NOVEMBER 2026

THE ROCKET

HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS VANCOUVER, B.C.

Next issue deadline: January 7, 2027
Upcoming meetings: Friday, November 27, 2026
Next meeting; Friday, January 22, 2027
Editor: Nancy Nesbitt, edrocket18@gmail.com
Club secretary: Crystal, secretary.hcr@gmail.com

Friday, Nov. 27, 7pm Meeting

See you at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) for our final meeting of 2026 and election. If you need to attend by Zoom, please contact Crystal for a link

IMPORTANT INFO: OUR NOVEMBER 27 MEETING IS OUR AGM, ELECTION, AND A WINE & SNACKS SOCIAL

Nov. 27 is our Annual Winter Social and Annual General Meeting where we elect a new Executive. Note:

1. Please bring Finger Food/snacks to share for the party, and your own plates and cutlery. DON'T bring alcohol.
2. Please remember to sign-in and show your membership card in order to receive a ballot for the election. Please review the election nomination list on page 4 (also sent to you via email).
3. For the auction please bring cash. Many thanks to Renee and Linda for their work on the auction. Renee has kindly provided photos on the next two pages.

Happy Holidays and see you in January!





Share your makes & HCR goals!

In this newsletter:

- Workshops, Member News and Events
- Important Info re Nov AGM & Election
- Nov 27 Auction teasers
- HCR Member - Photo Submissions
- Camping on the Ice: A Week at the King Citrine Mine, Adam from Rock & Rubble's submission
- Max's , Nov. 8, 2026, Tswwassen Rock & Gem Show review
- Linda & Midori visit a Rock & Gem show in Port Moody
- Workshop hours
- BCLS Calendar info
- How to reach us



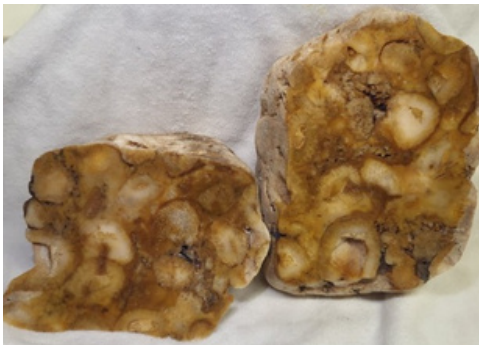


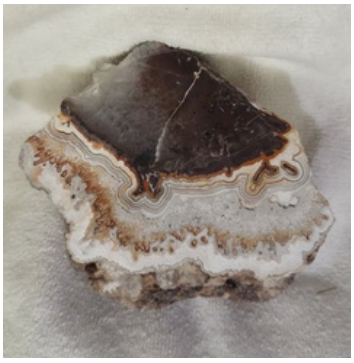


























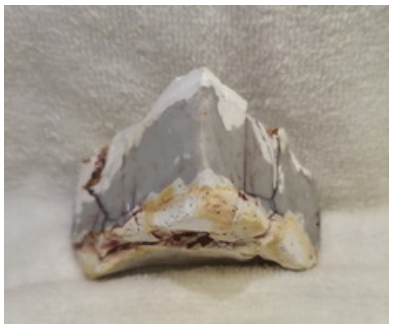












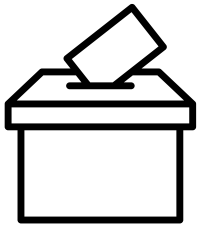
HCR Club Membership and Elections' Info

Memberships renewals are due by January 1, 2027. As we don't have a December 2026 meeting, membership renewals were offered in advance and emails were sent with instructions as to how to prepay in order to pick up your card at the November meeting. By renewing early, you will be able to attend workshops in January. Please monitor our website for membership details.

Report from your Nominating Committee

The following people have said they would stand for the positions indicated.

