

THE ROCKET

deadline for next issue
September 13

JUNE 2019
Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com
Newsletter email: Edrocket18@gmail.com

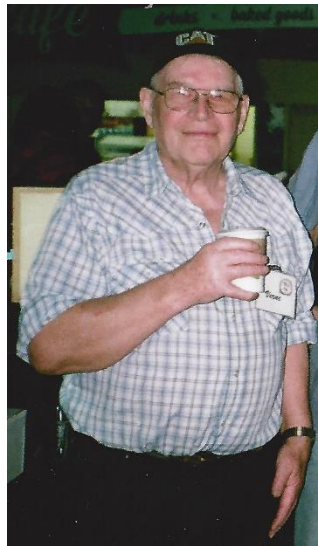
Next Meeting: Friday June 28- 7PM Hastings Community Center Hall **PROGRAMS**

There will be no formal speaker for June. It is our season-ending **"wine and cheese" with auction**. Also, Linda will organize **a jar auction**. Bring something in a "jar" to donate and be auctioned off. So, two auctions and wine and cheese. Sounds like a party. Please also bring a finger food snack as the "cheese" part of our party. Please do not bring wine as the club must look after the wine as part of our liquor license requirements.

VERNE BROOKS

I am very sad to inform that Verne Brooks, our club president, passed away on Friday June 14th 2019. He has been a valued member of our club and will be missed. Crystal Chow, Secretary Rockhounds. Terribly saddened to hear just now of the passing of Verne Brooks, a man of great spirit, empathy, warmth, knowledge, and endless willingness to volunteer and share. This is a huge loss for Rockhounds in Vancouver and elsewhere in our province. Paul Pinsker

Verne was very taken with the heart beat of the drums. Marilyn Sztankovics



Verne Brooks was an old time rock hound and had been doing it a long time. He was a professional long-distance truck driver, even before they had the whole truck driver union and 'ticket'. According to his son, he just walked into the union and 'got his card right away'. Verne told me that he would stop at most of the new road cuts and find all sorts of rocks "just lying there, ready to be picked up". We all know what it is like to be one of the first to find rocks in a new road cut - they are some of our best rock finding places. Throughout Canada and the United States, Verne found lots of rocks and people-of-like- mind, also searching for the roadside treasures.

He was friends to many and he knew so many of our lapidary pioneers like George Vanderwolf who is responsible for creating and installing those huge jade pieces in Lillooet. He was very loved within the native community and was adopted within the Lillooet peoples. He was involved in helping with Rendezvous and Summer Camp within the interior for years.

Verne was always ready and willing to talk to all who were wanting to find out about our hobby and he helped out at all our Hastings Centre Rockhounds information tables for years. He stepped up and became our president after Brian Mathison's term and has done a pretty good job of keeping our club active and current. He will be missed.

I was talking to him just last week about his last rites wishes and he stated that he wanted to have his ashes spread over the hillside of his son's estate. I confirmed this with his son on Tuesday night. Verne also stated that he did not want people to be sad and that "life goes on and so it should". So, let us use this wine and cheese social at the end of the month to celebrate his life and all he had done to encourage our ever-expanding hobby of playing with rocks. Enjoy life everyday, Linda Foy

Last meeting Programs:



Our speaker for May 24 was **Patrick Mulvaney**, opal specialist from In The Bag Too, Ltd. of Vancouver. His engaging presentation covered the opal business, from mining to selling. His samples included rough and cut stones from Lightning Ridge, Coober Pedy & Yowah. He has years of experience in all areas of opal mining and had some entertaining stories and amazing samples. We were amazed at the valuable specimens that he let us handle.



We also had an auction
of rocks



Thanks Allison for pictures

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 – 2 pm
	Sunday	10:30am – 1:45 pm
Silversmithing:	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Soapstone Carving:	Tuesday	6:45 pm – 9:30 pm
	There is room for 10 people. Please contact Linda Foy before showing up for the first time.	

2019 Rendezvous

*Rendezvous is the British Columbia Lapidary Society's annual gathering and features field trips, displays, auctions, and our annual general meeting. **Crystal** was there and shares this report.*

This year it was held at the Rock Creek it was one of the most attended Rendezvous with over 100 people registered. Friday started off with registration of the field trips and a potluck dinner. This year the trips included a chance to go to the Rock Candy Mine for fluorites and barite; gold panning; looking for dolomite; or having an historical tour of Greenwood and looking through the slag pile. Then Saturday there was an auction, and Sunday a bucket raffle and beef dip dinner!

