

THE ROCKET

November 2023

deadline for next issue
January 12, 2024

Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com
Newsletter email: Edrocket18@gmail.com
Roz MacLean – editor

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

Next Meeting: Friday – November 24 at 7PM
at Hastings Community Center Hall

This meeting can be a “hybrid meeting.” For those unable to attend in person, please contact our secretary, Crystal, for a zoom link for the meeting.

Program (November 24)

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting.

We will elect a new Executive:

Renew memberships

Wine and Snacks Social:

Please consider, what do you do to keep this club going?

all memberships are by calendar year and due by January 2024

Please see page 3 for all about memberships

Bring a snack to share- finger food only- and own mug

But No Wine - The Club will supply as per license

Come out and support your club.

Program from last meeting (October 27)

Our Hallowe'en meeting program started with a great rock trick by our club member Jennifer. See the next page for details.

Photo by Richard



Popular speaker Harley Waterson was at our club again. This time he spoke on Optical Effects in Stones: Chatoyancy, Labradorescence, Adularescence, Aventurescence, Asterism, Tenebrescence, Color Change, Plieochroism, Reflection, Shadow, Fluorescence, Phosphorescence,

Metallics, and Iridescence. Harley explained each of these terms and had many powerpoint pictures and samples to show us. It is amazing how many optical effects there can be in different stones.



Photo by Crystal

Triboluminescence demonstrated by Jennifer Getzinger at our October meeting.

What is Triboluminescence? Light caused by pressure on crystal lattice. This is the same property as demonstrated by crushing wintergreen-flavored Life Savers in your teeth. DO NOT EAT QUARTZ!

What to look for? White quartz pebbles, usually rounded. Flatter ones are easiest to hold on to. The best ones are from eroded vein quartz, milky-colored, some with iron staining from pyrite inclusions (FeS_2 iron sulfide). Found in river gravels or on a beach.

What to do? Hold one pebble in each hand, and push them hard together. This is not making a spark, and will not cause fire. The light happens within the quartz itself when you push really hard. Rubbing lightly together will not work.

What does it look like? If done right, an orange-colored light will appear momentarily in the quartz pebble that is most compressed by the other one. It is easier to see if done in total darkness.

What does it smell like? It can smell like sulfur, suggesting that the impurity in quartz that allows this to happen is the element sulfur. (Pure quartz is not supposed to demonstrate the property of triboluminescence.)

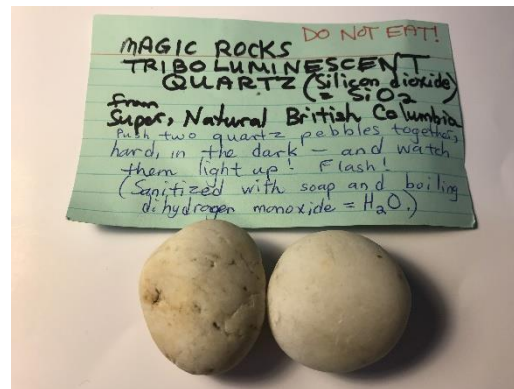
Wikipedia entry on triboluminescence has a really cool 1-minute video of various kinds of quartz showing how to create triboluminescence with two quartz specimens.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triboluminescence#:~:text=Some%20other%20minerals%2C%20such%20as,emitting%20light%20when%20rubbed%20together>.

The Wikipedia article on triboluminescence also mentions an indigenous group in Colorado, who have used triboluminescent quartz inside dance rattles, which light up at night when the crystals bang together inside the rattles.

Jennifer gave away a few pairs of triboluminescent quartz pebbles for Halloween, and if there are any left over will bring them to the next Hastings Centre Rockhounds meeting. Attached is her photo of two quartz pebbles with instructions.

She hopes that anyone interested will learn how to find their own.



A Reminder on Memberships



Memberships are due by January 1, 2024. We do not have a meeting in December so renewals will be at our November meeting. The perk of renewing early guarantees your contact information will be included in the BCLS directory and you will receive your BCLS card (proof of insurance) in the first batch in January!

Directories will be \$10 next year

Hastings Center Rockhounds Workshop Rules and Regulations – 2016

These rules are for the purpose of establishing the expectations of behaviour for Hastings Centre Rockhounds members who enter and/or make use of the workshop and its equipment. They are so that everyone can play safe and have fun!

