B.C. Rockhounder
Vol. 11 Fall 2008

Attack Suvivor Strikes Gold
In Williams Creek

Summer Camp at Ft. St. James

Introductory Gemmology
Definitions Concerning Pysical Properties of Gemstones

The Furor over Feldspar

Fine Mineral & Fossil Cleaning Guide

Rockhounding in Maine

B.C. Rockhounder
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Contents

Cover Photo:
Chrysocolla & Malachite from Chuquicamata Copper Mine, Atacama Desert, Chile.
Photo by Win Robertson

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President's Message

Merry Christmas to all Rockhounds, May the holiday season be all you wish it to be.

By now the clubs have all begun the fall and winter sessions of club activities, workshops etc. Its a great time to take a class to improve your knowledge or even to teach a class and share your experience. Take time to thank your club executive for their hard work and consider volunteering yourself. The rewards are well worth the effort. Our new BC Lapidary Society calendar is out now and it is a beauty. Be sure to get your copy before they run out. Thanks to all who have worked to make it a success.

There is an exciting lineup of field trips planned for the new year, I hope to see all of you out enjoying our great province.

Happy New Year,
Walt

Large Diamond Fetches US $6.2 Million

HONG KONG — The largest diamond ever auctioned off in Asia fetched more than US $6.2 million to a private buyer at Christie's Auction House in Hong Kong.

The diamond is 101.27 carat gem about the size of a pingpong ball.

Cut from a 460-carat rough, the shield-shaped gem boasts 92 brilliant facets and certified F color.

While internally flawless, the stone was rated WS1 for clarity because of a slight imperfection on the surface that's imperceptible to the human eye.

Christie's says it is the largest colorless diamond to appear on the auction market in the last 18 years. Only three colorless diamonds of more than 100 carats have appeared at auction.

Naming rights have been granted to the new owner.

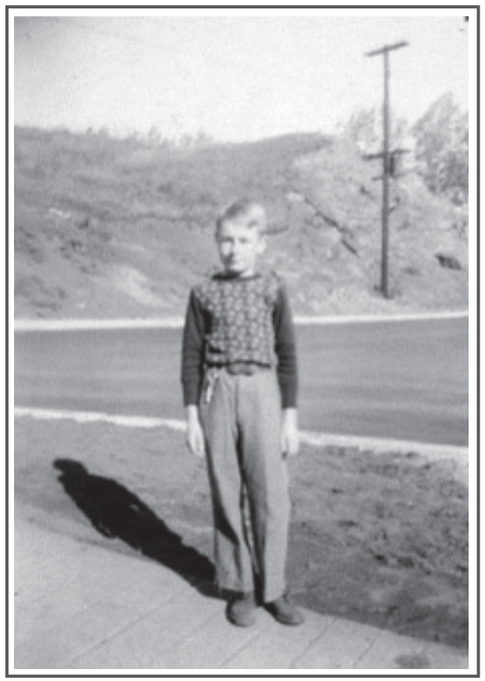
***AN EXCEEDINGLY** rare diamond of 101 carats set in a tiara was sold to a private buyer for US$6.21 million at Christie's in Hong Kong.*

My Mountain

By Bob Gregory

The picture shows Bob Gregory at the age of ten. But what is important in the photo is the background—"my mountain".

I lived my first 13 years on the corner of Pearl and Banning Streets in what was known in those days as Port Arthur. It is now in the east ward of Thunder Bay. This area, from the city to about 60 miles East is stuffed with showings of amethyst. “My Mountain” is a rock outcropping starting just 50 feet from my front door and stretching about 200 feet to the east. It is about 50 feet high. The kids who grew up here during World War II knew that they could dig into the rather rotten, heavily fractured rocks of my mountain and find amethyst any time they wanted. Not the beautiful deep purple crystals that you buy in a rock shop, but shards of massive crystal roots as often pink as purple. We would dig them out and trade them to other kids who lived in different parts of the twin cities who were not privy to “The Secret.” The object of the trade was usually some beautiful “aggie”or “cob” that kids used to shoot marbles at during school recess.



The neighbourhood kids would usually have a pocketful of amethyst crystals and a popular pastime was to show and compare stones. The ones with the deepest purple were the most prized, but also the very occasional one which might even have a small crystalline face with the striations so well known in quartz.

So I knew all about quartz and amethyst from about age four. It began a fascination that never died—dormant for most of my early adult years but rekindled later. About 50 miles east of Thunder Bay is a popular recreational area in which is situated Loon Lake.

The lake is lined with private summer cottages. My father and I would go there, along with an uncle (a returned vet who fought through Italy) and his two sons (my cousins were three and four years older than me) and park the car. We would hike into the bush about 7 or 8 miles and spend a week or ten days at what we knew as Hunter's 4 Lake. It is now marked as Elbow Lake on official maps. We would stay in an old timber cruiser's cabin and fish.

Cabin? It was a shack made of a frame of logs covered with heavy canvas that had been badly scarred by bears' claws. It had a ledge for abed and a dirt floor upon which we could build a fire to cook if it happened to be raining. The highlight of the trip was when my uncle allowed us three kids to shoot his (unregistered) Luger—a souvenir of the war.

At the end of the trip we would leave by a different route, crossing marshy ground only 200 yards from the cabin which later became the Thunder Bay Amethyst Mine. They sell beautiful crystals through their outlet, called the Thunder Bay Panorama. We knew there was amethyst in the area but not like that! There was also an outcrop of molybdenite near a beaver dam which we used to cross getting to “our” lake. Now, whenever I return to Thunder Bay, I bore the daylights out of the staff at the TB Panorama, telling them how I haunted their claim before they even knew there was anything of interest to be found.

Jewellery Tips & Tricks

Alternative Soldering Support

When positioning oddly shaped or delicate parts for soldering, using a "third arm" or binding wire is not always the best approach. For these difficult soldering jobs, try using scrap pieces of copper to keep your parts in place. Just bend the copper scraps into table or sling-like shapes to support your pieces, then coat them with a solder-flow prevention compound such as liquid correction fluid (e.g. WhiteOut™). The copper supports will keep your parts positioned, while the coating prevents solder from adhering to the copper. This technique works especially well with parts that are impossible to bind together with traditional binding wire.

Submitted by: Marilynn Nicholson (Taos Jewelry School)

Making a Miniature Brass Brush

Have you ever had trouble getting into small spaces with a standard-size brass brush? If you don't have a small brush at hand, you can easily make your own. Cut a small piece of copper or brass tubing (the type used for hinges on small boxes). Pluck several bristles off an old brass brush and insert them into one end of the tubing. To keep the bristles in place, simply crimp the tubing with a pair of pliers or your bench vise. Now you have a cheap, go-anywhere miniature brass brush for cleaning rings and other small items.

Submitted by: JoseCarlos Villalon

Working With Wire on a Ring Mandrel

To keep it from slipping, use self sticking hook and loop tape (Velcro),measure the amount needed to go around the mandrel.....use the soft side only, and stick it on. It won't mark your wire, it's easy to remove and replace when it gets soiled and it helps prevent the wire from slipping. I usually use a slightly smaller size than normal to compensate for the thickness of the tape. I haven't tried it with a bracelet mandrel, but I don't know why it wouldn't work the same.

Submitted by: Christina Ellenburg

Hanging Earrings

I like to have a convenient place to hang my earrings while they dry or just so that I can view them and make sure they are finished as I want them. I bought a $2 picture frame (8x10), glued an attractive colored piece of card stock on the back piece that has the stand (I used a light blue), then covered it with plastic or fiberglass screen wire using staples. This stands on my workbench and I can hang the earrings I have just made until I am ready to package them. By the way, this also makes an inexpensive way to display earrings for sale at craft shows.

Submitted by: Phyllis Hornbuckle

Stabilizing Turquoise

To stabilize chrysocolla or turquoise, use both tubes of water-clear epoxy and one pint of acetone, and be sure it is well mixed. Use a container that you can seal up, like a big glass jar or a three-pound coffee-can. Be sure that your rock is clean and dry. Soak in this solution for several weeks, depending on the size of the rock. Soak a fist-size piece three weeks. Take out of solution wearing rubber or surgical gloves. Let dry for about 10 days, depending on the size. Cut, grind, and polish as you do any turquoise.

From The RockCollector 11/07 via the San Diego Pegmatite

Fabricating

Why Parallel Action Pliers?

Parallel-action pliers have jaws that remain parallel regardless of the range of motion the pliers themselves are put through. Their jaws hold the object securely, even under very firm pressure).The jaws on non-parallel pliers could let an object slip forward as more pressure is applied. Choose parallel-action pliers when you need to hold an object securely while applying firm pressure to it or when manipulating wire (you can feed the wire down through the throat and hold it firmly over the entire length of the jaw).

Parallel-action jaws stay secure regardless of pressure or force exerted on the handles Applying pressure to regular pliers handles can cause the object being held to slip forward.

Source Unknown •

The 10 minute Rule and CBZ (Canada's Best Zircon?)

By Randy Lord

We all know about Murphy's Laws when it comes to prospecting, but how many know the 10 minute rule? It works as follows: 10 minutes before you are about to get picked up by helicopter after a day of traversing and sampling in the alpine is when you find the days best sample or specimen. Let's see how this rule came into play recently.

Date: Labour Day, Sept 1, 2008
Location : Above treeline, Blue River BC

Target: Locate REEs (Rare Earth Elements) associated with carbonatites in a metamorphic setting that includes gneisses, schists and pegmatites

Project: Prospector Bruce Holden and myself get set out at 8:15 am by a pond in an east facing sub alpine basin. A thin coating of ice covers the talus and creeks and the plants are frosty. We have the last working scintillometer and as soon as the chopper leaves I put on my knee pads, then power up the scint and it starts to chirp immediately. As we zero in on the hot zone (high gamma ray count per second) we trench down about a foot and discover a small walnut sized piece of black mineral causing all the commotion.

This scint has an audible signal that starts with a low growl then goes ultrasonic with really hot rocks (high counts per second). This black piece is very hot for its size so we sample and flag the spot then traverse east to another drainage. The ice melts slowly as the sun warms up. Circling back to the first basin we locate and sample another piece of float and while writing up notes, boulders comes crashing down in front of us, right on our intended traverse. It is maybe 9 am and the day is off to an auspicious start!

Carefully zig zagging up the basin we stop and sample more hot rocks and listen at more rock fall. By mid afternoon we are just below the top in a safer position. Aside from the earlier big rock fall, the afternoon is magnificent. The freezing nights had made for a BFD (bug free day) and for the first time in a couple weeks it was T shirt weather. We continue to sniff with the scint and make our way to our pick up spot, a small flat on a ridge near a known carbonatite showing.

Carbonatites are an unusual intrusive or extrusive igneous rock that contain mostly (>20%) carbonate minerals such as dolomite and calcite. Weathering rapidly, they are very recessive with often little exposure. Recognition can be difficult as they may appear like a marble and fizz the same with acid. However some of the minerals found associated with carbonatites include amphibole, apatite, biotite, colombite, magnetite, pyrochlore, sovite, vermiculite and zircons. Economic importance is related to disseminated concentrations of the metals niobium and tantalum, used in trendy things such as cell phones, lap tops, Ipods and hybrid cars. China supplies 90 per cent and consumes 60 per cent of the world's rare Earths/metals market hence exploration interest worldwide.

We worked our way uphill to the carbonatite showing and continued digging and flagging hot spots. Around our pre-arranged 5 pm pick up time we assembled our tools and packs next to where the chopper skids would land. At +$1200 hour you don't waste time loading. The pilot radioed he would be there in 10 minutes. I said to Bruce that was plenty of time to have another quick look back where we had last been sampling and I set off pronto, leaving pack and tools behind.

This carbonatite exsposure is on a ridge covered with alpine heather on one side and a steep weathered slope on the other. This gradient went from 45 degrees to cliff about 75 feet below but luckily the weathering generates a dirty pea gravel. Crossing the slope just 15 feet below the top edge I spotted something shiny in the dirt on the edge of a float boulder.

Brushing dirt away I saw a lustrous, beautifully terminated brown-red pyramidal crystal about 1" on each edge. It was perched atop a 60 pound piece of carbonatite float. I realized that crack hammer and chisel were 400 feet away and time was short. I ran up to

the packs hooting, ran back, then putting my jacket over the crystal, managed to cleave a piece of matrix the size of a beer flat with the zircon still attached. With chopper noise approaching I showed it to my partner and heard the first of many comments that started with Holy ___! On the 15 minute ride back to Blue River I told the pilot I thought we would likely be headed back to that spot tomorrow as the rocks were pretty hot!

Back in camp, a motel with 4 drill crews and 15 exploration staff, I washed the piece off and looked at it in the sunlight. There was a split down the middle of the zircon and only one slightly bruised edge from its years of exposure. Otherwise it had excellent shape, magnificent luster and the weathered carbonatite matrix had many rice grains of apatite showing.

With the sun still shining I set it on the display table we had outside our room. As the old guys (Bruce and I) had been bringing back interesting specimens, one of the project geologists came up the walkway and asked if we had found anything this day. I deliberately showed the bottom side first then as I flipped it over I again heard the comment Holy___ (you fill the blank)! "That may be Canada's best zircon." said Rod Tyson, a knowledgeable Canadian mineral dealer.

Pretty soon the rest of the crew showed up with cameras and Holy ___! comments. Plans were made to sample that site carefully the next day. I was asked not to leave the zircon outside that night, so I set it on the coffee table in our unlocked room.

Next morning when the fog lifted 3 of us went back with picks and hammers. Climbing ropes were set up for safety and after examining the float we dug into the weathered material looking for floaters. Zircons are tough but only a few small ones appeared. We then started digging in a horizon that looked promising. Only large pieces of magnetite and a few small zircons were the reward for the days digging.

Later in the afternoon a storm system kicked us off the mountain. The killer specimen is company property however the intention of parties at this time is for it to go on public display if it is Canada's best zircon, at the ROM possibly. So don't forget to wear your knee pads, always follow up on the hot stuff and above all remember the 10 minute rule!

The Furor Over Feldspar

All-natural Oregon sunstone and similar-looking treated andesine once sold as natural are locked in apples-and-oranges competition that is both unfair and unnecessary.

By David Federman - March 2008

Until recently, brick- and salmon-red sunstone,both clear and with schiller, were rarities. True, renewed mining of this feldspar in Oregon—generally conceded to be the source of the world's best sunstone—brought more fine colors on the market than had been seen in years. But fine stones cost at least $100 per carat, usually far more.

