



Next issue deadline: October 7, 2026
Upcoming meetings: Friday, September 25, 2026
Next meeting: Friday, October 23, 2026
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Friday, Sept. 25, 7pm Meeting

WOW! These past months sure flew by:-) During our summer break the City enjoyed FIFA, our July Tailgate, the PNE, dedicated members cleaned and updated our Workshop and the equipment. Hopefully, some of you got in some R&R and made it out to do some rockhounding?? Oh, and we ran our first public beaded spider-making workshop for kids!

Looking forward to reconnecting with you all at Hastings Community Centre Auditorium (on the main floor) at 7pm, Friday, September 25. I believe that our first fall meeting kicks off with a special guest?

Meet Adam, owner of Rubble Rock & Gem

I don't think I can do justice to properly describing Adam or his business. He is colourful, fun, and dedicated to his craft and study. So come out and meet him on Friday and learn about his journey. If you want a quick peek in advance - here is a link to a Youtube intro he has posted:

<https://youtu.be/kwvPwD7pqIQ?si=woK4n8AHj3HQ3IPi>

Teaser: ask Adam about his introduction to our Club way back when - HCR provided a safe space for Adam to connect with other rock lovers and dabble in lapidary and silver smithing workshops 😊



Share your makes
& HCR goals!

In this newsletter:

- Workshops, Member News and Events
- September guest speaker, Adam from Rubble Rock & Gem
- HCR Member - Photo Submissions
- Workshop cleanup and repair update
- Max's Hastings Centre Rockhounds Tailgate Show review
- Max's Digging into the Depths - A Workshop Cleanup Adventure
- Remembering Dawn Mary Patricia Dutrizac-Larose
- Spider Workshop
- Workshop hours
- How to reach us



HCR Member Photo Submissions

Thanks to Richard K, Alex, and Donna



We received this photo (featured left) "lots of hearts by Donna". Perhaps we can convince her to share the love and elaborate on her project?

We continue to support Richard and Mike's "Bring Back the Bolo" campaign - enjoy these rhodonite and labradorite samples.

Note: My buddy attended our tailgate in July and purchased a set of bolo ties from Richard for the groomsmen in a bridal party he was rushing off to meet with. The bolo ties were a *huge* hit with the guys and the rest of the wedding party!



Master Lapidary Alex



Workshop Update

Rick, Jim, Sante, and Andrew



Workshop Update, continued...

Rick, Jim, Sante, and Andrew



Jim and Andrew fixing the geysers

For details of the replacements and work that has been completed in the Workshop, please speak with a board member or a member of the Workshop team. Lots of great work has been done over the past few months and as of the end of August - Rick, Jim, Sante, and Andrew report that every machine is now in good shape. With a note that the Flat Lap needs to be rebuilt and is a future project.



More Member Photo Submissions



Hastings Centre Rockhounds Tailgate Show – July 25, 2026

by Max Hesse

Despite a mostly cloudy sky and the occasional raindrop, the weather turned out to be just right for this year's Hastings Centre Rockhounds Tailgate Show. With pleasant temperatures around 20 °C and no significant rain, visitors had plenty of time to browse the displays and chat with vendors and fellow rock enthusiasts. I arrived shortly after 2:00 p.m., when the event was already well underway, yet there was still plenty to see and many friendly faces to meet.

Around twenty vendors offered an impressive variety and diversity of material. There were raw rocks, slabs, mineral specimens, single crystals, gemstone jewelry, decorative stone objects, and lapidary equipment—much of which could easily find a place in someone's collection or find use for someone's next lapidary project. A noticeable emphasis was noticeable on regional material from British Columbia, including rhodonite, flower stone, Dallasite, serpentine, jade, jasper, sillimanite ("white jade"), and many other colourful and nicely textured rocks. International material was also well represented.

As always, one of the highlights was the opportunity to meet club members, dealers, and visitors. Many interesting conversations took place throughout the afternoon, whether about local collecting sites, the latest finds from rockhounding trips, bargains and indulgences from Rock & Gem Shows, lapidary techniques, or the stories behind individual specimens.

As an example of the latter, one vendor presented a recently finished jewellery stone cut from a solid piece of compact basalt that had been found in Deadman Valley only a few weeks earlier during the 2026 BCLS Rendezvous. The stone features an interstellar-black, glassy matrix containing dozens of bead-sized and countless smaller, bright white, sharply defined orbicular inclusions. Many display a subtle radial texture that further enhances their star-like appearance. The larger orbicules resemble distant galaxies, while the countless tiny ones evoke individual stars scattered across the distance between them. The overall impression is almost as if the view through a telescope—revealing galaxies like islands and stars like sparkling lights in the obsidian-black ocean of the universe—had been preserved in stone. Truly a galaxy stone.