Policy

1. All members must sign the register to use the workshop. Each member must conform to all workshop rules and regulations and obey the instructor in charge and the workshop chair if present.
2. Each member using the workshop must be a member in good standing; have paid and attended at least two General meetings in three, unless exemption is granted for a limited time by the Executive Committee for valid reasons submitted by such member. Members' cards will be used to record attendance at General meetings.
3. Fees for each session in the workshop shall be recommended by the Workshop Chair and voted on by the members. Likewise slab cutting fees will be also be recommended by the workshop chair and voted on by the members. Fees will be posted in The Rocket and on the website. There will be no charge made when the session is devoted to a club project.
4. Anyone wanting to use the workshop equipment will attend a training Session to be given before using our equipment for the first time.
5. Each member using the workshop will present his or her current membership card if requested by the instructor.
6. The Workshop Chair or present session instructor shall be in complete charge of the workshop session and will direct the use of all the equipment as per the guidelines set out by the Workshop Chair. The workshop chair decision shall override the instructor if there is a difference of opinion.
7. The Executive Committee may, if and when necessary, in consultation with the Workshop Chair and instructors, restrict the use of the workshop by specifying the number allowed to attend any specified class or session for any specified period of time.
8. Children under the age of 16 cannot use the workshop unless there is a waiver on file which has been signed by their parent or guardian. The junior member must also be accompanied by an adult member of the club, who is responsible for their behaviour.
9. Members use the workshop at their own risk. Safety rules must be observed at all times. This is for our members' own protection. It is recommended that PPE (personal protective equipment) be worn but it is the member's responsibility to use/buy the PPE (respirators, safety glasses, gloves, earplugs. The club will have foam earplugs and a limited supply of safety glasses. Members must wear appropriate, close toed footwear when in the workshop.
10. There is a "3 strikes in a year policy": money back and ejection from shop for bad attitude (refusing to follow instructor instructions). This would be followed up at the next executive meeting and may result in the formation of a Special Complaints Resolution Committee.
11. No equipment is to be turned on, or cupboards opened, before the instructor in charge is in attendance. The instructor must check all saws after set-up with rock before they are turned on.
12. All equipment used during a session, including the tables and counters, must be properly cleaned after use by those using the equipment. Leaving early (thus avoiding clean-up) must be made known to the workshop instructor early in the session.
13. All small equipment must be put inside the cupboards at the close of each session.
14. Members who use the workshop will be called on from time to time for general cleaning and/or maintenance of the shop.
15. The trim saw is to be used only for trimming slices into working pieces and must not be used for slabbing rocks.

16. Water must be used at all times on every polishing machine. Ensure the water spray does not get all over the floor.
17. If the instructor in charge of a workshop session feels that any member is not treating the equipment with the care it requires, they can ask the member to redo the basic orientation. If the member declines then they will be asked to leave. **See #4 and #10**
18. When the workshop is busy with members, everyone is expected to keep a limit on the time they spend on one machine, especially when others are waiting. Please be considerate of others.
19. Non-cab rocks need special inspection per individual case by the instructor.
20. Some rocks are toxic and not allowed to be cut or polished. A list of these banned rocks will be posted in the workshop. All rocks must be identified before working with them. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure proper identification.
21. Each workshop session will vote to decide whether to stop for a coffee break.
22. No members are to be in the courtyard accessing the big saw room when there are children using the courtyard.
23. Members are reminded that our club is a hobby club. Mass production of items for sale is prohibited. Anyone contravening this rule will be asked to leave the workshop. **See #10**

Hastings Centre Rockhounds Workshop Safety Rules

1. For lapidary and for silversmithing long hair, cranial and facial, is to be contained or tied back.
2. Sleeves are to be rolled up.
3. Watches, hanging jewelry and large rings must be removed at the request of the instructor. Failure to do so may result in denial of the use of equipment.
4. No towels are to be hung around the neck nor draped over the shoulders while at the machines.
5. Closed toed shoes are to be worn.
6. If any member notices an unsafe situation in the workshop, they should address it with the person or persons involved as soon as possible and let the instructor know.
7. Be aware of the **Emergency Procedures**.



If you are a member in good standing, have taken the required lapidary workshop training course, 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,

Lapidary:	Monday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Richard
	Wednesday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David
	Thursday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Tim
	Saturday	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Robert
Silversmithing	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Robert
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Crystal and Robert

These are the regular hours. Changes are often announced by email. Some short programs are announced at meetings, may be in an email, or in this newsletter.



