



Next issue deadline: May 7, 2026
Upcoming meetings: Friday, April 24, 2026
Next month: Friday, May 22, 2026
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Friday, April 24, 7pm Meeting

Looking forward to seeing you at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) at 7pm, Friday, April 24. A big shout out to Max for his ongoing contributions to The Rocket! Several members mentioned how much they enjoyed his review of our March show - so you'll be pleased to read his "Easter Pocket" article as well as his recap of the Chilliwack show. Also thanks to Midori her regular photo submissions!

This issue, we also have a fun rock / travel piece from Big Dan and Little Dan! Please keep your submissions coming:-)

N.B. if you need to attend the membership meeting by Zoom, please contact [Crystal for a link](#) Meetings are on the fourth Friday of each month with breaks for July, August and December. Monitor the [HCR website](#) and your email for scheduling changes and for updates re special events, volunteer opportunities, and workshop announcements.



Share your makes
& HCR goals!



March's Presentation with David Myers

Special thanks to David Myers for sharing his techniques re how he creates those fascinating, backlit pendants! If you missed the presentation, be sure to watch it on Youtube when he uploads @dbmyers2 - this gorgeous example was on his FB page...



In this newsletter:

- Workshops, Member News and Events
- March Presentation Thank You
- A Colourful Hustle and Bustle: BC Rock & Gem Show Chilliwack, Apr 10-12
- HCR donation to HCC for Youth Programs
- Big Dan & Little Dan Discover Surprise Rock Sale in Japan!
- 2026 Rendezvous, REGISTER!! May 15-18
- Max's Easter Pocket Tale
- Team Teaching: Mike & Dawn - copper meets enamel
- Tailgate flyer
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April 10-12 BC Rock & Gem Show in Chilliwack - A Colourful Hustle and Bustle

Photos and write-up provided by Max

The Chilliwack Rock & Gem Show runs from Friday to Sunday. I aimed for Saturday afternoon—specifically for the tailgate show and, just as importantly, a gathering with some familiar faces.

Compass Card in hand, I crossed Vancouver toward Lougheed Station. Things were already picking up the pace! My transit app warned me that I was short on transfer time and might miss bus line 66 to Chilliwack, so I moved quickly—down the stairs, through the station—straight into what looked like an ambush: six officers at the bottom of the stairs, almost as if they were waiting for me... For a brief second, questions crossed my mind; until I noticed they were all equipped with card readers. Just a fare check. Tap—approved. This time, their reader was fast. No delay. I kept moving straight to the bus platforms. Platform 5. No bus. But a crowd. A good sign: the previous bus must have left a while ago—mine still to come. A few minutes later it arrived, absorbing a cloud of about 50 people. I paid \$5, but no tickets were exchanged—they don't hand them out anymore, just the quiet agreement of a tapped fare. We set off.

The ride was smooth. Vancouver's sun slowly gave way to thickening clouds. It was calm inside the bus. Some passengers slept, some were quietly talking. Others scrolled through their phones and a few simply watched the landscape drift by. Langley was our next stop. A shift—unease. Another 66 pulled in abruptly. Its driver jumped out and spoke quickly to ours. Moments later, our driver stepped into the aisle: two updates and a question. His radio had died—the battery empty—but the message had come through. A major accident ahead. Highway closed for hours.

Silence for a moment. I checked my phone, what help I could provide. Then, before I could even open a map, another passenger, navy navigation on his phone, stepped forward. Guidance established, we detoured through Glen Valley, rejoined the highway, and reached Chilliwack with only minor delay. Not bad, considering. At Lickman Road, just across the highway from Chilliwack Heritage Park, I stepped off. A short walk—and I was in the middle of the Rock & Gem Show.

My focus: the tailgate show.

In my mind, it was already vivid. A large gravel parking lot, still slightly moist from the rain the day before. Cars arranged in a wide circle. Trunks open. Tables and tents extending outward. Side doors open. Rocks everywhere—on tables, in trunks, on back seats, even on the hood. Large pieces loose, smaller ones packed into boxes. A humming crowd surrounding them, like iron filings drawn toward magnets.



