



Next issue deadline: June 10, 2025
Upcoming meetings: Friday, May 23, 2025
Friday, June 27, 2025 (social)
Editor: Nancy Nesbitt, edrocket18@gmail.com
Club secretary: Crystal, secretary.hcr@gmail.com



Kamloops Rockhounding Adventure

by Lara

Ever wanted to have the courage to go out and rockhound by yourself? Have you ever had business in another part of BC and wanted to rockhound on the side? Well, that is just what TJ wanted to do! He had a conference for the mining industry in Kamloops; trying to network for a job. What a perfectly good reason to turn it into a three-day rockhounding adventure!

But how do you know where to go and what to look for? Exactly! This requires research, maps, and a sense of adventure! He decided to invite some Hastings' members along and two keeners joined him: Lara and Max.

As TJ and Lara were new to rockhounding in this area, they were grateful for Max's experience and exceptional, map-reading skills. In fact, Max, through natural selection, became our fearless leader and secretly we called him the Agate Master. As that was our mission, agates!!

We used the **Gem Trails in BC** book, 1st edition, by Cam Bacon (TJ's copy). I managed to get a 2013, 2nd edition (call number 549.9711B12g1) from the Hastings Library. When the first edition was published in 2002, it references an old pamphlet called **BC Gem Trails with Maps** by Howard Pearsons (call number 553.8p36b), found on the 7th floor of Central branch, in the special collection reference area. These books help us scope areas of interest. We picked a location via directions from the book, and went from there... I also had detailed maps from the **BC Back Road Atlas**. Mainly, we wanted to be prepared with resourced materials, just in case! Max has a map App on his phone called **Pocket Earth Maps**, which was the real reason we were so successful in our search for agates.

Once exploring the different areas, it takes a bit of time to adjust your eyes to what you are hounding for....



In this newsletter you can expect:

Club Updates

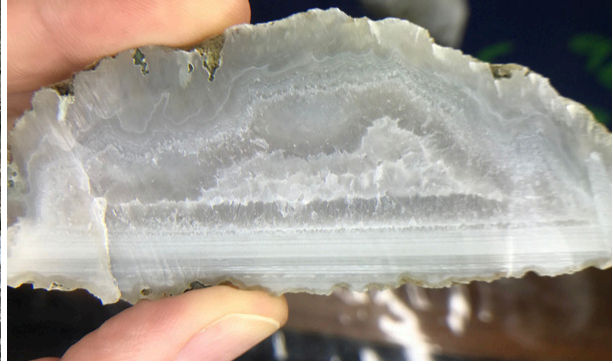
April recap

Field trip notes

Ways & Means

BCLS Membership has its privileges

Vancouver fine-stone building walking tour



Kamloops Rockhounding Adventure, continued...

Meaning, there is always an adjustment period. Take your time and look at the terrain, the rocks and geological features. Also, safety first! When on the trails, cliff side and head-down hunting, be sure to watch out for each other. Falling rocks or slips should be hazards avoided.

So over the three days; we went to the famous Monte Lake, Barnhartvale, Watching Creek, and travelled in the direction of home for the Spencer's Bridge agates!

We found lots of interesting agates, eye agates, red skinned agates along with quartz and a little bit of opal.

Landscapes alone were breathtaking because of the uniqueness of the Kamloops' geology.

I found a great big agate at the end of the hike at the Watching Creek location. So after hiking for couple of kms we were at the bottom of the ridge, at the river's edge, and this is where I found 'the big one'. So you never know, when or what, you will find. That is part of the journey.

I cut this agate on the slab saw to reveal water lines and crystal formations in the chalcedony. I am happy with the find - it is a find of a lifetime for me.

So don't be worried, get out there and have fun! Always look for rocks in the parking areas and if you like it pick it up, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



PS please see right for more details on how agates are formed.

PSS TJ got the job!

According to AI google:

Agates form at Monte Lake, Kamloops, due to the cooling and solidification of lava flows, which creates cavities and pockets within the rock. These cavities are then filled with silica-rich, water-laden solutions that slowly precipitate to form chalcedony, a type of quartz that is the main component of agate.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

1. Volcanic Activity:

The region was once subject to significant volcanic activity, resulting in lava flows.