Full house
Monday night

photo from
Richard

Workshop Projects

Richard's Morrisonite

Richard bought one small slab for \$8. from Andrew at the Surrey Rockhounds Club show. He polished both sides and then mounted it as a pendant.

Pictures from Richard



John's Turquoise and Copper Cab

John purchased the slab from Mountain Gems. It is a created material from copper and pieces of turquoise. He then made the cabochon in our Workshop.

Picture from Richard



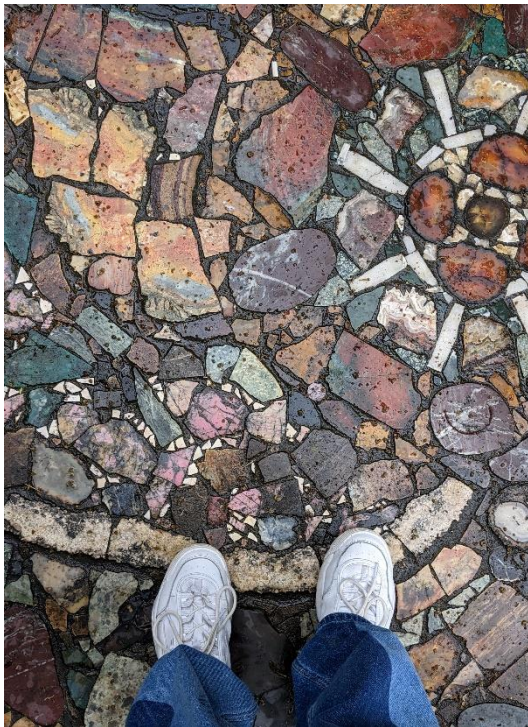
Semi-Precious Stone Mosaics of Renfrew Ravine

By Elizabeth Dobrzanski

Vancouver's last natural above-ground stream is located in East Vancouver's Renfrew Ravine Park. The ravine runs approximately from 29th Avenue SkyTrain Station to Renfrew Park Community Centre, but the stream is not its only interesting feature. One point of particular interest to rockhounds is the many mosaics around the ravine that are made from semi-precious stones. You can find agate, rhodonite, quartz, petrified wood, serpentine, jasper, and many more minerals in the mosaics.

The crown jewel of all the mosaics is the centre piece located across the 29th Avenue Station bus loop, in the ravine's Sanctuary Garden. A wooden bench (salmon carved by Interior Salish artist Gerry Sheena) offers visitors a place to rest and enjoy this hidden gem. The Sanctuary Garden mosaic was the brainchild of artist Carmen Rosen, with stones donated by the family of Grant McKay, who was a local rockhound and ravine steward who spent a lifetime collecting interesting and beautiful stones. Mineral identification and stone cutting were assisted by a local rockhounding couple, Cliff and Dorothy Smith. During Vancouver's grey winter, take a mini field trip to see these works of art – the rain and overcast light will only enhance the natural beauty of the stones!

For more information on visiting the ravine and its many attributes, search online for the Still Moon Arts Society's "Guide to Renfrew Ravine". An interview published in *Sitelines, Landscape Architecture in British Columbia* (December 2016) with Carmen Rosen offers more details on the mosaics.



The centre mosaic, pictured above and left, consists of semi-precious stones from the personal collection of Grant McKay, who was a local rockhound and ravine steward.

Preparation for November meeting

Please support your club

According to our constitution: A Nominating Committee shall be selected at the September regular meeting in the following manner: the President shall appoint one, the Executive Committee shall appoint one, and the club shall select one. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to select suitable candidates for each of the four (4) Executive Officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the club, and/or Special Directors for the coming year, and to provide a list of the candidates selected for publication in the notice of the Annual General Meeting and ensure that each member is informed of the duties of each elected position prior to nomination.

The nominating committee was appointed at the September meeting: Linda, Sofia, and Elly. You will be getting a phone call from one of them. Elections will be at our November meeting.

