

THE ROCKET

April 2018

Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com

deadline for next issue May 11

Newsletter email: Edrocket18@gmail.com

Next Meeting: *please note the change*

Friday - April 27th at 7PM

at Hastings Community Center

(due to Community Center response to our letter)

Social (volunteered at March meeting to bring treats for April): Marilyn, Debbie, Roz

Remember the Pop Up mini demo planned for the Centre in May

Our Show - Some Pictures:

(Thanks Mike & Roz)



Programs:

At our March meeting we had a great program of a quiz created by Paul Pinsker. Thanks to Linda Foy for presenting and supplying the prizes. It was a quiz all about rocks, and the prizes? Rocks! Most people went home with at least one new treasure.

Workshop Hours

Lapidary:	Monday	6:30pm – 9:30pm
	Wednesday	1:00pm – 4:00pm
	Thursday	6:30pm – 9:30pm
	Saturday	1:00pm – 4:00pm

Metalwork:	Monday	9am - 1pm
	Sunday	10am – 1pm

Silversmithing:	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon

Linda Foy is offering **Soapstone Carving** that started on April 3. Check with her for details.

METALSMITHING



Lately participation at the Metalworks class had members exploring colouring of copper using the torch as well as using Liver of Sulphur to enhance stamped/etched copper/brass metals. We had one brave member even start repousse and chasing using the hydraulic press to impress metal wire onto copper to start the repousse process.

Class members are starting to gather more vocabulary of techniques and feeling more at ease with the use of the tooling supplied and we can only expect more design possibilities to follow. Thanks go to Margaret

who brings her skills at discovery and serendipitous play. We continue to learn from each other; without the others how else could we evolve.

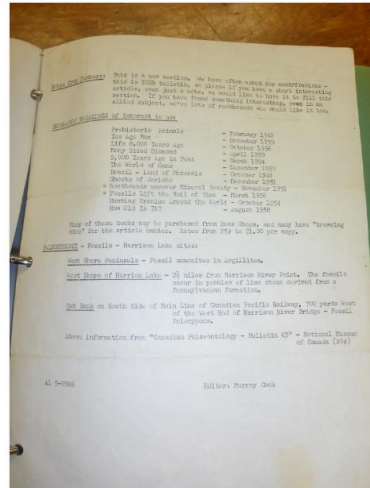
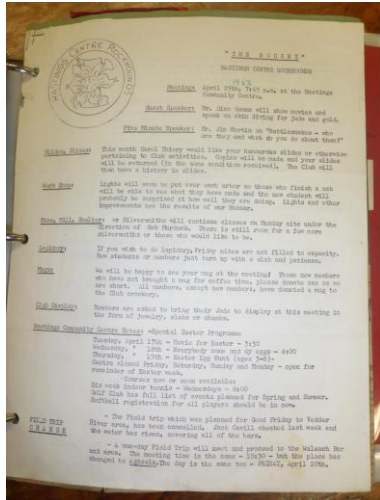
Instructor: Mike Ma



WE ARE CELEBRATING! Our Club is 60 this year.

The first copy of our Club newsletter, the Rocket, found in our albums announces the April 25, 1962 meeting. Mr. Gino Gemma is the guest speaker who was to show movies and talk on skindiving for **Jade and Gold**. There was also a 5 minute speaker on **Rattlesnakes** and what to do with them. Presumably the talk was for people going rockhounding in the Interior. One activity at the meeting was to be a **Jade display**: jewellery, slabs or chunks.

From the pictures you can see the newsletter was 2 pages of club interest. The Editor was Murray Cook. It is interesting how times change...and sometimes never change.



There was a call for **slides** – today we ask for your digitally sent pictures. The heading “**Mine, Mill, and Smelter**” was about the silversmithing workshop under the direction of Bob Murdock. The Friday night **Lapidary** session had some room for new students or members. All members were called upon to donate a mug for coffee or refreshments at the meetings.

