



Next issue deadline: June 7, 2026
Upcoming meetings: Friday, May 22, 2026
Next month; Friday, June 26, 2026
Editor: Nancy Nesbitt, edrocket18@gmail.com
Club secretary: Crystal, secretary.hcr@gmail.com

Friday, May 22, 7pm Meeting

Looking forward to seeing you at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) at 7pm, Friday, May 22. Midori will present on her solo rockhounding trips to Guadalajara, Mexico and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Thank you for your continued contributions to our club and to The Rocket! This is YOUR newsletter so it makes sense to share your wins, finds, and tips with the HCR membership. **To encourage this practice - if you send me something for the June issue by our Jun 7 deadline - I'll enter your email into a draw for a prize crafted with carnelian and jasper (photo featured below).**



Share your makes
& HCR goals!

This issue, we are keeping it short and sweet and saving up the big guns for June when we recap Rendezvous 2026. There will be a few teasers in this issue - but if you missed it - we encourage attendees to share their photos and we'll work to compile a full recap for the June issue.

Our deepest thanks to BCLS and HCR Executives and volunteers for dedicating your expertise and countless hours to making it a memorable trip for all of us!

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.



Win me!

Email [Nancy](#) a photo or article submission for *The Rocket* before June 7, 2026 and you are automatically entered to win this carnelian and jasper set! Our May issue contributors have also been entered to win.



In this newsletter:

- Workshops, Member News and Events
- Carnelian Contest
- Member photo submissions
- April Presentation Thank You, Bob!
- Richmond Gem Show Review by Max
- 2026 Rendezvous, May 15-18, Teaser
- Sunday June 14 11-1pm Spider Workshop notice
- Library Update
- Tailgate flyer
- How to reach us

HCR Member Photo Submissions

Thanks to Richard K, Patrice, TJ, and Amy



Richard's relatives brought this beauty from Poland when they visited him in Canada. The flint comes from the Vistula River in southeastern Poland.

Richard also sent us this recent sighting of a rockhound in their natural habitat...



Thanks to Patrice for submitting this great photo of TJ showcasing his amazing Rhodonite buttons!! And thanks to TJ for the inspo and for letting us publish your smiling face!

These buttons look great and I love how they add a splash of colour and BC flair to his coat...

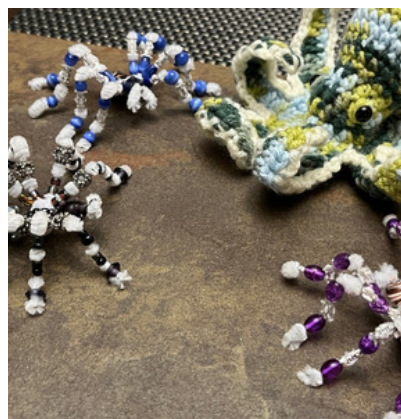
Thank you, Amy, for sharing your pre-spider workshop examples! Love the added bonus of a crocheted octopus hanging out. Speaking of spiders...

FREE for HCR members!

Learn to Make Cute Spiders with Beads & Wire

Hope to see you Sunday, June 14 from 11am till 1pm at our HCR workshop. Registration is required in order for us to ensure we have enough materials for all those adorable spiders!! [Click here to add your name to the list.](#)

We will provide materials (beads, wire, and we'll lend you the necessary tools. Help us build inventory for giveaways and Spin & Wins. We ask you to donate at least one of your creations to our Club to help us with ongoing fundraising activities (which benefit all members).



MAKE ME!



April 26 Richmond Rock & Gem Show Review

Photos and write-up provided by Max

April 25th, 2026. Saturday morning arrived with a friendly sunny brightness, whispering a suggestion, "Come outside, walk through the sunbeams, see the colour explosions from flowers and blooming bushes." 15 °C, clear blue sky, a gentle generosity in the air. It was, by all ordinary standards, a day that would feel wasted going indoors.

But miners and rock enthusiasts have never been governed by such standards. Ore, shiny specimens, and precious rocks from underground rarely come to the sunshine on their own. And the promising announcement of the Richmond Rock & Gem Show at the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex, was too close to pass up. Tables and boxes filled with rocks worth seeing—worth evaluating if one of them might become mine. So I followed that voice in my head: to check out some rocks, and maybe take the opportunity to talk to club members and see their workshop—knowing it would all be indoors.

The journey itself was easy—a simple public transit combo. A rapid bus first—straight, smooth, and quiet enough to invite a brief nap. Then the SkyTrain: a different rhythm entirely. A low, constant hum. Conversations threading through the carriage—families, phone calls, fragments of lives in motion. Not loud, not intrusive. More like a shared murmur, a collectively respectful presence.

At Richmond–Brighouse Station, the journey resolves itself almost effortlessly. A short walk through CF Richmond Centre, and out the other side to the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex—where, despite the sunshine outside, the highlight of the day was waiting—indoors.