1. The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of those members holding the following positions:
 - Four (4) Executive Officers –President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer
 - Senior Delegate to the Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of BC
 - One chairperson convener of each of the following Standing Committees:
 - Field Trips
 - Library
 - Membership
 - Program
 - Publications
 - Publicity
 - Show
 - Social
 - Ways & Means
 - Workshop
 - The following special directors:
 - Delegate to Hastings Centre Board of Directors
 - Director-at Large
 - Historian
 - Sunshine

DUTIES OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, DIRECTORS AND DELEGATES

30. The **President** shall preside over General meetings of the club and over Executive Committee meetings, and shall be ex-officio member of all club committees with exception to Special Complaints Resolution Committee. The President shall be a signing Officer.
31. The **Vice-President** shall, in the absence of the President, preside as chairperson of General meetings and at meetings of the Executive Committee, and otherwise assist the President and other Officers in the exercise of their respective duties as may be required. The Vice-President will also be the club's Delegate to the Hastings Community Association's Program Committee. The Vice-President may also serve as a signing Officer in the absence of the President.
32. The **Treasurer** shall be the custodian of all club funds and shall sign all cheques for the withdrawal of such funds as are required from time to time, along with any one of following; the President, the Secretary or in the absence of the president, the Vice President. In the event the treasurer is unable to sign cheques, the president shall be one of the signers. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of the receipts and expenditures of club funds and shall report the financial position at each meeting of the club. The Treasurer shall also submit all records to an auditor at the request of a General meeting. The Treasurer shall be a signing Officer.
33. The **Secretary** or alternate shall attend all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee and

record accurately all minutes and proceedings of every such meeting in a minute book to be provided by the club, shall receive and file all reports, keep or cause to be kept proper books and records in all respects of the business and affairs of the club, and conduct all correspondence of the club, also see clause 10, as directed by the Executive Committee in a prompt and efficient manner. The Secretary shall be signing Officer.

34. The **Field Trips Committee** shall arrange and supervise field trips for the club, and ensure that first aid equipment is available and, if possible, have present a member who is qualified in level 1 first aid. He/she shall also ensure that all participants on the field trip are members in good standing.
35. The **Library Committee** shall purchase and catalogue books and periodicals and care for them; shall acquaint members with titles of such books as are available, supervise the loan and return of books and magazines and collect fines for each overdue month.
36. The **Membership Committee Chair** shall receive all applications for membership, collect club dues, see that membership cards are issued; maintain attendance records at all meetings, ensure that guests sign the guest book and that they are introduced to those assembled at the meeting; issue copies of the Constitution and Bylaws, Workshop Rules and Regulations of the Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Rockhound's Code of Ethics, Vancouver City Code of Conduct, Respect Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedures, Respect in our Club Orientation Pamphlet and the British Columbia Lapidary Society By-Laws to all members; issue annually a list of the names and addresses of all willing members to each member and to the Lapidary Society; keep the Records of Orientation Completion; keep the club advised of the number of members to date, and report to the Hastings Community Centre on attendance at each General or Special meeting held at the centre.
37. The **Program Committee** shall arrange for programs for the General meetings, and keep the Executive Committee advised of future program plans.
38. The **Publications Committee** shall prepare and issue the club's publication, "The Rocket", and such other publications as the Executive Committee may from time to time request. "The Rocket" shall be distributed electronically or pick-up to all interested members of the club, and to certain other clubs and individuals upon request. A copy will be posted in the workshop.
39. The **Publicity Committee** shall arrange for publicity for the club and the club's Annual Show; shall send news items to appropriate magazines and to affiliated associations; and attend to other special notices. As part of the Publicity Committee a Webmaster shall maintain the Club's website.
40. The **Show Committee** shall organize and co-ordinate the club's Annual Show, its participation in the Annual BC Gem Show of the Lapidary Society, and any other displays and shows in which the club may decide to participate.
41. The **Social Committee** shall be responsible for purchasing and serving refreshments for General meetings and for the Annual Club Show and other special functions as requested, as well as for arranging for the club's annual dinner.
42. The **Ways & Means Committee** shall be responsible for the raffle held at General meetings, including the purchase or receipt of donations of prizes, conduct of the raffle and recording of receipts and expenses, and shall propose special projects to raise money for the club if required from time to time.
43. The **Workshop Committee** shall be responsible for ensuring that all equipment in the club's workshop is kept in working order; shall purchase new supplies and equipment; shall keep a record of all receipts and expenditures connected with the workshop and report thereon to each General meeting; shall coordinate the arrangement of classes and, together with class instructors, ensure that the rules and regulations governing the use of the workshop are up to date and adhered to.
44. The **Director-at-Large** shall substitute for any officer of the club unable to attend any meeting (except that in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall substitute). Any officer of the club unable to attend a General meeting or a meeting of the Executive Committee should advise the Director-at-Large in advance of the meeting in question, and submit any report to be made through the Director-at-Large.

