

THE ROCKET

November 2024

deadline for next issue
January 10, 2024

Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com
Newsletter email: edrocket18@gmail.com
Roz MacLean – editor

Future Meetings: Our monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month.

Next Meeting: Friday – November 22 at 7 pm
at Hastings Community Center Auditorium (on the main floor)
If you need to attend by Zoom, please contact Crystal for a link

Program for next meeting (November 22)

This is our Annual Winter Social and Annual General Meeting.

We will elect a new Executive: Please consider, what do you do to keep this club going?

Wine and Snacks Social: Bring a snack to share- finger food only- and own mug
But **No Wine** - The Club will supply as per license.

Silent (and Blind) Auction: We have some finished pieces in time for Christmas shopping/gifting.
Buckets will be available to enter your bid (blind) and the highest bid wins (Auction).
Cash sales only

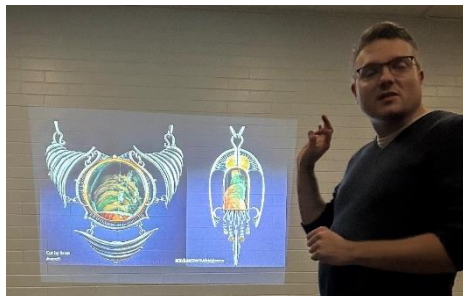
Come out and support your club.

A Reminder on Memberships



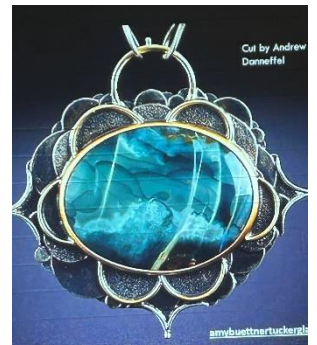
Memberships are due by January 1, 2025. We do not have a meeting in December so renewals will be at our **November** meeting. The perk of renewing now guarantees your contact information will be included in the BCLS directory, and you will be able to attend the workshop in January and you will receive your BCLS card (proof of insurance) in the first batch in January! (\$20 single, \$25 Family)

Program for last meeting (October 25)



As shared on Mike Ma's Facebook page: Andrew Danneffel, a seasoned member of the Port Moody club, delivered an exceptional lecture on Morrisonite at the Hastings Centre Hastings Rockhounds club's general meeting, showcasing outstanding examples of his work. His presentation was enhanced by offering exquisite slabs of Morrisonite for sale, further delighting club members and solidifying his reputation as

the master of Jaspers. (Thanks Mike.) *photos Richard Kotecki*



Ways and Means

We had some wonderful rocks in our last monthly raffle held after the business part of the meeting. You will want to get some tickets on this month's offerings. *Thanks, Crystal for the photo.*



Preparation for November meeting Please support your club

According to our constitution: A Nominating Committee shall be selected at the September regular meeting in the following manner: the President shall appoint one, the Executive Committee shall appoint one, and the club shall select one. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to select suitable candidates for each of the four (4) Executive Officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the club, and/or Special Directors for the coming year, and to provide a list of the candidates selected for publication in the notice of the Annual General Meeting and ensure that each member is informed of the duties of each elected position prior to nomination.

**The nominating committee will be appointed at the meeting and then they will be phoning you.
Elections will be at our November meeting.**

1. The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of those members holding the following positions:
 - Four (4) Executive Officers –President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer
 - Senior Delegate to the Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of BC
 - One chairperson convener of each of the following Standing Committees:
 - Field Trips
 - Library
 - Membership
 - Program
 - Publications
 - Publicity
 - Show
 - Social
 - Ways & Means
 - Workshop
 - The following special directors:
 - Delegate to Hastings Centre Board of Directors
 - Director-at Large
 - Historian
 - Sunshine

DUTIES OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, DIRECTORS AND DELEGATES