One section dealt with **Hastings Centre News**. It was 7 lines about a special Easter program, and registration for golf, softball and indoor tennis courses and clubs. Today the Centre puts out its own seasonal program brochure of many pages.

A **Field Trip** was planned for the Vedder River area was cancelled due to rising water. The alternative field trip on Good Friday was planned for Agassiz. I wonder what they found?

There was a list of **Geographic magazines** and article titles that would be of interest to club members. The list includes the October 1954 article called “Hunting Uranium around the World” or the February 1942 article “Prehistoric Animals” and articles on Gems in Brazil and Rockhounds finding minerals. It was suggested members could find these magazines for 50 cents or \$1 in bookstores especially those with browsing bins for the article hunter. Now we use web links and have our club library. It really has been an explosion of information.

The last item in the newsletter was on **Fossils in the Harrison Lake** area. The article was based on a pamphlet from the National Museum of Canada.

The highlight for me was reading about the lights for the workshop. Imagine working without them!

Work Shop:

Lights will soon be put over each arbor so those who finish a cab will be able to see what they have made and the new student will probably be surprised at how well they are doing. Lights and other improvements are the results of our Bazaar.

PROJECTS

Did you see Ray's display at our club show? He has been doing woodworking for years and has combined his two hobbies in these beautiful pieces. The two smaller boxes have matching pendants. The tops of the boxes pivot to open and have small magnets to keep closed. Wow! (photo: Vivien)



Nick's display showed the carving that he does. See the one on the bottom with the twist. He caught that fish mid flip of the tail. (photo: Nick)



Our Club Show

Thanks Mike Ma for photos. The fuzzy ones are from Roz (my lens is clean now)

Lots of Member Participation:



Club Member Displays: These and many more
Elaine



Manda



Metalworks Group



Vicky and Donna



Demonstrations: see the front page

Selling:



Even the Vendors and Buyers Had Fun:



Another Successful Show:



What did you find at the show?

This is just a sample:

Vera: A **Jade Maple Leaf** that matches the earrings purchased in China.

Vivian: A dyed Yellow **Onyx Egg**. I collect eggs.

Elaine: Large **heart shaped bead** for a Pendant. She wore it to the March meeting. (Ask her the gems included in the rock)

Roz: A **Mookaite slab** in purple colours for a cabochon to go in a finding purchased at our show a couple of years ago. I wanted something the colour of Roses.

Mike Edwards: I had a rock I hoped someone would identify. Bonnie identified it as Chicken Tracks Rock from Oregon toward Mcdermitt.



Upcoming Events of Interest:

Rendezvous : May 18 – 21, Rock Creek, BC - hosted by Penticton Geology and Lapidary Club. At our last meeting Verne recommended registering early, especially for the limited Rock Candy Mine Field Trip. <http://www.bclapidary.com/Rendez.html>

Shows:

April 28 & 29, 2018 Richmond Gem & Mineral Club, Richmond, BC

May 5 & 6, 2018 Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show Everett (Washington) Rock & Gem Club

May 13, 2018 Creative Jewellers Guild of BC 5th Annual Show and Sale, Van Dusen Gardens

June 2 & 3, 2018 Kokanee & Selkirk Rock Clubs Show, Castlegar, BC

June 9 & 10, 2018 Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club Show, Campbell River, BC

2018 Summer Camp Information



We are pleased to announce that the 2018 Summer Camp will be taking place August 6 - August 11, 2018 at Takysie Lake, BC.

For those of you who have yet to experience it, Summer Camp is an opportunity for BCLS members from all over the province to gather, socialize and rockhound in a different area of the province. Generally, it is four days of organized field trips and five nights of social activities. The Lakes District Rock and Gem Club has again graciously agreed to co-host the event with the BCLS at Takysie Lake, about an hour south of Burns Lake, after last year's event was cancelled due to forest fires. A few members braved the smoke and closed highways last August to check out the area, and were very happy with the resort and the lapidary materials available in the area.