I had a chance to go to the Rock Candy Mine which was an hour hike from the parking to the mine, and up the mountain. When I got there I was so excited that I didn't take any photos at all, or looked at what other people found. That's why this photo was actually taken by my mom. There were fluorites already pre-blasted on the ground that people can collect from, or some people attempted to chisel fluorite out



of the mountain. After picking up all these beautiful pieces of fluorite this is when the trouble comes - to bring it all back down! The weight of the fluorite is surprisingly heavy. I searched and found that usually agate has a density of 2.5 - 2.6 per 10^3 kg/m^3 but fluorite has a density of 3.01 - 3.25 per 10^3 kg/m^3 . So, a bit of fluorite already feels like a lot to carry. I'm not quite sure how big a difference these numbers make but at least I'm not wrong of it being heavier than it looks. Overall, this was an amazing trip to meet other people with the same hobby and socialize with the other clubs. I can't wait till the next year!

Thanks Manda for the pictures

Field Trips

'Tis the Season...

If you are out **Rockhounding this summer**, 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. A picture or two would be great come September.

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

2019 Summer Camp

Summer Camp is an opportunity for British Columbia Lapidary Society 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.

August 5 - 10, 2019
Galloway, BC
BC Mountain Hideaway
7060 Galloway FSR
Galloway, BC

The region is famous for a number of significant fossil (trilobite) deposits, and mining camps. Local members of the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines have agreed to lead a number of field trips to interesting sites. Home base will be the BC Mountain Hideaway.

To register, you will need to do two things:

1. Register with our Summer Camp coordinator, Linda Marcelet, by contacting her by phone at 250-777-1399, or email at lindamarcelet50@gmail.com. Only members of BCLS charter clubs may participate.
2. Contact Debra with BC Mountain Hideaway at 250-908-3849 to book your accommodation. There are three options available: cabin, bunk house, or campground. Cabins range from \$125-\$145/night, the bunkhouse is \$85/night, and camping for trailers is \$20/night. Breakfast is provided for some cabins.

More information and a map are available on the BC Lapidary Society website.

Upcoming Events of Interest: Shows

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

July 7	Tailgate Sale, Surrey Rockhound Club , Sullivan Hall, Surrey
July 19-21	Okanagan Gem Show , Rutland Centennial Hall, Kelowna By 1120 Rock Club of Kelowna and the Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club
July 19-21	Gemboree , Courtney, BC info: http://www.bclapidary.com/2019GemboreePackage.pdf
August 5-10	Summer Camp , BC Lapidary Society, at Galloway, BC (see article above)
September 22-21	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Show , Aldergrove, BC

Oct. 4-6, **National Rock and Gem Show of Canada** Lethbridge, Alberta, Exhibition Park, West Pavilion 2019.

Recent News

June 8, 2019 by MyVanCity

Announcing 2019 Honourees to BC Entertainment Hall of Fame

The BC Entertainment Hall of Fame (BCEHOF) today announced its 2019 BCEHOF inductees. These eight new **StarWalk Stars** and five **Pioneer Stars** from the world of music, dance, theatre and film/television will join the 275+ previous inductees who have been recognized for their significant contribution to the province's entertainment industry and cultural landscape.

(...included are...) **The Crump Twins – Entertainers**

Ronnie and Robert Crump – forever remembered as they were billed on posters, marquees and playbills as “The Crump Twins”, were two of the most recognizable entertainers in Vancouver from the late 1940's to the early 1960's. They notably performed on the same stage alongside Sammy Davis Jr. and Louis Armstrong. As a duo act, singing, tap dancing, telling jokes and playing guitar and drums, they regularly were featured at a host of downtown nightclubs and theatres during their years of performing. They are perhaps the most prominent entertainers to be mentioned in association with the lost east end neighbourhood of Hogan's Alley. Rock and roll guitarist, Jimi Hendrix from the same neighbourhood was once a Crump Twins sideman. Robert passed away in March of 2019 leaving behind his twin brother Ronnie. The Crump Twins remain two of the great pioneers in the early years of the Vancouver entertainment scene and the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame is proud to have them inducted into the Hall.

Ronnie Crump is a life member of Hastings Centre Rockhounds. Robert was in the club off and on for years, but it was Ruth and Ronnie who were very active in the club. There are lots of pictures of them and our club activities in our club history books.



Since our last meeting in May

Verne Brooks of the Hastings Centre Rockhounds is on the far left handing a cheque for \$1000 to Ethan Chen, the youth director of the Hastings Centre Association. Jason McGarry, the new elected President of the Hastings Community Association, is standing in between, and Paul Biln is clapping on the right.