Then, in early 2007, look-alikes costing $40 per carat suddenly hit the market in impressive numbers. None of its sellers called it sunstone. Instead, most called it andesine, which is a first cousin of labradorite (the scientific name for sunstone) in the plagioclase series of feldspars. [Plagioclase consists of six species, identified according to the ratio of calcium to sodium—their two predominant chemical components.] This next-of-kin gemological status invited many consumers to think of andesine as an affordable alternative to pricier Oregon sunstone, especially because sellers swore it was all-natural.

Then one of the leading on-air and on-line marketers of andesine—Knoxville-based Jewelry Television— did an about-face and admitted stones were treated to attain their beautiful colors. Buyers were offered full refunds for their andesine purchases.

The question remained: How were the stones improved? A buyer at JTV told Colored Stone that the network believes stones were treated using a repeat process involving two exposures of stones to 30 days of heating followed each time by tumbling. That would seem to indicate diffusion of copper —sunstone's chief coloring agent—was involved. It would also seem to indicate that Mexico, which produces tons of straw-yellow low- or no-copper labradorite, may be the source of the so-called andesine.

But no matter where the treated andesine is produced, why perform the process twice? One American treater theorizes that the interaction of feldspar with copper may create a diffusion-resistant color coating, similar to the cobalt coating created when using diffusion to color topaz. This diffusion shield may require tumbling to remove it, followed by further heating for deeper color penetration.

At this point, all is conjecture. Presently, GIA and Cal Tech are conducting research on these suspect feldspars to determine the exact cause of their color. But an answer isn't expected for months. What does one do in the mean time? We recommend sticking with Oregon sunstone—that is, if you want all-natural, all-American feldspar.

A Sunstone Mining Renaissance

This isn't the first time that Oregon sunstone has caused feldspar fever. Discovered in 1980 in eastern Oregon, the gem gained instant acclaim for its never-before-seen brick reds and spruce greens. Another plus in its overnight popularity: transparency. Until then, most sunstone that jewelers saw was translucent material from India, suited for bead and cabochon cutting. Oregon quickly overtook India in all existing quality categories and topped it with unprecedented amounts of facetable material.

By 1991, sunstone was the fourth most important U.S. gem in terms of dollar value —leaping ahead of tourmaline. That year, the Bureau of Mines reported Oregon's feldspar output was worth $1.5 million —three times the preceding year's total. Of this amount, at least four-fifths came from the Ponderosa Mine—then and now the state's biggest sunstone mining operation.

In 2003, financiers John and Talley Woodmark, as well as Bruce Moore took over operation of the mine, renamed it Desert Sun Mining and Gems, and gradually pushed annual production from its previous mid-1990s peak of 400 kilos to 860 kilos last year.

“The secret,” says John Woodmark, “is mechanization. We knew that if ever we were to make a fully functioning market in Oregon sunstone we had to have large, easily replenished stockpiles of every size and shape we offer.”

With 500,000 carats of Ponderosa's desirable orange, red, pink and green stones on hand (plus another 250,000 carats of pleasingly mild yellow material), Woodmark believes he can inspire confidence in sunstone among major chains. And don't forget the Dust Devil, Spectrum and Outback sunstone mines over in Plush, which are estimated to account for another 250,000 carats of colored sunstone.

Oregon sunstone mines have wisely pursed a two-pronged approached to popularization. First, they recruited leading lapidaries like Dalan Hargrave, Glenn Lehrer, John Dyer and Larry Woods to craft their top-grade roughs into prize-winning, publicity-grabbing gems and carvings. Second, they've been mindful of the need to keep their sunstone prices low. So they have farm out the lion's share of calibrated and free-size cutting to Chinese and Indian factories. Desert Sun prides itself on always having 400 of every calibrated size and shape they offer in stock. "Commitment to customer needs is essential for success," Woodmark says.

That's one way to keep sunstone affordable. Face it, price is a compelling factor in sunstone's new appeal. With the cost of popular pinkish red spinels and orangey garnets on a steep, steady ascent, similar-color sunstone offers substantial price relief—without any sacrifice of beauty and only slightly less hardness (sunstone is 6.5 to 7.2 on the Mohs scale compared to 8 for spinel and 7 to 7.5 for tourmaline).

What's more, Oregon, which is blessed with more transparent stones than any other sunstone locality, is a looks leader, boasting deep mandarin orange and imperial topaz reds; salmon and October-leaf pink; purplish reds; and spruce greens. No other sunstone locality has been known to produce as many colors. In fact, the Western Hemisphere's largest rival region for sunstone in northern Mexico is known principally for straw-yellow stones.

Oregon sunstones are commonly bi-colored and frequently feature stunning greens framed in, or intersected by, red. The unexpectedly prolific sight of these two-toned stones at this year's Tucson Gem Show, says Helen Driggs, managing editor of Jewelry Artist, "detoured me from my search for watermelon tourmaline to sunstone."

Multi-hues weren't the gem's only virtue that made her eye it and buy it. Oregon sunstones are famous for copper platelet inclusions which, when densely populated, reflect light in shimmering sheets that impart a phenomenon called "schiller" to stones. Driggs calls this "sunstone's unique rosy glow" and likens it to "the gemological equivalent of orangey northern lights." No wonder schiller-rich salmon-red Oregon sunstone briolettes are the biggest seller at Portland-based Rogue Gems which specializes in Oregon sunstone.

Disorder Below the Border

It would be nice to report that most Oregon sunstone is red, orange or green. But such colors account for 15 percent of mine output. Another ten percent has attractive schiller and the remainder is what miners call "clear," a word that refers to mostly soft-yellow and off-white hues. And we haven't even touched on the enormous amount of material suitable for bead and cabochon cutting.

No matter what the color, Oregon sunstones are all-natural and untreated. This isn't to say that treaters might not be experimenting with ways to produce more desirable colors. But no one we talked to versed in heat treatment and chemical color diffusion —the methods most likely to be used to turn yellow feldspar red and orange—was aware of the successful application of these technologies to Oregon sunstone.

We raised the issue with treaters because, as said before, Jewelry Television, perhaps the world's largest home-shopping gemstone seller, recently did on-air and on-line mea culpas, complete with refund offers, for selling treated Asian andesine as all-natural. Why the turn-about?

No one really knows where any of the suspect andesine is coming from. Sellers say it's from Tibet, the Congo, Tanzania—all of the sources mentioned in most standard gemology textbooks. But if you read the descriptions given for this andesine and labradorite in the reference works, they all describe them as possessing colors similar to Oregon's.

Only one cutter that we know of, John Dyer, based in Edina, Minnesota, has actually worked with Tibetan rough, provided by a Chinese supplier he met at the Tucson Gem Show. Dyer says the material does not have the richness of color and appearance he associates with Oregon sunstone and he will not use it again—despite its lower price.

"Do you think it was treated?" I ask him. Dyer says he has no reason to suspect that it is since the supplier assured him it came direct from the mine.

No one else whom we talked to that regularly cuts or sells sunstone has been able to secure or examine any andesine rough. But given recent scandals involving treated ruby and emerald rough, the scarcity of andesine rough only fuels fears of gemological hanky panky. Here's the worst of our fears:

Sunstone owes both its reds and greens to copper, depending on this trace element's valence. If a plagioclase is deficient in this element, then it must be added

using, most likely, diffusion. Since Oregon sunstone is strongly endowed with copper, it would seem foolish to risk its sterling reputation adding artificial color by means of copper diffusion. This would only make sense on copper-free material such as that from Mexico, which is producing tons of straw-yellow, low- or no-copper labradorite and selling it to Asian dealers. If Mexican feldspar is the culprit, then you can bet the ranch that this south-of-the-border labradorite owes its color to oven alchemy.

So if you want full-integrity feldspar, stick with Oregon sunstone. Although we have seen top-grade large red pieces selling for over $500, even $1,000, per carat, there is ample fine material available for between $100 and $200 per carat. And there is much medium to better grade goods available for considerably less than $100 per carat. While that's higher than misrepresented felon feldspars from Mexico, we think that's a fair price to pay for tamper-free labradorite. •

Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada Annual Show & Convention

Edmonton, Alberta

Trudy Martin, Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club

Alice King and I drove up to Edmonton for the Show and GMFC meetings.

It was a small show but well laid out for the size of the hall. There were 12 show cases and 6 dealers plus a small demonstration area and a great food concession.

Attendance was good—a steady stream of people coming and going all day. Plenty of tempting items to purchase from the dealers. Everyone was very friendly. We had a good time. Merkleys and Hausbergs were there, too.

There was a good attendance for the Annual Meeting which followed a delicious buffet dinner. Reports were read and approved - nothing spectacular in the way of news although they are still looking for a new Newsletter Editor as Madeline Sherridan has resigned.

2009 Show & Meetings:

August 28, 29, 30
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

The Executives for 2009 are:

President: Peter Hager, Saskatchewan

1st Vice: Maureen Wade, British Columbia

2nd Vice: John Dowler, Alberta

3rd Vice: Mike Rooney, Quebec (to be confirmed)

The Treasurer and Secretary were still to be appointed.

GMFC Scholarship Foundation 2008

Win Robertson of the BC Society was chosen as the Scholarship Honoree. She will choose the University that will select the graduate student for the $1,000.00 scholarship.

The three First Year Students who will each receive $500.00 scholarships were:

Seath Hunt, Regina, SK,

David Nadeau, Canada, ON

Ngo Keenan,Campbell River, BC

Fine Mineral & Fossil Cleaning Guide

I always start with dish soap and warm water. If that doesn't work, I use other chemicals.

You can use oxalic acid to clean iron stains from minerals such as quartz. Use it 1 cup oxalic granular to 1 gallon of water. It works best when warm. The hotter it is the better it works. This is also true of its fumes and vapors! Do not breathe the vapors.

Hydrofluoric acid is the strongest acid there is. Do not use this unless you know what you are doing. It can cause serious injury or death.
Hydrochloric acid can be used to dissolve carbonate minerals and deposits. A 5% to 10% solution is more than enough to do the job. The fumes from this acid can cause pneumonia, care should be taken when using it. Always make sure you have adequate ventilation.
One of my favorite chemicals to clean with is Lime-a-way® or CLR®. They remove oxidation from most minerals include pyrite, arsenopyrite, & galena. You can use them straight from the bottle on a very soft cloth.
To clean oxidation off of native metals (copper or silver) the best thing to use is a copper or silver polish and a soft cloth.
I once used a bottle of nitric acid to clean a large copper specimen and could not get the last little bit of oxidation off and a good friend (who happens to be a chemist) suggested a good copper polish. It worked better than the nitric acid.

Nitric acid will clean copper well, but should be used with great care as the fumes become nitric gas and can over power a person very fast. Even small amounts can cause pneumonia.

Always do a test run in an inconspicuous place first.
Here are some specific ways to clean certain minerals.
Barite can be cleaned with a strong solution of hydrochloric acid (30%).

For pyrite or marcasite, use oxalic acid, hydrochloric acid, Lime-a-way® or CLR®.
For the following you can try any acid except hydrofluoric acid. quartz, feldspar, labradorite, hornblende, tourmaline, & tremolite or any silicate mineral. Water soluble minerals, like the salts and sulfur, use only ethyl alcohol to clean.

Ammonia or bleach is useful to clean off lichens and algae.

Soaking any mineral in any solution can cause the luster to disappear. When soaking a specimen, do it for only a few seconds at a time until you see how fast it is coming clean. Some minerals require a few seconds to weeks in an acid.

Disclaimer: Information is provided as a guide only. Please follow instructions of any cleaning product you use, as well as common sense. The *BC Rockhounder* does not accept any liability for individual results.

Rules to use when cleaning with chemicals:

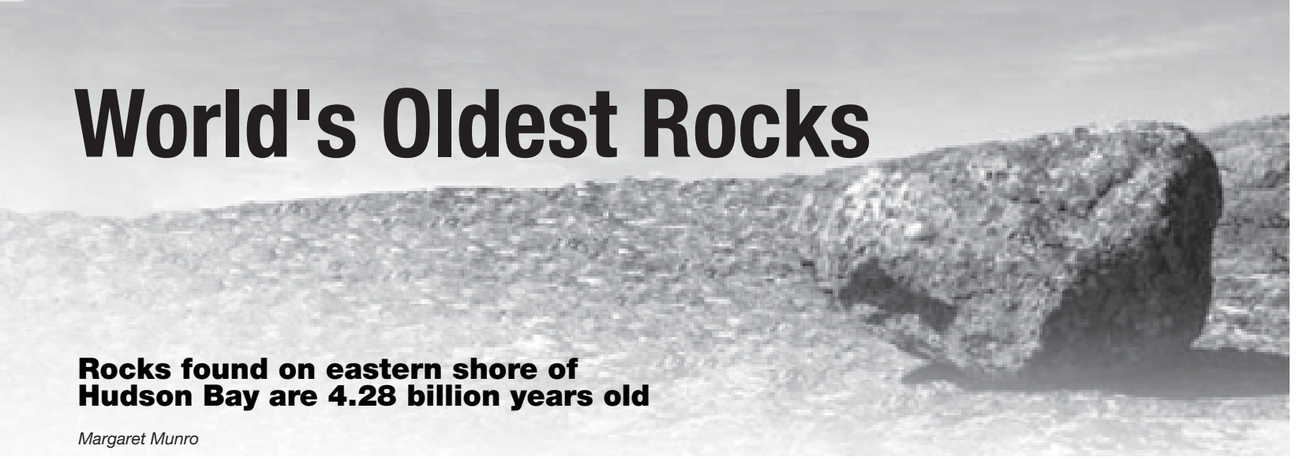
- Use chemicals that are clearly labeled and store chemicals that are clearly labeled.
- Keep a large container of clear water handy to wash off any chemical spills.
- *Always* wear safety goggles & rubber gloves.
- Don't work alone.
- Avoid splattering.
- Never pour water into acid, always add acid to water.
- Keep an ample supply of baking soda handy for acid spills.
- Keep an ample supply of vinegar for alkali spills.
- Rinse specimens well.

Remember some minerals are damaged by chemicals or can be dissolved by liquids. Some methods may work on one type of mineral and not another.

Mineral Specimens may be poisonous under certain conditions or when mixed with cleaners.

Never heat cinnabar or stibnite. They produce poisonous gases. When in doubt about how to clean a mineral specimen always consult a professional.

World's Oldest Rocks



Rocks found on eastern shore of Hudson Bay are 4.28 billion years old

Margaret Munro

Researchers reported Friday in the journal Science that rock found on the remote eastern shore of Hudson Bay is 4.28 billion years old.

The geological world is buzzing with news that the oldest rocks on Earth are sitting on a windswept, barren shore in northern Quebec.