More information about this year's Summer Camp and facilities information can be found by viewing the two links below. Please pre-register with Phillip Crewe by phone or by email before-hand so we have an idea of numbers. Phillip can be reached at 604-526-3045, or by ... this email. (paukenmeister@gmail.com)

General Event Information:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/dca3433691ff359f6a1513a59/files/117de701-1ac5-48fe-a641-a38828d4e7be/2018_summer_camp_information.pdf

Facilities Information:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/dca3433691ff359f6a1513a59/files/c9556e4e-055a-4030-9689-689549b275ba/2018_summer_camp_facilities.pdf

Regards,

Phillip Crewe

Summer Camp Team

Letters to the Editor

I was looking for some rockhounding information this morning when I came to your webpage... Great stuff! Thank you for taking the time to put this together.

I actually just published an epic post on free gemology courses and resources: <https://beyond4cs.com/free-gemology-courses-and-resources/>

It might make a good fit for your page and visitors.

Either way, keep up the awesome work!

Cheers,
Paul Gian

Editor's note: Arlene does the website and it is great.

True Confessions by Elizabeth

Recently I held a social event at my place for a group of elderly ladies, like myself. We all belong to a friendship club. We used to have some male members but they all died. The women sat around, eating, drinking and talking a lot. One lady noticed a big rock on my coffee table, a candy dish full of polished stones, and a few odd looking slabs and pieces on the window ledge. "What are these?" she asked. "Yes," said another, "why do you have rocks all over the place?" "Because I belong to a Rockhounters' Club and because I am rock crazy!!!" I replied. "It's a sickness, you know; an utterly, incurable disease!"

They stared at me with no replies whatsoever, so I seized the opportunity and started passing stuff around from hand to hand, rock to slab to cabochon. I explained how a cabochon was made. They perked up with interest to see how that stupid looking rock could become such a beautiful setting in a piece of jewellery.

I was amazed myself, at how many of the lovely samples are actually local to B.C., such as jade, serpentine, rhodonite, peacock ore, jasper, agates from Fraser River beds and quartz from Whistler. They were amazed at how clean my house was and wanted to know where I kept the rest of my rocks. since I have no basement. I said "in silverware trays under the couch, under the china cabinets, under the dressers, and under the bed. The candy dishes are full, some window sills, the cookie jars and last but not least my patios, patio gardens and flower pots!"

"I'm not a collector," said one lady. I couldn't convince anyone what a great experience it would be to join our club and follow in my footsteps, even though they enjoyed the Rock Show I gave them. I even told them about a rumour I heard regarding Wreck Beach and agates. "Who will go with me?" I asked. No one volunteered and one lady defiantly said, "I'm not taking my clothes off for a bunch of agates!" "Boo hoo; I don't relish going there alone!" another said.

After the social, as they all exited my front door they were shaking their heads and had weird smiles on their faces. I believe they all thought that I had rocks in my head!! Maybe it's true!!!

Fossil Hunting on Vancouver Island by Bryan Lunny

Nanoose Bay is just north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. My family and I spent a week there in March of 2018. When I considered what rock hounding I might do in the area I knew the ocean beaches might yield dallasite, porphery or other treasures, but also that the area was composed of sedimentary rock so fossil hunting was a possibility. I quickly got drawn into fossil hunting and was rewarded with some interesting specimens over the week.

A short google search led to lots of information on the geology of the area and lots of clues of where to look for fossils. The whole area between Nanaimo and Courtenay is mostly cretaceous sediments. I found many reports online of the local shoreline and rivers exposing fossil rich limestone and shale deposits.

I started my search on the nearby shore of Northwest Bay. I was quickly rewarded with the find of an impression of an 8" ammonite which I left in place as it was quite worn and in hard sandstone. Further along the beach I found a locality of fossiliferous sandstone which was in smaller pieces and broke with a little effort of my rock pick. I collected a few small samples of bivalves, other shellfish and small bits of plant matter. I did not find the shale that had been reported nearby but planned to return another day.