Thanks to The Quon Family for the picture

BC Lapidary Society:

Annual General Meeting, June 9, 2019

Marilyn is one of our reps to the BC Lapidary Society and sent some information about the last meeting. She suggests that people go to the BC Lapidary website for more information. An item I (your editor) noted is about the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada, represented by Brett Jensen. He explained that there are only a few clubs left. Manitoba 1, Saskatchewan 2, Alberta 6 and none in Ontario or Quebec. BC is the largest group. Alberta is hosting a joint show. The National Rock and Gem Show of Canada will be in Lethbridge, Exhibition Park, West Pavilion Oct. 4-6, 2019. It was strongly suggested BC put on a show next year.

We get Letters!

"Greetings to the Hastings Center Rock Hounds", I live at Big Sheep Creek Valley halfway between Rossland BC and Christina Lake. I noticed a flyer in Rossland for the upcoming Rock Show at Castlegar BC this June and looked it up on the internet and ran across your website. The picture of Murray Cook and Beula his mom brought back a lot of fond memories for me. Murray and his Dad Ernie and my family were on a lot of rock hunts together. On your website was mentioned having a log house booth at the 1960 BC Gem And Mineral Show. I was 13 then and helped build the log house booth. Our family had met Ernie Cook, Phil Thiery and Eric Ecclestone at an earlier Rock show and decided to join the rock club then; I was about 8 years old. My dad, Bob Murdoch was the president of the club after Phil Thiery. I remember helping put together the Lapidary Room on the bottom floor of the Hastings Community Center where I used to hang out in my earlier years. I was grinding rocks and silversmithing there and my Mom, Mary did a lot of Soap Stone Carvings. I still remember all the old families and friends I met at the club and glad to see it is still going after all these years. I remember all the rock hunts to Yale, Monte Lake, Princeton and up the Coquihalla looking for Jade. We used to have to get the key for the gate on the logging road from the Purdy Logging Company so we could use their road to go Jade hunting. Now look at it - a major highway. Where did I go from there? I left Vancouver in 1969 and lived at Yale with the Mighty Fraser at my doorstep. I got a job on the carpenter crew at Tech (Cominco Smelter) 1976 and had a Hobby Farm at Big Sheep Creek Valley. I retired from Tech in 2009 and still live on my property at Sheep Creek. Grandpa to 11 kids now. Even now I can't pass up looking at rocks and crystals everywhere I go. You know the saying "Old Rockhounds never die they just slowly Petrify." Best wishes Rob



Projects

Looking through some of our history books, we came across this incredible project. This is a "Jade Saddle from Beautiful British Columbia". It was owned and created by Peter White of West Vancouver. The Artist-Designer was E June Moreau of Port Moody. It was created as a Centennial Project (1967). The Horn was set with Nephrite jade of BC. Other stones in the dogwoods etc. are Vesuvianite (Idocrase), Magnesite and Mutton Fat Jade. The colours range from white through blue, blue grey, green grey, light green to dark green and black. Most groups of gems are matched. The Horn-Cantle-Pommel and Conchas are gold. The gold working parts like bit and buckle are gold plated. It was estimated that the planning and building required 5 years. Collecting the rough for the gems took about 15 years. Another source of project ideas – our own club history books!





Moonstone

(Pictures from <https://www.gia.edu/moonstone>)

is an alternate birthstone for June and for August. It is also a sun and planetary stone for the zodiac sign Cancer which covers most of July. All this makes it a great stone to cover in this issue of our Rocket. Moonstone is an alternative birthstone for those born on Monday (the Moon's day) and is a traditional gift for a 13th or an 85th anniversary. Some people also use it for a 3rd anniversary.



Moonstone gets its name from the play of colour or *schiller* caused by light diffracting off the microstructure within. The play of light reminds people of moonlight behind floating clouds. At one time Moonstone was called "adularia" because one of the first known sources was Mt Adular (now St. Gotthard) in Switzerland. Now, the *schiller* of Moonstone is known as *adularescence*. To quote The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) "The light seems to billow across the gemstone giving its surface a glowing appearance." As you change your viewing angle the light seems to roll across the gem's surface.

Moonstone is gem quality variety of Feldspar from the species orthoclase. Rainbow Moonstone is actually a different species of Feldspar known as Labradorite. We'll cover that rock another time. According to the International Gem Society (IGS or gemociety.org), in orthoclase Moonstones, thin orthoclase (KAlSi_3O_8) and albite ($\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$) plates are dispersed within each other as a result of unmixing while cooling. These layers diffract light differently and scatter the light within the stone causing the adularescence. The adularescence has a sheen of color that is white, silver or blue. A blue sheen is produced if the albite layers are very fine, but if they are thick, the sheen is white.

