



Next issue deadline: April 7, 2026
Upcoming meetings: Friday, March 27, 2026
Next month: Friday, April 24, 2026
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Club secretary: Crystal, secretary.hcr@gmail.com

Friday, March 27, 7pm Meeting

It has been lovely to see the sun again! Hope to see you this Friday at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) at 7pm, Friday, March 27. Thanks to those of you who emailed me photos for this issue of The Rocket!! Japan was amazing!! So I really appreciate your support in gathering March's content. Please keep your content coming!! Sharing your work helps new members see what's possible:-)

If you need to attend a 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!

Member News - Message from the President

Regarding the workshop chair's announcement of resignation at the February 27, 2026 meeting, the executive team accepted Jo Furrer's resignation effective March 11, 2026. We thank Jo deeply for all his work and time as Chair.



The workshop chair is now vacant and the executive team will work on holding a by-election.

Best regards,

Lucy Pridgeon
President
Hasting's Centre
Rockhounds

In this newsletter:

Workshops, Member
News and Upcoming
Events

Photos:
HCR Rock & Gem Show
Mar 14-15
Vancouver Rock & Gem
Show (aka Indi Gem
Show) Mar 20-22

2026 Rendezvous, Save
The Date - May 15-18

Library Update

How to reach us

March 14-15 HCR Rock & Gem Show

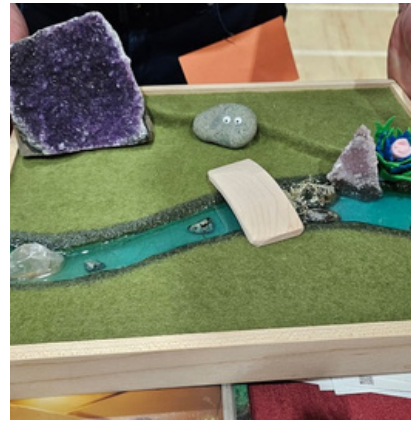
Photos provided by Midori, Lara, Claire and Richard

Hi Hastings Rockhounds,

On behalf of the club I just wanted to say a big thank you for every member that made our show this weekend possible!

From organizers who contacted vendors, booked the venue & tables, and prepped all the club sales and volunteers who made the grab bags, donated rocks and food for the concession. To those who volunteered for set up/take down, at the spin & win, auction, demonstrations, club sales, concessions or as a greeter and I apologize in advance if there are other roles I might have missed. Every single one of you made the show possible!!!

Thanks,
Crystal
Secretary



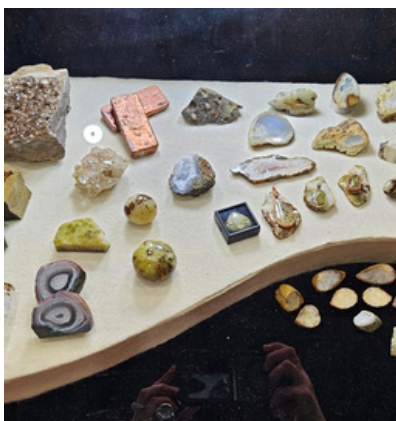
March 14-15 HCR Rock & Gem Show, cont'd...

Photos provided by Midori, Lara, Claire and Richard



March 14-15 HCR Rock & Gem Show, cont'd...

Photos provided by Midori, Lara, Claire and Richard



Gem Trees are one of the *many* fundraisers hosted by the club. You may have already experienced an auction after a club meeting where members and friends make donations of rocks which are then auctioned off, and the proceeds go to the club. These funds help purchase supplies and maintain and purchase equipment. Fundraising also keeps our workshop drop-in costs at that crazy, minimal fee! (where else can you drop in for \$4??)

Linda coordinates many of these activities including the making of gem trees, as well as the making and stuffing of grab bags. When you see a request to attend a grab-bag stuffing or tree-making workshop - note that the made items are generally donated to the club to become giveaways at Spin & Wins or grab bags at events. Kids really love our grab bags!

Oh, and we are planning a bead and wire spider workshop to create more donations for upcoming Spin & Wins - stay tuned for details!

March 14-15 HCR Rock & Gem Show - A Review

Photos and Review provided by Max



Friday – Setting the Stage...

There was, on Friday at 5 pm, a moment that felt like the first frame of a film—before the audience knows what it is they're watching. The hall at Hastings Centre stood wide and expectant, a blank stage under neutral light. And then—a sudden burst. A rush. From the doors they came—not the actors, not yet, but something more industrious. Tables streamed in like a disciplined tide, guided by hands into every corner, unfolded and placed with intention. Long lanes appeared, table islands emerged. A geography asserted itself across the empty floor.