Inside, the show felt exactly as it should: compact, welcoming, and quietly focused. Quite busy along the rows of tables and cases, each holding small, concentrated worlds—a selection of jewellery here, polished slabs there, or mainly raw material on another one. Some showcase arrangements I recalled from the Chilliwack Show just recently—still worth another look. Others were new to me and engaging, letting the eyes wander, the thoughts hum—identifying rock and mineral types, imagining the methods used to prepare the pieces as they appear now. Some written notes confirmed an interpretation here, answered a question there. And then, inevitably, the boxes appeared—piles of stones. The hands take over. The posture shifts—leaning in, lifting, inspecting, searching. Small conversations follow—rock names, localities. There is a particular analogy to this. Anyone who has stood at a coarse pebble placer deposit, or walked on the bars along the Fraser River, would recognize it immediately: turning pieces, discarding most, pausing at a few. Pausing because something aligns—texture, structure, color, specific gravity, lustre, cleavage - hints that connect to memory. A quiet chain reaction: hope, curiosity... and the question of what it might become with some cutting and polishing.



April 26 Richmond Rock & Gem Show Review, cont'd...

Photos and write-up provided by Max

Somewhere between two such “excavations,” I met Lisa from the club. She offered a tour of the Richmond Gem and Mineral Society’s workshop—a space that immediately shifts the scale of things. Compared to the familiar setup at the Hastings Community Centre, this felt differently generous. Open. Well-lit. Machines arranged with room to breathe: saws for different cuts and purposes, grinding wheels, a flat lap, waxing equipment, even silversmithing tools. A drill press. And, in a large glass-front cabinet, a small library.

I took a high-level overview only. The equipment itself may be comparable to the Hastings Centre Rockhounds’ workshop. And both workshops appear equally well-managed. What stood out at the Richmond’s workshop is the positively noticeable workspace. The club is currently relatively small in membership, which means there is free capacity to use the machines. For anyone often running into time or capacity limitations at Hastings Centre workshop, it might be worth considering extending and doubling down on memberships by joining the Richmond club as well.

On my way out, the door of the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex opened, and I stepped straight into a flood of light. Bright—almost overwhelming after the soft, indoor focus of stones and tables.

It brought to mind a miner’s saying: only those who work underground truly appreciate the sunlight.

I paused for a moment, letting the warmth settle in, then wandered a little through the nearby park—no hurry now—just to enjoy the sun and the mild air. And then, unmistakably, a distracting thought. Either my nose caught a hint of lunchtime in the air, or my stomach sent a reminder that it might be time to look for a lunch meal deal. Back through CF Richmond Centre—now less a passage and more a destination. A brief search for a small snack. Then Yogost appeared—an easy, convincing decision. A rice yoghurt, plain—undistracted by too many added flavours. Simple in concept, but remarkably satisfying. One of those small culinary surprises that quietly completes a day.

On my way back home, a few additional stops followed—the kind that stretch a return journey just enough to make it feel unhurried. It had begun as a reluctant move indoors, almost against the better judgment of a sunny Saturday. But like so often with stones, you have to go under a roof to find the matter that matters.





Rendezvous Teaser - May 15 - 18, 2026

Rendezvous 2026 took place May 15-18, 2026 in Lillooet at Elks Hall, 920 Moha Road, in Lillooet. The Hastings Centre Rockhounds had a fabulous time with the Lillooet club and several others! Huge thanks to the organizers, wagon masters and volunteers. It was so well organized!!

Next issue we will share details on field trips, displays, auctions, BCLS's annual general meeting, and more! There is also activity on BCLS's [Facebook](#) and keep an eye on [HCR's Facebook](#) if you can't wait. As a teaser, here are a few photos that have arrived in my Inbox...



Road Trip!



**Full Rendezvous
Review in
June's Rocket!**



Library Update

Photos and write-up provided by Joyce

If you have only seen silver in the perfect form of sheets, coins and maybe even an ingot, check out the Jan/Feb issue of Rock and Gem. You can learn more about silver in its native form in the feature article. And for those who like their green rocks and gems, included is an eye candy article on azurite and malachite.



Right picture: Proustite (also known as ruby silver ore)
Left picture: Native silver wire



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

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

Instructors: Richard and Jim

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.

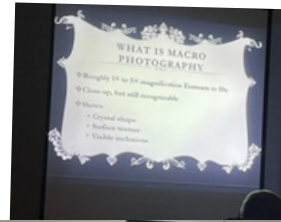
***Beginners to Silversmithing** are asked to [contact Crystal](#) before attending. Instruction is available only at the Saturday session and there is a \$45 beginners kit with supplies needed for silversmithing.

[Workshop rules and regulations](#)



Presentation on Photographing Minerals

For details on this Presentation, please speak with Bob



Upcoming Events

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

HCR May Rockhound meeting - Midori will share about her solo rockhounding trips to Guadalajara, Mexico and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Surrey Rockhound Club is hosting an annual auction 7pm (doors at 6pm) Wednesday,
May 27
Sullivan's Hall in Surrey
6306 152 Street
Surrey, BC

Be sure to check out upcoming **BCLS Field Trips**
and **HCR's website** for upcoming events



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

THE ROCKET	HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUDS
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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](https://facebook.com/groups/hastings.rockhounds)

