



Next issue deadline: November 7, 2026
Upcoming meetings: Friday, October 23, 2026
Next meeting: Friday, November 27, 2026
Editor: Nancy Nesbitt, edrocket18@gmail.com
Club secretary: Crystal, secretary.hcr@gmail.com

Friday, Oct. 23, 7pm Meeting

See you at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor). If you need to attend by Zoom, please contact [Crystal for a link](#)

October's presentation will be from Bo about a recent rockhounding adventure!

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. For new members:

Wine and Snacks Social:

Please bring a snack to share - finger food only (consider offering a gluten-free or vegan option to round out the buffet!)

N.B. No need to bring wine as the Club supplies as per our license.

Auction: details TBA at our Oct. 23 meeting. In the past, we have followed a format where members bring a donation, place it on a number, and then numbers are drawn and the winner selects their item of choice off the board. Proceeds benefit our Club! Cash sales only!! Photo of a sample fundraiser for reference:



Share your makes
& HCR goals!

In this newsletter:

- Workshops, Member News and Events
- Important Info re Nov AGM & Election
- HCR Member - Photo Submissions
- Max's Vancouver Rock & Gem Show Sep 19/26 review
- Max's Surrey Rock & Gem Show Sep 27/26 review
- Canyon Spirit Train and Colorado Rock and Gem Shows 2026 - Dan and Dan's Summer Adventure
- Adam from Rock & Rubble book release
- Upcoming chance to volunteer!
- Workshop hours
- 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 can take place at our November meeting. By renewing early, you will be able to attend workshops in January. Please monitor our website for membership details.

Preparation for November Election

According to our Constitution: a Nominating Committee is selected at the September regular meeting - accordingly, September 25: the President appoints one member, the Executive Committee appoints one, and the club may select one. The duty of the Nominating Committee is to select suitable candidates for each of the four (4) Executive Officer positions (President, VicePresident, 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 reaching out to canvas nominees. Elections will be at our November meeting. As per the September meeting, our Nominating Committee includes Erin, Roz, and Manda.

The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of members holding the following positions (those elected in 2026 are named in parenthesis):

Four (4) Executive Officers –President (Lucy), Vice-President (Diane), Secretary (Crystal) and Treasurer (Renee)

Senior Delegate to the Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of BC (Dawn - this position is currently vacant); Intermediate (Nickell); Junior (Meghan)

One chairperson convener of each of the following Standing Committees:

Field Trips (Kyle & Wes)

Library (Joyce)

Membership (Nickell)

Program (Matt)

Publications (Nancy)

Publicity (Midori & Susan)

Show (Linda & Sante)

Social (Tina) (position is currently vacant)

Ways & Means (Bo & Amanda)

Workshop (Jo) (position is currently vacant, Richard, Jim, and Andrew are co-chairing until next formal election)

The following special directors:

Delegate to Hastings Centre Board of Directors (Elly & Renee)

Director-at Large (Jacob)

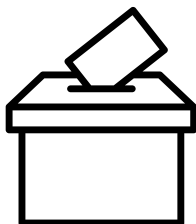
Historian (Vera)

Sunshine (Elly)

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

Photos submitted by Rick and Nancy on behalf of Midori



Rick submitted this \ photo of 7 rocks.

How many can you name?

Answer key will be available at the November meeting...



Vancouver Rock & Gem Show – Sept. 19, 2026

by Max Hesse

The sun is already peeking over the horizon, while the bus windows are still misted with the morning dew. On the bus line 49, I head east, straight into the dawn and towards the rising sun. The SkyTrain carries me over a low-lying stratum of morning fog blanketing the North Arm of the Fraser River, swallowing the sounds of the humming city below. It is a calm ride. Stepping out at Lansdowne Station, I am greeted by fresh, moist Pacific air. Far away in the hazy distance, the twin peaks of the Lions rise shyly from the northern mountain silhouette.