At the center of it all stood Santé—the quiet conductor of an orchestra that already knows its music. With a glance here, a gesture there, tables shifted by inches, then settled into alignment. Counted. Recounted. Adjusted. A choreography of logistics, but with the precision of a crystallographic lattice—each unit cell finding its rightful place in the greater structure.



The club tables dressed, cloaked in BC jade green. The club's library rolled in—a folding shelf, stratified like sedimentary layers, each book a cross-section through time. Showcases followed, were lifted, aligned, forming an alley of vitrines as if in a museum. Their promising glass faces hint what is yet to be revealed: euhedral forms, textures that tell geological stories, gemmy transparencies, shapes and lustre transformed through lapidary work into colour, brilliance, and crafted expression.



In the snack and beverage corner, the signs of hospitality appeared: coffee brewing, snacks laid out—fuel for the worker colony. And below this growing world, another one unfolded. The cable team untangled coils with the care of lapidaries at the slab saw. A master plan quickly moved into motion. Cables ran like veins across the hall, taped down, branching into daisy chains, crawling under tables—like mapping a subterranean ore body - so that power could find its way to every future sparkle. It could have been mistaken for the set of a blockbuster film in preparation—the scale, the urgency, the silent coordination. But by the time the last cable was taped, the contradiction resolved itself: the actors arrived. Boxes of rough, trays of cut stones, cases of crystallized perfection. Quartz points, feldspar matrices, sulphide flashes, polished cabochons—each still hidden, patiently waiting for the right light.



Saturday — When the Stage Begins to Shine

By morning, the hall had transformed. into a living system—humming like a beehive, resonating with voices, footsteps, and the quiet electricity of curiosity. Thanks to strong outreach and well-spread word, the hall remained full *all day*. As you walked, something subtle happened. With every step, the angle shifted. A specimen that seemed dull became brilliant. Individual tables became stages, and the minerals—under deliberate lighting—performed. The gems began silently to dance. Quartz points shimmered like frozen lightning. Amethyst geodes opened like cathedral windows.



March 14-15 HCR Rock & Gem Show - A Review

Photos and Review provided by Max



March 14-15 HCR Rock & Gem Show - A Review

Photos and Review provided by Max

Malachite swirled in botryoidal greens. Agates revealed their concentric histories in quiet bands. Cabochons, perfectly domed, reflected light like calm water. Facetted stones—each pavilion angle carefully calculated—returned it as brilliance, scintillation, fire. Around them moved the cast: rocky rookies, wide-eyed and searching; gems were discussed with measured admiration; symmetry and potential spied where others saw only rough pebbles. The spinning wheel—our playful centrifuge of chance—clicked and whirled. Red. Green. White. Gold. Spin & Win. A moment of suspense, then laughter. Elsewhere, quieter but no less intense, the silent auction: the quiet calculation of numbers, the subtle competition, the incremental rise of bids beside a particularly tempting specimen. In another space, conversations turned to craft.

“Do you want to learn cabbing your stones yourself? Become a club member.”

“That would shine beautifully if you put some work into it—join our club.”

Newcomers hovered at the edge, considering their first step into lapidary work. A hobby forming—or perhaps the beginning of a deeper obsession. Mystery bags tempted the curious. Mystery books offered unexpected knowledge. The library table saw steady hands and thoughtful selections. And every hour, a voice rose above the hum—calling out a number. A pause. Then a cheer, as someone stepped forward to claim a door prize. And then—Showcase Avenue. Here, the finds told their stories. BC jade in all its character—from tough, fibrous nephrite to polished green brilliance. Local rocks from Fraser River bars and mountain ridges. Crystals and polished stones carrying whispers of ancient seas. Each display a personal narrative, curated with pride. In the kitchen, constant motion: steam rising from coffee and tea, snacks replenished, conversations continuing over sandwiches and cookies.