Hastings Centre Rockhounds Tailgate Show, continued...

by Max Hesse



Not every stone I had hoped to buy made it home with me. Surprisingly, it was not a question of price. A few specimens that particularly caught my interest were only available as part of entire flats, and purchasing a whole flat would have meant taking home many specimens outside my collecting interests—either because their locality was unknown and therefore of little interest to me, they did not fit my collection themes, or they were mineral specimens of a type I already had in equal or better quality.

Since the two pieces I was most interested in were located in different flats, I would have had to buy both. Besides being much more than I needed, I had not brought enough carrying capacity to transport them all home.

In the end, I purchased a single specimen from a different vendor. It came from Amethyst Bluff on Chrome Creek, upstream of Scottie Creek near Cache Creek. Some club members may recognize the material and recall the locations name, as blasted rock from this locality was temporarily stockpiled for upcoming road maintenance work.

During the 2026 BCLS Rendezvous, this stockpile proved to be an exceptionally convenient and productive collecting site, and many participants found excellent mineral specimens and lapidary material there. I chose this particular specimen because it contains several crystals whose identity I am not yet certain about. I plan to isolate one or two crystals for analysis. It is already thrilling, whether the crystals turn out to be a common mineral or something towards less usual and unexpected mineral species.

Back at the HCR Tailgate Show, judging from my conversations, many other club members were also or even more successful, finding one or even several specimens for their collections or promising material for future lapidary projects.

Once again, the Tailgate Show demonstrated what makes the Hastings Centre Rockhounds such a welcoming club: good conversations, shared enthusiasm, and the excitement of discovering that next special specimen. Here's to another successful Tailgate Show in 2027!



Digging into the Depths - A Workshop Cleanup Adventure

by Max Hesse

Have you ever wondered what is bulging in the back row in the cabinets, pushing back the boxes and items that you want to put in? Likely not the tools you use every week. Not the boxes and items you moved yesterday. I mean the things that quietly accumulate in the dark corners for months—perhaps even years—without seeing light of day.

Have you ever wondered why some shelves seem to fill themselves, why drawers feel heavier every month, or why there never seems to be enough storage space? Have you ever searched for a particular tool or rock specimen, only to discover countless other objects you had either forgotten existed or you can't even identify their purpose before finally finding the item you are looking for? Or remembered seeing a certain item just a few weeks ago, only to find that it seemingly vanished, while everything except what you were looking for is smiling and waving at you? You will eventually and finally find it but will also feel already more exhausted than expected only for setting up your next work step.

And what about those mysterious unlabeled boxes of rocks? How often did you open them, digging through them only to figure out what is in them and wondering if it might contain the sample or material, you are actually looking for? Only to realize that nobody quite remembers what is inside—or why it was kept in the first place.



At the base of Nancy's stairs lies a case in point... Lillooet's fabled treasures still boxed plus her silent auction winnings - all collecting dog hair as they patiently wait to be transformed...

If any of those questions sound familiar, you are certainly not alone. It was exactly these experiences that led to the club-wide call for a workshop clean up. A motivated team - barely two handfuls of club members - showed up on a Saturday morning to tackle one of the less glamorous but surprisingly rewarding, entertaining, and even thrilling tasks on the HCR to-do list: a workshop cleanup.

What began as a straightforward sorting exercise quickly turned into something resembling a rockhound's treasure hunt. Every expedition into the deep corners and every investigative inspection of long-untouched boxes felt like a small treasure hunt. Every shelf, drawer, and forgotten corner seemed to reveal another surprise. Buffing wheels that deserved to be stored where they actually belong were reunited with the polishing machine. Hidden beneath the saw - a discovered bag of rocks waiting for someone to decide its fate. Cindy's donated beads, their storage location having quietly disappeared from memory, suddenly resurfaced. Probably long-forgotten leather bags and other interesting items emerged from storage, now destined for future tailgate sales instead of gathering another year of dust.

Not every discovery was a treasure. Many items were either seemingly or truly just trash. A collection of worn-out and unused stools finally reached the end of their truly useful lives. Numerous unlabelled rocks were consolidated into fewer containers, creating valuable storage space. Samples whose identity remains uncertain were marked "TBD"—To Be Determined, or, as some might interpret it, To Be Disposed—rather than remaining anonymous forever. A follow-up inspection has already determined the fate of them. We also rediscovered a surprising quantity of small tumbling material—perhaps ideal for future sale in convenient grab bags.



Digging into the Depths - A Workshop Cleanup Adventure, continued...

by Max Hesse

One of the nicest aspects of the cleanup was that there was always somebody knowing the answer. What raised questions about an item's or tool's purpose for one person often turned out to be a useful tool or accessory for one or another rock-shaping process or to be used somewhere in the workshop. That collective knowledge helped to ensure that we keep useful stuff.