Descending from the calm upper horizon of the SkyTrain platform, I cross an abrupt acoustic boundary into the much noisier layer of street level, where traffic hums around me as I set off towards the Olympic Oval. I take my time, enjoying the architecture and the occasional pieces of art scattered along the streets, on buildings, and in small parks and plazas. When I arrive at the Richmond Olympic Oval, everything seems surprisingly quiet. A few solitary people hurry in and out, but there is little to suggest any great bustle inside. The foyer is equally calm. From somewhere deeper within the building, however, come the first acoustic clues: shouts, squeaking shoes, and the rhythmic thump of balls hitting the floor. A sign for the Mineral Show points upstairs, so I follow it—and head directly towards the growing commotion.

One level higher, the scene changes completely. The courts are alive with activity, with several variations of basketball being played at once. Referees watch closely from the sidelines as the players rush back and forth, making sharp cuts to outmanoeuvre their opponents, while spectators surround the courts—cheers erupting on one side, groans and protests on the other. Apparently, a tournament is in full swing. The Mineral Show sign points west, along a corridor past still more courts and increasingly hectic scenes: Players darting back and forth, balls fired in short, sharp shots, bouncing impatiently across the floor or soaring in high parabolic arcs, calls echoing through the hall, and bursts of cheering whenever another ball drops through a hoop.

Then, still in the hallway, beyond the crowds, another sign—with recognizable mineral stickers and “Mineral Show” lettering. Turn north. Running lanes are painted onto the floor, and straight ahead, perfectly aligned with the tracks, stands an entrance sign that unmistakably announces the Mineral Show. I have reached the home straight of the Vancouver Gem Show. Ticket acquired, and just one moment later I am right in the middle of the rocky & gemy bustle.



Vancouver Rock & Gem Show – Sept. 19, 2026, continued...

by Max Hesse



High overhead stretches an enormous vault of sweeping timber arches, with a vast volume of atmosphere sandwiched between the mineral-rich layer of the show floor below and the sweeping wooden strata above. Lights suspended beneath them shine like stars against a night sky, giving the whole show an unexpectedly grand and almost cathedral-like setting. Beneath this immense canopy, the mineral show itself seems almost miniature—even though there are plenty of dealers, their generously sized tables densely packed with minerals, rocks, gemstones, and all manner of mineralogical temptations.

There is plenty to admire. I chat with several dealers and visitors, and at some tables there is enough material to keep a mineral enthusiast occupied for quite some time. Yet somehow, nothing quite seems to call out for a place in my

collection. Then I meet Gord and Trisch from Jaded Jeweller, and we quickly fall into conversation. Gord and Trisch had attended Rendezvous 2026 in Lillooet, and we had joined the same excursion into Deadman Valley. Among all the boulders scattered through the grass there, Gord had spotted a particularly promising piece of basalt—the very rock I had already mentioned in the September issue. With its curious interstellar constellation of colour, texture, and sparkle, he had affectionately christened it Galaxy Stone. While we are chatting, Gord suddenly disappears behind his stand.

A moment later he resurfaces, beaming, with a nicely fist-sized piece of Galaxy Stone in his hand. With a broad smile and eyes sparkling like galaxies themselves, Gord hands me the beautiful piece as a gift. It has not been turned into jewellery. Instead, it is an edge piece of the basalt, ground and polished flat on one face—exactly the way I like specimens for my collection. Fortunately, its gravity was nowhere near that of a galactic black hole, but rather seemed well calibrated to keep such a treasure safely in place—whether in my palm or, eventually, in a showcase. Under the lights of the great timber vault, it is almost impossible to tell which flashes are reflections from the lamps above and which originate from the radiating, glittering inclusions within the basalt itself. The whole specimen seems to sparkle from somewhere between geology and astronomy. A fantastic little piece of rock. And one I accept with great appreciation.



We continue chatting for a while and examine various minerals and rocks under UV light. Some of the chalcedony shows an unusually deep, saturated green fluorescence—remarkable, and something I had never seen quite like this before.