45. The **Historian** shall keep a journal of club activities; collect pictures, hard copy or soft copy, from members for scrapbooks and a slide collection of slides submitted by members as well as any other material pertaining to the history of the club.
46. The **Sunshine Director** shall be notified by members of the club of any special circumstances that might require sending "get well" cards, condolences or congratulations to members.
47. The **Delegate to The Hastings Community Association's Board of Directors** shall attend monthly meetings of that Board to report to it on the activities of the club and to keep the club informed of the activities of the Association.
48. The **Delegates to The Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of British Columbia**, as per BCLS rules, shall act as representatives of the club at meetings of the Lapidary Society, reporting to it the views of our club and reporting to the club on the activities of the Society. In particular, participation by one or more delegates or designate at the Annual General Meeting at Rendezvous is required.

Shows

*The following **clubs** are having shows and sales. For more information visit the BC Lapidary Society website or the club websites.*

2024 Rock and Gem Shows

February 24,25, 2024, **Maple Ridge Lapidary Club**, Albion Community Centre, Maple Ridge

March 9, 10, 2024, **Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club**, Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni

March 15,16,17 2024, **Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society**, Leonardo da Vinci Centre,
Victoria

March 16,17, 2024, **Hastings Centre Rockhounds**, Hastings Community
Centre, Vancouver

The Vancouver Gem Show is a commercial show, but we often demonstrate and have a table. Look for more information at our November meeting.



Clippings and Links

I try to be careful not to get our club in copyright trouble so I don't publish whole articles from other sources. However, sometimes other sources put out something very interesting so I will put out information on how to find the article. David Myers sent a link to the following article. He has put it on our Club Facebook page. I don't use Facebook and know some other club members are the same. So, here is the info. You can just put it into the search bar of your browser and get to the article.

<https://geologyscience.com/gemstone/tiffany-stone-bertrandite/?fbclid=IwAR0jIYHKu2iWyxH9ShJ31ykZgARlw67a9mcC7gnrbuajCJmBogyqPcnH28l>



Wikipedia: 10–20 mm pieces of tumble-polished opalite, an artificial glass

Opalite – Never done learning

By Roz MacLean



Opalite: Common opal in naturally occurring colours.

At a recent meeting someone asked about opalite. I said that opalite is a simulated stone, not a real one. I had come across it in a rock shop in Jasper where it was labelled such.

This past month I bought a 1960's book on Gemstones of Australia and one of them is Opalite! "Down the rabbit hole I went."

According to Wikipedia, **Opalite** is a trade name for

synthetic opalescent glass and various opal and moonstone simulants. Other names for this glass product include argenon, sea opal, opal moonstone, and other similar names. It is also used to promote impure varieties of variously colored common opal...

(When a natural opal has true play of colour we call it "Precious Opal.")

When opalite glass is placed against a dark background, it appears to have a blue color. When placed against a light background, it is milky white with an orange or pink glow. Since it is glass, it may sometimes contain air bubbles, an after-effect of the forming process.

According to Geology.com Opalite is a synonym for Common Opal – Opal without colour play and "As a marketing term used for numerous man-made materials that have an opal-like appearance but are composed of plastic or glass." Geology.com even had a photo of a man-made substance with true play of colour.

According to geology.com, Opalite was first used as a term in geology for common-opal in 1945 then was first used as a marketing term for man-made materials in the 1980's.

According to Mindat.org, a leading authority on minerals and their localities, deposits, and mines worldwide, Opalite is

Synthetic opalized glass used in jewelry.

Also used for impure, colored variety of common opal.

According to the map on Mindat.org, the term "opalite" is used in the United States, Turkey and Australia for types of Common Opal.

Common Opal is a term many of us are familiar with and use. It is found in many places throughout the world, including here in BC.



Western Australia
Museum Store:
Golden or Gold Lace Opalite

At one point, Mindat.org states: *Confusing and unnecessary designation, should be avoided.* So, I'll continue to use the term common opal for the rock and opalite for the man-made material now that I really know the difference.



<https://sales.gemstonegeeks.com>
Blue Moss Opalite or Dendritic Opal