April 10-12 BC Rock & Gem Show in Chilliwack - A Colourful Hustle and Bustle continued...

Photos and write-up provided by Max

But no. Nothing like that. Just another hall, right next to the main show. A maze of tables. Booths back-to-back. Linen-covered surfaces, stacks of boxes, illuminated showcases—everything tightly packed with rocks, crystals, jewellery, fossils, tools, literature, carved pieces—everything. For every taste, every age, every purpose. The tailgate show, indoors. The two differences to the main show: it happens only on Saturday, and there's no grid power. Those exhibitors who wanted light had small power stations tucked beneath their tables.

And then the soundscape: click, click, click—fingers moving through slabs stacked in boxes, carefully sliding one piece after another. A scratching, tingling noise from crates filled with loose material. The quiet, focused rhythm of searching. Small talk, chatting, calling across aisles in all directions filled the air. Whispering—I heard it through the quartz vein—about the latest news, new finds, good deals, and which slab to choose. At one booth, no chance to resist a smile—covered with mushrooms made of stone. Base, stem, and cap all made from rocks, carefully polished and assembled. The stones are wisely chosen, their colours and textures harmonizing in each piece. And people. So many familiar faces. So many hands to shake, so many waves across the hall. Small conversations constantly—about past trips, upcoming plans, finds on display and also finds not on display, those just acquired, and those still hoped to be found in this season. Collectors and dealers from across British Columbia.

I found two pieces worth taking home. One: a nice specimen of andalusite from the Kootenays. Attractive—but with limited provenance. Just a story about a field trip to a claim, long ago, guided by a former claim owner who can no longer be reached out to. I could have bought more, but without proper locality, the value—at least to me—remains incomplete. The second: more compelling. A tellurobismuthite from Bear Mountain, west of Harrison Lake. Not my main collecting focus, but a friend of mine specializes in tellurium minerals. The locality is well-documented on the label, and well-documented with several publications—but currently under exploration claim, with uncertain access for recreational collecting. Something to follow up on. Perhaps a future excursion—targeting the old workings on Bear Mountain.

With the tailgate hall explored, I still had time for the main show. The showcase avenue is always a highlight: club members presenting their finds and handcrafted work, covering a wide range of topics. Highlights of one collector's finds; a built landscape with gemstone trees, beaded spiders, and polished rocks; a visual guide about tumbling rocks; a collection of selected animal sculptures carved from stone. I made my rounds and gave my nominations for the favourites. The UV cabinet, as always, drew me in. It never disappoints. And many tables, packed with rocks from BC and around the world, caught my interest here and there.

I stayed until the very end. Five o'clock. Almost abruptly, the humming hall fell silent. Lights off. The sparkle vanished. Booths closed. Within minutes, everything that had just been alive with colour and conversation was covered. I stepped outside, already looking forward to the evening—meeting friends, sharing stories. Later, the return journey to Vancouver was smooth, uneventful, and well suited for a quiet doze.

A full day. A good one. And a great thank you to all the people behind the scenes who make this event possible, to all the exhibitors and contributors who bring it to life, and to all the visitors who keep it a polar star in BC's rock enthusiasts' calendars.



Our Gift to Hastings Community Association Youth Programs

Photo and letter provided by Renee and Nickell

At our March 2026 membership meeting, a motion was carried for our Club to donate \$1,000 to support youth programs at Hastings Community Association. Thank you Linda for bringing this suggestion to membership, and to Renee and Nickell for sharing this photo taken at the cheque presentation as well as a copy of the letter from HCR which accompanied the cheque.



At the March meeting, Linda spoke about our longstanding relationship with the Hastings Community Centre and the importance of our maintaining a strong and visible relationship. *Fun fact: it is written into our Bylaws that HCR Club members are also to be HCC members.* I completely forgot about this detail and just purchased a three-month flex pass (they are 25% off right now!) and added an HCC Tai Chi class to the shopping cart which has included my membership <whew>!