Position	Incumbent	Nomination	
President	Lucy	Renee	
Vice-President	Diane		
Secretary	Crystal		
Treasurer		Elaine	
Junior Delegate to BCLS (for 3 year term)		Susan	
Intermediate Delegate to BCLS (No election this year)	Ti		
Senior Delegte to BC Lapidary Society (no election this year)	Meghan		
Field Trips	Kyle & Wes		
Library	Joyce		
Membership	Nickell		
Programs		Midori	
Publications (Newsletter)	Nancy		
Publicity (includes website)	Midori & Susan		
Show	Linda & Sante		
Social		Manda & Amy	
Ways and Means	Bo & Amanda		
Workshop		Sante	
Delegate to Hastings Community Centre		Laurie	
Director-at-Large		Max	
Historian	Vera		
Sunshine	Elly		



Above chart reproduced from Nov 21/26 Club email.
Please visit our website for the full text of our Bylaws
and a full description of
DUTIES OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES,
DIRECTORS AND DELEGATES

HCR Photo Submissions by Members

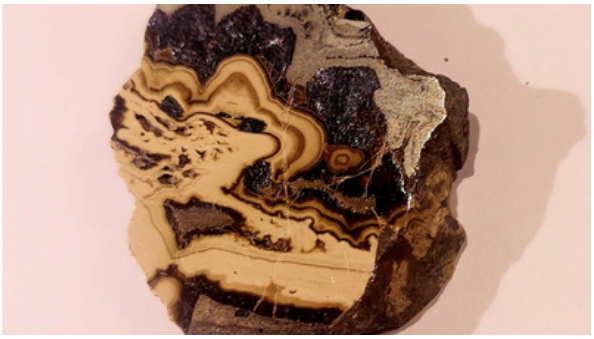
Submitted by Claire M

Thanks to Claire for sharing her new work, Oct 30, 2026

Pink petrified coral
Sodalite
B.C. Nephrite Jade
Vancouver Island Dallasite
and copper

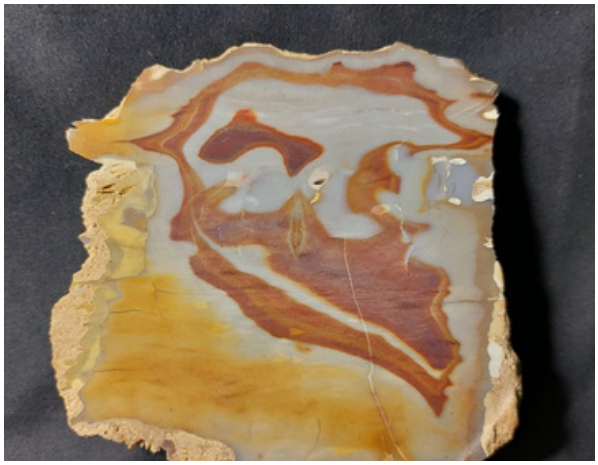


Thanks to Rick K for more of his "I Love Rocks" series









Camping on the Ice: A Week at the King Citrine Mine

By Adam Kelliher, Rubble Rock and Gem

I learned to cab at Hastings Centre Rockhounds in 2014. Since then I've dug at about 300 sites across North America, and for the last couple of seasons I've been flying into the mountains of British Columbia to dig crystals at the King Citrine Mine. This is what a week up there actually looks like.

No road, just a helicopter
There's no road in. You load your tent, food, tools and screens into a helicopter, the pilot sets you down, and then it flies off. It doesn't wait. You hear the rotors fade into the distance, and you're there for about a week until it comes back. Camp is a tent pitched right on the glacier, next to the dig site.

The good window is about a month. Go too early and the ground is frozen and every hole fills with icy meltwater. Go too late and a storm can pin you in the tent where the helicopter can't reach you.

Finding a pocket
Most of the time I'm not banging rock apart and gambling that something is behind it. I'm looking for breaches. Once weathering opens a pocket, crystals start falling out the front, and there's usually a concentration of them right below the opening. I trace those crystals back uphill to where they came from, and then I get into it.

Some breaches are a foot-wide tube into the ground. Others open into a real cavity, almost like a bubble.

This is why the glacier pulling back matters. Every season it uncovers fresh breaches before the crystals have scattered too far from the opening.

The tools are simple. Crowbars give me reach. A sledge opens a breach wider. After that it's literally gardening tools: little one-foot rakes and trowels to scrape the sand and mud out of the pocket. Mesh screens sift away the dirt so only the crystals are left. That cuts the weight in half before anything goes home in the helicopter.