An international team is reporting the rocks date back almost 4.3 billion years to when the infant Earth was being pummeled by meteors, comets and asteroids. There are also intriguing signs the rocks may carry the "biosignature" of the earliest life to emerge from the primordial seas.

"It really puts Canadian geology back on the map," says geoscientist Boswell Wing, at McGill University, who suspects rusty rock at the site may prove to be evidence of ancient microbial life.

But for now it is the rocks' antiquity that is making headlines. Researchers at McGill, the Universite du Quebec and the Carnegie Institution in Washington report Friday in the journal Science that rock found on the remote eastern shore of Hudson Bay is 4.28 billion years old.

"This would make them the oldest rocks ever found on the surface of the Earth," says McGill's Jonathan O'Neil, lead author of the report. He has spent the last five summers exploring the Hudson Bay outcropping and hauling chunks of the ancient bedrock back to his Montreal lab.

It's been known since 2001 that the outcropping was old, but a speckled brown and beige patch O'Neil and his colleagues have pulverized and analyzed has proved to be much older than other rocks at the site. They believe it originated in a volcano that erupted in a shallow sea not long after the planet's rocky crust began to form.

The Quebec find is sure to provoke plenty of debate because the team used a new dating technique, and there's a possibility the rocks may have been reprocessed geologically not long after they formed.

"I can tell you there will be an incredible amount of activity and measurement going on in the next couple years to try prove them right or wrong," says Wing, who is familiar with the team's work and visited the site this summer.

Rocks from Earth's early days are extremely rare, and the Quebec find is expected to see plenty of researchers swarm north for a look. "Anything from the first three-quarters of a billion years (of Earth's history) attracts geologists like flies to dead fish," says Roger Buick, at the University of Washington in Seattle, who specializes in the planet's early evolution. He says he would love to get a closer look at the Hudson Bay rocks.

The Earth is said to have formed from a cloud of cosmic dust and debris about 4.567 billion years ago. Until now, weathered granite in the North-west Territories, dating back about four billion years, has held the title of the world's oldest rock.

The Hudson Bay rocks appear to be about 300 million years older and scientists say they should provide clues about not just early geological processes, but also Earth's early atmosphere, and perhaps even the microbes that are thought to have interacted with iron in the early oceans to create rusty sediments.

"It may, and that's may in capital letters, be the oldest traces of life," O'Neil says of the rusty streaks embedded in the Hudson Bay rock.

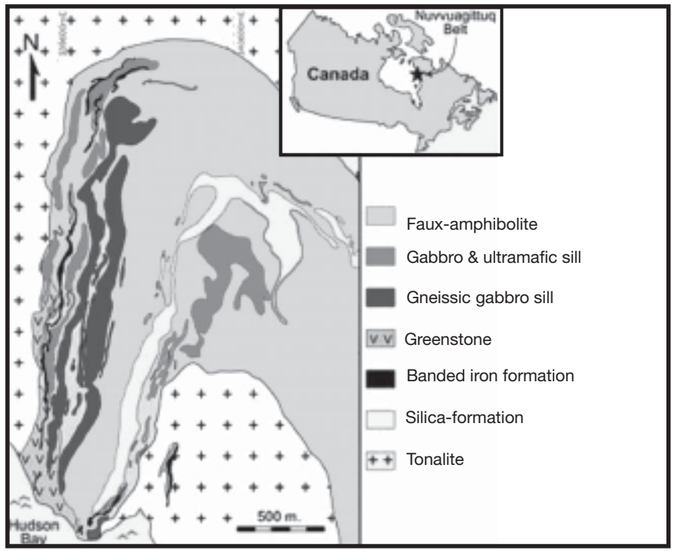
The outcropping is on Inuit land, about an hour's canoe trip south of the Inuit community of Inukjuak. The Inuit have given the scientists permission to work on the site and have been helping with logistics.

The researchers say the setting is ideal, with 10 square kilometers of ancient bedrock sitting right at the surface. Inuit guides drop the researchers at the shore, they set up camp, and walk about 100 metres and there are the world's oldest rocks. "There are no trees and so much rock," says O'Neil.

"You can stand up there and just imagine being on the bottom of ocean floor 4.3 billion years ago," adds Wing. "These rocks are that well preserved."

Mike Carroll, general manager for the Pituvik Landholding Corporation that oversees use of the land for the Inuit, says the scientists gave the community the heads-up about the discovery when they passed through Inukjuak this summer. The corporation's board of directors is now mulling over how best to manage the site. Everything from a "possible moratorium" on visitors to prevent abuse of the geological treasure, to incorporating a visit to the ancient rocks as part of a tourism package are up for discussion, says Carroll. •

Simplified Geological Map of the Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt



Rendezvous 2008

By Winifred Plester, 1120 Club

We went to Rendezvous this year, in good old Chase, BC.

We met with many Rockhound friends as happy as could be.

They went on different gemstone hunts, some lovely rocks they found.

And many cases showed their work, their talents so abound.

The tables with the auction rocks soon became very bare.

As people gathered armloads up to make their treasures rare.

The bucket raffle had a lot good donated gifts,

And those who won were very pleased, it gave their spirits lifts.

The banquet and the breakfast were suited to each ones taste.

If you weren't there you missed great fun.

This weekend was no waste.

Summer Rockhound

From Gulfport Gems 07/08 via Beehive Buzzer 09/08
By Cindy Lind

The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound both
Went out to hunt one day.

The Rockhound wanted specimens,
The 'Skeeter wanted prey!

The Rockhound found a likely spot
And settled with his gear,

He'd dug a short time when he hears
A buzzing in his ear.

The Rockhound swatted at the noise
And stood to look around.

He missed the 'Sketter but he saw
A great stone on the ground!

The Rockhound bent to lift the stone
His backside in the air.

The 'Skeeter took advantage then
And bit the Rockhound there.

The Rockhound jumped and squashed the bug

His bottom to defend.

The Rockhound and the 'Skeeter had
Both got it in THE END!

Indian Attack-Survivor Strikes Gold in Williams Creek

Barkerville, Williams Creek

Edward “Ned” Stout is one of those people that tall tales are told about, and no wonder; throughout an adventurous life he left a deep impression upon the history of British Columbia and its pioneer settlement and development. He is an individual that, although gone, will not be forgotten easily.

Ned was born in Bavaria, a province of Germany, September 26, 1827, and in his infancy was left an orphan. He acquired a good education in the public schools of his native country and remained in Bavaria until he was twenty years of age.

In that year, 1846, he left Europe and crossed the Atlantic for the New World, landing in New York. He proceeded from the coast, inland to Milwaukee, where he obtained employment on a schooner. There is some evidence that he joined his uncle here, Captain Stout, who worked a steamer operating on Lake Michigan.

Stout sailed on the lake until 1849, becoming familiar with nearly every port, from Chicago at the southern end to the Canadian frontier in the north. In the spring of 1849, he left inland navigation to join the great migration west.

“It was a long, but at that season of the year, a pleasant journey. I can remember it most distinctly. We passed over a beautiful country literally swarming with buffalo, elk and other deer, as well as antelopes.” —Ned Stout

Stout's party went through the Black Hills by way of Salt Lake through the Sierra Nevada and arrived in 'Hangtown' or Placerville in November of 1849, the trip taking some 7 odd months to complete. Ned worked in the gold mines and prospected with fair success in this area for over eight years.

Hangtown derived its name from the number of desperadoes who were hung within its boundaries by the Vigilance Committee. In the centre of the town was an oak tree, with large, thick and wide spreading branches:

> “One could count the number of hangings that had been carried out by the number of rings on the branches of the tree, just as you can tell the age of some trees by the number of circles or rings which can be counted within the bark when the tree is felled to the ground.”
> *—Ned Stout*

“Every time the rope from which the criminal was pen dant was thrown over the branch and drawn into the air, the friction removed some of the bark in a circular manner and left its count.”

The year 1857 found Ned Stout and some members of 'his' party engaged in mining in various creeks and streams of the El Dorado county in California. Among those with Stout at the time, and who later accompanied him to the north to the Fraser, were Alexander Coultee and John Oppenheimer, both of whom had crossed the plains with him in '49.

It had been 8 years since the discovery of gold in the American West and the easy pickins' were long cleaned out. Mining companies had been formed to pool resources and retrieve gold that was beyond the means of the individual prospector. It was during this 'time of transition' in California that rumours of rich diggings on Fraser's River hit the depressed region.

Ned Stout, one among many, was struck by 'gold fever' and he made up his mind to travel to San Francisco, which he did. Once there, he and several others made a bargain with the captain of a schooner to take them north. The captain charged them a sum of $2,000, which included the transportation of supplies and a “sufficiency of timber to build two large boats with...” (Ned Stout.) The schooner dropped off its cargo and passengers in Bellingham Bay in March of '58.

“We were the only vessel in that spacious harbour. Whatcom, at that time, consisted of two or three houses, or cabins...”

Using the lumber they had acquired in Frisco, the men built two flat-bottomed scows and headed north for the mouth of Fraser's River. When they arrived on May 2, 1858, there was not a living soul could to be seen, nor the mark of an ax on a single tree. At Fort Langley they saw one white man and at Fort Hope they saw only two.

“After a long struggle of eighteen days we arrived opposite the present town of Yale. Of course it had no name at that time.”

“...two miners ...had been ambushed and murdered by hostile Indians.”

It was at Yale that gold had been first discovered on the Fraser, but by the time Stout's party arrived the place was deserted. It was later learned that the two miners who had been working the bars around Yale had gone south to Port Townsend for supplies and during their return to the Fraser had been ambushed and murdered by hostile Indians. Just how hostile the local population was had yet to be discovered...

In company of Stout at that time was James McClennan, Archie McDonald and “Old Texas“, all Californian miners. Accounts state that McClennan led the party up the Fraser until they reached the present site of Lytton where the Thompson joins the Fraser. They left the Fraser Canyon and followed the course of the Thompson until they reached what would later be called the Nicomen River. During their travel they had met a young Indian woman who had become enamoured of James McClennan after he had given her some of his clothes to wear. She would follow him throughout the day and insist on carrying his pack while at night she would retire with another native fellow to a spot outside the miner's camp. One night, in the middle of July, she suddenly appeared at the fire of the miners and warned them that 'Before sun up you white men go. Go back in the stick, far, far, then you back to salt chuck. Indian kill all white men in canyon, by-by he come kill you all. Tomorrow he come. Go now, go quick.'

McClennan took this to mean that the Indians had killed all the whites in the lower canyon and that they must immediately return to Fort Yale or risk the same fate.

There was a State of Terror in the Canyon...

During July and August, recoveries of bodies of white men floating down the river were common at Fort Yale. There was a state of terror in the canyon. The cause of the trouble, it was said, was a combination of influences: the desire of the Indians to monopolize the mining, coupled with the success of the Indian wars then raging in Washington and the arrogance of the miners who lived by the code that “the only good Indian was a dead one.” Unfortunately, Stout and his party were prospecting far to the east of the canyon, had been oblivious of the new developments that had taken place. If it had not been for the friendship of McClennan and the young Indian woman, Stout and the rest would surely have perished, as it was they faced a dangerous and harrowing trip south, to safety. “Stout's party lost nearly a man daily”

The miners broke camp that night, after disposing of anything and everything that would impede there speed. Early the fol lowing day, they were attacked...

The Indians, who were concealed amongst some rocks and bushes, ambushed the party and wounded three of the miners. The arrows were poisoned and by the next day all who had been wounded were dead. According to Stout the poison was made by placing the fangs of a rattlesnake in a sort of mortar, with some deer's blood and the two were mixed together. Water was added if necessary to dilute the solution and make it possible to coat the arrowheads. The effect of this poison was to cause convulsions in the victim and turn the skin black after death.

Stout's party lost nearly a man daily, including their leader

> “As it was extremely dangerous to travel by day, we made our way in the night time. As soon as the day broke we built small forts upon the bank of the river with stones and pieces of timber. De tached parties of Indians often hemmed us in, skulking behind low bushes, while occasionally some of them would send a chance musket ball whistling across the rocks with savage interest.”
> *—Ned Stout*

James McClennan; the chance of escape became bleaker and bleaker. At Four Mile Creek Stout and his party discovered four salmon hanging on a pole. Just before they partook of this fish feast, Mike Mallahan, an Irishman who was with the group, noticed several dead blue jays in the vicinity and quickly surmised that the salmon were poisoned and laid as a trap. After reducing the fish to small pieces they pitched them in the river and continued on.

Arriving at China Bar with only five left out of the original twenty-six among the party, their supply of ammunition depleted, the hopes for survival were bleak. Each of the five survivors was wounded, and so, unable to travel, they lay in their fortifications expecting an assault at any time. But luck or providence would be with them, and the following day a party of soldier-miners led by Captain Schneider and Captain Graham arrived from Fort Yale some miles below and relieved the company.

Following this narrow escape, Stout spent some time recover ing from a total of nine arrow and bullet wounds received during the ordeal. The most serious was a wound to the groin which had nearly severed the main artery in his thigh. However, Stout was true to his name and by August he felt well enough to begin mining again.

Moving north through the canyon and eventually into Cari boo Stout met up with William 'Dutch Bill' Dietz. The Dietz party, including Stout, made its way up the headwaters of Antler Creek, over Bald Mountain and down into a different watershed. The gold found by that first party of explorers was nothing impressive but word got out to dissatis fied miners on Antler Creek and soon they were streaming over Bald Mountain in droves. The new creek was named after Dutch Bill, some say because he had the most luck on that first day in panning others say that he bribed the rest of his party with prom ises of champagne in the offing, regardless the new find became known as William's Creek.

Jordan's partner had 50 ounces of gold in his hand ...and more to come

Initial expectations for the area were high, but for those used to the easy finds of Antler and Keithley, William's Creek soon became 'Humbug' Creek. Gold here was located deeper and un derneath a layer of hard blue clay that was initially taken for the bedrock. Since gold is heavier than all other gravel it sinks to the level of the bedrock and that is where the richest 'pay' can usually be found. Strangely, there was very little gold on this hardpan of clay.

> “Jordan's partner had 50 ounces of gold in his hand ...and more to come”

One day, Jordan of the Abbott and Jordan claim left to get supplies from town; while he was gone, Abbott, out of boredom, swung a few blows at the 'bedrock' and broke through. By the time Jordan returned, his partner had 50 ounces of gold in his hand and more to come. The rush was on! Meanwhile, Stout had broken off from Dietz's party and had staked claims on a tributary gulch of William's Creek. Stout's 'Gulch' was to become an important factor in the development of Barkerville.

