



Issue: March 2025
 Next issue deadline April 10, 2025
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Future Meetings:

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

Next meeting: Friday, March 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor). April Meeting is April 25.

If you need to attend by Zoom, please contact Crystal for a Zoom link at secretary.hcr@gmail.com

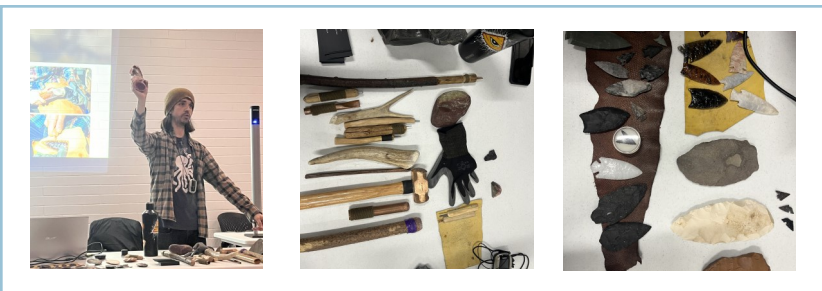
Feb. 28 guest speaker: Harley Slade, Go Metals Corp. presented on “Flint Knapping”

Ed. Correction and apologies: Harley’s name was mistakenly published as “Harvey” in the Feb. issue of The Rocket. N.B. Harley’s LinkedIn indicates that his new role is with Go Metals Corp.

We were pleased to welcome Harley Slade to our February meeting (thanks to Sara for organizing). Harley’s contagious enthusiasm for flint knapping harkens back to his early childhood. He credits his mom for helping him develop an interest in rocks which has led to his career as a geologist. Flint Knapping dates back 3.3M years to handaxes that were uncovered in Africa. Some suggested tools to begin your adventure:

1. Maps—QGIS and Map Place
2. Google Scholar
3. Field Trip (take one!)
4. Find the Rock—look for conchoidal fractures plus weak or no cleavage
5. PPE: gloves, safety glasses, dust mask

Thank you Harley, for introducing us to the world of Flint Knapping!



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Congratulations to new member, Hayley!

Hayley is studying Jewellery Arts at Vancouver Community College. This was her very first visit to an HCR meeting and beginner's luck brought her a *Ways and Means*' win!

Welcome, Hayley! And, a warm welcome to all of our new members. We look forward to getting to know each of you and seeing you at future workshops.

Our Executive noted we had 99 members in attendance at the February meeting!

New members! If you have a question, please email edrocket18@gmail.com we're building an FAQ to help you navigate all the great things the club offers!

Linda's Gem Tree Workshop, No. 2

Thanks to participants for sharing these photos of their lovely creations from their Feb. 25 Gem Tree workshop. We also want to thank Linda for taking the time facilitate this second Gem Tree workshop in February.



Mike's Metal Workshops most Mondays from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

Interested in learning to work with copper and other metals? Mike has been regularly hosting workshops on Mondays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Apparently, the skills one learns on copper are transferable to silver! So, if you are curious, please stop by and check it out.

Featured right are samples of some of Mike's beautiful work. Think of all the new techniques you could acquire!

Mike kindly spent the past two weekends demo'ing—first at our show Mar 15 and 16 and again this past weekend at the Indi Gem Show.

Thank you, Mike for teaching us new methods of working with



Fascinating Faceting

Nigel also spent the past two weekends demonstrating on behalf of the club. Here he is featured at our Mar. 15 -16 show joined by Susan, our webmaster. Susan offered jewellery-making demos during the HCR show. Thanks to both of you for your support!

More photos appear on the following pages from our show and the Indi Gem Show. We'll also post Facebook albums as there were LOTS of activities and displays over the past two weekends.

Upcoming Field Trips

Kyle mentioned at our February meeting that April was the likely month for a trip to Keystone Mine on the Coquihalla Pass—details to follow. I believe he mentioned galena is often mined here. For new members note that we try to organize a few field trips every year. Field trips do require that you bring your BCLS membership card and the good news is that your HCR membership included a BCLS membership! If you have not yet received your BCLS card, check with the membership table at our next meeting.

Upcoming Workshops

Ask at the next meeting if the next enamelling series has been scheduled. Dawn was considering running a monthly series and the dates were being worked out... Last month's Rocket included a photo of the incredible pieces created at the last enamelling workshop if you're curious.

Bold Bolos

Thanks to Richard for sending these photos of bolos members had made and modelled at our March 15-16 show!



The Next Generation of Rockhounds

During our March 15-16 show, there was a fun children's booth that was well attended! Here are some adorable and happy faces of future rockhounds! Thank you, Mina, for sending these photos.



*Jadeite discs from Myanmar available for \$1 for members to practice their skills!
Ask for information at the March meeting...*

March 15-16 HCR Gem & Jewellery Show highlights



March 15-16 HCR Gem & Jewellery Show highlights, cont'd.