What comes out of the pockets
Every pocket has crystals. Some are just quartz, beautiful pencil points, intact and plentiful, from about a centimetre to about ten centimetres tall. Then there's the actinolite quartz: clear crystals full of green actinolite needles, as if someone froze a handful of grass inside. Some of it is clean enough to facet. In 2025 I opened an actinolite pocket that was absolutely full. I filmed it, and then I hugged the whole rock face.

The citrine grew yellow in the pocket. Most commercial citrine is amethyst that's been heat-treated in a kiln. Most of ours is pale, and some of it is facet-grade. Every so often we hit a pocket with an almost neon, sunshine yellow, and that's worth jumping up and down over. Some crystals formed sceptres, and a few are ametrine sceptres, where purple amethyst grew on top of earlier yellow citrine.







Camping on the Ice: A Week at the King Citrine Mine, cont'd.

By Adam Kelliher, Rubble Rock and Gem

Camp life on the ice
I'm up early, sometimes before the sun, and everything is still frozen from the night, even in midsummer. My bones are cold. When the sun hits, the glacier comes back to life: ice creaking, little creeks starting to trickle and rush. I make tea and watch the birds scuttle along the ice having their morning breakfast of ice worms. Yes, you heard that right: ice worms. Some days I dig for an hour beside camp, other days I hike out for half the day. Dinner is a freeze-dried meal made with glacier water. When the sun sets there isn't much to do, so I'm in bed by 7 or 8, listening to boulders dropping off the cliff above and little landslides where the ice has pulled back.

The weather does what it wants. This past summer the forecast said 2 mm of rain for the whole trip. We got four days of nonstop rain and hail, sheets of ice on the tents every morning, and one day of wind so bad we never left the tent.

The close calls
Some crevasses in the glacier are so big you can hear water rushing a hundred feet down, and I don't go near them. I'll straddle a crevice within reason, but I've also shimmied across one-foot ledges in the rain with a heavy pack, hugging the cliff, thinking: why am I doing this for a rock? To me it doesn't feel dangerous anymore. But when I show friends the videos, they go from wanting to come along to quietly changing their minds.

Why I keep going back
Because when I stare across the sky from up there, part of me is happy that this is my office for the day. And a lot of what comes down ends up on the shelves at Rubble Rock and Gem in Vancouver, where you're welcome to come see it.

Thank you, Adam, owner of rubblerockandgem.com








A Rocky Sunday in Tsawwassen, Nov. 8, 2026

by Max Hesse



A story about geological treasures, suspicious banknotes, and magmatic muffins

It was a cloudy Sunday morning. Some rain was knocking cautiously on the window, while the wind chased leaves through the backyard. The small breakfast consisted only of a large pot of self-brewed hot chocolate, deliberately leaving space for potential treat opportunities later in the afternoon. At the bus stop, another passenger came running from quite some distance, carrying several bags. I gave the driver a hint, and he patiently waited until the runner caught the bus. Hopping onto the largely empty R4, I noticed some newly-planted trees along the road. Then SkyTrain across the North Arm of the Fraser River to Bridgeport, followed by the 601 heading south towards Tsawwassen while the sun carefully touched down through some gaps in the cloudy sky. The 601 was a double-decker, so naturally I occupied the upper deck for a better geographical perspective. Through the George Massey Tunnel, beneath the South Arm of the Fraser, with surprisingly little traffic. A smooth and calm journey, passengers coming and going, until I reached the South Delta Recreation Centre, home for the day to the Delta Rockhounds Society Rock & Gem Show. Several roadside signs, waving at me, guided me the last few metres, also tempting passing motorists with the opportunity for an unexpected glittering geological adventure.

At the entrance, a friendly team at the reception desk handed out door-prize tickets and invited visitors to select a polished stone from a pile of tumbled treasures with the words: "As every experienced rock enthusiast knows, it will be you picking the rock. But it is the rock that chooses you." An agate chose me, so I picked him. And so I entered the holy hall of rock enthusiasts.

Tables were overflowing with geological treasures from around the world: Brazilian agates and amethyst, Congolese malachite, lapis lazuli from Chile and Afghanistan, American thundereggs, golden topaz from Afghanistan and Pakistan, beryl and tourmaline with various colours and origins, Russian eudialyte.