Vancouver Rock & Gem Show – Sept. 19, 2026, continued...

by Max Hesse

I am familiar with the bright yellowish-green fluorescence sometimes seen in chalcedony and agate, rather reminiscent of uranium glass, but not this rich, dark green. Like the green fire from emerald.

I spend quite some time at several other tables as well, prospecting my way through trays, boxes, and displays. And, as so often happens when surrounded by rocks, minerals, and good conversation, time undergoes a curious distortion. Before I know it, early afternoon has arrived and it is time to begin the journey home.

My stomach, meanwhile, has started issuing increasingly unmistakable seismic signals. So I make one small detour. At CF Richmond Centre, I stop at Yogost for a delicious serving of rice yogurt, this time enriched with red beans. A rather satisfying final layer to the day's stratigraphy.



Surrey Rock & Gem Show, Sept. 27 2026

by Max Hesse

A proper field trip needs a proper breakfast. Mine consisted of buckwheat pancakes, made with Canadian-grown buckwheat, accompanied by applesauce I had made the day before from UBC apples, seasoned with fennel seeds—also harvested at UBC—and some Canadian cranberries. A very Canadian breakfast, with a satisfyingly high percentage of locally sourced components.

Breakfast done, gut happy
and sufficiently fuelled,
I got my things ready
and packed some stones, jewelled.

I took a few mineral specimen from previous tours along to show them to a friend I hoped to see later that day. I took the R4 to Joyce Station. The bus was full, but I had managed to get a seat. Apparently, much of Vancouver had somewhere to go that morning. Perhaps somebody else among the bus-filling crowd was heading to Surrey. Perhaps even to the Rock & Gem Show. At one stop, a lady on the bus suddenly recognized another lady waiting outside and started calling across the bus, signalling her to take the seat next to her. Meanwhile, I treated the ride as a sightseeing tour, with so much landscape flying past the window. Several construction sites I remembered from previous rides had noticeably evolved since I had last passed them: buildings had grown taller, some were approaching completion, and others had clearly moved on to interior construction. The season had progressed as well. Trees were changing from their many shades of green into the full autumn spectrum from yellow through orange to red, and noticeably more people had started wearing jackets.



Surrey Rock & Gem Show – Sept. 27, 2026, continued...

by Max Hesse

At Joyce Station I switched from the bus to the SkyTrain, which provided an even better panorama. What a view that day. At minimum, 100 km of clear vision. And there it was: Mount Baker. It did not appear as some pale silhouette fading into the atmospheric haze. It stood remarkably clear on the horizon, like a gigantic rocky chocolate muffin with a generous coating of white sugar icing. As sharp as a muffin held in your hand at arm's length could possibly be. It looked almost close enough to simply go there, cut a slice and call it a day. Conveniently, I was even travelling in that direction. The SkyTrain took me southeast as far as Surrey Central, followed by the 503 bus further southeast to 7155 187A Street. That was not quite far enough to reach Mount Baker. But it was far enough to encounter a remarkable number of considerably smaller mountains—displayed on tables, arranged on shelves, illuminated in showcases and sliced and packed in boxes. Today's destination: the Surrey Rock & Gem Show.

From the bus stop, I walked the final few metres through a park to the Clayton Heights Community Centre. I later heard from several people that the community centre can be surprisingly difficult to reach by car if one puts too much faith in certain routing apps. Apparently, the algorithms and the local road network do not entirely agree on its whereabouts. Travelling by bus and foot, I escaped this navigational anomaly and found it immediately.

The Surrey Rock & Gem Show I had attended previously had been at another location farther into Surrey, so this was a new setting for me. There was a farmers' market directly outside the community centre. The farmers' market triggered a memory of the current state of my grocery stockpile: some vegetables were needed—and, more importantly, cucumbers for pickling were on the shopping list. Just outside the entrance of the community centre I ran into René. Farther into the show I met Bob and Jo, along with several other familiar faces.