In short, if you didn't know you needed to join HCC - now you do! And, if you are interested in getting a flex pass while they are 25% off (until May 10) your HCC pass is included.

From Nickell: I was pleased to attend the Hastings Community Association's Annual General Meeting with a few fellow rockhounds on April 15th. At the meeting, Renee presented the youth association with a donation cheque for \$1,000 from the Hastings Centre Rockhounds. Also at the AGM, our own Linda Foy was reelected to the HCA board!

Hastings Centre Rockhounds
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RE: HASTINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Hastings Centre Rockhounds greatly admire the care and dedication to which all of you of the Hastings Community Association have put into the many varied programs for the citizens in our community.

The upcoming celebration of 91 years of service is proof to how valuable and valued your time and selfless contributions are.

While we love the way you engage with the seniors and provide many events for them to participate in, we still especially appreciate all you do support the youth in our community. They are after all, truly are the future and thanks to your encouragement and support, the future looks to be in excellent hands.

Our membership once again unanimously voted to provide a heartfelt contribution for your Youth Programs to aide them in whatever they wish to accomplish this year.

On behalf of our Board and Membership,

Hastings Centre Rockhounds



Surprise Rock Sale in Japan!

Photos and Article provided by Big Dan and Little Dan

It's so much fun receiving submissions from members! Before sharing Big Dan and Little Dan's article, I thought you might want to learn a bit about them?

When did you join the HCR Rockhounds?

In February 2023

Little Dan became an instructor in November of 2023

Have you always loved rocks??

Little Dan, Yes

Big Dan, later in life, much later.

What is your all-time favourite find?

(Any where in the world)

Little Dan found Baltic amber with inclusions of insects and plants at age 10.

Big Dan found rock fishing weights used by BC First Nations along the Fraser River

Do you have a photo of you two that I could share? Photo is of Big Dan, Little Dan, and Rick (third member of the clan, but not a rock person. More of a rock tolerant person.)



Surprise Rock Sale in Japan!, continued...

Photos and Article provided by Big Dan and Little Dan

Not ones to pass by an opportunity to check out a rock sale we entered and were surprised to find many treasures!

There were minerals and gems from around the world particularly from Brazil and Russia. Having lots of access to items from Brazil back home the real attraction for us were the items from Russia which is Japan's neighbour.



Surprise Rock Sale in Japan!, continued...

Photos and Article provided by Big Dan and Little Dan

Two treasures were found at very reasonable prices. The first was Uvarovita garnet from Sarany, Ural, Russia.

The photo doesn't do it justice in capturing how much sparkle this specimen displays. Uvarovita garnet is a rare vibrant emerald green garnet forming mostly druzy crystals.

The second treasure was a sample of Seraphinite found almost exclusively from the Lake Baikal region in Siberia. Seraphinite is often associated with almandine garnets, however, this one is with rare spessartite (Mandarin) garnet. Additionally, it is fluorescent and highly phosphorescent.

Lesson learned, never pass up a rock sale, no matter where you find it!



The Easter Pocket

Article Written and Submitted by Max



Easter — a seasonal event for families. Stories are shared. And among them are stories in many variations, stories that many people debate: are they true, or do they belong to the realm of unsolved mysteries? And yet, it is often the younger generation—the children—who are far more convinced. When asked, they proudly show or speak of the evidence. These are the stories of the Easter Bunny, spreading small Easter presents that are found with surprise on Easter Sunday, discoveries that fill the finder with delight. Small treasures collected in baskets—or carried in a pocket. An Easter pocket.

But there is another set of mysterious stories, shared around Easter time as well. Not among children, but among a different group—those who might best be described as rock enthusiasts. They tell of fantastic crystals, of magnificent luster, clarity, form, and color. Stories of an “Easter Pocket”—but not one the size of your jacket or trousers. Rather, a pocket the size of a large closet, filled with crystals: blue, green, and white. And these stories have a very real origin: in Africa, more precisely in Namibia, in the Tsumeb Mine.