At a point between the town of Richfield and Barkerville, William's Creek slows to a trickle. Miners of the time speculated that all the gold would have been deposited at or above the slowing of the creek and would never have made it into the lower regions of the canyon. When several miners tried the ground in the lower canyon they found nothing of interest. This was the situation when Billy Barker showed up on the scene. Barker had mined in the California rush of '49 and was therefore an experienced hand. He recog nized that although the ground in the lower canyon was poor there must be gold there somewhere because Ned Stout was doing well and he was below the slowing of William's Creek, albeit in a tributary gulch. It was this revelation that indirectly caused Barker to sink extensive shafts in the lower canyon. The rest is history.

Ned Stout worked the gulch bearing his name for two years and then sold his share and moved to Lowhee where he mined some more. When mining activity lapsed, Stout worked as a packer for the Cariboo Co. carrying freight by boat from New West minster to Lytton. Stout moved back to Yale, built a house and continued to prospect near there and on Siwash Creek. In 1873, he married Mary Thorpe of Yakima, Washington Territory and they had three children (his descendants were still living in British Columbia as late as 1979). Although no longer residing in Cariboo he returned every summer to prospect and was the picture of vigor even into his old age; proud of the fact that he had never taken a drop of liquor. He died in 1924 at the age of ninety-six, a true pioneer.•

Calgary Researchers Name North America's Tiniest Dinosaur

A dinosaur that could have jumped from the drawing board of Dr. Seuss is being recognized as the newest—and smallest—species in North America. Essentially, a chicken-sized anteater that roamed Alberta about 70 million years ago.

University of Calgary research assistant Nick Longrich uncovered the relatively tiny dinosaur after analyzing bones dug up near Red Deer.

Nick Longrich holds a petrified piece of wood riddled with termite holes. Longrich has described a new dinosaur species that specialized in consuming termites by using its small but powerful forelimbs to tear into logs.

The animal had jaws shaped like needle-nose pliers, an S-shaped neck, pick-like claws, bird feet and it walked on its slender hind legs.

"It's a really bizarre animal," Longrich said Tuesday. "It looks like different animals stitched together."

But the odd collection of limbs and claws—seen as good for digging, but not burrowing - has led Longrich to believe this may have been an ancient anteater of sorts that used its claws to crack open logs and feast on insects.

"It just makes no sense (otherwise)," Longrich said.

A petrified stump of wood Longrich has bears the marks of burrowing insects—holes left behind in the fossilized wood. With that many termites, something had to evolve to eat them, Longrich said.

At about 90 centimetres tall, the Albertonykus is the smallest dinosaur to ever be found in North America.

Longrich believes the animal may have been fairly agile and could hide under bushes, avoiding the big, carnivorous raptors.

A paper outlining the new species, authored by both Longrich and University of Alberta paleontologist Philip Currie, who originally found the bones, was published in the current issue of Cretaceous Research.

While this isn't the first dinosaur of this type discovered in the world, the find is still significant because it helps paint a picture of what was roaming Alberta at that time.

This is evidence of smaller, insect-eating dinosaurs, Longrich said, instead of just the large herbivores and carnivores.

"It's one more piece of the puzzle. It shows dinosaurs are more diverse than we would have given them credit for 20 years ago," he said.

But Longrich didn't come across this new dinosaur during a dig.

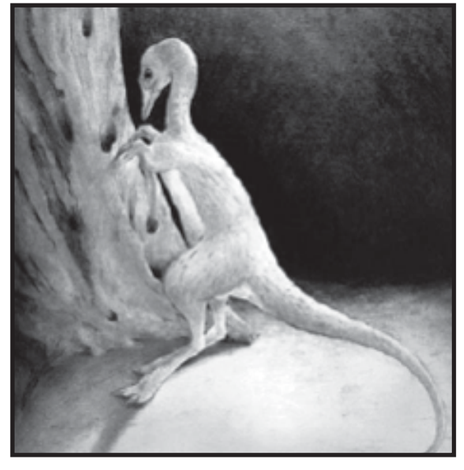
The bones originally had been unearthed in 2002 at Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park—about 175 kilometres northeast of Calgary—when Currie was looking for Albertosaurus bones. Among the remains for the massive raptor were some other bones that were ultimately put in a drawer at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller.

Longrich stumbled upon one of the animal's pick-like claws while going through the museum's collections in the winter of 2005 and recognized it was similar to older animals found in Mongolia.

"There's a lot of stuff out there still to be discovered and some of it is sitting in museums," he said.

The dinosaurs found in Mongolia are estimated to be about 75 to 80 million years old, while the Alberta version is about 70 million years old.

Longrich previously thought such an animal would be found in Alberta and had looked for it in drawers containing finds from Dinosaur Park. But those bones would be around 75 million years old - five million years before the Albertonykus would have made an appearance in central Alberta.



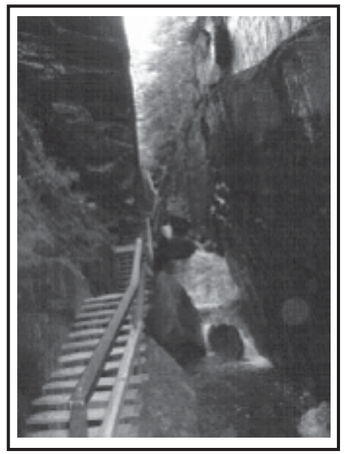
The skinny birdlike dinosaur, called Albertonykus borealis, ran on two legs and scoured the ancient forest floor for termites.
Illustration by Nick Longrich

Rockhounding in Maine

Submitted by John Bowman, Eastern Correspondent

When reading various rock and mineral magazines, we would always notice ads for Poland Mining Camps in Poland, Maine, and think that it would be an interesting place to visit but was too far away from British Columbia. Now that we are in Ottawa, a visit to this camp became a priority and we made arrangements to spend three days there in September.
On our way to the camp we visited some places that would likely be of interest to anyone interested in geology. In New Hampshire, we visited Franconia Notch and Kinsman Notch. As the names suggest, these places feature narrow passages in the granite with waterfalls running through them. They were very beautiful to walk through. The Kinsman Notch has a series of caves at the edge of the notch, which we explored including the "Lemon Squeezer", which as you might guess was a rather tight squeeze to fit through.

As we drove towards Maine, we also passed through Vermont and visited the Rock of Ages quarry operations in Barre (pronounced "berry"). This part of Vermont has featured granite quarries for over a hundred years. The Rock of Ages quarry still operates, and includes a tour of the quarry and the plant where the granite is cut and polished for use in cemetery headstones and various industrial uses. Although the quarry only operates during the week and we were there on a weekend, we could still tour the quarry. It was quite interesting standing at the edge of a 600 foot deep quarry and seeing the process that they use to remove the large blocks of granite. If you go to Barre, also be sure to check out the Hope cemetery. This cemetery features rock headstones that are exclusively from the local quarries. Originally, stonecutters from Italy came to this area to work cutting the stone from those quarries, and their work is on display in this cemetery. Besides traditional headstones, there is everything from a Nascar stock car, to a soccer ball, to a book with writing on it, all carved in large granite headstones. If you want to see some beautiful stone carving, be sure to check this place out.



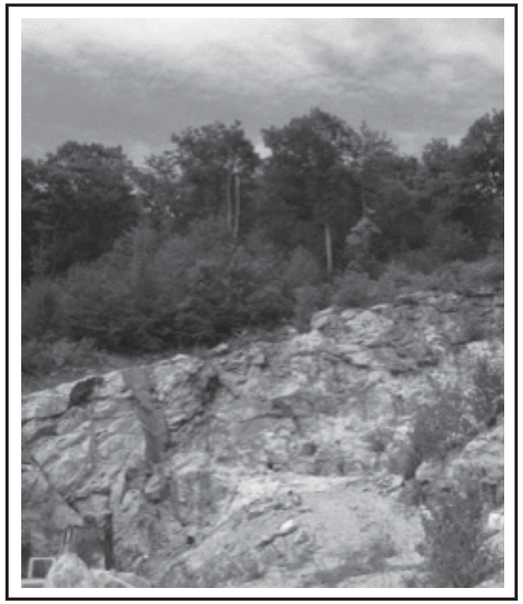
We arrived at the Poland Mining Camp in time for dinner. We were assigned one of the rustic cabins, which do feature a shower, fridge, and fireplace. The fees to stay at the camp include all meals, your accommodation and the services of a field trip leader who takes you to various quarries, none of which are open to the public, (you can also stay elsewhere and pay a fee just to tag along on the field trips.) The first tourmaline was discovered in this area in 1821, so the quarries in Maine have been operating for well over 150 years. These granite pegmatites yield a variety of gems besides tourmaline, including aquamarine and beryl. Some of the quarries were used to mine feldspar commercially in the past but all are now operated strictly for the gemstones.

Over the three days we were there we visited the Emmons Quarry, the various quarries on Mount Apatite, and the Bennett Quarry. It is interesting to note that the minerals found differ somewhat from quarry to quarry despite their proximity to one another. Since the host rock is very hard, the mine operators use explosives to break up the rock. Last year a large Aquamarine crystal was found in one of the Mount Apatite quarries. Of course the crystal was no longer in one piece after it was exposed following the explosion, but it has a beautiful blue colour. The pieces of aquamarine have been facetted and they will be sold at the coming Tucson show. Some of the stones were for sale at the mining camp and Diane bought a small one.

At the Emmons quarry, we collected mica, apatite, beryl, black tourmaline and lithiophilite. The mica here was mainly sheaf mica, and I collected a couple of nice sheafs of mica in matrix. At Mt. Apatite we collected some nice garnets, cleavelandite, ball mica,(which is different from the traditional sheaf mica as it is made up of pillars), quartz, and I found one piece of coloured tourmaline, (not gem quality, but still nice to find.). At the Bennett quarry, we found lepidolite, green mangan apatite, blue beryl, black tourmaline, and quartz with dendrites. The weather was hot and sunny all three of the days we were at camp, which meant that things we really hot inside the quarries with the heat reflecting off of the rocks.

While in the area, we visited the Perham rock and jewellery shop in West Paris, Maine, which is a must see as it features an excellent collection of specimens from the local quarries. Just a few miles up the highway from this rock shop, there is a gem screening place at the side of the highway, where you can screen dirt from the Mount Mica area. We did some screening there and got some small gemmy coloured tourmalines.

We enjoyed our time at the mining camp. Our host, Mary Groves, is an excellent cook who kept us well fed and made sure that we were comfortable. Our field trip leaders were helpful in explaining what materials were available at each site. There was not many other rockhounds at the camp while we were there, so the interaction between rockhounds in the evening was limited, however, during the summer months there are more rockhounds at the camp and more evening activities.



After a few days spent on the beautiful beaches of Maine and a day trip to Boston, it was time to head home, but not before a stop in Herkimer, New York to search for Herkimer diamonds. We had been to Herkimer over ten years previous and decided to go back to the same place, the Ace of Diamonds Mine. The quartz crystals, known as Herkimer diamonds, are found in pockets within the dolomite limestone. Unless you are lucky enough to find them sitting on the surface of the ground, it is hard work breaking up the hard limestone with a sledge hammer to find the pockets inside where the crystals are found. The crystals did not seem to be nearly as plentiful this time as when we were at this site many years ago. We found a few specimens in matrix as well as a few that were loose on the ground, but nothing spectacular. Our luck with good weather did not hold out at Herkimer, as we had a cloudy and rainy day to contend with, so we went home earlier than we normally would have.

We had a great time exploring the eastern states and hope to get back to Maine again in the coming years. There are many different quarries to explore in Maine, including some that are open to the public. If you are prepared to work hard and break up a lot of rock, it is possible that a nice tourmaline or some other gem could be found.

Introductory Gemmology

Definitions Concerning Physical Properties of Gemstones

Charles Lewton-Brain

Crystal Structure

A perfect crystal is bounded by plane faces which meet at angles specific for each kind of material (angle analysis can identify minerals). A crystal may be cleaved in directions related to the external form or to a possible crystal form for the mineral. Sometimes two distinct minerals can have the same chemical composition with their differing properties being due to their different crystal structure. Crystal structure affects mineral properties more than their chemical nature. Examples here include diamond (carbon, cubic) and graphite (carbon, hexagonal) and Calcite (trigonal) and aragonite (orthorhombic), both forms of calcium carbonate. Properties Related to Crystal Structure

Optical:

In the cubic system a light ray is refracted (bent), passes through the crystal and emerges as a single ray. This is known as an isotropic (singly refractive) material. Of the doubly refractive crystal systems three (tetragonal, hexagonal, trigonal) are uniaxial and have a single direction (not a line but an entire direction) of single refraction in the doubly refractive (anisotropic or birefringent) crystal. The orthorhombic, monoclinic and triclinic systems are biaxial and have two directions of single refraction in the double refractive (anisotropic or birefringent) crystal. In uniaxial crystals the isotropic direction is that of the main crystal axis.

Pleochroism
(Dichroism, trichroism)

In doubly refractive gemstones the light ray is split and each part refracted (bent) to a different degree. Assuming this ray is made up of white light (which is composed of all colours) each ray has various colours absorbed (filtered) so that each ray as it emerges from the gemstone is a different (residual) colour. This is called dichroism (means two colours). Thus depending upon the direction one looks at the stone relative to the crystal and optical axes a different colour is seen. Both colours are often present at the same time however and it requires a dichroscope to separate the colours to see them. The dichroscope allows each ray's colour to be viewed separately and to compare them beside each other.

Uniaxial gemstones are dichroic and two colours may be observed. Biaxial stones are trichroic and three colours may be seen.

Heat Conductivity:

Heat is conducted differently in various minerals according to their crystal system. This is used in Thermal Conductivity instruments to differentiate diamond which conducts heat very well from its simulants and imitations. Some instruments use it to identify other gemstones but they are expensive and of value only when used with care and some gemmological knowledge. The use of standard stones is suggested and drafts to be avoided as they can change the readings. At its simplest this is the temperature test using tongue or lips for glass and plastic.

Electrical Effects:

Atomic structure and the related crystal structure influence electrical properties. Some crystals possess pyro-electricity. Tourmaline for example when heated to between 100 - 100oC possesses polarity like a magnet needle. Another effect of some polar crystals is piezo-electricity-pressure on a crystal slab induces electrical charges on opposite faces. This is used in piezo-electric gas lighters. If an alternating current is applied to the crystal it oscillates. This is used in controlling radio wavelengths, usually using synthetic quartz. Quartz watches use these properties. Silicon chips depend upon the directional crystal properties to function. Electrical current is conducted better in some gemstones than others. Natural blue diamonds conduct electricity while the irradiated blue ones do not. A simple circuit can be constructed to test this.