I had brought some mineral specimens for a reason. At the Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Show in Aldergrove not long before, a conversation with a friend had turned to one of my rockhounding trips from 2025. I thought it might be helpful to simply show him some of the finds the next time we met. So, that next time became today. Several good-looking specimens had made the journey to Surrey with me. Since I had a few duplicates, one specimen underwent a permanent change of collection and stayed with him.



Surrey Rock & Gem Show – Sept. 27, 2026, continued...

by Max Hesse

We spent quite some time talking about rocks, previous events, past rockhounding trips and, naturally, possible future expeditions. There were plenty of vendors at the show: some familiar faces, some new ones, and many opportunities to stop for a conversation or inspect something interesting. One vendor had particularly nice pieces of petrified wood. Another specimen that caught my attention was a large piece of Iceland spar. It was beautifully clear and demonstrated one of calcite's most characteristic optical properties exceptionally well: its strong birefringence. With a specimen of that size, the doubling became particularly striking. The image of a single written word entered the calcite—and appeared doubled when viewed through the crystal.

Eventually, it was time to head home. The way back have been as simple as the reverse of the morning journey: bus, SkyTrain, bus. René offered me a ride instead—but she was heading to Coquitlam, which was not exactly the direction I had in mind. A little later, I met Jo in the parking lot. He offered me a ride too. To Coquitlam. Still not the direction I had in mind. This time, however, Jo mentioned that he could drop me off at a SkyTrain station, which made the detour sound more like an acceptable exploration of new public-transit territory. Bob joined us for the ride.

It was only on the way that I learned that Bob had actually won the second auction prize: an elephant carving made from decorative stone. So one additional piece of lapidary art was travelling to Coquitlam with us. From there I had a considerably longer SkyTrain ride back toward Vancouver. After sitting for long enough, I decided to give my legs some action and continued with a walk through the city. I recapitulated the day, eventually triggering the memory of the massive Mount Baker. That enormous rocky chocolate muffin from the morning, with its thick white coating, had looked suspiciously edible.

Then, near Quebec Street and 2nd Avenue, my route took me past Earnest Ice Cream. Or, more accurately, I did not pass it. I went inside to check the menu. I did not go for the chunky chocolate, but instead chose, in a cone, a small Mount Baker-sized serving of blackcurrant ripple. Imagine a massive body of deep-white quartz cut by irregular, wavy veins of dark-purple amethyst. An excellent hand specimen: attractive lustre, broadly botryoidal in morphology, spectacular colour contrast, delicious to look at, pleasantly soft, and showing excellent streak behaviour on the palate. Ice, after all, is a mineral. While licking mineral specimens may be a debated practice among collectors, I had no such reservations about this specimen. Unlike most mineral specimens, however, it became progressively smaller with ongoing examination.

By chance, my route also took me past Whole Foods on Cambie, where I picked up a few things before completing the final kilometres home by SkyTrain and the R4.



Canyon Spirit Train and Colorado Rock and Gem Shows 2026

Dan and Dan's Summer Adventure

by Dan and Dan

The Canadian train company Rocky Mountaineer launched a version of their successful train trips through the Rockies in the U.S.A., from Salt Lake City to Denver in 2024. Stops along the way include the towns of Moab in Utah and Glenwood Springs in Colorado. Moab is at the park entrances for Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park. In 2025 they renamed the train trips, through the US Rockies, The Canyon Spirit. The majority of the trip follows the Colorado River and the many canyons that have been formed over millions of years. There are two- and three-day itineraries offered, our trip was for three days. We used the trip as a means to reach Denver to take in the large rock and gem shows that take place in September.