Imagine the scene. Deep underground, in the later years of the Tsumeb mine—perhaps the mid-1990s? The mine already legendary for the beauty of its minerals, though no one yet knows how finite its treasures are. Work proceeds as usual. Drilling, blasting, mucking. Routine—until it isn’t. Suddenly, unexpected, A cavity opens. Not large, perhaps. Not dramatic in the way a geologist might record. But enough. Enough to stop a man mid-step. Enough to change the rhythm of a shift. Inside the cavity: crystals. Not crushed, not fractured, but grown freely. Preserved and protected over time. Waiting for their finder. A sharp, glassy grass green, but found in underground: Dioptase, standing in contrast to deep blue Azurite, perhaps edged or softened by velvety Malachite. The kind of assemblage that makes even experienced miners pause.

Someone must have said it first—perhaps with a glance at the calendar: “An Easter pocket.” And the name stayed. What we know—if we are strict about it—is very little. This Easter Pocket is wrapped in mystery. No stope number tied beyond doubt. No exact level. No entry in an official logbook that reads: “Easter Pocket – opened at 10:17 AM.” What exists instead is a trail of specimens. Labels. Dealer notes. Old collections where the same phrase appears again and again, handwritten, sometimes fading: Tsumeb – Easter Pocket

Like Easter eggs scattered by the Easter Bunny, the masterpieces from this pocket dispersed in all directions. Some ended up in museums, some in private drawers. Many have changed collections several times. Some were perhaps traded away long before their significance was fully recognized. And with each transfer, the story—once crystal-edge sharp in the miners’ memories—grew softer at the edges, more rounded with every telling, until it resembled an Easter egg itself. There is something fitting about that. Like the Easter Bunny—if we allow the comparison—it leaves behind traces: labels, notes, specimens. For us mineral collectors, evidence enough, even if certainty never quite appears. No photographs from the pocket itself. No images of the crystals as they were found. No detailed record in a geologist’s or foreman’s logbook. You never see the precise moment of discovery. As with the Easter Bunny, the event itself remains unseen—yet the results are unmistakably real.

The Easter Pocket of Tsumeb became a legend—and, in a way, a tradition. In later years, further pockets with remarkable crystals were occasionally found and received the same honor, also being called “Easter Pocket.” The name lived on, even if documentation often did not. Then, in 1994, something different happened. Miners recognized the signs of a mineralized cavity. This time, everything went right. A large pocket was opened, revealing an extraordinary quantity of specimens of exceptional quality. And once again, the timing was just right—around Easter. And once again, the label appeared: Tsumeb – Easter Pocket

Beyond this Tsumeb tradition, Easter remains a time for families, for being outdoors—perhaps in the mountains and valleys. And with a bit of luck, one may come across a small, surprising find: a stone or crystal that stands out among the ordinary. A discovery that feels a little like finding one of those scattered Easter eggs. And as tradition holds true, such finds are often carried home in a pocket—this time, the kind on your jacket or trousers. You might call it, with a smile: your own Easter pocket. We hope that you all had a Happy Easter!





Rendezvous Update - May 15 - 18, 2026

Rendezvous 2026 will be taking place from May 15-18, 2026, in Lillooet at Elks Hall, 920 Moha Road, in Lillooet. The Hastings Centre Rockhounds are hosting the event this year.

Join fellow rockhounds for a fun-filled weekend of field trips, displays, auctions, our annual general meeting, and more!

Register by May 1st:



See Schedule here:



What's A Newbie to Expect?