Cleavage:

The is the tendency of a crystallized mineral to break in definite directions related to the crystal structure producing relatively smooth cleavage break surfaces. Cleavage planes are always parallel to a particular cleavage face, i.e. diamond cleaves in any of the four directions parallel to the faces of the octahedron. Almost all crystals have a tendency to cleave. Those with the least tendency to cleave include garnets, quartz, spinel (natural), beryl and zircon. Gemstones with a strong tendency to cleave include diamond, fluorite, topaz, peridot, kunzite (spodumene), euclase, sphene, axinite, feldspars, synthetic spinel, dioptase and calcite.

Cleavage is described by the crystal face to which it is parallel; diamond has octahedral cleavage, topaz has basal (parallel to the base of the topaz crystal prism). The ease with which cleavage occurs and the resultant smoothness of the cleavage break is described as perfect in topaz, indistinct and difficult in beryl. Cleavage can be used in cutting diamonds and it should be noted that stones with a strong tendency to cleave can be easily cleaved in polishing and setting procedures.

Fracture:

Defines the type of surface obtained by breaking a crystal in a direction other than that of cleavage. Types include conchoidal, shell-like as in glass and often in gemstones. Also even, uneven and hackly or splintery as in nephrite. Identification applications of cleavage/fracture include: Nephrite cleavage cracks occur as 124o and jadeite at 93o.

Synthetic spinel imitating aquamarine may show cracks at right angles and aquamarine does not.

Feldspars cleave and chalcedony does not. Tiny chips or breaks on the girdle of cabachon feldspars (sunstone, moonstone, amazonite, etc.) are flat and have a vitreous lustre while in chalcedony they are conchoidal with a waxy lustre. Splintery fracture is seen in nephrite and hematite. Hematite fracture is splintery and hematite (a substitute) is not. Conchoidal fractures are a strong indicator of glass. I've seen quartz do it too to some degree.

Hardness: "The power a stone possesses to resist abrasion when a pointed fragment of another substance is drawn across its smooth surface without sufficient pressure to develop cleavage" (GA course material).

Harder stones will scratch softer ones. Stones of the same hardness may scratch each other (a diamond can scratch a diamond). The Mohs scale is used for gemstone hardnesses. This scale is purely relative as shown by the fact that the difference in hardness between corundum (9) and diamond (10) is 140 times the difference between talc (1) & corundum (9).

Mohs Scale

1. Talc
2. Gypsum
3. Calcite
4. Fluorite
5. Apatite
6. Orthoclase feldspar
7. Quartz
8. Topaz
9. Corundum
10. Diamond

Other reference points include:

Finger nail 2 1/2
Copper penny 3 or so
Window glass 5 1/2 or so
Knife blade 6
Steel file 6 1/2 - 7
Silicon carbide 9 1/4
Carborundum 9 1/4

Hardness testing is not often used as the chance of damaging a good stone or even an imitation of value to the owner is too high. It is normally only used on rough material or on an inconspicuous spot on large carvings as a confirmatory test.

Any scratch detracts from the value of a gem. It will not tell if something is synthetic or natural.

Hardness points Sets of standard pieces of Mohs hardness 7, 8, 9, 10 mounted in rods used to scratch gem materials.

Hardness Plates Sheets or slabs of standard hardness materials. The gem to be tested is rubbed on the plate using the girdle so that hopefully the plate suffers the damage. Again, material can scratch itself although it is true that the feel of the "bite" in hardness testing can tell a great deal.

It is also not necessary to file chunks from gems or scratch whole facets; a 1 mm scratch can suffice and if the plate and stone is wiped clean and inspected with a loupe one can tell which was scratched. Diamond is the only colourless gemstone which will produce a scratch in a polished corundum plate.

A lapidary can make a set of small plates quite easily and synthetic corundum can supply the #9 plate.•

Summer Camp
at Ft. St. James

August 2008

By De Morgan

On the Stuart River, just on the South side of Fort St. James is the most picturesque camping spot you could ever find on earth. The site is located along the broad river, with a three mile an hour current swishing and swirling past and rocky pine forests lining the shore. Eagles and osprey swoop down to grasp the unsuspecting trout from the water. The bank is steep, with a 12 foot drop in the rapids on the far side of the river, so we were warned to keep all children away from the edge. In the past ten years, seven people had drowned from this campsite!

As we arrived, Jennifer Moore from the Surrey Rockhound Club, made her way from the dock, carrying her fishing tackle and a trout. The fishing was good here, and Jennifer reported catching 2 to 3 pounders during our week-long stay at the campsite.

Our first field trip, on Monday, was the Tanizuile Site, a large quarry containing black/dark gray limestone. On careful inspection, there were plates of bladed calcite crystals which had formed on the flat surfaces of the rocks. They were either white or golden in colour, with crystals of one to two centimeters across. I found a couple of attractive plates, as did the others on the trip, and packed them carefully in newspaper and boxes. Calcite has a hardness of about three on the mohs scale, and needs to be treated gently or it will bruise.

The second stop that day, was for soapstone, and a kind of serpentine called antigorite. I picked up lots of chips of the antigorite, with the plan to use it on the Kid's Rock Identification cards at the Surrey Show in September. It shone chatoyant green, and formed in long strands.

The soapstone was gray green, some with orange stringers through it. I found two large pieces, and loaded them into the truck. This was only the first day, and the truck was already looking full!

In the evening there was a wiener roast, with watermelon for dessert. We sat around the crackling fire, sharing our experiences and swapping stories.

Tuesday was an 8 a.m. start, as it was a long drive to Mount Sidney Williams to find the nickel silicate, a sugary green material that weathers to a rusty colour.

We came first to the Van Decar Creek, where bright red sockeye salmon fought their way up stream to their spawning grounds. The same salmon had come from the coast, up the Fraser River to the Nechako and Stuart Rivers, and then up the creeks, a distance of 1000 kilometers or more. It was fascinating to watch them jockey for a position, and surge forward, splashing and wriggling to get to the next part of the creek.

We went farther down the same road, and came to the piles of nickel silicate. Gordon Pinder from the Maple Ridge Club, found an excellent specimen of the green nickel silicate with a 6 by 2 inch vug of quartz crystals. One half of the crystals were covered with druzy and the other half were clear. They were about an inch long and half an inch wide, centered in a band of quartz. There were large boulders of nickel silicate, and we all had plenty to take back home to polish.

Ernie Olinyk and my husband, Bob, found a huge boulder in the road bed, and began digging and bashing with a 12 pound sledge to try and break it. They worked the whole time, and got a part of it out before it was time to leave.

Tuesday evening was chili night for supper. Win Robertson, organizer of the camp and its activities, had made a huge pot of chili for us at her home, and brought it along. It was a really flavourful chili, and went down very well after a hard day of pounding on rocks. Dessert was Nummy Knobs, a kind of bannock, baked on a stick over the open fire, and coated with various toppings. Compliments and thanks to Marie Adshead.

Wednesday we went to Pinchi Lake, to a rusty coloured rock quarry, and found hard, reddish, orange-brown patterned jasper. The colour of the jasper may have been due to its cinnabar content, a mercury sulfide, and it broke in a conchoidal fracture with pieces as sharp as glass. Small druzy quartz crystals sparkled in the sunlight, and formed in plates on some of the surfaces. Once again, there was bountiful material for taking home.

At camp we had dessert night, with ice cream and a great variety of toppings. Entertainment was the Ugly Rock Contest. Everyone was to find an ugly rock, bring it to camp and name it. The winners of the ugly rock contest were youngsters Lynn and Wayne Li for their rock, "The Moldy Cheese", and yours truly in second place with "The Bulging One-Eyed Skeleton."

Thursday, we went in search of clear quartz crystals along Stuart Lake. We found the location, but most of the crystals were intergrown and milky. There were vugs of small, clear crystals, and I took some samples of those. I plan to cut the thick base off two of them, and wirewrap the pieces to form a pendant.

At the same location was a former antimony mine adit. Antimony is a rare mineral used for type setting in days long ago, and for solder. We took a small sample of that too.

In the evening, we had a delicious and tasty hobo stew. Bev Olinyk, Win, and others had been working hard to open the cans, and prepare the vegetables that went into the stew. Following dinner, the awards were given:

Ernie Olinyk presented the Rolling Rock to the proudly receiving members of the Abbotsford Club. The rock "Rolls" from club to club in B.C.

Jennifer Moore was presented with an inukshuk as a thank you for preparing the coffee each morning.

Bob Morgan received a bear bell for the best disaster of the week—a one-inch rock pit that spread across the windshield of his truck.

Win Robertson was presented with a beautiful wooden table, some refreshments to enjoy on it, and a card of thanks from the entire group for her hard work in organizing the summer camp.

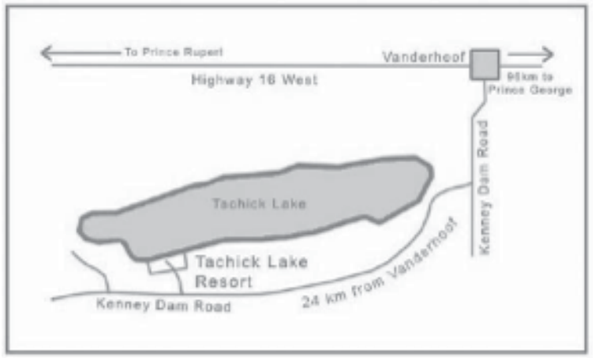
Friday was a free day to do as we pleased. My husband, Bob couldn't get his mind off that very large boulder of nickel silicate in the road bed up by Van Decar Creek, and went back there with Ernie Olinyk to liberate it from its hole. They worked all day. They fought the rock and the rock won. It's still there, should any of you like to go and get it.

Left on my own, I went into the town and enjoyed going through the Fort St. James Museum. It was turned into a federal park using the original buildings that still stood from 1806 when the fort was established, with the exception of one building which had been destroyed by fire. The museum was well done, with guides in each building, and interesting artifacts to examine and handle.

In the evening, we all met for Chinese food, and then parted company the next morning. It was a very successful summer camp and thoroughly enjoyed by all fifty plus rockhounders who attended.

Summer Camp '09: Tachick Lake Resort

August 3 - 8, 2009
Lionel and Cally Cathcart
Telephone: 250-567-4929
Fax: (250) 567-5566
Toll free: 877-567-4929
Email: tachicklake@xplornet.com
P.O. Box 1112
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
http://www.tachicklakeresort.com



The resort consists of 8 rustic cabins which are located on the lake shore and are all equipped with kitchenettes. Some of them have showers and flush toilets. There is also a campground right on the lake with full-hookup and non-hookup sites. Our central wash-house offers hot showers and flush toilets. A washer and dryer are also available for our guests.

There is a covered picnic shelter which would offer enough room to set up a buffet dinner, childrens playground and a small sandy beach for the little ones.

Cabins #1-4 *(up to 4 people)*
One room with 2 double beds, kitchenette, bathroom (shower/ toilet)
Cabins #5 & 6 (*up to 4 people*)
One room with 2 double beds, kitchenette, running water behind the cabin
Cabin #7 (*sleeps up to 7 people*)
One separate bedroom with double bed, one double bed in main room, single bed in an alcove, pull out sofa bed, kitchenette, running water inside.
Cabin #8 (*up to 8 people*)
Three bedrooms, living room, kitchen with dining area, bathroom (shower/ toilet). One queen size bed, one double, one futon double, and two twin beds. Satellite TV.
Damage deposit required on this cabin. Small pets only allowed in this cabin.

Cabin Rates: *(based on 2 guests)*
Cabins 1-4: $ 70.00/night
Cabins 5-6: $ 60.00/night
Cabin 7: $ 70.00/night
Cabin 8: $105.00/night

Additional person $5.00 per night (children 6 and under free).
Please add 5% GST and 8% Hotel Tax. Cooking utensils and dishes supplied, bedding and bath towels not supplied.

14 full service hookup campsites and almost unlimited regular sites. Only some sites with electricity.

Rates (based on two people)
Regular sites: $ 18.00/night,
Electricity: $ 20.00/night
Full service: $ 25.00/night
Additional person $2/night
(children 6 and under free)
Please add 5% GST.

One week cancellation policy or charged for one night per unit.
Long weekend minimum 3 night charge. There is a central wash-house with showers, flush toilets, washer and dryer.

Other Accomodations:

Hillview Motel & Blue Spruce Restaurant
Tel: 250.567.4468
Fax: 250.567.9515
Toll free: 1.888.387.9788,
Email: hillviewmotel@yahoo.com
1533 Highway 16 East,
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
http://www.hillview.bcnetwork.com

Kitchenettes, fridges, microwaves, coffee makers, queen beds, cable, movie channel, phones, high-speed wireless internet, guest laundry, Pets Allowed.

Major CC, Cash, DC
30 Units: $63—$88
Add'l 15

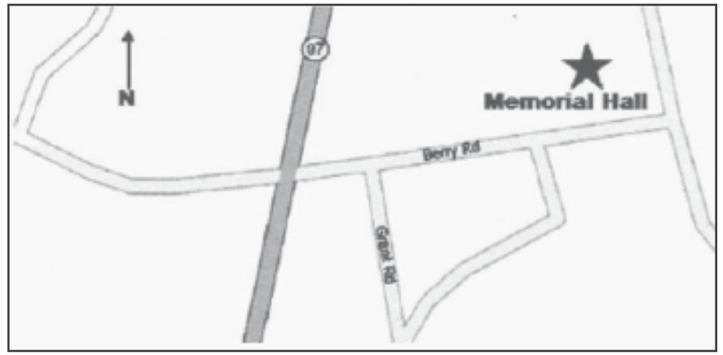
North Country Inn & Log Cabin Restaurant
Tel: 250-567-3047
Fax 250-567-2308
E mail: ncinn@hwyl6.com
2645 Burrard Avenue,
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
wwwnorthcountryinnmotel.com

Clean, modern rooms; queen & double beds; kitchen units; fridges; courtesy coffee/tea; cable TV; some air-conditioned rooms; wirelesss internet; smoking and non-smoking rooms available; Pets allowed.

Major CC, Cash, DC, Travellers Cheques
27 Units: $65—$96; Add'l 10

For further information check the BC Accommodation Guide & BC Campgrounds Guide

Rendezvous '09



May 15—18, 2009
Winfield Memorial Hall
3270 Berry Road, Winfield, BC
Hosted by the 1120 Rock Club

Field trips will be posted at registration.

Donations for the bucket raffle and the rock auction are needed and greatly appreciated.

Planned activities:

Friday
Late Afternoon /evening:
Registration and setting up of display cases
7pm: Pot Luck Dinner in the Hall

Saturday: Field trips
7pm: Rock Auction

Sunday: Field trips
4pm: Bucket Raffle
6 pm: Catered Dinner

The Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Lapidary Society will be held after the dinner Monday morning Pancake breakfast.