Salt Lake City to Moab Day 1

We boarded the Canyon Spirit early in the morning to begin our first day's journey. Our destination was the town of Moab where we would have dinner, spend the night and morning before reboarding our train. This first day gave us a taste of what was to come as we climbed the Wasatch Mountains and traveled along the Brook Cliffs to our first stop, Crescent Junction. Buses would take us into Moab traveling past the park gates for Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. The geological formations in this region were formed by volcanic activities. The soft materials have eroded leaving the harder materials in spectacular shapes which we viewed along the way.

Moab end of Day 1 and start of Day 2

The area surrounding Moab is famous for two things: outlaws and uranium. Outlaws, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, founders of the Wild Bunch Gang, prowled the region until they fled out of the country. Interestingly enough, the first two atomic bombs were almost entirely created from Canadian uranium from Port Radium Mine NWT. At that time this mine was producing silver and radium for cancer treatment, but uranium was unwanted and a difficult contamination to deal with. During WWII, the USA had only very small sources of surface uranium. Following WWII uranium was discovered in Utah securing the USA with its own source for the development of atomic bombs during the cold war.

Charlie Steen, The Uranium King, became fabulously wealthy, going from rags to riches, after he discovered the rich uranium deposits in Utah. He later lost his fortune, making poor investments. We had dinner at his former mansion overlooking Moab. During his prosperity time, Charlie was known for throwing famous parties for actors and politicians where his swimming pool was filled with champagne. To this day Moab remains a place to make western style movies. If you are interested, [read about Charlie](#).



Canyon Spirit Train and Colorado Rock and Gem Shows 2026

Dan and Dan's Summer Adventure, cont'd...

by Dan and Dan



In Moab we found a family-run rock shop, the Moab Rock Shop. A very funky store with colorful owners happy to share their treasures and expertise. Items were left outside for the taking, paying on the honor system. Inside we found a huge collection of Utah rocks, minerals, fossils, and radioactive minerals. A highlight for us was the Bayleyite with Andersonite which was fluorescent, displaying a unique teal colour for uranium salts.

Back on the train we headed to Glenwood Springs in Colorado. Following the Colorado River we started to see a change in geology going from volcanic to tectonic formations. Along the way we saw Pronghorn, closely related to giraffes, and radioactive railcars removing radioactive waste that had been dumped along the Colorado River before they knew the dangers that this presented. The entire railcar and its contents are to be buried eventually, at an undisclosed site. We also pass through Ruby Canyon which is largely inaccessible except by river raft or train.

Day 3 Glenwood Springs to Denver

Back on the train early today heading to Denver. The tracks will take us through Glenwood Canyon following the upper Colorado River and on to the Moffat Tunnel that crosses the Continental Divide, a 6-mile-long tunnel. We were passing through the Ancestral Rocky Mountains, a major system that rose approximately 300 million years ago due to the volcanic activity of the time, they are highly eroded. The Modern Rockies of Canada and the US are much younger (raised 80 to 55 million years ago) and were created by plate tectonic movements. After emerging from the tunnel, we started our descent out of the Rockies and onto the plains headed to Denver. This was a long day of travel encountering some delays along the way. The late arrival was no big deal as our hotel was only two blocks away from Central Station and the Denver Rock Shows awaited the next day.