30. The **President** shall preside over General meetings of the club and over Executive Committee meetings, and shall be ex-officio member of all club committees with exception to Special Complaints Resolution Committee. The President shall be a signing Officer.
31. The **Vice-President** shall, in the absence of the President, preside as chairperson of General meetings and at meetings of the Executive Committee, and otherwise assist the President and other Officers in the exercise of their respective duties as may be required. The Vice-President will also be the club's Delegate to the Hastings Community Association's Program Committee. The Vice-President may also serve as a signing Officer in the absence of the President.
32. The **Treasurer** shall be the custodian of all club funds and shall sign all cheques for the withdrawal of such funds as are required from time to time, along with any one of following; the President, the Secretary or in the absence of the president, the Vice President. In the event the treasurer is unable to sign cheques, the president shall be one of the signers. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of the receipts and expenditures of club funds and shall report the financial position at each meeting of the club. The Treasurer shall also submit all records to an auditor at the request of a General meeting. The Treasurer shall be a signing Officer.
33. The **Secretary** or alternate shall attend all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee and record accurately all minutes and proceedings of every such meeting in a minute book to be provided by the club, shall receive and file all reports, keep or cause to be kept proper books and records in all respects of the business and affairs of the club, and conduct all correspondence of the club, also see clause 10, as directed by the Executive Committee in a prompt and efficient manner. The Secretary shall be signing Officer.
34. The **Field Trips Committee** shall arrange and supervise field trips for the club, and ensure that first aid equipment is available and, if possible, have present a member who is qualified in level 1 first aid. He/she shall also ensure that all participants on the field trip are members in good standing.
35. The **Library Committee** shall purchase and catalogue books and periodicals and care for them; shall acquaint members with titles of such books as are available, supervise the loan and return of books and magazines and collect fines for each overdue month.
36. The **Membership Committee Chair** shall receive all applications for membership, collect club dues, see that membership cards are issued; maintain attendance records at all meetings, ensure that guests sign the guest book and that they are introduced to those assembled at the meeting; issue copies of the Constitution and Bylaws, Workshop Rules and Regulations of the Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Rockhound's Code of Ethics, Vancouver City Code of Conduct, Respect Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedures, Respect in our Club Orientation Pamphlet and the British Columbia Lapidary Society By-Laws to all members; issue annually a list of the names and addresses of all willing members to each member and to the Lapidary Society; keep the Records of Orientation Completion; keep the club advised of the number of members to date, and report to the Hastings Community Centre on attendance at each General or Special meeting held at the centre.
37. The **Program Committee** shall arrange for programs for the General meetings, and keep the Executive Committee advised of future program plans.
38. The **Publications Committee** shall prepare and issue the club's publication, "The Rocket", and such other publications as the Executive Committee may from time-to-time request. "The Rocket" shall be distributed electronically or pick-up to all interested members of the club, and to certain other clubs and individuals upon request. A copy will be posted in the workshop.
39. The **Publicity Committee** shall arrange for publicity for the club and the club's Annual Show; shall send news items to appropriate magazines and to affiliated associations; and attend to other special notices. As part of the Publicity Committee a Webmaster shall maintain the Club's website.
40. The **Show Committee** shall organize and co-ordinate the club's Annual Show, its participation in the Annual BC Gem Show of the Lapidary Society, and any other displays and shows in which the club may

decide to participate.

41. The **Social Committee** shall be responsible for purchasing and serving refreshments for General meetings and for the Annual Club Show and other special functions as requested, as well as for arranging for the club's annual dinner.
42. The **Ways & Means Committee** shall be responsible for the raffle held at General meetings, including the purchase or receipt of donations of prizes, conduct of the raffle and recording of receipts and expenses, and shall propose special projects to raise money for the club if required from time to time.
43. The **Workshop Committee** shall be responsible for ensuring that all equipment in the club's workshop is kept in working order; shall purchase new supplies and equipment; shall keep a record of all receipts and expenditures connected with the workshop and report thereon to each General meeting; shall coordinate the arrangement of classes and, together with class instructors, ensure that the rules and regulations governing the use of the workshop are up to date and adhered to.
44. The **Director-at-Large** shall substitute for any officer of the club unable to attend any meeting (except that in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall substitute). Any officer of the club unable to attend a General meeting or a meeting of the Executive Committee should advise the Director-at-Large in advance of the meeting in question, and submit any report to be made through the Director-at-Large.
45. The **Historian** shall keep a journal of club activities; collect pictures, hard copy or soft copy, from members for scrapbooks and a slide collection of slides submitted by members as well as any other material pertaining to the history of the club.
46. The **Sunshine Director** shall be notified by members of the club of any special circumstances that might require sending "get well" cards, condolences or congratulations to members.
47. The **Delegate to The Hastings Community Association's Board of Directors** shall attend monthly meetings of that Board to report to it on the activities of the club and to keep the club informed of the activities of the Association.
48. The **Delegates to The Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of British Columbia**, as per BCLS rules, shall act as representatives of the club at meetings of the Lapidary Society, reporting to it the views of our club and reporting to the club on the activities of the Society. In particular, participation by one or more delegates or designate at the Annual General Meeting at Rendezvous is required.