Countless boxes contained polished slabs of every imaginable rock: agate and jasper appeared in 1001 shades of colour, with no 101 guidebook sufficient to describe their extraordinary diversity of textures. And then all the others: petrified wood, agatized dinosaur bones, amazonite, sillimanite, sunstone, obsidian, fossils, and even native silver in quartz. One inconspicuous pebble caught my attention. Completely black outside, obviously rounded in a riverbed, but revealing a beautiful piggy-pink core. Rhodonite, of course! Rhodonite commonly develops dark, dull manganese-oxide coatings during weathering. I had often heard about rhodonite in the Fraser River and other BC rivers, but also heard a lot of doubts about actually finding any. Not necessarily because it isn't there; of course, it is still rare, but because there are simply too many black, dull pebbles! You cannot pick them all up, hoping to discover one with a pink heart. A practical prospecting barrier. Unfortunately, this specimen had no documented locality. Perhaps from a location where black, dull pebbles are much more suspicious and equally worth being picked up to check their specific gravity. Given rhodonite's density of around 3.5 g/cm³, finds with notably elevated specific gravity would be worth a second look inside. Obviously, this particular pebble took the opportunity and chose its finder, got picked up, was brought to a new home, and was cut to reveal its hidden piggy-pink heart. Now it is waiting patiently on display for the next stage, hoping to find a lapidary enthusiast to transform it into an eye-catching treasure.







A Rocky Sunday in Tsawwassen, cont'd...

by Max Hesse

Back to the show. Beautiful lapidary pieces, crafted by club members and vendors, invited further exploration. Some spectacular opals displayed astonishing fireworks of colour, miniature spectral sparklers flashing red, green, blue and yellow with every movement. It almost felt wrong to return them to a static position on the display. They deserved perpetual motion under a light, playing their optical fireworks in an endless loop, like a favourite song you never want to stop.

Eventually, something caught my interest. Tiny – maybe just 5 mm large. Transparent. Bluish to purple. Extraordinarily hard – nine on the Mohs scale, to be precise. Just aluminium oxide, Al_2O_3, with a trigonal crystal structure. From Montana: sapphires from the Yogo mine! I already have sapphires from several geological environments: pegmatitic occurrences and granulites, high-grade metamorphic rocks, and isolated crystals from eluvial sediments with rather speculative parentage. But Yogo sapphires are different. They occur in a lamprophyre dyke that lifted the sapphires from much deeper, somewhere in the lower continental crust or perhaps even the upper mantle, depending on which geological interpretation one favours. Whatever their origin, the lamprophyre provided an impressive transportation service, carrying these tiny blue passengers through the Earth's crust. No comfortable upper deck, no scenic windows, a rough and bumpy ride with chokepoints, vortices causing stress and collisions among the passengers, and certainly no patient driver waiting for late arrivals. The lift might have taken only hours while everything around them was shaking and cracking, squeezing the magma through narrow passages while fragments of all kinds of surrounding rock accompanied the sapphires on their way up, giving the dyke more the appearance of excessive tectonic breccia with a wild mix of rocks embedded in a lamprophyric matrix.

Unfortunately, I had arrived rather badly prepared in one respect: lacking something mineral vendors particularly appreciate. Cash! So, I visited a nearby bank, inserted some hard plastic into the machine, and received flexible plastic in return within seconds. But between the complete banknotes were several additional chunks of banknote material. Strange! The expected type and number of bills were present, all apparently intact, yet the fragments came in addition. Where had they come from? They did not originate from the same original banknote. Thinking about machine tectonics, financial deep-rooted dykes, plastic fragmentation and cash entrainment, and who knows what path deep inside the vending machine these ones took, but not so much precious crystallized from these thoughts.

Back at the show, I completed the sapphire transaction. In contrast, what I had prepared for was the treat booth – keeping breakfast small. A fresh tray of wonderfully fragrant corn–pumpkin–carrot muffins had just arrived. Hot, highly recommended, and requiring absolutely no computational decision-making process. I took one with a generous curl of butter. Thinking about lamprophyric magma, deep-crustal melting and sapphire crystallization, I enjoyed the warm muffin melting between tongue and palate. A delightful transition aligned with rapid structural breakdown and completely satisfying consumption. A few additional samples from the generous treat selection followed as dessert. investigations of a scenic dessert buffet should never rely on just one sample.