2. Cavity Formation:

As the lava cooled and solidified, gas bubbles and water vapor became trapped within the rock, creating cavities and pockets.

3. Silica-Rich Solutions:

Over time, silica-rich, water-laden solutions seeped into these cavities from surrounding rock layers.

4. Chalcedony Precipitation:

The silica dissolved in the water slowly precipitated out of the solution and formed chalcedony, a fibrous form of quartz, lining the inner walls of the cavities.

5. Coloration:

The chalcedony can be colored by various impurities, such as iron oxides, leading to the wide variety of colors seen in Monte Lake agates.

6. Agate Formation:

The process of chalcedony forming within these cavities continues until the cavity is completely filled, resulting in the characteristic agate formation.

Monte Lake, known as a world-renowned spot for finding agates, is part of the Thompson-Okanagan region, which is rich in these popular rocks. The area is also known for petrified wood, some of which may also contain agate.

May 4 Quartz Island Field Trip



Thanks, Kyle!

photo credits: Edwin and Lara

If, like me, you missed the Quartz Island Field Trip on Sunday May 4th - here are a few photos submitted from Edwin and Lara.

For future reference, here's the scoop on participating in the HCR field trips - you must:

- be a member in good standing
- bring BCLS membership card
- register with the wagonmaster

Items to bring, cont'd:

- gloves
- food/water
- classifier/colander, gold pan are a plus
- share your phone number and emergency contact
- if you are driving & can give a ride or if you need a ride
- number of members in your party & their names



- prior to starting the activity, sign in with wagonmaster, fill out waiver forms & show your membership cards

Items to bring:

- HCR & BCLS membership cards
- bucket/rice bags
- hand rake
- hiking boots



**Shout
out to
Max**

Thank you for donating the impromptu silent auction items at our April meeting!!



Crystalworks at our April meeting

- Crystalworks Designs Ltd. www.crystalworks.ca
- Andrea Lipsett, co-owner, Head of Logistics, CFO, Warehouse Manager
- Kiya Bergstrom, Tech Wizardess, Social Media, Andrea Junior

Thanks to Sara, we had the pleasure of meeting Andrea Lipsett of Crystalworks at our April meeting. Andrea described how her family's passion for sharing high-quality gem carvings, jewellery, and beautiful objets d'art with the world manifested into physical reality in their gallery at 1760 West 3rd Avenue in Vancouver

The goal of this gallery is to provide a "modern, tranquil, and health 'green' environment in which to explore the beauty and creativity of our Earth. If you'd like to join a future group tour of Crystalworks' gallery (date tbd), please email Nancy at edrocket18@gmail.com



New members' luck continues!

Our April Ways & Means' wins were dominated by new members! Demonstrating that you've gotta play to win - Jolene, Bo, and Hayley show off their goodies.

Every meeting, TJ sells raffle tickets for members to potentially win a row of rocks. It will make sense when you check it out at the May meeting - it looks something like this!



Mike and Dawn are team teaching

I don't have photographic evidence yet, but above are samples from one of Dawn's earlier enamelling workshops. And below, is a copper design pattern from Mike. Stay tuned for upcoming joint workshop dates - there has been some shuffling to accommodate long weekends, etc. They are also working out how best to "team teach" different skillsets. They thank you in advance for your patience.

Mike describes that you will make concave or convex bracelets out of 18-20 gauge copper/brass sheet metal which can be purchased through hobby stores or at Mountain Gem in Burnaby, Capilano in North Vancouver, or Lacy West in downtown Vancouver. He'll provide some small stock copper for punching out discs and doming for earrings and some tubing that can be roll milled into flat stock and twisted to make rings and bangles.





Full House at Monday Lapidary night!

photo credit: Richard

As we can't let Silversmithing have all the love - here's a photo from Richard of a full, Monday night Lapidary class. Check our [website](#) for workshop scheduling and monitor your HCR email news for last-minute changes.

Schedule

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 instructors are Linda and Alex.

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



BCLS Membership has its privileges...