Club members are invited to display their collections and demonstrate their skills.
If you require a Society case please contact Dave Barclay at 250-766-4353.

KOMAREVICH ORIGINALS LTD.
Will be the dealer at Rendezvous, If there are any special requests for items we carry, contact Mike:
Phone: 403-244-3244
Fax: 403-244-3424
Email: info@komarevichoriginals.com
1510-7th Street SW
Calgary, AB T2R 1A7

Visit the store at:
www.komarevichoriginals.com

Accomodations:

For further information check the BC Accommodation Guide & BC Campgrounds Guide
Dry camping is available at the hall for $10.00 for the weekend

Lake Country Inn
10010 Hwy 97 N.
Winfield, BC, V4V 1V7
Tel: 1-250-766-4928 or
1-250-766-4925
Toll Free: 1-866-796-3453
Fax: 1-250-766-3805
E mail: lakecountryinn@gmail.com
Independently owned inn with king and queen beds, with pillow top mattresses, deluxe rooms, microwaves, fridges, and coffee in every room; a great accommodation value, with friendly honest service; Smoking Policy: non-smoking facility: Major CC, Cash; Pet Policy: no pets; CP: all cancellations must be received within 48 hours.
28 Units: $95—$140; Add'15
http://www.lakecountryinn.ca

Super 8 Lake Country Inn
9564 Hwy 97 N.
Winfield, V4V 1T7
Tel. 1-250-766-5244
Fax 1-250-766-2103
8 km north of Kelowna airport.
27 new (2007) rooms; 13 completely renovated (2006); In the heart of Winfield, minutes to downtown Kelowna. Air-conditioned; queen & king beds; free local calls; high-speed wireless internet access; cable TV; fridges; kitchens available; in-room coffee; continental breakfast; hot tub; guest laundry; smoking in designated areas only; no pets;

Cash, DC, MC, Travellers Cheques, VI; Pet Policy: CP: 2 days.
40 Units: $95-145; Add'l 10

Airport Inn Lakeside
11474 Petrie Rd.
Lake Country, V4V 1Z9
Tel. 250-766-2621
Fax 250-766-2603,
Toll Free 866-402-4030,
airportinnlakeside@shaw.ca
10 km north of Kelowna airport.
Come & enjoy the beautiful view with a friendly atmosphere; we have daily, weekly & monthly rates; restaurants, amenities, golf & stores close by, minutes from public beaches; wine tourssnf boat rentals nearby.
Smoking outdoors only in designated areas; pets allowed, call for details; Cash, DC, MC, Travellers Cheques, VI; CP: 48 hr on daily stays
35 Units: $65—$250
http://www.airportinnlakeside.com.

Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club
Club Contacts: Joan Humphries
(250) 723-6882
Dot West
(250) 723-0281

Burnaby Laphounds Club
Club Contact: George Mitchell
(604) 433-4043

Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club
Club Contact: Jack Boyes
(250) 337-8461
janboyes@telus.net

Cowichan Valley Rockhounds
Club Contact: Gene Leavitt
(250) 246-4571
gleavitt@shaw.ca

Creative Jewellers Guild of B.C.
Club Contact: Maria Tomsich
(604) 224-1951
mtomsich@interchange.ubc.ca

Hastings Center Rockhounds
Club Contact: Linda Foy
(604) 421-1068

Maple Ridge Lapidary Club
Club Contact: Walt Pinder
(604) 826-2342

Burnaby Laphounds Club

The August program was Stan Maars' DVD of Barbara and Stan's recent trip to Newfoundland and Labrador which made for an entertaining and informative evening. I know those of us that have not traveled to Newfoundland, all wanted to go after seeing their photos. The September program was a surprise program for me, as the club members had a celebration for my upcoming marriage to Allan. Ed puzzled us with riddles and Lorna called out the Bingo games, and there were prizes to be won, as well. The luncheon table was decorated with ribbons and flowers and the treats were extra tasty.

Note: The decision to move the Workshop from Thursday evening to an afternoon time has been put on the back burner for awhile.

There was a grab bag workshop at the Maars on August 21st and over 100 bags were put together for future sales.

Cowichan Valley Rockhounds

So many of our members have either been away or are still away. VP John is back but Helen and Malcolm, Gene and Heather are still away. Peter is recovering well and we hope to see him back at the shop soon. June was in hospital for a short stay and is now home again, always good news. Michele has been under the weather for a time now and seems to be slowly recovering; Brent had some surgery and then headed off to the Falklands. There should be some interesting stories when he gets home.

Our September dinner meeting was well attended, again considering many members were out of town. It's always good to be together with an opportunity to "visit". Our AGM is next month and we still need a Nominating Committee, two members would be great. Don't be afraid to put your name on the ballot – we have very talented members with a lot to offer. December 8th will be our Christmas Pot-Luck Party and someone to arrange/coordinate those tasty dishes would be greatly appreciated.

Monday Silver Workshop Report *Thanks Doris*

Many interesting projects have been completed by the Thursday Group this month. Sheila and Ulla have worked on bead projects. Sheila is making a many strand necklace of varied white shades. Ulla has some lovely old crystal beads she is re-stringing and enhancing with new beads. Heather and Donna made several pairs of sterling wire earrings with beads. Peg made a bumpy seahorse brooch in silver. She has been producing some lovely wire-wrapped pendants. She cuts the stones and then performs her magic with the wire.

Claire will be returning at the end of the month and we look forward to seeing her Italian beads. Sue Koch has promised to visit and show her newest copper and silver creations. She is famous, showing and selling her work in a Granville Island Gallery.

Our sessions are really informal with lots of varied projects but creativity is certainly abundant. I have just completed cutting a 185 facet cubic zirconia in Pink Ice for the facetor's showcase for 2009; now on to Christmas Projects.

Hi folks, here it is September and the best weather so far. So good in fact that many of our members have left town on holidays. Several of us visited Jonanco for their Open House and the tail gate vendors. I found several treasures as many of you did and it was good that Eagle Gem was there for the odd item we needed and didn't have to drive to Courtenay to purchase. Quite a few commercial retailers do not charge taxes when selling at shows; Eagle Gem is one of them. Dan Mooney serves up tasty hot dogs and hamburgers to keep our purchasing energy up, yummy. We have a few new members and I look forward to meeting you. Our shop has continued being busy throughout the summer months and quite a bit of time was spent preparing for the Cobble Hill Fair. The "cutters" and "grinders" did a terrific job with those pendants, and after Michele glued bales onto them a group of 11-12 gathered for the neck cord assembling party. It really was a good get-together and everyone seemed to have fun. Doris and Michele tumbled rocks for the grab bags, special prizes and of course the Thunder Eggs—all popular with the fair "goers." Gene and his team mix up their brew and create the Thunder Eggs and then Gene takes them all home to babysit until dry. Good thing Dorothy has a good sense of humour. Quite a bit of time and work goes into the preparation, set-up, take-down and manning the booth for the entire day—we all really appreciate everyone's contribution and it's because of all of you the event continues to be a success. We've put the shop cleaning part 2 and rock sorting part 2 on hold for a short time. With shop classes continuing throughout the summer there hasn't been a lull to fit another activity into. Neil is getting use out of our large saw and that is really good news. Hate to have expensive equipment just sitting around and that's not the case now. Don't throw out any five gallon buckets with lids as we could use them at the club please—Neil for saw oil and there's always the rock sorting. Good news: Peter V. home recuperating after urgent bypass surgery. Peter and Linda have been so busy again with the lovely bead jewellery they create and sell – it will be good to get them both back at the shop. Frank is away enjoying time with his family quite often, but he still gets home for Tuesday night shop. Korky and Eleanor have been having quite a time with their well and of course water. Having lived with well water for quite some time I appreciate the frustration of not having enough water, and with those lovely gardens darn drat. Good luck and hope it gets sorted out soon. Our discussed social BBQ/pot luck we were hoping to get together didn't happen because we couldn't get enough workers together at the same time. Members were either away or had out-of-town company or couldn't find a suitable location *free* when they were around. We'll do better the next time. Claire/Peter, Gene,

Port Moody Rock & Gem Club
Club Contact: Andrew Danneffel
(250) 942-0617

Richmond Gem & Mineral Club
Club Contact: Eric Kemp
(604) 278-5141

Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club
Club Contact: Emily Faak
(250) 337-5724
wiredbyemily@msn.com

Selkirk Rock & Mineral Club
Club Contact: Maureen Kromha
(250) 367-9605

Thompson Valley Rock Club
Club Contact: Jacki Dowdell
(250) 554-9519
jackidowdell@telus.net

Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society
Club Contact: Magdalene Magon
(250) 592-8963
www.islandnet.com/~vims/

Yellowhead Lapidary Club
Club Contact: Lita Hansen
(250) 672-5876
lita_hansen@telus.net

For More Information
about the BC Lapidary Society or a club near you, visit us online
www.lapidary.bc.ca

John B., Helen/Malcolm and Gwen are away holidaying; Rick/Peg are out and about boating often; Donna/Ken and Heather/Ken planning trips; Sheila's in Vancouver for the week; Mike and I are away next week and a couple of long weekends in Oct.; Jaime and Allen are working shifts and haven't been around and of course Gord P. doesn't always have the right days off; Guy ended up unexpectedly working his planned summer holidays; Doris and Gord have been helping their family with building a huge shop as well as the major projects at home; Brent has been pretty much living at the Cow. Ex. grounds prior to and during the exhibition; and yaay we finally have the deck built just waiting for railings. Next Sat. the 13th is the sale at Don Bolton's residence and then on Monday we'll be having our dinner meeting - arrive 6ish for a 6:30 dinner ($13 buffet, plus beverage, plus gratuity) followed by brief meeting. Thank you Cathy, Tracy and Sheila for calling everyone. Thanks again Heather for getting the newsletter out. We have bills to pay and plans to make—there's the October meeting and then in November our AGM/Election meeting. You are all invited to jump in and get involved with committees, executive and so on —new faces and ideas welcome, and it's your club. So, get well, keep well, Happy Birthday and Anniversary and I hope to see you all soon. Cheers, Ulla

Creative Jewellers Guild

Guenter Otto was nominated for the position of President and elected by acclamation.

Ken McIntos agreed to accept the position of Vice President.

Maria Tomsich agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Sylvia McIntosh agreed to accept the position of News Letter Editor.

Eric Kemp agreed to be Librarian.

Christine Laurin has agreed to be Club Secretary.

A sincere vote of thanks and a round of applause was given to Virginia and Al Evens for all they have contributed to making this Club a success.

Show and Tell: Maria exhibited two Sterling Silver Rings, one with an amethyst stone and one with a Lazulite and Citrine stone. Sylvia exhibited and Enameled pendant with fine silver imbeded in the enamel. Guenter exhibited a 20 carat carved sunstone set in gold and platinum silver, with two diamonds and a sapphire. Ron exhibited a theme piece of hammered textured fine silver rings (1) twisted sterling rings (2) 5mm gold filled beads, twisted square sterling wire. Ken exhibited a sterling silver bracelet and earrings.

Yvonne exhibited a sterling silver necklace which was made from scrap silver.
Program: Susie Berticova displayed an excellent array of jewellery pieces and art objects that she had made during her course at V.C.C. and since that time. She also demonstrated Chasing and Repousse.

Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Club

Fraser Valley Rock and Gem club held their annual show in Aldergrove in September. It was well attended by both the public and many other clubs members.

A very successful Silent Auction was run by Heather Hunter, Ken and Roberta McMath, with our resident geologist Ken McLeod, assisting with identifications. Lots of fun was had by all wanting to acquire that "special" purchase. Childrens corner was operated by Estie Mismer, to the delight of the kids, who made some wonderful creations.

Many donations of rocks, books and door prizes also helped to makie the show a great success. We wish a great big thank you to everyone who made the donations.

Our demonstrators consisted of Florence Van Horn and her famous rock/wire trees, Ron Vauthrin with his silversmithing, Chuck Trebilcock showed off his soap stone carving and Heather Hunter showed us how to knit with wire. Again, our thanks to you for sharing your expertise of the crafts. Many bowls of soup, sandwiches and pies were served by the ladies of the Royal Purple to the delight of many.

Next year we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary which will include a special display at the BC Gem Show in April 2009 so be sure to look for us there.

Port Moody Rock & Gem Club

Princeton Fieldtrip: Sat. Sept 27
Lynne Johnston organized a one day fieldtrip to Princeton BC for agates and fossils for inclusion in our silent auction at this year's club show. Four club members spent the day successfully searching for picturestone,agates and fossils.

The first stop was at the famous Hope Slide for some small pieces of the famous Hope Slide picturestone. The slide itself is under claim so we had to settle from some small pieces of picturestone that the high-way crews had used for fill to create the parking lot for the viewing area.

Then, it was on to Princeton for the 8km round-trip hike into Vermilion Bluffs through the impressive Kettle Valley railway tunnel on the old railroad bed that has been converted into the Trans-CanadaTrail. Unfortunately, the chert fossil beds have been raided by the trail crew and are now part of the new and improved trail. Only a few broken fossils were found at the edges of the trail. At the Vermilion Bluffs we found banded agate hosted in andesite and basalt.

Some jasper, quartz crystals, petrified wood, and calcite was also found. Further up the trail along the Tulameen River we found seam agate and amethyst in boulders near the creek along with agate nodules, porphyry, travertine, pudding stone, and other river pebbles.

After the long hike out, we made a final stop at a highway cut just north of Princeton to look for fossils. We were able to dig in the Allenby chert bands and found quite a few fossilized leaves, including ginkgo and mesasequoia. Unfortunately, the host material is very fragile and most of the finds were only of partial leaves.

To celebrate our gloriously sunny day full of fun, we had a quick stop at the Princeton Dairy Queen to fuel up for the long trip home. A quick reststop at the Hope Slide resulted in a few more rocks being sneaked into the already overloaded car.
Trip participants: Lynne Johnson (Leader), Matthew Kam, Shirley Edwards,and Tom Schlegel.

Ming Tree Workshop
There were 8 participants for the gem tree workshop. We had a good time and the bonus was we each finished at tree as well. Come to the show and see our results. If anyone has another idea for a workshop, please submit your proposal to the executive. Thanks to everyone who attended.

New (to the club) 18" Slab Saw It was heavy but we had the man power. Many thanks to those that helped getting the saw and putting it into the workshop.

Fascinating Facts about Rocks and Minerals…

Did you know that basalt is the most common rock on Earth? Did you know that feldspars make up more than 50% of the Earth's crust?