While waiting for the tea water to boil and the tea to steep, Sylvia from the Delta Rockhounds spotted an opportunity for conversation. We chatted about the show, our interests in minerals and lapidary, club activities, outdoor adventures, friends, and fellow rock enthusiasts. As conversations among rock people tend to do, one subject led to another. Meanwhile, the clock became rather enthusiastic itself, rushed forward, and suddenly struck 4 p.m. The show was over.

I returned to the bus, heading into the topaz-yellow sunset underneath a sapphire-blue sky and back towards Vancouver, carrying a few new geological treasures and the pleasant satisfaction of a Sunday well spent. The little Yogo sapphires had completed another stage of their remarkable journey: from deep within the Earth, through a Montana lamprophyre dyke, into the hands of miners and collectors, to a stranger's collection in Vancouver.







A daytrip to a local rock show… Nov. 7, 2026

By Linda with photos by Midori

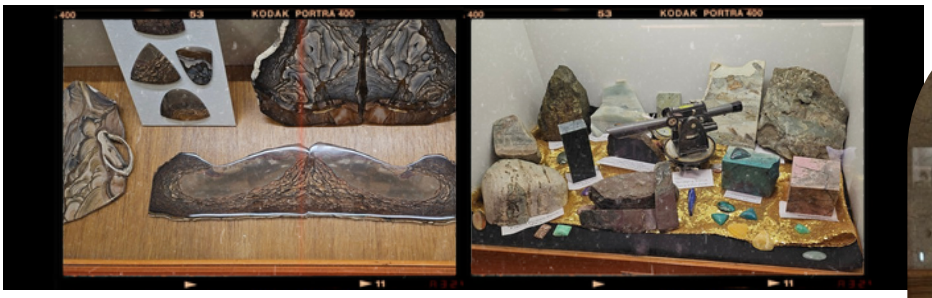
I picked up Midori from the Hastings Community centre Saturday morning since she wanted to participate in the silver smith class that day. We headed out to Coquitlam so she could pick up a ring she had bid on from an estate sale… then, after a good sushi lunch at a nice little restaurant on Austin Road, we then went down snake hill (Gatensbury Street) to end up at the Kyle centre. There we saw the 'usual suspects' there- Rozalia Brown running to the washroom as we came in and wonderful people who signed us in at the door. I asked Midori right or left? She said "good idea to leave the 'big room' for last"- as we headed right, there was an announcement to make sure you attend the auction (which was to take place at 2pm). I usually do not participate- but Midori insisted we do. Oh my, did we have fun!

I bid on a wonderful calcite crystal for $5.00. As items were won, there was consensus to make sure the newbies got some 'good stuff', but when it came to some nice pieces of fire agate on the plate, Bob and Renee came in with me to win the bid (we split the pot).

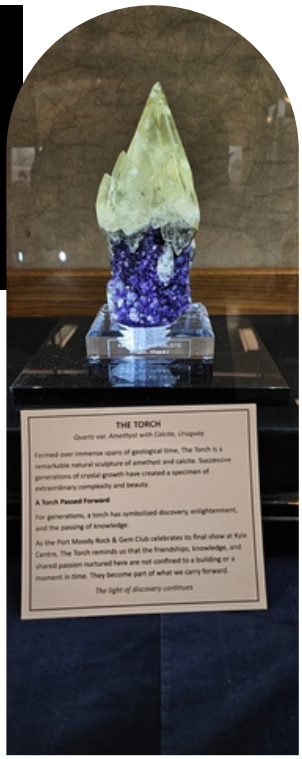
We ended up spending all that we brought with us, and when I checked in to see how Midori was doing later, - she said 'just a little more' as she tapped a square purchase that she just could not do without! Lots of laughs.