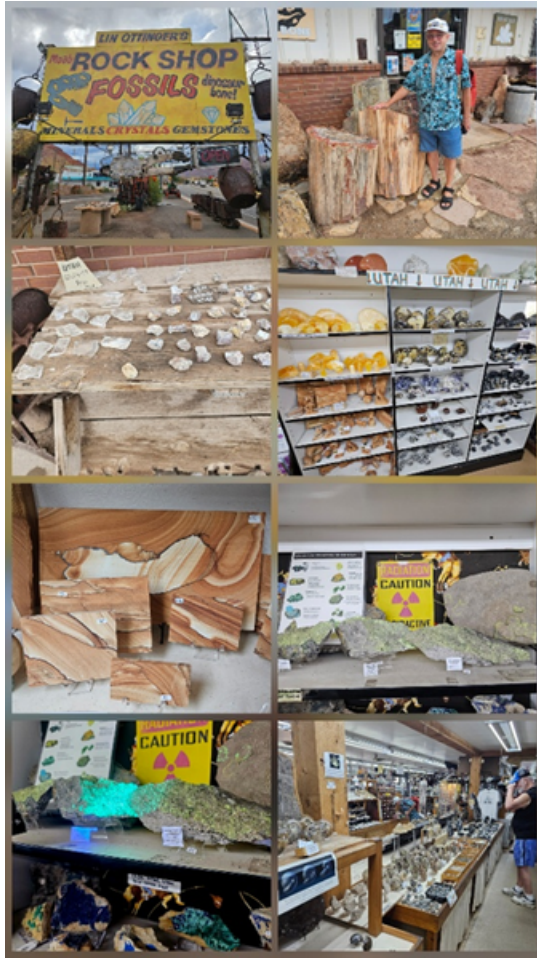
The Colorado Minerals, Fossils, Gems & Jewelry Show is one of the largest shows of its type in the US. Held at the Denver Coliseum over 9 days there are hundreds of dealers, collectors and rockhounds from across the States and the world. At the same time, and just a block away, The Denver Mineral, Fossil and Gem Show was being held at the National Western Complex making the events second only to Tucson in size and scope.

It was a short trip but it was packed with non-stop scenery and shopping adventures.



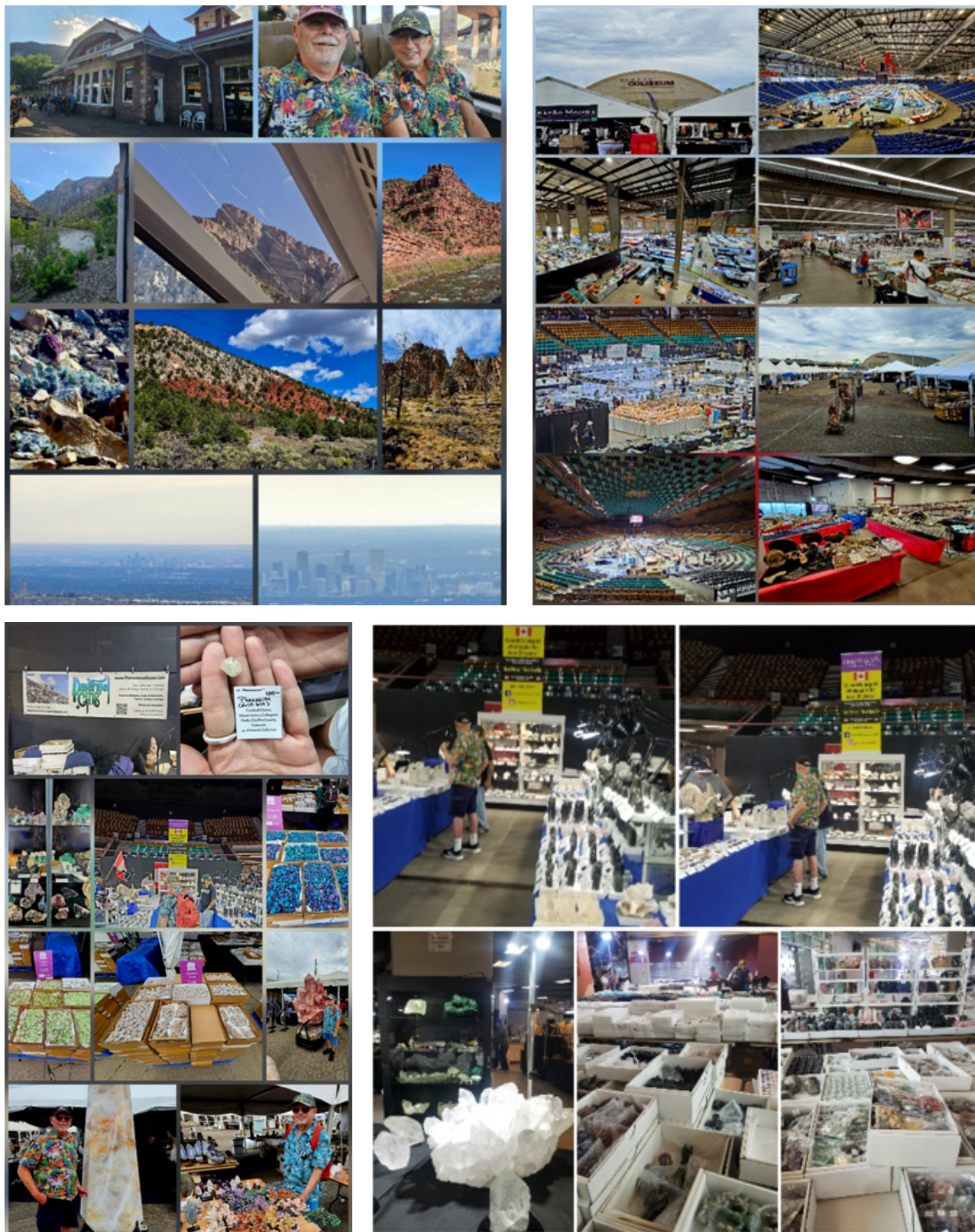
Canyon Spirit Train and Colorado Rock and Gem Shows 2026 Dan and Dan's Summer Adventure, cont'd...