Did you know the first recorded use of turquoise dates back to 5000 BC in Mesopotamia, where people used the gemstone to make beads?

Did you know jade because of it's toughness has been used for many cultural things like hammers, fish hooks and stone axes?

Did you know lapis lazuli is treasured for its rich blue colour and is often used in jewelry? Did you also know that ancient Egyptians used powdered lapis lazuli as eye shadow?

Did you know that gold is so soft and easily worked that you could roll an ounce of it into a hair-thin wire 50 miles long?

Did you know that the biggest pure-gold nugget was found in Australia in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds?

Did you know that platinum is so rare that two million pounds of ore may contain only one pound of metal?

Did you know that the Taj Mahal built between 1632 and 1654 in India is made entirely out of marble?

Did you know that the Earth is approximately 4.8 billion years old?

It was an all-day job but we managed. The club will get a lot of use from this saw.

Prize Workshop & BBQ
Wow, what a success! Even though the weather didn't cooperate, there were over 20 people tripping over each other creating wonderful prizes for the members table and Spin & Win. Which will help make the Rock Show a huge success. They were a real creative group. Lots of laughter and noise too.

The following BBQ continued the fun with hot dogs, burgers, pot-luck salads and desserts. *Thanks again to everyone involved. And a big thanks to Warren and Shirley for the use of their home for this event.*

Richmond Gem & Mineral Club

We have recently completed a successful Gem Show. The success of our show depended on our members who volunteered their time and energy. Our show chair, Linda Boyce, was well organized as usual and surrounded by happy volunteers. I wish to thank all volunteers, as it is great to work along side those who are enjoying themselves and having a good time. The members who were unable to attend missed out on a great time. The show gives you the opportunity to get to know other members, display your creations *and get some feedback. We have a whole* year to prepare for our next show so consider becoming an active volunteer and reap the benefits.

Richmond Gem and Mineral Club has the reputation of being the best club in the lower mainland. We are blessed with talented and creative instructors who enjoy teaching and working together. If you are having a problem with one of your pieces come to an open workshop where the instructors are more than willing to help.

So thanks again to all of the volunteers, keep up the good work. Just remember that many volunteers makes it easier for all.
Submitted by John Ilott

Our 48th Annual Rock & Gem Show held on September, 6 & 7 was a success. I would like to thank all of you who helped to make it such a special event. The showcases were extremely well done. Great job! The demonstrators, Bob G., Eric, Laurene, Bernice, George, Francis, John, and Harley, were kept busy all weekend showing their skills to the largest contingent of guests that has ever entered our workshop. The dealers seemed to be happy with the show and sales.

The attendance was down from last year, but once all the bills have been paid, we may see an increase to the club's coffers from last year. What a strange outcome from our head count. On Saturday, 444 people came through the doors and on Sunday, 333 people came through the doors, for a grand total of 777 people. Does 777 have a special meaning? I think it means that our club will have a very special year.

A new addition to the show was the Smoo's table. What's a Smoo? Well, it's a critter made from concretions, decorations, and glue. The children enjoyed making them and many parents did to. Not only were Smoos fun to make, but they also were profitable.

For everyone who worked at the Spin and Win, the Boutique Table, the Smoo's Table, and as door greeters, thank-you. Many members helped out for all three days of the show and gave of their time before and after too. The show was a success due to their work and efforts. You enable me to be successful. I would like to give special thanks to John for layout, signs, and insurance; Rene and Darlene for putting up and taking down signs (we lost only one sign this year), the accounting, and providing answers to my many questions; Harley for sign printing, filling the showcases, that would have gone empty at the last minute, and his help; James for all the hard work and the hours spent on advertising and signage; George and Darlene for working very hard with set up and taking down, working theinformation table, taking membership applications, demonstrating and providing the additional help when required; Arn and Sharon for having the society *books available for our members and guests* to purchase and enjoy, and for manning the table; and Natalie for all your help during set up and take down, and for being there to do all those last minute tasks.

Oh, to be young again and with a strong back! I would also like to thank Ernie, Bob L., Trapper, Sharon, Arn, and Eric for your endless support for the three days. We had many volunteers help during the setup and during the show, I do thank you all. If I missed naming you in person, please forgive me.
Submitted by Linda

Not a bad turnout for our annual picnic. Bob and Bonnie treated us royally and the food was never ending. Linda performed magic with the BBQ and had everybody enjoying their meals. Bob also treated us to a demonstration of a portable sluice box, but he would not let us keep the gold we found or any of the precious gems. Trapper was even able to show us how to gold pan with many of us giving it a try.

Lost Wax Casting, Silversmithing, and Lapidary Classes have been organized, students informed, and ready to go. Sharing knowledge and skills with other club members can be a rewarding experience and helps to develop friendships and lasting relationships.

In Memory
It is with sincere regret that we announce the passing of life member, Audrey McLeod, on Friday, October 10. Audrey was 89 years of age.

Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club

North Island Trip: July 26–28
submitted by Mabel Baaske
On the weekend of July 26-28, Doug Murray led a great field trip to Port McNeill area. The weather was mixed: cool and showery. On Friday evening we gathered at the Broughton Campground to hear the field trips plans, and greet and socialize with the others who came to camp. All but two where from Ripple Rock club; they were Claude & Linda from the Parksville club. In total 16 adults, 2 juniors, and 5 dogs attended. The first trip on Sat was to Merry Widow Mine. Just before 9:00am the vehicles lined up, and soon the convoy left for their destination. Upon arrival everyone collected their buckets, hammers & bags, and spread forth to gather some lovely rocks which included: garnets, crystals, chalcopyrite, marble, copper samples, magnetite, porphyry and gabbro. When folks started arriving back at camp, everyone gathered around the vehicles to view their stashes. There were some very fine pieces found.

For dinner Doug set up his BBQ and cooked up a great batch of marinated chicken thighs (they were yummy). Along with salads and desserts from other campers, we had a great meal. The weather sort of turned wetter. One of the campers had a very large tarp set up giving enough room for all of us to stay somewhat dry, but it was cold. After supper and conversation, some bid their goodnights returning to their rigs to get warm, and early to bed for Sundays trip to Georgie Lake (on the Holberg Road) to look for Gordonite, etc.

Though it was fairly sunny and warmer than Sat, we only stayed a couple hours. Lorne Hamilton had been told of another site on the way to Telegraph Cove. He headed out in advance to try to locate it. The rest of us followed Doug, who followed the directions and low & behold we found the site, but no Lorne. So, off Doug went to try to find him. By the time they got back we had a fair bit of picking done. It was nice pink/green/grey banded Jasper, and conveniently close to the logging road. There where lots of signs of bears. We didn't see any, but Doug did. After the pick, most returned to the campground, but Max & I headed home. There were no rock trips on Mon, however I'm sure there were lots of stops. Thanks to Doug for a great Weekend.

Eve River - Sept 6
The most recent club trip was to the Eve River, just north of Sayward. The group marshaled at Canadian Tire and journeyed north. At least a dozen members participated, including folks from Cowichan. Despite one patch of rain en route, it turned out to be a beautiful fall day. The first maple, showing its autumn colours, was spotted near the parking lot. We gathered at the Eve River rest stop and wandered the riverbanks from there. The water was shockingly cold. The rockhounds returned with a collection of Gordonite, Dallasite, and various assorted river rocks.

Hill 60 Rhodonite Hunt - June 28
Thanks to Bob Morgan for opening up Hill 60 to us Rockhounds. There were 9 skookum 4 wheel

drive trucks full of enthusiastic collectors, the majority from the Ripple Rock club. Seven of us started the trip a day early and did some rockhounding en route to, and in & around Port Renfrew. On Sat morning we doubled back tomeet up with the convoy at the base of the Hill (and/or Meade Creek). We had prearanged rides in these mammoth trucks, and quickly jumped in for our exciting rides up the hill. I am personally grateful to Tom and Margaret Hughes for our ride. Even if I had one of these mondo trucks, I don't thing I would have had the courage to drive it up there. In the back seat Lucas, Jasper and I giggled, as we advanced-bouncing from side to side. It was as much fun as a roller coaster ride at Canada's Wonderland.

We all collected smallish pieces of Rhodonite, except for Ken who had the find of the day….with a boulder sized piece of light pink stone (OK maybe it was a big rock, but it was a nice one). Some of us wandered down the hill to an old mine site. I distinctively recall Bob stating that it was just a "few minute walk". Well, it was much more than that, but quite a pleasant downhill stroll on a forested trail. On the first hot day of summer, (>34°C) a bit of shade was welcomed. We scrambled about banging at rocks and filling our buckets…All was good until it was time to return. I thought I was going to die attempting to get back up the hill. I am not usually bothered by heat, and as many know, I quite love it, but this day, hauling buckets up the steep hill, nearly finished me… Lucas saved me by offering to carry part of my load. I am all for child labour…

For me, the most impressive part of the day was the drive back down the Hill. This was much more than a hill. At 800M it felt like we were on top of the island. It was the finest view of Mount Baker, in Washington State, I have ever seen. Most of us joined the rest of the group at Meade Creek to end out our day. The water was refreshingly cold and it was a bonus to come away with a bit of Laurelstone to add to our collections

The Passing of Jack McGowan
Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club has recently lost lifetime member, Jack (John) McGowan. After a long life filled with love, laughter & happiness, Jack passed away peacefully in his sleep August 4, 2008 to be with his beloved wife Marie, whom he lost in 2006.

Jack was born April 4, 1915 in Kindersley, Sask. He was a WWII veteran, Provincial Police Officer, and a Jack of All Trades and a Master of Most. In 1952 Jack married Marie, the love of his life, and together they raised five children. After moving from Vancouver & Richmond to Quadra Island, he became the island electrician and an active member of the community, finally retiring in Campbell River.

Jack and Marie had many travels including wintering in Arizona and Mexico as well as a memorable trip across Canada. Jack will be remembered for his quick wit, great sense of humour, his great 'one liners', his love of tea at 3, rock hounding, tennis, bike riding, Scotch mints and his two-finger glass of Scotch.

Scorching in the Okanagan Sun
compliments of Barb W
For many years Jasper and I have been camping at the North West side of Okanagan Lake, just outside of Vernon. You may have read in previous Bugles, of our attempts to find gems, while en route back to the Island.

Armed with Cam Bacon's guidebook, we have picked up a few treasures through the years. As this typically is our annual journey to the mainland, unfortunately we have always been there at the wrong time for Rendezvous and Summer Camp. I have always wanted to hook up with locals, to find out where to go, and preferably to have someone escort us. Well, this was my lucky summer. Our camp ended in perfect time for us to take in the Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club 2nd Annual Okanagan Show, in Winfield.

I had warned Win Robertson and Dave Barclay, that we would be attending, and told them of my hope to get out on a field trip. They collectively hooked us up with the guy in the know, and area Wagonmaster-Dave Capstick. Some other folks said they wanted to go, but when we marshaled in Kelowna, it was just us. Dave graciously took us out anyways. We traveled for an hour into the mountains, on the west side of the lake, to an elevation of 5000ft, to his agate claim. At 35°C, it was HOT….as we hiked into the site. In keeping with tradition, Jasper's tummy got queasy on the drive in, and he survived with a good dose of Gravol. He had a tough hike in, half asleep, and overheating. The spot was spectacular though.

We hiked through forest and rangeland, and the views were spectacular. Jasper rested a while, as Dave and I began scrambling around the knolls searching for agate. Naturally, Dave found the most impressive nuggets, but we were happy with our collection, many of which Dave graciously donated to us, and before long we were leaving many pieces behind for the next seekers.

After a refreshing dip in the lake on the return trip, we revisited the show to assist with the take down. It was the least we could do for the kindness shown to us. The show was impressive, with the requisite hands-on demonstrations, and a collection of dealers from around BC and Alberta, packed into a nice, easy to find hall. Not wanting to discriminate, Jasper managed to spend his hard earned allowance, on treasures from almost every vendor at the show.

Northwest Rockhound's Retreat
Sept 1-7, 2008
submitted by Beba Adams
This program is sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. This was the fourth year of the program. It is held at the Hancock Field Station which is a site owned by the Oregon Mineralogical Society (OMSI). It is located at Clarno, Oregon—the closest towns are Antelope to the west and Fossil to the East.
The program is held the first week of September. It is open to rockhounds from near and far—on a first come first serve basis. They offer many programs related to Lapidary Arts— cabochon making, silver smithing, casting, wire wrapping, intarsia, faceting, stone setting, beading and judging were on this year's program. For a nominal fee one can choose one or more of the courses offered. The registration fee is very reasonable and it includes a basic cabin and all meals.

I traveled to the retreat with two other Ripple Rock club members: Faye Thompson and BarbUnger. We took the Blackball Ferry from Victoria to Port Angeles. Drove south to Interstate 5, we made a stop a Shipwreck Beads in Lacey, WA. Barb closed the store. We then traveled as far as Woodland, WA where we stayed overnight. We completed the trip the following day with time to make stops at the Bonneville Dam and Fish Hatchery on the Columbia River (and don't forget their gift shop), then on to The Dalles for lunch and more shopping. We arrived at the Retreat in late afternoon, enough time to settle in to our cabin and take part in a delicious spaghetti dinner with rhubarb squares and ice cream for dessert. There were other desserts but this is my favourite.

There were 50 Rockhounders participating in the program, not including the instructors who donate their time to the program. Some of the Rockhounders had RV's or tents as there was space available for camping.
I registered for the faceting program. I recently purchased a faceting machine and didn't know how to use it, so I brought it with me. This program required a commitment for the whole week, as it is an intense and complicated course. There were five participants in the course with three instructors so we had lots of individual attention. The five of us spent the whole week together, taking part in our successes, accomplishments and some frustrations. We got to know each other quite well. Meeting the rest of the participants took place at meal times and evening events. They were a very friendly and caring group of people.

One evening we had a "swap meet". I managed to trade all the flowerstone cabs I brought with me for some nice slabs, an obsidian chunk, and two nice ring size garnets from Idaho. It was a fun evening and there were a lot of items to choose from. I think everyone came away with something that they wanted.

On Saturday evening we had an auction of donated rock related items. This was a fundraiser for the program. There were some very nice donations and the bidding was competitive. A good sum of money was raised for the continuation of the program. On Sunday morning we all had breakfast, packed our possessions into our vehicles, and then cleaned our cabins. When our chores were done we purchased a souvenir T-shirt and said our thank yous and our

good byes.
We started for home about 10am and made several stops on our way. We managed to make it home in one day, even though we didn't get into our own beds until the middle of the night.