They had many good displays; the fluorescent tent is always nice. One was the most exquisite was a scepter "the torch". This was a quartz variety Amethyst with Calcite from Uruguay; the write up stated that "as the Port Moody Rock & Gem club celebrates its final show at Kyle Centre the torch reminds us that the friendships, knowledge and shared passion nurtured here are not confined to a building or a moment in time. They become part of what we carry forward. The light of discovery continues." The 'Sailor Moon' display was also quite the talk of the show.

Yes, the workshop space was very sad and empty, with only the leftovers still hanging around. There was much acknowledgement, that this was the last show at the Kyle centre, but the excitement around having a new space (and a new name) - Tri cities Club was everywhere as well. People were signing up and the members' table was well attended. Good times were had for sure. Linda







Workshop Hours

Always visit our website and monitor your email to confirm scheduling. At the time of writing, drop-in fees are $5 for lapidary per session and $4 for silversmithing per session. PLUS, kit fees for first timers...

Schedule
Monday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – Lapidary
Instructor: Renee
*Tuesday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – Silversmith
Instructor: Diane
**Wednesday (9 am – 12 pm) – Open Workshop
No instruction, Bob on site
Thursday (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm) – Lapidary
Instructors: Dan and Tim
Friday (12 pm – 4 pm) – Lapidary
Instructors: Richard and Jim
Saturday (9 am – 12 pm) – Silversmithing
Instructors: Crystal and Bob
Saturday (1 pm – 4 pm) – Lapidary
Instructor: Bob
Alternate Lapidary instructors are Linda and Alex.
The restart of Metalwork sessions is to be decided.
Schedule is subject to change based on instructor availability.
Changes are announced by email.

Drop in fees: $5 for Lapidary per session
$4 for Silversmithing per session
Introductory Training Courses:
Lapidary: $25, which covers your drop-in fee for the first 3 sessions in the workshop, the lapidary workshop orientation package, and a starter rock.
Silversmithing: $45, which covers your beginner's kit for making your first project. Please note that you still need to pay the silversmithing drop in fee. Instruction is only offered on Saturdays, and you need to contact Crystal before attending.
Slab Fees: 25 cents per square inch for rocks other than jade
50 cents per square inch for jade
Workshop rules and regulations

*New from Nov. 17 this will replace the original Wednesday morning silversmithing from now on. Workshop will be held by Diane.
**Nov. 18 - Dec. 16, to allow members to finish any holiday present, etc. There will be Wednesday open workshops (no instructions/no help) from 9am-12pm. Workshops will be held by Bob.



Upcoming Events

- Next Meeting, AGM, Election & Social November 27, 2026
- First Meeting for 2027: Friday, January 22, 2027
- Dec. 12 - Hastings Community Centre's Breakfast with Santa - members have volunteered to help with an HCR activity - email Nancy edrocket18@gmail.com
- Dec. 18 - 20 Vancouver Gem Show (aka Indi Gem Show) at the PNE Forum, be sure to check your email for the Volunteer Signup Sheet from Crystal
- be sure to monitor our website and the BCLS website for upcoming Gem shows and Tailgates
- mark your calendars for our Annual Gem & Jewellery Show, March 13 & 14, 2027.
  Downloadable poster available on our website.



Thank you for reading!
next issue deadline: January 7, 2027

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



2027 BCLS CALENDAR

Featuring Rockhounding Photos from Around BC
INCLUDES BC ROCK CLUB SHOW DATES



Cover:
CathyWard-PMRGC (TCLS)

CALENDARS ARE $15 per copy!

Place your order from the online form:
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**Contactexecutive.secretary@bclapidary.comforthe form link*



January:
Nick Tsougrianis-HCR



February:
Myrriah Sherriff-CVR



March:
Linda Barber-KRC



April:
Lesley Killough-SRMC



May:
Jay Chen-RGMS



June:
Scott Krawetz-PDRGC



July:
David Myers-HCR



August:
Remy Kesslar-1120



September:
TonyHeisterkamp-1120



October:
Dean Bulfone-HCR



November:
Arthur Demsky-ARGC



December:
Joyce Wong-HCR

Payment can be made via e-transfer to bclstr@gmail.com
You can also mail cheques to:
British Columbia Lapidary Society, PO Box 254, Station A, Abbotsford, BC, Canada, V2T 6Z6

Order your BCLS calendars here: