



February 2025. next issue deadline Mar. 10, 2025
Editor: Nancy Nesbitt, edrocket18@gmail.com
Club secretary: secretary.hcr@gmail.com



Future Meetings: Monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month (no meetings July, August, or December).

Next Meeting: Friday, February 28, 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 (Feb. 28)

***February meeting education highlights –
Robert Walker “Identifying Characteristics of a
Mineral” presentation.***



As a newbie, I very much appreciate the opportunity to learn from seasoned vets about anything rockhound related! If you missed the last meeting, perhaps connect with Robert at the Feb. 28 meeting. His slideshow touched on mineral characteristics from Naturally-occurring through Crystalline and he also provided an overview of tests / observations that one can use to identify a rock or mineral in the field. Thank you, Robert, for taking the time to share!

***COMING SOON
Harvey Slade of Caveman Exploration***

Stay tuned for details on geologist, Harvey Slade’s upcoming presentation! Here are some photos, provided by Harvey, to whet your rockhounding tastebuds...



Walt Pinder, Maple Ridge Lapidary Club Executive member and past president of BC Lapidary Society

Walt spoke at the beginning of our January meeting – inviting our members to join the [BC Rock & Gem Show](#), “Crafted in Stone. The Art of Lapidary.”

April 11, 12 & 13, 2025

Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Chilliwack Heritage Park

44140 Luckakuck Way

Chilliwack, BC

Adults - \$6.00

Students (6 - 17) - \$2.00

Under 6 (accompanied by an adult) - Free

3 Day Pass - \$12.00

School groups please contact our [Executive Secretary](#) to book

Tickets available at the door

Parking by Donation to the Salvation Army

[Download Show Poster](#)

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to showcase your work and promote the value of our club. Expected overall attendance is over 3,000 visitors!

Trees Workshop by Linda.

Thanks to Linda for her *Trees Workshop* on Feb. 11. If you have gem chips in your rock stash – Linda can show you how to translate your inventory into art / decor!



Photo credit: Hua.

Silversmithing Drop-ins have been buzzing! Thanks instructors, Crystal and Robert!



Photo credit: Nancy.

Left: Bo, Crystal, Wes, Erin, Diane

Right: Midori, Lucy, Robert, Lynda, TJ, Savannah (Nancy and Steve in spirit, no photographic evidence...)



Our Gem & Jewelry Show!

Don't miss Hastings Centre Rockhounds 64th Annual Rock Into Spring! Our club's annual club show is almost upon us!! If you haven't already signed up to volunteer – please check in with Linda or TJ at our Feb. 28 meeting.

Hastings Centre Rockhounds Club
 64th ANNUAL ROCK INTO SPRING!
 March 15 & 16, 2025
 Hastings Community Centre
 Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[Download a PDF copy of the flyer off our website!](#)

N.B. If you would like to visit other clubs' events – monitor [our website](#) for updates!

Other Clubs' Rock and Gem Shows

Feb. 22 & 23, 2025	Maple Ridge Lapidary Club, Albion Community Centre, Maple Ridge, BC	Demonstrations, vendors, stones, tools supplies. Live auctions, kids' crafter, sn and more.
March 8 & 9, 2025	Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club, Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni	Dealers, demonstrations, displays, kid's corner.
March 14, 15, & 16, 2025	Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society, Leonardo de Vinci Centre	Vendors and members selling stones, f crystals, and handmade items.

BCLS Field Trips

Stay tuned for field trip announcements at our monthly meetings and via emails. To stay up to date with the BCLS field trips, they are announced on the [British Columbia Lapidary Society Facebook page](#) as well as you can subscribe to the [British Columbia Lapidary Society mail list](#). You can also view their official [field trips page](#) for more information.

To join field trips you must be a member of a club within the BC Lapidary Society. As HCR members, you are also a BCLS member. [Learn more](#) about becoming a member of our club.

Last October's HCR Field Trip to Cache Creek

In case you missed it – here again are a few photos from an HCR trip last year... I believe the photos were submitted by Amy and that the trip was led by Kyle.



Feb. 13 Lapidary Condition Wheels' Update

Thanks to Jo for leading the charge to condition the new polishing wheels. Looking forward to trying lapidary workshops soon as I would like to learn what this actually involves! 😊 In the meantime, if you attend Lapidary Workshops – please send photos of what you're working on!!

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.

2025 Workshop Schedule

[www.hastingscentre
rockhounds.com/workshop](http://www.hastingscentrerockhounds.com/workshop)

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
NEW	Friday 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Richard and Al
	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.

Thanks to Dawn for her Enamelling Class on Feb. 16.

“Awesome class. Great students.”

Photo credit to Dawn.





February Birthstone is Amethyst

Adapted from the GIA website

Those born in February are lucky enough to call Amethyst their birthstone! Amethyst jewellery has ancient roots back to collections of royal families throughout Europe and Asia.

“The name ‘amethyst’ derives from the Greek amethystos, which means ‘a remedy against drunkenness,’ a benefit long ascribed to the purple birthstone. Because of its wine-like color, early Greek mythology associated the gem with Bacchus, the god of wine. Amethyst was also believed to keep the wearer clear headed and quick witted in battle and business affairs. Renaissance Europeans thought it calmed lovers overrun by passion.”

I took the photo (featured left) at my pilates studio. Not only are these gemstones beautiful, they have long been associated with “good health” as well as “personal empowerment and inner strength.”

“Russia was the major source of amethyst until the 19th century, when large deposits were found in Brazil. Once as rare as ruby or emerald, amethyst was suddenly in abundance. Today, the most important sources of amethyst are in Africa and South America. Brazil is still a major supplier, especially its southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, though the rough amethyst mined there tends to have a lighter color than amethyst found in other countries. Amethyst from Brazil sometimes forms in hollow, crystal-lined geodes so large you can stand in them....Bolivia and the US are also sources for amethyst.”

As Amethyst is a 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness, it is used regularly for jewellery, “but over time it may show wear and require repolishing.” To risk scratching / damaging pieces, one must take care when working with / while wearing Amethyst.

“Heat treatment is the most common technique for improving the color and marketability of natural amethyst....It can also remove unwanted brownish inclusions in some amethysts. Some amethyst turns yellow – to citrine – with heat treatment.” [[apparently, most commercially-sold Citrine is from heated Amethyst](#)]

A reminder on memberships

Memberships were due January 1, 2025 but we still welcomed several new members at our January meeting and some have already been participating in workshops 😊

Valid / active annual membership is required to attend any HCR workshops \$20 for a single, \$25 for a family.

Club questions: secretary.hcr@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you!

Email editor, Nancy Nesbitt:
edrocket18@gmail.com

Hastings Centre Rockhounds

Hastings Community Centre

3096 E. Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 2A3

www.hastingscentrerockhounds.com



Mar. 10/25 deadline for next issue