from 1994 into one of the city's most stylish jewellery emporiums. The landmark "Birk's Clock", following the company as it moved from place to place since the beginning of the last century, proudly stands outside on the Granville sidewalk.

**6. Royal Bank, 685 West Hastings (also on our 2014 tour):** This towering mix of Art Deco and Neo-Romanesque design was completed in 1931. Many consider the Italian Renaissance-style main banking hall to be the most beautiful interior in the city. The exterior is comprised of Nelson Island granite at the base. The Haddington Island stone (andesite) above is considered by many to be the finest building stone available for its durability and ease of profiling or carving – it was also used to construct the Provincial Legislature in Victoria and the Hotel Vancouver. The interior features a variety of stone, including walls of Indiana limestone and floors of travertine.

**7. Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre/Pan Pacific Hotel, 999 Canada Place (also on our 2014 tour):** Home to the city's iconic "Five Sails" convention space, cruise ship terminal and,



arguably, finest hotel, the complex opened just in time for the 1986 World's Fair, whose Canada Pavilion was on-site. For the 2010 Olympics the lower lobby added significant works of West Coast First Nations art. Most notable is the inlaid stone floor design "Moon Journey" by local artist Susan Point. Granites are used to portray four whales circling the moon, with dorsal fins doubling as ravens. Two floors up in the hotel lobby is a fountain (apparently of porphyry) that portrays a map of the Pacific Rim.

*Photo: by Mike Ma of "Moon Journey"*

**8. Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel, 1038 Canada Place (also on our 2014 tour):** Completed mere days before the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Olympics, the swishy hotel in this mixed-use complex by James Cheng Architects also contends for the city's top-ranked lodging. Exotic stone use is a major feature, particularly the black zebra marble from China beautifying the front desk, lobby fireplace, and other locations. Another stunner is the lobby corridor lined with huge panels of Italian *bianco statuario* marble prepared in China in "book-matching style" creating large V's from the stone's grain. Visitors also should take in stone elements on the upper floor public areas and ALL washrooms, male and female.

**9. Marine Building, 355 Burrard:** The city's finest heritage building, with lavish decoration inside and out, this was featured on the 2014 tour and dropped from our 2018 tour due to shortage of time.

**10. Old Stock Exchange Building, 475 Howe:** Deferred from the 2014 tour due to start of work restoring the 1929 heritage building and addition of an integrated 31-storey office tower, the site was finally ready to enjoy. The old portion is in "modernist gothic" style, clad in terra cotta and brick

on an apparently granodiorite base. The compact original barrel vault lobby sports intricate gilt and painted stone work featuring heraldry and other emblems of medieval England, while the ceiling features shields of our provinces and territories. Conservators “brought back” the hidden details of the westerly gable. Walls are faced with polished Tyndall Stone, the attractive burrow-mottled limestone found near Winnipeg. Visitors should also view the public art work “WAFI”, a wavy-patterned flooring of contrasting stone that extends from the large new office lobby right outside to the curb.

**11. SFU Segal Graduate School of Business (orig. Merchants Bank of Canada/Bank of Montreal), 500 Granville:** Originally opened in 1915, this three-storey temple bank was doubled in size shortly after Bank of Montreal took over in 1922, the main entry moving south and more centrally along Granville. The site served as the local headquarter bank until BMO moved to the Bentall complex on Burrard in 1974. Starting in the 1990s the building underwent major restoration and was repurposed through the generosity of businessman Joseph Segal to become SFU’s Graduate School for Business, finally opening for instruction in 2006. The heritage building features an ornate coffered main floor plaster ceiling by sculptor Charles Marega, marble-clad columns, mixed-stone flooring, marble stairs with granite noses, and a large brass clock. The outside displays an ornately-carved façade, especially the mid-height cornice, and a prominent copper cornice on high.

**12. Vancouver Block Building, 736 Granville:** Built in only 2 years and completed in 1912, this outstanding 15-storey steel-framed edifice is a prime example of Edwardian Commercial style. With two façades clad in ivory-toned terra cotta, two-storey penthouse (owner’s residence), ornately detailed cornice and crowning clock tower, the upper reaches resemble a wedding cake. Busy upper ornamentation includes caryatids holding up the cornice, while at street level there are four pilaster elements standing atop granite bases. Terra cotta was popular as it was easy to form into sculptural reliefs, yet appeared like cut stone. Greco-Roman details adorn the clocks, which were further decorated with neon elements 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. We enjoyed a fifth-floor stop in Habsons Jewellers, a supplier for pros and hobbyists. Canada’s Federal Gem Laboratory occupies Suite 626.

**13. Telus Garden, 520 West Georgia:** The office tower, completed in 2014, features a grandiose lobby with moderately interesting stone treatments. Most notable are the marble wall panels. This is a pleasant place to meet for a coffee and pastry, especially if a skilled player is performing on the grand piano.

Though we had walked a total distance of approximately 2.5 kilometres, not counting all the stairs climbed, our remaining trio (Manda and Joyce had dropped out by now) did not stop until we dragged our hot, hungry, tired selves to the Open House at the Geological Survey of Canada offices, luckily only a block away at #1500 – 605 Robson. This annual event, with its exhibits, videos, chatty geologists, and food (!) was a fine, fun way to finish our tour. There are still several more sites to visit (four years hence?), and who knows what new construction or renovation projects with interesting stone work will arise.