by Dan and Dan



Canyon Spirit Train and Colorado Rock and Gem Shows 2026 Dan and Dan's Summer Adventure, cont'd...

by Dan and Dan



Snapshot of Upcoming Activities

- Next Meeting, AGM, Election & Social **November 27, 2026**
- be sure to check our website and BCLS website for upcoming Gem shows and Tailgates
- Dec. 12 - Hastings Community Centre's Breakfast with Santa - volunteer to help with an HCR activity - email Nancy edrocket18@gmail.com
- mark your calendars for our Annual Gem & Jewellery Show, March 13 & 14, 2027. [Downloadable poster](#) available on our website.



Thank you, Adam!

Last month, we had the pleasure of meeting Adam Kelliher, owner of Rubble Rock & Gem. I'm sure you'll agree that it was fascinating to learn about Adam's travels, adventures, and business.

It was particularly special to hear about Adam's connection to the HCR community! We were the workshop where he cut his first stone:-)

Please show support and consider purchasing Adam's new book which is available Nov. 20! Adam sent me this note last week:

Beyond Cabbings: A Lapidary Handbook

by Adam Kelliher

In 2014 I walked into the Hastings Centre Rockhounds workshop, cut my first cabochon, and got hooked. I rode the bus an hour and a half each way to get there, and within six months I was helping teach the silversmithing class. A lot of what I know started at those benches, learning from club members who were generous with their time.

Since then I've dug at more than 300 mines and dig sites, cut stones in Jaipur, India, and staked my own mineral

claims. Along the way I kept notes on everything that went wrong and everything that finally worked. Those notes became *Beyond Cabbings: A Lapidary Handbook*, a practical, roughly 600-page guide for cutters who've got the basic cabochon down and want to go further.

The book is in print and is available for pre-order now at rubblerockandgem.com, shipping November 20, 2026. Copies will also be at Rubble Rock and Gem, 250 SW Marine Drive in Vancouver, where club members are always welcome to come by and talk rocks. Thanks to everyone at HCR who got me started.

Adam Kelliher, Owner, Rubble Rock and Gem: rubblerockandgem.com



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

Wednesday (9 am – 12 pm) – **Silversmithing***

Instructors: Diane (temporarily cancelled while instructor away)

Wednesday (1 pm – 4 pm) – **Lapidary**

Instructors: Dave and Steven

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.

Please note that the 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](#)



Thank you for reading!
next issue deadline: November 7, 2026

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