Some of the most valuable cleanup tasks did not involve rocks at all. Historical club documents were carefully scanned to create a digital archive. Besides preserving our club's history for the long term, digital copies will make these records much easier to access in the future while reducing the risk of losing important information.

Safety also received attention. A survey with scanning for radioactive material using a radiation detector during the clean-up confirmed that the rock storage is now safe to everyone to access. The personal protective equipment, as well as the first-aid supplies, was reviewed and gathered from scattered locations into dedicated storage areas. This makes it easier for club members to quickly find what they need and for the workshop supervisor and club board to monitor stock levels and replace consumed supplies. If you notice that something is no longer where you remember it being, don't panic. Chances are it has simply found a new home that seemed to be more intuitive. In several cases, similar or the same items were simply too much scattered across the workshop and are now again gathered at only one place. And if you cannot find something after the cleanup, consider joining the next one. Fresh eyes and personal familiarity with equipment are invaluable whenever decisions have to be made about what stays, what moves, and what can finally leave the workshop.

Was the cleanup successful? Absolutely. Is the workshop finished? Not even close. Only parts of the workshop were covered, and several shelves, cupboards, storage areas, and boxes still await their turn. Restoring a workshop is not a one-day project but an ongoing process. Every cleanup session creates a little more space, makes equipment easier to find, helps to maintain safety aspects, and allows everyone to spend less time searching and more time enjoying lapidary work. The next cleanup session will undoubtedly uncover more forgotten treasures, solve a few more mysteries, and perhaps even rescue another piece of HCR history from the depths of long-untouched storage territory. Who knows what is still waiting to be discovered?

But one thing for sure, a clean and well-maintained workshop is a club's treasure for its own. A treasure that makes the lapidary work enjoyable and productive experience to every user. But similar to our beloved crafted lapidary jewellery that might get dusty over time, the workshop also needs everyone's permanent engagement to maintain a welcoming atmosphere. A clean workshop is neither maintained by one person alone nor is it the responsibility of just one person. It is everyone's responsibility who uses it. If you have ideas or suggestions on how to better organize the workshop, or if you would like to participate in the next cleanup, please reach out to your instructor or the club board. Our club—and its workshop—thrive mainly because of the enthusiasm, commitment, and support of members and users.



Remembering Dawn Mary Patricia Dutrizac-Larose



Mar. 11, 1955 - Aug. 25, 2026

Dawn Mary Patricia Dutrizac-Larose, 71, passed away suddenly on 25 August 2026 at her home in New Westminster, BC, due to complications from pulmonary hypertension.

A service was held on Sept. 17, but if you were unable to attend - her obituary has been posted here:
<https://www.kearneyfs.com/obituaries/dawn-dutrizac-larose>

The page includes many lovely notes and stories from family, friends, and loved ones. If you have photos you would like to share with HCR for a commemorative slideshow, please forward to edrocket18@gmail.com



Snapshot of Upcoming Activities

- Next Meeting **October 23, 2026**
- be sure to check our website and BCLS website for upcoming Gem shows and Tailgates
- mark your calendars for our Annual Gem & Jewellery Show, March 13 & 14, 2027. There is a poster on the last page of this issue of The Rocket.

A New Generation of Spider Makers!!



On Sept. 16, Susan and Nancy gave a public workshop to a younger audience and several adults at Hastings Community Centre. Here are the results!! Apologies for the distracting background...



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 or Renee
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.

Our first workshop after the summer closure is Wednesday, September 9, featuring Silversmithing and Lapidary. 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.

***Beginners to Silversmithing** are asked to [contact Crystal](#) before attending. Instruction is available only at the Saturday session and there is a \$45 beginners kit with supplies needed for making your first project. **Lapidary** has a \$25, first-timers' fee which covers your drop-in fee for the first 3 sessions, the orientation package, and a starter rock.

[Workshop rules and regulations](#)



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

THE ROCKET	HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS
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66TH ANNUAL ROCK INTO SPRING!

Hastings Centre Rockhounds Club



GEM & JEWELLERY SHOW

March 13 & 14,
2027

(Saturday & Sunday)

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Hastings Community Centre
3096 E Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC,
V5K 2A3



Admission by Donation

*Knowledgeable Vendors,
Activities for Children,
Raffles, Door Prizes,
Demonstrations,
Family Friendly,
FUN FOR ALL AGES!!*



Hastings Centre Rockhounds
Club Website
hastingscentrерockhounds.com/



Hastings Centre Rockhounds
Club Facebook Group
facebook.com/groups/hastings.rockhounds