*A note about the 3 delegates to the BCLS: **We will be electing the junior delegate** who will serve for 3 years, Next year the junior delegate become the intermediate delegate and then senior delegate the year after. Our current senior delegate will step down as the current intermediate delegate rotates into the senior position.

Club Activities: Members Rocks



Bob's Bison/Buffalo



David's Backlit Morrisonite

Photos: Lara McQuay

Richard's Butterfly World *photo Richard Kotecki*



Workshop Hours

If you are a member in good standing and have taken the required lapidary workshop training course (usually during a workshop time), you can drop in at the workshops and use the equipment on a first come, first served (shared) basis. Be prepared to work on another project if you need to wait to use a particular piece of equipment.

Shown below are the regular workshop hours. Changes are often announced by email. Some short programs are announced at meetings, maybe in an email, or in this newsletter. **Next meeting will likely have information on Enamelling and perhaps a Sunday 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
	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 with supplies needed for starting silversmithing.

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 time, 10-2pm. Please see him to discuss attending. **NO INSTRUCTION.**



Saturday morning silversmithing photo Richard Kotecki

Stabilizing Methods from Bob Walker

In March Bob gave a presentation to our club about stabilization of lapidary materials. Club members were very interested and Bob has graciously provided some notes. Parts 1 and 2 appeared in April and May Rockets. Part 3 was in the September Rocket and part 4 in the October Rocket. Here is the last installment. Thank you Bob for supplying your notes and teaching the club some valuable and useful tips.

Part 5 of 5

The simple method.

**** In a well-ventilated area.****

- 1) Dissolve the two tubes of EPOXY 330 in a cup of acetone in a mason sealer.
- 2) Spray the lid on the inside with PAM.
- 3) Mix well until no filaments are visible.
- 4) Place clean and dry stone slabs in the solution, close lid.
- 5) Allow to stand in cool 16-20 degree C dark place for 1 to 2 weeks.
- 6) Remove from jar place on aluminum covered cookie sheet and allow to dry completely in a well ventilated area.



Rock and Gem Shows

Nov. 30 & Dec 1, 2024 **Parksville & District Rock & Gem Club**, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre,

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

See the BC Lapidary Society website for more information or link to a website.

Vancouver Gem & Mineral Show at the PNE Forum, November 29-Dec 1, 2024

We need some volunteers for our club table at the show. Members can help by demonstrating (lapidary, gem tree, beading, soapstone carving, silversmithing etc.). We also need help from members to help promote our club to the wider community. You don't need to come for the full day, but at least give a 3 hour commitment for the side benefit of getting free admission to the show.



More information at the November Annual General Meeting, November 22 at the Hastings Community Centre.

Club Activities: Field Trips

On Thursday, October 17th club members did a 60-minute tour of the Pacific Museum of Earth And Minerals of the World! They had a great time. The mineral collection is home to some of the rarest and most exquisite mineral specimens found in nature. *Thanks, Lara McQuay, for the photo.*



Iris with Amethyst

Reprinted- slightly modified from April 2020

By Roz MacLean



Photo: mindat.org

This month's stone is

Jasper

In the latest newsletter articles on rocks, we've been looking at material that is more likely to be worked by lapidaries like ourselves, in our workshop.

In September we looked at the variety of quartz called **chalcedony**. Specifically, it was the **crypto-crystalline** (crystals too small to be seen by the naked eye) **quartz** (the chemical compound

consisting of one part silicon and two parts oxygen - silicon dioxide (SiO₂))

that is **transparent** to translucent, looks like a solidified gel, and is called **Chalcedony** in the gem trade.

In October we looked at **Agate**. It is also cryptocrystalline quartz, a **translucent** variety of chalcedony that is **banded**. This month we are looking at Jasper.

Jasper is the name given, primarily by lapidaries, to the cryptocrystalline quartz that is **opaque**. It often has interesting patterns and comes in a wide variety of colours. It is often multi-coloured. Many things get called Jasper that are not Jasper because they are opaque and sometimes because they are multi-coloured. More on that later, but for now, what we call Jasper is called different things by different people. Geology.com has a whole article on Flint, Chert and Jasper. They are names for the same material. The name used is impacted by the field of study, physical properties, where it is found and any historic use of the material. Geologists tend to use the word chert, historians and archaeologists tend to use the word flint, and gemmologists and lapidaries use the name Jasper. Jasper is especially used for material that will cut accurately, takes a bright polish, has an interesting pattern and a beautiful colour. The aim is to have beautiful cabochons or tumbled stones.

