



Next issue deadline: January 7, 2026

Upcoming meetings: Friday, November 28, 2025

Friday, January 23, 2026

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Friday, November 28, 7pm Meeting & Election

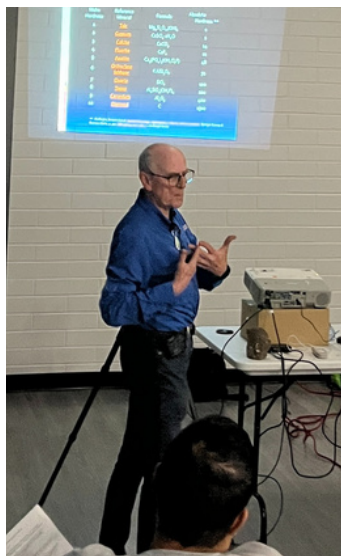
See you at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) at 7pm. If you need to attend by Zoom, please contact [Crystal for a link](#). This is our last meeting for 2025. 2026 monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of each month with breaks for July, August and December. Monitor the [HCR website](#) and your email for scheduling changes and for updates re special events, volunteer opportunities, and workshop announcements.

On Nov. 28, the election of your Club Executive will be followed by an auction and a social. We are grateful to members for continuing to bring snacks to share at meetings! A donation cup will be placed at the snack table to help continue to raise funds for club activities.

Thank you to this year's Executive and volunteers for all their work during the year. Wishing you and yours all the best for the holiday season and we'll see you in January, 2026!!

Next meeting - Friday, January 23 at 7pm

Stay tuned for an update on January's program. Bob may be presenting his third instalment of how to identify rocks and minerals...



January 6 Dawn's enameling workshop - ask Dawn or Crystal if there is any space available.



In this newsletter:

Meeting schedule and
October meeting
summary

Membership reminder
and Rendezvous save-
the-date

Vancouver Rock &
Gem wrap

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Wood?

November and
December birthstones

How to reach us

Membership has its privileges...



Remember, your BCLS membership comes with your HCR membership and enables you to participate in future rockhounding adventures. It sounds like the 2026 Rendezvous weekend includes rockhounding with many other lapidary clubs plus camping and other group activities!

HCR Memberships

If you haven't already bought your membership - be sure to ask at the membership table at our November meeting. Membership ensures that you will be included in the BCLS directory and eligible to attend workshops and future field trips.

SNEAK PREVIEW: May 15-18, 2026 Rendezvous Details to Come!

HCR is the host club for Rendezvous 2026 Nickell is leading the organization of this weekend so please check in with her at the membership table to volunteer. This event involves a lot of organization and planning (all BCLS clubs are invited) so many hands will make light work! Here's a description from Vernon Lapidary Club's 2024 promotional article about what their version of Rendezvous entailed:

"Calling all rockhounds: the Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club wants to rendezvous with you.

The BC Lapidary Society and VLMC will be hosting Rendezvous 2024, a gathering of likeminded rock hunters May 17 to 20 in the horticulture building at the Armstrong Fairgrounds.

"This gathering welcomes all members of BC Lapidary clubs to come together to share their passion for all things rock. With 29 member groups in BC, we expect there will be a lot of rockhounds attending this event," organizers said in a press release.

The event will feature showcases, vendors, demonstrations of wire wrapping, fluorescent rocks and jade carving by Deborah Wilson.

For the registered attendees, there will be field trips, shared meals an AGM and more."

Planning for a Rockhounding Trip

For those who missed last month's meeting (yes, you Blue Jays' fans) - it was a SUPER engaging presentation by our own HCR member, Bo (aka Matt Phillips).



Many thanks to Bo for his informative and refreshing presentation. Bo shared his approach to several rockhounding adventures through mapping. I won't put words in his mouth - but my interpretation of what Bo described goes like this:

- think about what rocks and minerals you want to find
- figure out where to find them
- also do the reverse
- map all these locations and hit the road!



Workshop Hours

Workshops are back - but please visit our [website](#) to confirm scheduling, and monitor your HCR email for last-minute changes.

Schedule

Monday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructor: Jo or Renee
Wednesday (9 am – 12 pm) – **Silversmithing***
Instructor: Robert and Diane
Wednesday (1 pm – 4 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructor: David and Steve
Thursday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructors: Tim and Daniel
Friday (1 pm – 4:30 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructors: Richard and Al
Saturday (9 am – 12 pm) – **Silversmithing***
Instructors: Crystal and Robert
Saturday (1 pm – 4 pm) – **Lapidary**
instructor: Robert.

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](#)



Beaded Bezel Workshop??

Silver costs continue to rise, inspiring us to be creative about making bezels out of different materials! If you'd like to try beading a bezel, sign up at the November meeting and I'll try and schedule something for the New Year.

What the heck is this?



Dear Fellow HCR members - I picked this up at the Kits Show in the summer. I think it is Opalized Petrified Wood? What are your thoughts. Any experience finding and / or working with this material?

According to Geology.com...

Opalized wood is a type of petrified wood that is composed of opal rather than chalcedony or another mineral material. It almost always consists of common opal, without play-of-color, but rare instances of petrified wood composed of precious opal are known.

A common geologic environment for the formation of petrified wood is a forest buried by a volcanic ashfall. Ash buries the plants and protects them from decay and insect attack.

The ash also serves as an abundant source of easily dissolved silica, which will be carried into the wood by moving groundwater where it precipitates in cavities and replaces the solid woody materials. Large deposits of petrified wood in Arizona, Oregon, Wyoming, Indonesia, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, and other parts of the world have formed in this environment.