Your HCR membership includes a BCLS membership. This is important! To participate in upcoming rockhounding expeditions, you will need to show your BCLS membership card. We also recommend that you visit the [BCLS website](#) for upcoming rock and gem shows from other clubs across the province.

Next up in our local area:

Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club is co-hosting with the **BC Lapidary Society** their AGM, Auction & a Pizza dinner (\$5), on Monday, May 19th, 2025 (Victoria Day long weekend), at Matsqui Community Hall, 33676 St. Olaf Avenue, Abbotsford BC. Rough timeline:
AGM 1:00 – 2:30
Auction viewing 2:30 – 3:00
Auction 3:00 – 5:00
pay & pick up auction items 5:00 – 5:30
Pizza, drinks & sweet treat 6:00 – 7:00

Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club Outdoor Tailgate and Garage Sale

June 14, 2025
Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Central Heights Church Parking Lot
1661 McCallum Road
Abbotsford, BC



Gemstone of the month - Emerald

Famous for their rich green color, emeralds are “often associated with rebirth, renewal, and growth. They are a highly valued gemstone, with a history of symbolizing wealth, beauty, and status in various cultures. Emeralds are also considered a traditional gift for 20th and 35th wedding anniversaries.”

These beauties can be found in Colombia, Brazil and Africa. As their hardness scale is 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs Scale of Hardness, they are more susceptible to scratching than diamonds.

Google and the GIA note that emeralds are known to: enhance intuition and clairvoyance, especially when held over the third-eye chakra. If you seek beads that have a piercing green but cannot afford emeralds, consider peridot or phantom quartz.



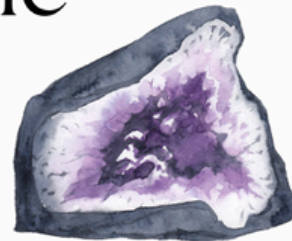
May 19th, 2025

BCLS AGM

&

Rendezvous Style Rock Auction

All are invited to the BCLS AGM.
Followed by a Rendezvous Style Rock Auction
Stay and socialize with your BCLS friends with
a pizza dinner after the auction



1:00 - 2:30 pm

BCLS AGM

Meeting with updates and
open discussions about
the BCLS

2:30 - 3:00 pm

Auction Viewing

60 lapidary and rock related
items up for auction.

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Rock Auction

Get a paddle and place your
bids! Don't miss out on quality
rock and gem material.

5:30 - 6:00 PM -

Pizza Dinner

Optional \$5/person pizza
dinner. Stay and socialize with
friends



Hosted by the Abbotsford Rock
& Gem Club

Matsqui Community Hall
33676 St. Olaf ave, Abbotsford BC

HCR Downtown Vancouver Fine Stonework Building Tour

Tour Guide: Paul

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Start time: 10:00 am; length approx. 4 hours (with lunch break)

Meeting place: SW Corner of Georgia and Granville Streets

TD Bank Plaza/across from London Drugs

Tour Sights:

1. Vancouver Block Building; 736 Granville St.
2. Hudson Bay; 674 Granville St.
3. Beedie School of Business (SFU); 500 Granville St.
4. British Canadian Securities Building; 402 W. Pender St.
5. The Permanent; 330 W. Pender St.
6. The Standard Building; 510 W. Hastings St.
7. Wosk Centre for Dialogue (SFU); 580 W. Hastings St.
8. Birks Building; 698 W. Hastings St.
9. Royal Bank; 685 W. Hastings St.

LUNCH BREAK

10. Canada Place/Pan Pacific Hotel; 999 Canada Pl.
11. Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel; 1038 Canada Pl.
12. The Marine Building; 355 Burrard St.
13. Terminal City Club; 837 Hastings St.
14. Credit Foncier/Jamieson House; 840-850 W. Hastings St.
15. The Exchange (Old Stock Exchange); 475 Howe St. TOUR

END

If you plan to participate, please contact Paul directly (pmpinsker@gmail.com). N.B. this tour involves walking on sidewalks and in buildings about 4km in total. If it is warm, bring water and prepare for the sun. A pair of binoculars can be useful for seeing details high up on buildings. Wear comfortable shoes!

*Thank you for reading!
next issue deadline: June 10, 2025*

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