The name Jasper comes from Old French (jasper) and Latin (jaspidem) which came from Greek (iaspis) who developed it from Hebrew (yashpeh) or Akkadian (yashupu). It means spotted or mottled stone.

Jasper is an alternate birthstone for March, some say February when it is associated with the guardian angel Barchiel, or a birthstone for those born at 10pm. During the Middle Ages some scholars associated Jasper with Peter the Apostle so those named Peter used it as a birthstone. Jewelers of America say Jasper is an anniversary stone for the 34th anniversary.



According to Wikipedia, Jasper was known and mentioned in ancient times. In Mehrgarh (now in Pakistan), bow drills were made of green jasper between 4000 and 5000 BC. The English Egyptologist Flinders Petrie (1853-1942) thought the first stone on the High Priests breastplate was red jasper and the tenth stone may have been a yellow jasper. On Crete about 1800 BC Jasper was used to make seals for documents.

During the Ancient times and the Middle Ages powers were attached to Jasper; Engraved mottled Jasper was believed to protect the wearer from drowning. Others believed Jasper could repel scorpions and spiders and/or keep the wearer free from ailments of the chest, lungs or stomach.

Wikipedia: Male torso carved from red jasper,
Bronze Age, Harappa,
Indus Valley Civilisation, Pakistan



Photo: Russ Kaniuth,
Rock & Gem August 30, 2018

Up to more recent times the word Jasper was used for stones we now know are separate gemstones. The word may have been used for stones such as nephrite or even chrysoprase. The *Nibelungenlied*, a poem from around 1200 and written in Middle High German, describes Jasper as a clear green stone.

Today Jasper is the word used by gemmologists and lapidaries to describe microcrystalline quartz that is opaque with interesting patterns and colours. It is used for cabochons, beads, carving and decorative objects like ashtrays or bookends.



Wikipedia - German, early 17th century, Waddesdon Bequest, British Museum

Jasper is **cryptocrystalline quartz** with a large number of impurities or trace elements that cause the various colours. Jasper is found around the world occurring as veinlets, concretions and replacements in sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic rocks. Jasper is also common as pebbles on shorelines and rockpiles. Jasper often forms when fine particulate materials are cemented by silica precipitated from solution. The patterns are caused during the formation process by water or wind flow and how the original sediment or volcanic ash was deposited. The colour is based on the geology of the area which supplies the trace elements. Iron oxide produces red, brown, orange tones, but yellow, black and green tones are also found in Jasper.

Some Jasper is dyed to create more intense colours. Check for concentrated colour in cracks and surface pits if buying Jasper. Sometimes dyed jasper is used to pass for another rock. "Swiss" or "German lapis" is really dyed jasper. Look for the pyrite inclusions to find real lapis.

In the field, look for the conchoidal fracture (smooth, curved surface) that looks waxy or dull. If the conchoidal fracture is shiny and glass-like, you are looking at quartz or obsidian. If it is transparent and all one colour it is chalcedony; if it has bands of colour and is transparent to translucent it is agate; if it is opaque, it is Jasper. If the stone has both translucent and opaque zones some people use the term "jaspagate."

With a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7, Jasper is suitable for a rock tumbler and making into all types of jewellery. If Jasper is put into a steam cleaner it may break along fracture lines or veins and the colour may lighten. Soap and water should be all that is necessary to clean Jasper jewellery. Also, some say that because Jasper can be dyed and therefore may be porous, the colour could change or be stained by hairspray or perfume.

Jasper is usually not expensive. According to the IGS (International Gem Society), fine material, cut in designer forms generally ranges between \$2 and \$5 per carat, and commercial grade cabs could be 50 cents each, but some rare types of Jasper with unusual colours or patterns can be much more.

Interestingly and confusingly, Jasper is a name used for stones that are NOT jasper. Often this happens when a material is on the market and someone has not tested its chemistry or Mohs hardness. Some might be a type of mudstone that is too soft and is very different to try working with in the workshop. "Bumblebee Jasper" has a hardness of about 4 and is not a Jasper at all.



Jasper is often named for its colour: bloodstone, green or lemon; from its pattern: like orbicular, poppy, or landscape, or from the place it is found: Morissonite, Mookaite, or Bruneau. There are also localized trade names. As minerals.net put it, "Jasper has an over-abundance of variety names." They then give a list of 27 different varieties and I know some that aren't on their list! Jasper is found all over the world and BC has some good sites for rockhounding. Gem Trails of British Columbia by Cam Bacon has some good suggestions for sites to get started.

Geology.com [Mookaite](#) from [Mooka Creek](#) Western Australia.