# Sapphire is the birthstone for September in modern Western culture.

## Faceted Sapphire

<https://www.gia.edu/Sapphire>



Since 2013 however, British jewellers have also recognized lapis lazuli as the birthstone. At one time “Chrysolite” was recognized as the birthstone for the month, but even though the word has a long history – appearing in the Bible and other sources, there are many stones that might be chrysolite not just one. There is a topic for us to explore another time in September. For now we’ll look at Sapphire and its variability.

## Sapphire rough

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/Sapphire-jewelry-and-gemstone-information/>



According to the International Gem Society, Sapphire is the birthstone for Thursday and for those born under the Taurus zodiac sign, although some say Gemini. Everyone wants to claim Sapphire. It is considered the stone to recognize a 5<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and as a secondary choice for a 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary. Some sources say Yellow Sapphire is an alternate for a 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Star Sapphire is for a 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Lapis lazuli is Britain’s alternate birthstone for September and many think it is the Sapphire mentioned in old texts. During the Medieval Ages, European lapidaries came to refer to blue corundum crystal by "Sapphire", a derivative of the Latin word for blue: "sapphirus".

Although Sapphire is associated with the colour blue, there are many other colours of Sapphire. Sapphire is corundum, a crystalline form of aluminium oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and typically has trace elements of iron, titanium, vanadium and Chromium. The different trace elements give Sapphire the different colours. Generally in North America, any corundum except a red one is a Sapphire. Red corundum is a Ruby and in some places people will call pink Sapphire a Ruby. Sapphires can be yellow, green, white, colorless, pink, orange, brown, even purple. The rarest colour for Sapphire is called padparadscha which is a type of orange-pink colour. Sapphires in colors other than blue are called fancy or parti-coloured. Parti-colored Sapphires have two or more colours in the same stone. According to Wikipedia “Australia is the largest source of particolored Sapphires;...Particolored Sapphires cannot be created synthetically and only occur naturally.”

Synthetic Sapphires have existed since 1902 when Auguste Verneuil developed a process for producing synthetic Sapphire crystals. Synthetic Sapphires are made without flaws yet the most valued Sapphires come from Kashmir and have a velvety appearance that comes from inclusions of fine needles of rutile. The inclusions scatter the light coming through the stone to give it a velvety appearance, but do not affect the stones transparency.



Star Sapphires are created by bigger- but still tiny needle-like inclusions oriented in specific directions to create the effect called asterism. Usually the star has 6 arms, but can have 2, 4, or even 12. In some Star Sapphires the inclusions are also hematite. The best stars have arms of equal length that shift when the stone is moved slightly but no dead spots appear in the arms. Most good Sapphires are faceted, but Star Sapphires are cut en cabochon to display the star best, centered at the top of the cabochon.

Some say that wearing a Sapphire can bring spiritual enlightenment and inner peace. Some people also believed that Sapphires possess healing properties for rheumatism, colic, and mental illness and can enhance powers of psychokinesis, telepathy, clairvoyance and astral projection. A traditional Hindu belief holds that the Sapphire causes the planet Saturn (Shani) to be favorable to the wearer. An Italian superstition holds that Sapphires are amulets against eye problems, and melancholy and the Egyptians used Sapphire in an eyewash for treating or preventing eye ailments. The Egyptian Sapphire may have been Lapis Lazuli though.

Sapphire has long been associated with royalty and is said to attract wealth, protect against poison and fraud, envy and infidelity. Sapphires also are thought to bring harmony between lovers and peace between adversaries. In modern times the British royals have famously used a Sapphire engagement ring for Princess Diana and Kate Middleton.

Sapphires have also have been used as travelers' guides and protection from illness and ill omens. The Ancient Greeks associated Sapphire with Apollo and those consulting oracles like the one at Delphi, often wore the gem, probably to get at some of those properties of the "third eye". Sir Richard Burton traveled the Orient with a large Star Sapphire that is said to have brought him luck. Viewing the stone was believed by many to bring good fortune so he would allow those who gave him good service etc. to view the talisman.

Sapphires have a Mohs hardness of 9, and besides jewellery, are used as windows, spacecraft parts, supermarket scanners, optical parts, wristwatch crystals, and thin wafers used in insulating some solid state electronics like integrated circuits and some LEDs.

About 95% of Sapphires are heat treated to enhance the colour but a controversy over heat treatment began in the 1980's after the advertising of Yogo Sapphires from Yogo Gulch, Montana claimed they were the only blue Sapphires that weren't heat treated. Montana also produces many other colours of Sapphire.

In BC, Star Sapphire has been found near Passmore. Gem quality Sapphire pebbles of light green colour have been found in the Pend Oreille River.

Gem quality Sapphires have recently been found near Kimmirut on Baffin Island. These are called Beluga Sapphires and were made into a brooch to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee last year, a 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her coronation. The Queen's Sapphire Jubilee Snowflake Brooch consists of 48 Beluga Sapphires, along with 400 diamonds from northern Canada, all set in Canadian white gold.

(actual size)