Sunday — The Quiet Shift

Sunday carried the same rhythm—perhaps with a touch more purpose. Now it was less about discovery, more about decision. Visitors returned, circling back to that one slab, that one cabochon, that one rough piece with “potential.” Ideas had formed overnight. Possibilities matured. The right material was sought—for cutting, polishing, facetting, setting. Hands hovered, then committed. Transactions completed—but more importantly, intentions set. Until, at 5 o’clock, something shifted. It began subtly. A box appeared. A specimen disappeared into it. Another followed. Then more. The choreography reversed. Tables, once stages, became packing stations. Cloths were folded—the jade green returning to anonymity. Showcases emptied. Trays stacked. The spinning wheel slowed, then stopped—its bearing warm from a weekend of motion, cooling into stillness. The cables—those veins of energy—were lifted, coiled, returned to their boxes. Voices softened. Movements quickened. And within an hour, the transformation was complete. The hall stood empty again. As if nothing had happened.

Epilogue — What Remains

Three days of excitement passed like a well-cut facet catching light—brief, precise, and memorable. Everyone left with something. Not just specimens—though there were many. Not just tools, books, or materials. But ideas. Plans. Possibilities. A rough stone waiting to become a cabochon. A slab destined for the saw. A gem to be facetted, set, and worn. Knowledge to be applied. Skills to be learned. On the way home—by car or on foot—there was a quiet satisfaction. And perhaps already, the beginning of the next project forming in the mind.



Thank you

And finally—our heartfelt thanks to all Hastings Rockhounds who made this event possible. To the organizers who coordinated vendors, secured the venue, and planned every table. To those who prepared club sales, assembled grab bags, and contributed rocks and food for the concession. To everyone who volunteered—during setup and takedown, at Spin & Win, the silent auction, demonstrations, club sales, concessions, and at the front as greeters. And to all those roles that quietly supported the show behind the scenes. Every one of you contributed to something larger than the sum of its parts. You made the hall shine.



Rendezvous Update - May 15 - 18, 2026

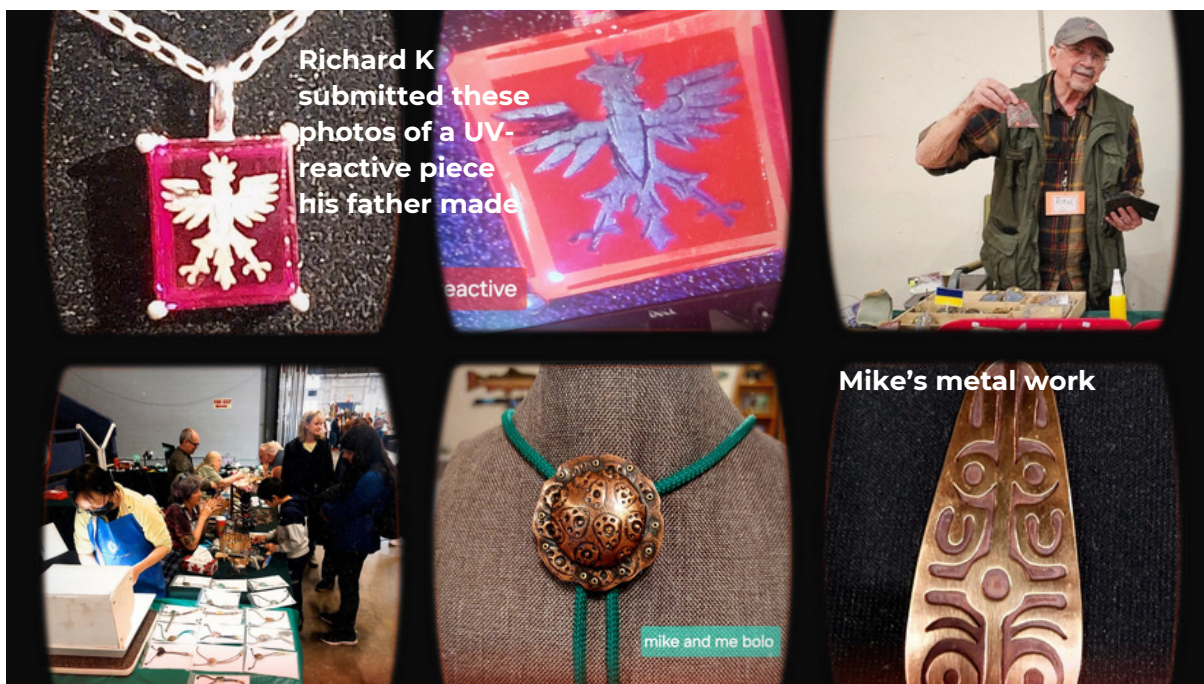
Rendezvous 2026 will be taking place from May 15-18, 2026, in Lillooet at Elks Hall, 920 Moha Road, in Lillooet. The Hastings Centre Rockhounds are hosting the event this year. Join fellow rockhounds for a fun-filled weekend of field trips, displays, auctions, our annual general meeting, and community. A DRAFT gameplan currently looks like this:

Friday: • Arrival • Reception / Informal Welcome Monday • Breakfast • Optional tours • Departure / scattering	Sunday • Social gathering • Lapidary-related activities • Additional rock-related events The organizing team continues to plan and prepare the schedule and registration forms. Updated information will be posted on our website and BCLS'S as it becomes available.
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March 20-22 Vancouver (Indi) Gem Show

Volunteering at shows is a wonderful way to spend time with HCR members and meet other rock nerds (a recent Indi Gem visitor's self-moniker, which I proudly share).

These photos were forwarded from Saturday at the Forum, from Richard K. Thanks!!



March 20-22 Vancouver (Indi) Gem Show, cont'd...

Demos are a great way to participate at a show! On Saturday I coached future Rockhounds to make beaded earrings:-) Here are some of their adorable makes!



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

Monday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructor: Jo or Renee
Wednesday (9 am – 12 pm) – **Silversmithing***
Instructors: Robert and Diane
Wednesday (1 pm – 4 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructors: 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.

Mike Ma has been running Metal Workshops Tuesdays at 6:30pm and Sundays at 10am. Monitor our FB for last-minute changes. It is anticipated that workshops will continue through May...

[Workshop rules and regulations](#)

March 2026 Library Update from Joyce



Apologies for this fuzzy photo but here is Joyce (left), captured in the wild, volunteering at this past weekend's Indi Gem Show at the PNE Forum.

Looking to take a break from screen time? Check out this new book in our Library!

- Play with Chain Mail / Theresa d. Abelew. Kalmbach Books, 2016.
- In this step by step illustrated book, Abelew showcases four simple weaves to create multiple jewelry projects. With a focus on using copper and other alloy metals, the projects are a great way to be creative on an affordable budget. With some simple design twists, you can also integrate your lapidary projects!



Got a chain-mail piece you would like to share?

We love a good Show & Tell! Please send a photo (along with your photo and brief bio!!) to:

edrocket18@gmail.com

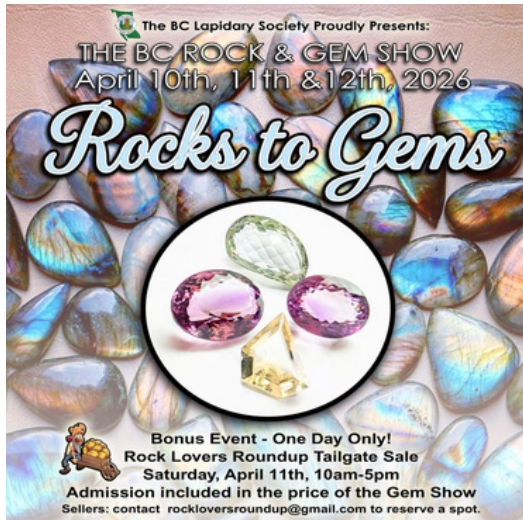
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Don't forget to Email me photos of what you're working on!

Upcoming Events



BC Gem Show April 10-12 at Chilliwack Heritage Park, 44140 Luckakuck Way

Adults - \$6.00
 Students (6 - 17) - \$2.00
 Under 6 (accompanied by an adult) - Free
 3 Day Pass - \$12.00

There was a call out for volunteers on March 10. Feel free to sign up directly if you are interested:

<https://app.unison.io/schedules/4LJq3dDCuc7vmEI97Yawjv>

Please direct questions to their volunteer organizer, Kelly Earles at kaearles2@gmail.com

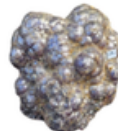


Hastings Centre Rockhounds Club

TAILGATE SALE



**ROCK,
MINERAL &
GEMSTONE**



**SATURDAY,
JULY 18,
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-Surrey
 (Hastings) Overpass Traffic Calming
 Implementation Plan for details.

Stay connected!
 Visit HCR'S and
BCLS'S websites
 regularly!

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

THE ROCKET	HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS
www.hastingscentrrockhounds.com Newsletter Editor: Nancy edrocket18@gmail.com	Hastings Community Centre 3096 E. Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V5L 2A3

Share this event with your networks!



Hastings Centre Rockhounds Club

TAILGATE SALE



**ROCK,
MINERAL &
GEMSTONE**



**SATURDAY,
JULY 18,
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