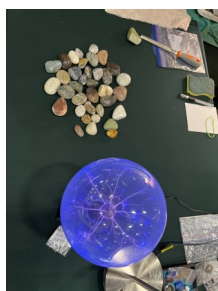
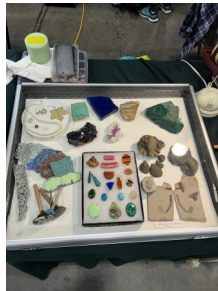
What happens at this show? Volunteers set up, tear down, staff the membership table, bake and sell food, run games / kids' activities, make and stuff fundraising grab bags, collect for and run silent auctions and meet and greet the public. Demonstrations run all weekend and several display cases of our work help guests get an idea of what we do. We'll post this photo album to Facebook and if others have photos of anything I may have missed—please send them along...



HCR Member volunteers ROCK (get it?)...

Vancouver (Indi) Gem Show, March 21-23 highlights

One of Western Canada's largest gem shows, including 100+ premier gem, mineral and jewellery vendors from across the country. HCR takes this opportunity to share our club with the public—and the best part is—these attendees already have an interest in rocks and gems. It is a fun and busy weekend! There will be another show later this year. Definitely volunteer next time as it is an amazing show, and you can meet vendors and shop after your shift!



These are only some of the members who helped out. Unfortunately, I don't seem to have photos of Renee and Jo? Thank you both for all your work on these events. No photo of Linda either — we know that those grab bags were a TON of work! The kids and adults loved them!!

2025 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.

Monday (10:00 am – 2:00 pm) – **Metalworks**
Instructor: Michael Ma

Monday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructor: Jo or Renee

Wednesday (9 am – 12 pm) – **Silversmithing***
Instructor: Robert

Wednesday (1 pm – 4 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructor: David and Steve

Thursday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – **Lapidary**
Instructors: Tim and Daniel

NEW 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

Alternate Lapidary instructor: Linda.

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 \$35 beginners kit with supplies needed for silversmithing.

Workshop Rules and Regulations are posted on our website:
www.hastingscentrerockhounds.com/workshop/workshop-rules-and-regulations/

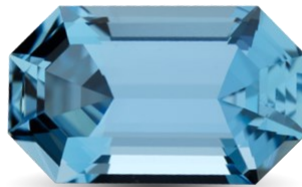
March birthstone is Aquamarine

Aquamarine has been said it aids in protecting one's well-being. The colour ranges from a green-blue to a lighter, blue hue. The faceted stones can be "clear as water, symbolizing purity of spirit and soul."



The name derives from the Latin word for seawater and the stone's history is associated with keeping sailors safe at sea. Apparently, aquamarine was "also thought to bring happiness in marriage."

Aquamarine has been mined in Brazil for the past 200 years. They are generally found in hard rock as well as "secondary (weathered) pegmatite deposits." It is also found in Pakistan where miners are forced to climb paths of elevations between 9,800 and 13,000 feet. They are now "also mind in Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia and Mozambique." The US, China, Myanmar, Russia and Ukraine are also current sources of aquamarine. With a hardness of 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale it is quite durable for daily wear and fairly easy care.



Purported benefits include calming / stress relief, emotional benefit, communication enhancement, promotion of insight, truth and wisdom as well as health benefits re

respiratory health, the immune system, skin conditions, as well as throat and thyroid.

Other clubs events

Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club April 5, & 6, 2025	Curling Rink 4835 Headquarters Road Courtenay, BC	Vendors, demonstrations, silent auction, rocks, fossils, gemstones, and activities for the kids
BC Gem Show April 11, 12 & 13, 2025	Chilliwack Heritage Park 44140 Luckakuck Way	Largest annual show in the province. www.bclapidary.com
Richmond Gem & Mineral Show April 25, 26 & 27, 2025	Richmond Library & Cultural Centre Richmond, BC	
Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club June 7 & 8, 2025	Campbell River Community Centre 401-11th Avenue Campbell River, BC	www.campbellrivergemandmineralclub.org
Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club Outdoor Tailgate & Garage Sale June 14, 2025	Central Heights Church Parking Lot 1661 McCallum Road, Abbotsford, BC	
Surrey Rock n'Gem Show July 10-13, 2025	Cloverdale Agriplex, 17763 62 Avenue Surrey, BC	www.cangems.ca
1120 Rock Club and Vernon Lapidary Mineral Club, July 11, 12 & 13, 2025	Rutland Centennial Hall, 180 Rutland Rd. N. Kelowna. BC	www.okanagangemshow.rocks

Membership has its privileges

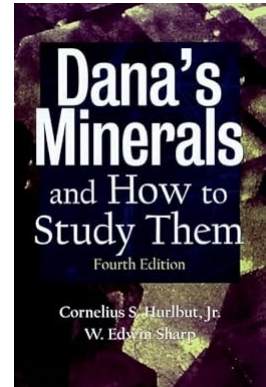
Memberships were due January 1, 2025, but we were welcoming new members in February and some are already attending workshops! If you have pals who are interested in learning about rockhounding activities — they need to become members to attend workshops.

\$20 for a single, \$25 for a family. Includes your BCLS membership which is required to attend field trips.

Club questions? Email secretary.hcr@gmail.com

HCR Library Catalogue

We have an [eclectic collection](#) of reading materials that rockhounds will appreciate! Visit our website for the catalogue.



Hastings Centre Rockhounds

Hastings Community Centre

3096 E. Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5L 2A3

www.hastingscentrerockhounds.com



We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have workshop ideas? Or would like to get more involved?

Email editor, Nancy Nesbitt

edrocket18@gmail.com

April 10, 2025 is the deadline for our next issue