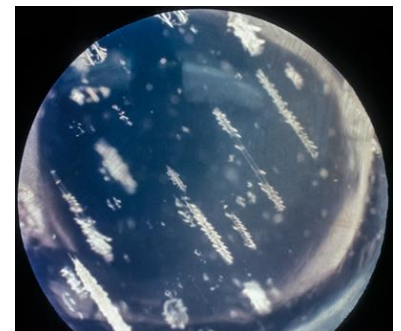


[picture source geology.com](http://geology.com). The body colour of a Moonstone can range from colourless to white and through yellow, gray, green, pink, reddish, orange, and brown. The colour range is generally due to trace amounts of iron.

Moonstones inclusions, when they appear, are so characteristic a person knows they are looking at Moonstone. Tiny tension cracks appear as pairs with tiny shorter cracks emanating perpendicularly along the length of the pair.

They look like and are called centipedes! [Picture source: https://www.gia.edu/moonstone-quality-factor](https://www.gia.edu/moonstone-quality-factor) Moonstones can also have rectangular dark areas due to stress cracking or can have cavities. The most prized Moonstones are white to colourless, with high clarity and with a blue sheen.

Moonstones have a Mohs hardness of 6-6.5 and two directions of perfect cleavage. They can be broken by a sharp impact and may crack when exposed to high heat. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners should not be used on your Moonstone. Cleaning with soapy water and a soft brush is best. Keep Moonstone jewellery away from other jewellery when stored. A setting that protects the gem from impact or setting the gem in earrings, pendants or brooches is best for Moonstones.



Ironically, protection is one of the traits attributed to Moonstone. It has been worn by travellers and especially by those needing guidance in the evening hours. Because the moon influences water, some thought Moonstone was a good protective talisman to wear on sea voyages or while swimming. Moonstones have a long history as a talisman for fertility, love, and sleep. According to bejeweledmag.com, in India it was a traditional wedding gift and Middle Eastern cultures presented it to couples to ensure fertility and a big happy family. In some Eastern cultures Moonstones were thought to bring good luck as the changing reflections on its surface suggested a powerful, good spirit dwelled within. Magicians would plan to use the stone according

to the phases of the Moon. For spells of increase, they used it as the moon waxed. For spells of decrease, they waited for the moon to wane. Some people believed Moonstone would increase the garden's yield and fertility if planted in a garden under a full moon. Some used Moonstones in love spells or as a meditation focus. Some believed the stone had calming influences and could help those wanting to enter a trance. Romans, Greeks, and Hindus associated Moonstones with their lunar dieties and thought Moonstones were solidified rays of the Moon.

Moonstone has been used in jewellery since ancient times and in the late 1800's both the Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts artisans used Moonstones in their jewellery. Moonstones were also popular in the 1960's and again in recent years as designers and wearers appreciate its ethereal look.

<https://www.metmuseum.org>: Frankish Brooch, Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917 Accession Number:17.193.90: Gold sheet, filigree, moonstone/adularia, glass cabochons, garnets, mother-of-pearl, and moonstone



Traditionally Moonstones are cut as cabochons. A high dome cabochon is traditional to maximize the adularescence. According to Geology.com, the plane of adularescence is always parallel to the cleavage direction of the mineral. Examine the cleavage surfaces looking for adularescence. One direction will usually have much stronger adularescence than the other. Cut the flat base of the cabochon parallel to that plane.

Occasionally Moonstones are faceted which tends to heighten the brilliance of the Moonstone and hide some inclusions. Moonstone is popular carved as a cameo or man-in-the-moon face.

Sometimes doublets are made by gluing a slab of quartz to a thin slice of blue flash Moonstone. These doublets are much lower priced than a blue flash Moonstone cabochon, and the quartz top makes it more durable.

As with many gemstones there are some simulants out there. Synthetic spinel with a mirror-like back coating, glass and milky chalcedony have all been presented as Moonstone. Usually they look inferior to real Moonstone and are easily spotted. Sometimes a surface coating is added to "improve" the adularescence, but it is easily scratched or distorted with a rub of a fingernail. Lab created Moonstones don't exist yet.

Moonstones can be found in many places. The historical sources in Switzerland are considered depleted. Myanmar, Sri Lanka and India are the most important sources now, but deposits occur in Armenia, Australia, the Austrian Alps, Mexico, Madagascar, Norway, Poland and the United States (Pennsylvania and Virginia). I could not find any reference to sources in BC or Canada although there are feldspar deposits here.

Interestingly, Moonstone was named the state gemstone for Florida in 1970 to commemorate the Moon landings that left from the Kennedy Space Center; but Florida does not have any naturally occurring Moonstone. Source of pictures: <https://www.bejeweledmag.com/bejeweled-different-gemstones-time-periods/>

Sandra Cronan's antique cupid carved moonstone and diamond brooch



Anthony Lent's moonstone and diamond ring



VERNE BROOKS, RIP



July 2018



March 2018



April 2018



March 2018

March 2019