The following day we took a road trip around the area including a stop at the small but impressive Qualicum Beach Museum. This museum has a very impressive collection of fossils from Vancouver Island and abroad. It is run by Graham Beard who has studied the fossils of this area for 40 years and in a conversation with him he gave me better directions to the shale at Northwest Bay where he informed that if I was lucky the winter storms may have exposed new fossil finds.

We had plans for the next two days which included going to Courtenay/Comox. We stopped and did some investigation along the Puntledge River which is famous for the discovery of a near complete elasmosaur fossil skeleton discovered along its bank. The banks had lots of exposed shale but I didn't find anything of significance.

On our last full day I made my way back to the beach to find the shale at Northwest Bay. It was very cold. I spent more than hour looking up and down the beach and finally found the shale. I was able to get more bivalves and some plant fossils.

I had a great time spending many long hours outdoors looking for rocks. I look forward to spending more time in the area to resume the hunt.

Editor: here is a great link for more information on the elasmosaur and fossil hunting

<https://www.courtenaymuseum.ca/fossils-dinosaurs/the-elasmosaur-find/>

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 can follow them.

Thanks, Roz (Editor). Edrocket18@gmail.com



**Nick's first rockhounding find:
Jade.**

(photo Mike Ma)

Club members at the March Gem and Mineral show at the PNE
(photo: Allison)



Diamond is the traditional birthstone for April



If you are wondering about the theme colour for this month, think of chocolate diamonds.

Diamond rough and polished <https://www.gia.edu/diamond>

Diamond is the only gemstone made from one single element: Carbon. The bonds of the atoms is equal in all directions which contributes to its hardness which is 10 on the Mohs scale, the hardest of stones. The name Diamond comes from the greek “adamas” meaning invincible or indestructible. Greek warriors wore them into battle and considered them the tears of gods. Diamonds have long been considered a symbol of innocence and purity. Now diamonds are considered a symbol of love.

Diamond is not associated with any of the zodiac signs, but some people don't like their birthstone so a diamond is also claimed by those born on Saturday, those born at Noon, and those born in Winter. Traditionally diamond is the anniversary stone of the 60th and 75th anniversaries. Some modern lists also give diamond as the stone for a 30th anniversary and less commonly for a 10th anniversary.

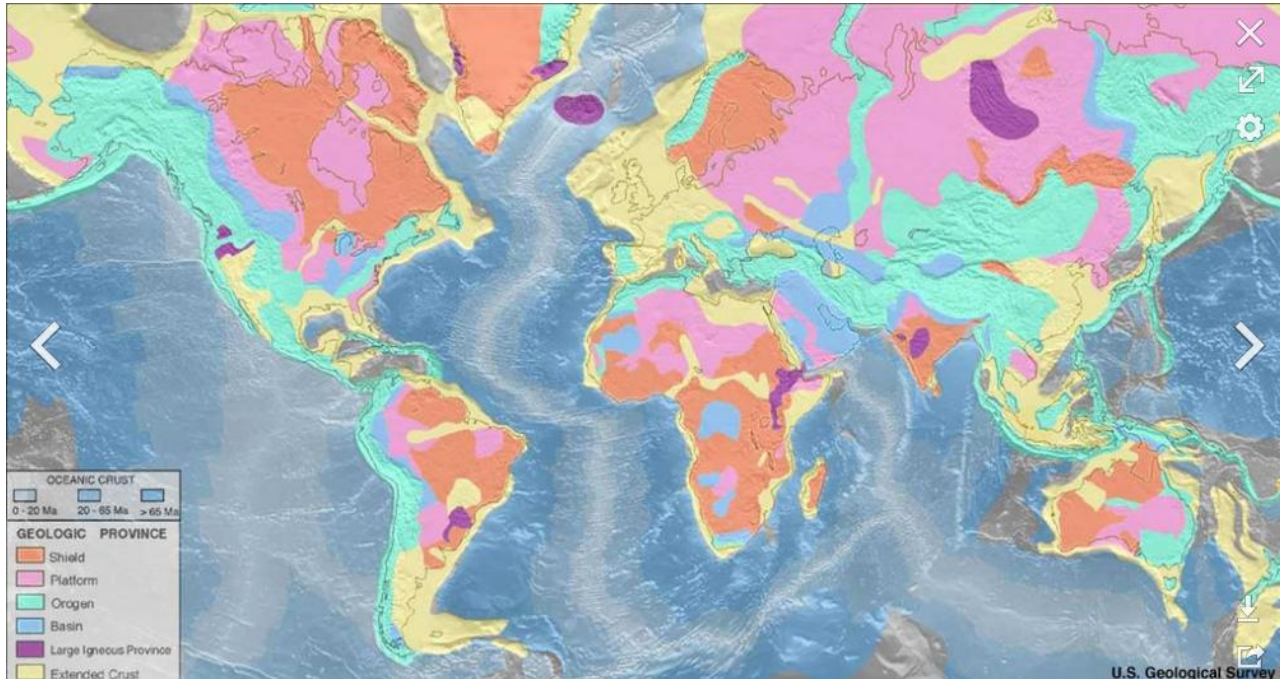
It is believed that the first diamonds were discovered in India, at least 3000 years ago, but it is more likely as long ago as 6000 years. The Ratnapariska of Buddhahatta, a Sanskrit manual on gems dating from about A.D. 500, states: “He who wears a diamond will see dangers recede from him, whether he be threatened by serpents, fire, poison, sickness, thieves, flood or evil spirits.” Diamonds have also been believed to improve one's energy, environment, growth process, prosperity, love life, faith and endurance. It was also believed that the powers of a diamond increase when worn around the neck, or on the left hand.