In most situations, the petrified wood found in these deposits today is composed of chalcedony, but in some situations the wood is composed of opal. Both of these varieties of petrified wood often occur in a single deposit. Because they are both formed from dissolved silica, they are often called "silicified wood".

<https://enchanted-earth.com/blogs/crystal-creed/blue-opalized-petrified-wood-meaning-and-healing-properties> has photos of similar pieces to the one above

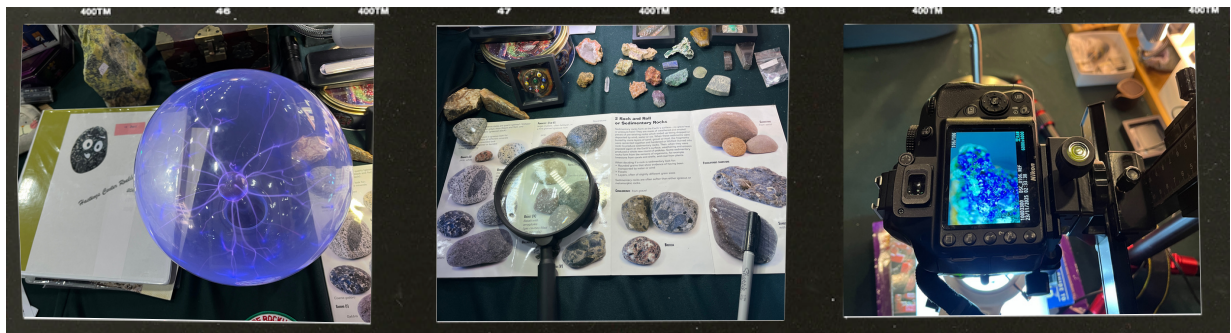
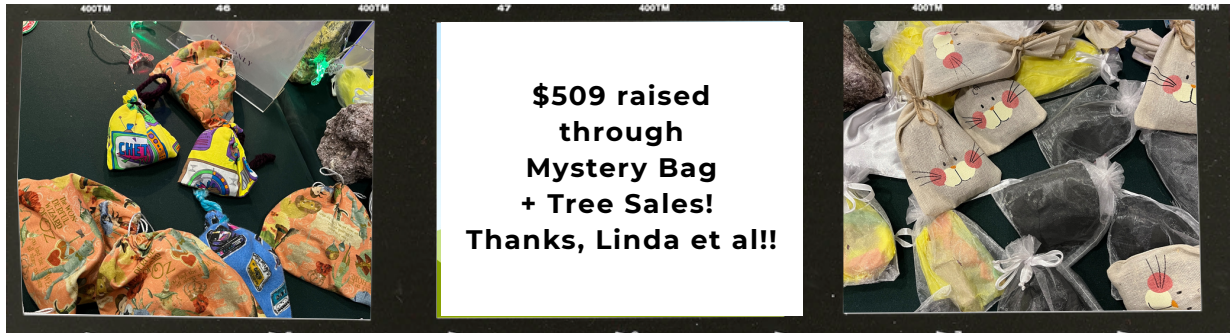


Congratulations, John McKenzie

Warmest congratulations to HCR member, John McKenzie who was selected to participate at Circle Craft this year and featured in their Emerging Artist area! (I stopped by and purchased a small but beautiful little ammolite ring!)

Vancouver Indi Gem Show - That's a Wrap!

Thanks to our fabulous volunteers! Sharing some of my photos and a few that were sent to me. Unfortunately, I didn't get a photo of AJ who was there all day Saturday doing demos...



Some of the jewellery made at the beading demo station by our younger guests!



Vancouver Indi Gem Show - That's a Wrap!, continued...

No, I didn't get engaged over the weekend - but a kind, new member (I believe her name was Giza?) dropped off a bag of cute balloons to gift our younger visitors. They were such a big hit! A creative way to show club support!!



Rocking 65 Years!

Mark your calendars for our Club's 65th Anniversary Gem and Jewellery Showcase to be held March 14 and 15, 2026 here at HCC. If you are interested in vending at this event - please let us know. There will also be a call-out for volunteer shifts. The show runs Saturday and Sunday from 10am through 5pm therefore, there will be lots of ways to help out! This is an all-ages event.



Birthstone of the Month

reference IGS International



November - Citrine

Citrine is the yellow to red-orange variety of crystalline quartz. Clever marketing and the rise of "earth tone" fashions have made this durable and readily available gem a popular modern birthstone in recent years.

- cousin of amethyst, citrine is also part of the quartz family. Citrine is predominantly associated with healing and happiness. Whether you're having a stomach ache, suffering from insomnia, or just feeling stressed, citrines are thought to bring relief.
- famous for their warm orange and yellow hues, perhaps with some hints of brown. They can also come in large sizes. A notable proportion of citrines on the market come out of the ground as unimpressive amethysts or smokey quartzes. These stones are subsequently heated to enhance the yellow and orange colors.



December - Topaz

Most blue topaz comes out of the earth colorless or pale blue. A two-step heat and radiation laboratory treatment is then used to turn these stones vivid greenish blue. Blue topazes are not only beautiful but inexpensive.

- associated with wealth. This is likely due to its more common yellow color, which led some to believe that topaz had the mystical ability to attract gold.
- blue topaz are referred to by trade names such as "London Blue," "Swiss Blue," and "Sky Blue." London Blues have a dark steel blue or grayish blue color. Swiss Blues show a highly saturated greenish blue. Sky Blues show pale blue colors and may somewhat resemble aquamarines in hue and tone.

Thank you for reading!
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