



THE ROCKET

January 2025. next issue deadline Feb. 10, 2025
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Future Meetings: Monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month (no meetings July, August, or December).

Next Meeting: Friday, January 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
at Hastings Community Center Auditorium (on the main floor)
If you need to attend by Zoom, please contact Crystal for a link (email Program for next meeting (January 24)

Our Annual Winter Social and Annual General Meeting was hosted November 22 – election results follow...

*Vancouver Gem Show – photo credits:
Richard Kotecki*



Thanks to those who set up and staffed our interactive booth at the “Indi Gem Show” (Vancouver Gem Show) November 29 through December 1, 2024 at the PNE Forum.

As Western Canada’s largest gem show – there were over 100 vendors from across the country! Visitors enjoyed a wide array of “unique gems, fine crystals, rare fossils, handmade jewellery, fancy beads and findings, lapidary art” and more.

As a first-time club member volunteer, my favourite part was polishing and gifting stones to happy children! N.B. I am still meeting members and apologize for not having a complete roster of volunteers. I will endeavour to “take names” in future so we can thank all our industrious elves and organizers!

Stay tuned for 2025 Indigem show date!



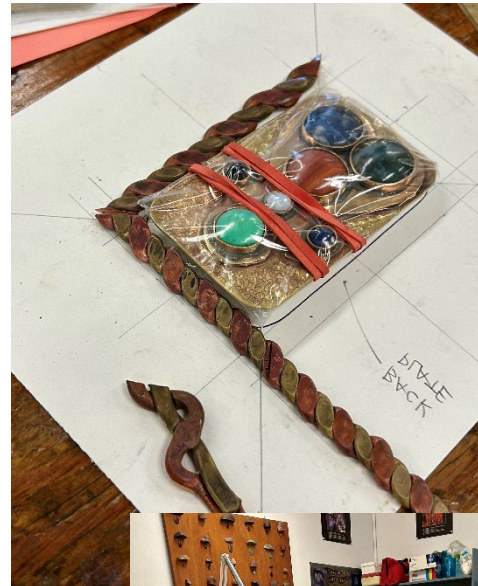
Crack a Geode, Maple Ridge Club – photo credits: Richard Kotecki



Corrugation Metal Jewellery demo and write-up by Mike Ma.

“We always start with showing our jewelry works in progress or works we’ve done in the past. Discussion follows with newsworthy happenings or books on metal arts.

- Laurie E. bought some great books on jewelry of the world which brings further projects in the future.
- Stephen T. has built a jig to twist twisted wires to make bracelets.
- Claire M. is a multimedia artist and has taught metalworks at the college level, produced public works in a grander style, and has really taken to jewelry which we understand as small sculpture. Visit her website at www.clairemurgatroyd.com
- Bob Walker continues to assist greatly in our class. He pressed up a beautiful butterfly (more photos to follow in the near future).”



A bit about Garnet, January's birthstone

Summarized from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) website and our AI pal, Google...

The name, garnet, “originates from the medieval Latin *granatus*, meaning ‘pomegranate,’ in reference to the similarity of the red color.”

January's birthstone is garnet – bracelet featured shows garnet mixed with black onyx for contrast.



These beauties have also been used for their brawn – apparently, since the Bronze Age as abrasives in addition to adornment for the clergy to royalty.

“Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colorless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.”

Customers regularly ask me about the healing properties gemstones may offer. AI summarizes these benefits to include physical, emotional, and metaphysical properties. If you are also curious and acknowledge that this is not intended as medical or professional advice - note that garnets are reputed to:

- increase energy levels
- help detoxify the body
- Improve blood flow
- stabilize emotions, including reduce stress / reduce anxiety
- chakras linked: heart and root – these are associated with love and grounding / stability

Zodiac signs associated with garnet include: Aries, Leo, Virgo, and Aquarius.

Crash intro to the Chinese Horoscope

There are 12 Chinese Zodiac signs which include: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Roster, Dog, and Pig. 2024 was the Year of the Dragon.

2025 is the Year of the Wood Snake. The Chinese Lunar New Year falls on January 29, 2025. The Snake “is associated with wisdom, intuition, and strategic growth.” Gung hay fat choy!

The Rocket, February issue, will feature Amethyst...

If you have some pieces / art featuring Amethyst – please email me photos and include a write up! It would be great to add more content from members and showcase their work whenever possible.

**Gung
Hay
Fat
Choy!**

Santa's Elves

The workshop was filled with activity as HCR elves cut, hammered and polished before the Christmas break!

**2025 Workshop
Schedule**

www.hastingscentre.rockhounds.com/workshop



2025 HCR Executive: Position, Name

**Meet
Your
2025
Executive**

Sunshine, Ely	Social, Sophia
Historian, Vera	Ways & Means, TJ
Director at large, Jacob	Workshops, Jo
HCR to HCC, Ely & Renee	Senior to BCLS, Dawn
Field trips, Kyle & Wes	Intermediate to BCLS, Nickell
Librarian, Joyce	Junior to BCLS, Meghan
Membership, Nickell	Treasurer, Renee
Programs, Sara	Secretary, Crystal
Newsletter, Nancy	Vice President, Diane
Publicity, Midori & Susan	President, Lucy
Show chair, Linda & Sante	



Figure 1 2025 HRC Executive - photo credit Richard Kotecki

Got something to share?

Email editor, Nancy Nesbitt:
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Workshop Hours

Members in good standing with the required lapidary training (usually during a workshop time), may drop in and use equipment on a first-come, first-serve (shared) basis. Be prepared to work on another project while waiting to use a particular piece of equipment. Regular workshop hours (below) are subject to change via email announcement.

Lapidary	Monday 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Jo or Renee
	Wednesday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David and Steve
	Thursday 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Tim and Daniel
	Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Robert
	Alternates:	Linda or Alex
*Silversmithing	Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00 noon	Robert
	Saturday 9:00am - 12:00 noon	Crystal and Robert

*Beginners to Silversmithing are asked to contact Crystal before attending. Instruction is available only at the Saturday session and there is a \$35 beginners' kit available with some starting supplies.

Earplugs & safety goggles: Members are reminded that they are expected to supply their own PPE once they have completed their training sessions.

Metalsmithing: If you have your own Tools and Materials, Michael Ma is hosting a Drop-in workshop (not instruction) time, Please see him to discuss attending.

Rock and Gem Shows

Feb. 22 & 23, 2025	Maple Ridge Lapidary Club, Albion Community Centre, Maple Ridge, BC
March 8 & 9, 2025	Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club, Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni
March 15 & 16, 2025	Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Hastings Community Centre, Vancouver

Remember to check our website and the BC Lapidary Society website for more information and field trip and event updates.

A reminder on memberships

Memberships were due January 1, 2025 but as we didn't host a December meeting, bring your renewal to our January meeting! Remember, you must have a valid / active membership to join workshops! (membership is \$20 for a single, \$25 for a family).

Club questions: secretary.hcr@gmail.com

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