I've asked several members what to expect from Rendezvous and the overwhelming response is: IT IS FUN! I like fun! But I am also that person who likes to "prepare" for new adventures so I cobbled together recommendations from various websites (this is NOT expert advice! mostly common-sense if you plan to rockhound in addition to enjoying the social aspects of Rendezvous):

- Sun hat/bandana
- Rain gear
- Change of clothes and comfortable, closed-shoes or boots
- Food and water
- Sun screen
- Hand sanitizer
- Bug spray
- Flashlight and Whistle (or bear bell) are nice-to-haves
- Camera / phone
- Toilet paper and tissues
- Trash bag (carry in, carry out)

More serious hounds might bring::

- Goggles / Gloves / Hard hat
- First aid kit
- Rock hammer / rock pick and perhaps a Chisel?
- Cleaning tools - a paintbrush, small broom, and spray bottle with water to the site.
- Hand tools - A variety of hand tools like a small knife, picks, a colander, and a trowel are useful for precise work.
- Compass and topographic map, Magnifying Glass. Field Guide, Magnet
- Bucket - Small boxes and tubes - Wrapping material Spray bottle filled with water



Enamel meets Copper

The past several Sundays, I've had the pleasure of attending Mike's metalsmith classes. Last Sunday - Dawn offered her enamelling workshop in combination with Mike's metalworks. It was on FIRE! Literally... Lots of torch work:-)



These are the pieces students created! It was so much fun - which is Dawn's key priority for her class!! You learn a ton, but you are also invited to have fun and play with the medium. If you have ever been curious about working with enamel - definitely sign up for Dawn's next class. And Mike's Metalworks' class is also amazing. More photos on p. 11...



Workshop Hours

Workshop fees are \$4 for silversmith and metalsmith, \$5 for lapidary. Visit our [website](#) regularly to confirm scheduling, and monitor your HCR email for last-minute changes and updates on special classes on Enamelling and other topics..

Schedule

Sunday (10 am - 1:30 pm seasonal) - **Metalworks**

Instructors: Mike and Bob

Monday (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructor: Renee

Tuesday (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm seasonal) - **Metalworks**

Instructors: Mike and Diane

Wednesday (9 am - 12 pm) - **Silversmithing***

Instructors: Diane or Renee

Wednesday (1 pm - 4 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructors: Dave and Steven

Thursday (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm) - **Lapidary**

Instructors: Dan and Tim

Saturday (9 am - 12 pm) - **Silversmithing***

Instructors: Crystal and Bob

Saturday (1 pm - 4 pm) - **Lapidary**

instructor: Bob

Alternate Lapidary instructors are Linda and Alex.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change based on instructor availability. Changes are often announced by email.

***Beginners to Silversmithing** are asked to [contact Crystal](#) before attending. Instruction is available only at the Saturday session and there is a \$45 beginners kit with supplies needed for silversmithing.

[Workshop rules and regulations](#)



Enamel meets Copper



Upcoming Events

Remember to check the [HCR](#) and the BCLS websites for upcoming rock and gem shows!

Richmond Gem and Mineral Society are hosting their annual show and sale:
April 24 -26 at the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex

BCLS and HCR are hosting **Rendezvous** May 16-17 at the
Elks Hall in Lillooet (see article earlier in this edition of The Rocket)

Surrey Rockhound Club is hosting an annual auction on May 27
Sullivan's Hall in Surrey



Thank you for reading!
next issue deadline: May 7, 2026

THE ROCKET	HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS
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THE BC LAPIDARY SOCIETY PRESENTS

Rock & Gem Show!

**MAY 16 & 17, 2026
1 PM TO 4 PM
ELKS HALL
920 MOHA ROAD
LILLOOET, BC**

Visit the mini show held all weekend and don't miss the Sunday tailgate sale. Bring cash so you don't miss out on any treasures! Features local vendors offering rocks, gems, crystals, fossils, and jewellery.





Hastings Centre Rockhounds Club

TAILGATE SALE



**ROCK,
MINERAL &
GEMSTONE**



**SATURDAY,
JULY 25,
2026**

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM



**Lower Parking Lot
– Hastings
Community Centre**
3096 E Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC,
V5K 2A3

*Some road direction restrictions exist. Check the [Hastings-Sunrise \(Adanac Overpass\) Traffic Calming - Implementation Plan](#) for details.



**Hastings Centre Rockhounds
Club Website**
hastingscentrерockhounds.com/



**Hastings Centre Rockhounds
Club Facebook Group**
facebook.com/groups/hastings.rockhounds