The 14th century Persian poet Hafiz wrote that, “the rainbow is confined in a diamond forever”. During the Renaissance diamonds began to be used in engagement rings of the wealthy and royal. In the 20th century De Beers began marketing diamond engagement rings as being for everyone - forever.

Diamonds were formed 1 to 3.5 billion years ago, below the Earth's mantle about 150 to 250 kilometers deep. High heat and pressure caused carbon atoms to arrange into diamonds. Tens to hundreds of millions ago volcanic eruptions moving at 250 km/ hour happened too quickly for the diamonds to be absorbed. The diamonds were brought close to the surface. Then the magma solidified quickly so the diamonds remained. Commonly diamonds are found in deep, narrow cones of solidified magma are known as **kimberlite pipes** for their shape and mineral composition. Because kimberlite pipes are soft they were easily eroded by glaciers and water. Kimberlite pipes can be difficult to find as they are often low lying and may be covered with vegetation, sediments, soils or lakes. When diamonds are found in alluvial deposits of river channels, deltas and former stream beds they came from the weathering and erosion of kimberlite.

Clifford's rule (for finding diamonds) states that Diamonds are almost always found in kimberlites on the oldest part of cratons, the stable cores of continents with typical ages of 2.5 billion years or more. A map from Wikipedia shows why Diamonds can be found in Canada. "The pink and orange areas are shields and platforms, which together constitute cratons."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond#/media/File:World_geologic_provinces.jpg



According to the Gemmological institute of America (GIA) the average yield of a Diamond mine is 1 part Diamond to 1 million parts rock. That contributes to their cost.



The largest diamond (187.7 carat) found in North America is the Foxfire Diamond from the Diavik mine in the Northwest Territories. Foxfire is a translation the aboriginal word for the Aurora Borealis. It is a Fancy Yellow diamond.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/foxfire-diamond-bedazzles-smithsonians-newest-rock-star-180961064/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nwt-diavik-foxfire-diamond-smithsonian-1.3997020>

Only 1 in 10,000 diamonds has a fancy colour. Their value increases with the strength and purity of their color. Blue and rare are the most rare. Brown is the most common colored diamond. As recently as the 1980's they could hardly be given away. Due to some clever marketing and depending on the strength of their colour, some are called Cognac, Champagne or even Chocolate.