This was a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills and new ideas in Lapidary, and to meet many people with the same interests. It gave us an opportunity to talk about our part of the world and what we have to offer Rockhounds on Vancouver Island. We didn't forget to mention the possibility of our club sponsoring the Canadian Gem and Mineral Federation show in 2010.

Rockhounding Misadventures
Submitted by Paulette Egeli, Sept 24
Last weekend Terry and I got a chance to try out our new-to-us 4X vehicle. We hadn't been off-road since last summer so when asked where I wanted to go, I picked somewhere nice and far off the beaten track. We were in the Arrowsmith area up a logging road and then up a spur from that, checking out a mud and rock slide area that has yielded pieces of jasper in the past. I had just lost my footing and mentioned to Terry that it was slippery. He assured me that he knew how to dig in his feet and he was fine. And then he slipped about 4 feet. When I asked him if he was OK I thought I knew the answer: that he was muddy but OK.
But he was not OK. He said in a very flat voice that he had dislocated his shoulder in the fall. We decided to try to pull it out and re-align it and believe it or not, with him hanging onto a tree and me pulling sideways and back we did manage to get it back in. But then he said calmly, "I'm going into shock." And he passed out.

We were below the surface of the road on a slope that ended in a rocky creek bed. I had thought he would feel better with the bone in proper alignment (and eventually he did) but the pain and shock had taken its toll. I shouted and pinched and called his name and he came around. He walked a couple of feet, said he felt nauseated, sat down and fell over again. This time he was out for... a while. It's hard to say what time does in these situations. I wondered if he had worse problems than his arm. I wondered how or if I could get him out or if I'd have to leave him lying in a creek bed and go to the vehicle and also maybe have to drive somewhere to get phone reception. I wasn't sure where his phone was. He *usually* brings it along but...

It was a long time before he roused again. It may have only been minutes but I had a long time to think about our predicament. When he roused he was able to walk and we got him to the car where he had pain medication in the first aid kit. I drove him to the hospital (where we waited 8 and 1/2 hours to be seen and sent home at 1:00am.)

It turns out he has a slight fracture caused by the dis-location and that is healing. Everyone was amazed that we had gotten the shoulder back in. Adrenaline can do a lot in a situation like that. For what it is worth, I felt *directed* to try to do what we did.

Before this happened, we had always assumed that I was the most likely to get hurt. He is far more agile than I am (and smaller and fitter). He used to leave me (in a creek panning or happily pounding on rocks) and go off for 30 minutes to an hour. I wasn't always sure which direction he was in and I didn't worry about it. I know now that he would have only given one or two hoots before losing consciousness—if that. And I would have had to try to find him with few clues. I now know that his phone has an added service—that if we call 911 it automatically gives the GPS location. I now will pay *close attention* to where the keys are, the phone is and for that matter, where we are.

He had adequate pain medication in the first aide kit. Do you? By the time we got to the hospital I was in my own shock—but he was feeling much relieved. His arm had never dislocated before. I've never seen a dislocated arm in spite of having been a practical nurse (decades ago) and taking Level I First Aid (now lapsed). I had seen the procedure on TV, specifically, on the Animal Channel. How much first aid training do you have? We have now discussed taking a backboard with us. This might be a good idea for group field trips. I *might* have been able to drag him up to the road if we had had one. With four people it could have been done fairly easily. No one knew where we were going. We just set out, the way rockhounds do. I've rethought the details of that day a lot.

I hope our experience leads us and you to being better prepared for the unexpected.

Thompson Valley Rock Club

Jack reported they had a few great trips this summer to Scotty creek. Twig creek, Joseph creek. The family picnic in June was a lot of laughs with little rock to be found but great company and food for all.

September 14th is the family picnic for the fall at Juniper Beach. Wiener Roasting and Gold panning are in order, so please let Jackie know if you can make it.

Jackie reported that our newsletter will be has graciously taken over by Pat Davies. A big thank you to Pat.

Workshop News:
The workshop is evolving into a beautiful thing. The saw room/ addition is done and the shelves are being constructed to put the club's rock collections on.

Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society

September Program
Our Walk & Talk went well as usual with tables of machinery, rocks, fossils, crystals and even tumbled rocks on display for everyone to check out. This program is especially good for new members and gives them an insight into various realms of our hobby, which they may like to try.

Tailgate Sale
Our Tailgate sale last month at Jonanco was a lot quieter than usual, possibly due to displays anddealers in the hall, some people did not seem to know that the tallgate sale was there too, down below the hall. We only had 8 venders with a variety of slabs and crystals It was a lovelv day weatherwise and there was hamburgers and hotdogs to keep us from starvlng. All in an enjoyable day.

Member Frank Gumey has had the singular honour of being elected to hand engrave a replica of the Grey Cup. Hand engraving is a dying art and only a handful of people in Canada do this work. Frank apprenticed with Birks many years ago. Birks was the company who made the original cup.

Our last trip was to Meade Creek where we found lots of Laurelstone and other rocks. Six members attended and we enjoyed our day there.

Our next trip will be to East Sooke on Sunday 19th. October. We will meet at Colwood Comers at 9:00 am. Please phone me if you intend to participate: 250-382-6119.

Gemboree Alberni

Susan webster
At 10 a.m. on Friday 6th June I picked up my girlfriend Pamela at the Coho Ferry
Terminal in Victoria. We then proceeded to drive up to Albemi for the Gemboree.
It had been decided to change the venue from Parksville to Albemi, as it was their 50th anniversary.

Pamela is from Sequim Washington and knows several people from up island. We took our R.V.s up island to rockhound with Dan & Rose Mooney when I lived in Port Angeles. It had been 6 years since Pamela had seen friends on the island so she was excited about the trip.

We arrived in Albemi around 2pm. Danny had given me their address. They had moved a couple of days after their show in March. We recognized their place with rocks of various shapes and sizes dotting the landscape. Dan had said if they were not home they would probably be at the Arrowvale Campground east of town so we went there to find

them. We were welcomed with lots of hugs going around. Dan & Rose, Karl and Jan, Joan & Herb were there with many others from the various clubs on the island. There were about 10 R.V.rs who stayed at the campground. We built a nice bonfire and visited for a bit.

It was really chilly so we headed 'home' to put our Dimmies on ready to visit some more. Pamela and I stayed with Dan & Rose along with Lynn and Gwen from Campbell River. Dan and Rose showed us around their new home which has lots of room to do their hobbies.

Saturday morning I was up bright and early to head for Maggie Lake. Pamela awoke with a migraine so I left her in bed while I headed to the campground. With Max driving, Claude (vice president from Parksville) and I joined the procession of four vehicles to Maggie Lake on the road to Tofino. If you have never driven here, it is a nasty road. It is winding, narrow and full of ruts and bumps. It took us a little over an hour to reach the old quarry at the lake. Lots of material there from small rocks to very large ones. We were looking for antigorite (verde antique) which is harder than talc but softer than nephrite. It is a clear green gemmy material that looks as if it had been poured onto other rock. It is classified as a magnesium silicate. Known in stone circles for it's unique coloration and high density. It is used in counter-tops and tiles, exteriors and monuments. It does not stain and keeps its shine when exposed to the elements. There was a lot of magnetite in the area also.

For those who do not know Max, he is a rock enthusiast to the utmost, having worked in that field. He has had several heart attacks including one on the way down Mt. Washington loaded with rock (Pamela & I were with him at that time) but that is another story. Max proceeded to load his truck with those magnetite rocks. I wandered into another area, not wanting to even watch.

The weather was overcast and cool, great for rockhounding. We headed back to camp at 1:30pm. I was glad to see Pamela was back on her feet and feeling better.

The auction was about to begin as we arrived back. We were given paddles with numbers on themand away we went. It was lots of fun and the money all goes to the Island Zone. Then it was supper time with Hobo Stew on the menu. Everyone brings a can of something and it's all added to the pot. Your can then becomes your bowl to eat out of. A large cake to celebrate Albemi's 50th anniversary was our dessert. Another campfire was lit and more visiting. The marshmallows were absent which, in my opinion, is the only reason to have a bonfire. Roasted marshmallows in between graham crackers with squares of Hershey chocolate Yummy! It continued to be chilly but no one minded. Then off for our final sleepover.

Sunday morning we packed up and headed to breakfast which Danny was cooking at the campground. Lots of plump sausages and fluffy pancakes were enjoyed by all.

Approximately 40 people attended and some newcomers joined the 'rockin- rest.' What a fun bunch rock people are! Lots of good company and more wonderful memories of a fantastic weekend.

Vancouver Island Zone Meeting
Aug. 17, 2008

The meeting was held at the home of Jack & Jan Boyes in Black Creek. Some points from the meeting were:
Doug from Ripple Rock expressed concerns about not receiving membership cards, and outdated information in the directory. There was discussion about delegates who cannot or will not attend the few meetings that we have each year. If a delegate cannot attend any of the meetings, they should step out and let someone who can,do the job. Following are reports from the Island Clubs:

Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society
Membership at the end of June was 116. The 2008 show was a success as was the Strawberry Social, in June. In April, June, and July the club had field trips to Muir Creek, Copper Canyon, and Loss Creek, with finds including: flowerstone, poppy Jasper, pyrite, and fossils. The Annual Auction was held in April, and in May there was a talk on Pearls by member, Aurora Bolger. In June/July, members attended Gemboree in Pt Alberni, and the Pow-Wow in Madras Oregon, where they met members from other Island Clubs. September's event is the "Walk and Talk" when members show their prowess in their chosen area of lapidary work.

Cowichan Valley Rockhounds
The Cowichan Valley Rock-hounds continued their shop sessions throughout the summer. Members were busy preparing for the show at the Cobble Hill Fair, Aug 23. With offering lapidary training, geology, silver smithing, wire wrapping, beading, & field trips, member-ship continues to grow. The AGM will be in November.
Parksville & District Rock and Gem Club.

In May the Parksville Club held a well attended Picnic/Auction at Barclay's. Members are now working on Gemboree 2009, which will be held in the Coombs Fairgrounds in the first weekend of June.

Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club
Dan would like to thank the folks from other clubs who willingly pitched in to help with Gemboree 2008. In total, 41 Rockhounds and friends attended the 50th Anniversary of Alberni Club. Special thanks to Claude who helped Dan with the Auction. There were 2 field trips and the whole thing went off successfully—even Sunday breakfast, after a shaky start, with a little bit of help from some friends. The Alberni Club's Summer BBQ was attended by 14 members and guests. The Show date for 2009 will be March 14/15, at the Cherry Creek

Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club
The May Show was successful and well attended. A good profit was made to keep the club going for another year, however, after the show, it was thought that it may be better attended if it was on a different weekend, so a motion was made to move to the last weekend of April. When our Pres tried to book the Hall he found that it was already booked, so it is now reserved again for the first weekend of May. The club had a poorly attended picnic on our June meeting evening, at Kin Beach. Those of us who went had a nice time and ate well and did some rock hunting too. Membership of the Courtenay Club is slowly growing, from 16 to 32 members.

Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club
The Show in June (first time in June) was successful. There were 600+ visitors. The Annual June Picnic/Auction at Charlie's, was very well attended by folks from all over. General meetings have moved from the college to the Campbell River Community Hall. Membership is at 145 and still growing.

The next Zone meeting will likely be at Marion and Lorne Barclay's home in Parksville, on November 29.

Interior Zone Meeting
Oct. 8, 2008

Twenty-five members of the clubs in the zone met at noon on Oct. 5 in Toad Hall in Sorrento for a very ample and delicious pot luck lunch.

After lunch President Pat Boden brought he meeting to order. Various problems of hosting rendezvous were discussed regarding the role of the hosting club and the Society. Lorne Morris presented all the members present with an excellent paper outlining our concerns for discussion at their club meeting.

Shuswap Rock Club
The Shuswap Rock Club has had a busy year. All club members were on deck to help with Rendezvous. They did an excellent job and most reports from people attending Rendezvous were very favorable. I think people enjoyed the different venues for the dinner and pancake breakfast. We have drawn up a “whinge” report on our experiences organizing and putting on Rendezvous. We would appreciate input from other clubs to see if they have any of these concerns and whether we at the Interior Zone can make improvements for other years.

July 12 & 13 was our annual open house, show and sale. Again our club members came out and did an excellent job. We had a really good display of jewelry and rock in our display cases. People were interested in the lapidary, quartz capping & sphere making demonstrations. Saturday was fairly busy with Sunday being pretty slow. We may go to just one day next year.

Our field trips this summer were a little disappointing because some were cancelled due to hot weather and a lack of wagonmasters being familiar with the areas.

It has not been decided at this point if there will be a Christmas sale at the end of November.

Our club has just over 100 members, including juniors.

Penticton Geology & Lapidary Club
Submitted by Gloria Bordass
The Club held its annual demonstration at the Cherry Lane Shopping Centre the weekend of April 25th and 26th during regular business hours. There were demonstrations of wire wrapping, gem trees, angels, dragon flies and painted rocks. We had the usual "touchy feely" table that draws a lot of interest from everyone.

A field trip/wiener roast was organized for the first part of June but was cancelled due to the weather. It has now been rescheduled for November 2nd. Hopefully, the weather will co-operate this time.

The Club was not active during the summer months. There were four members who Attended Rendezvous at Chase. No one attended Campout at Logan Lake or summer Camp at Fort St. James due to other commitments.

The annual sale is taking place on Fri. Oct. 24 to Sun. Oct. 26 at the Cherry Lane Shopping Centre, during business hours.

The first meeting for the fall was held on Wed. Oct. 1st with 7 members and 2 guests present.

Our membership remains at 14 adults.

Interlakes Rockhounders
We have 10-12 active members now. Our workshop is finished. It is insulated with a possibility of heat this winter. Slabs to cab. Our first Fall meeting will be Oct. 15th, 2008 at 1900 at Fawn Lake (Mike Bolivar’s house.)

New finds at Needa Lake area—geodes and nodules. Black Dome Mine gate has been moved down the mountain cutting off access to the thunder egg beds. This will be investigated this fall.

President: Mike Bolivar
Vice Pres. Garry Babcock

Thompson Valley Rock Club
Our club has had a busy summer. Field trips were well attended and everyone especially enjoyed the Family picnic and wiener roast/gold panning at Juniper Beach. Probably more wieners found than gold flakes.

Our workshop is finally finished after many hours throughout the summer by the “fab five”. The saw room is complete, shelving done and arbors are ready to use.Election of officers will be in November.

Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club
Vernon Lapidary and Mineral Club have had a good summer, which included many field trips. The big one ‘summer camp’ held at Fort St. James was a great outing with 10 of our members attending.

Our shop is working well. It is open Mon., Wed. and Sat. afternoons. We also have a 30 in. saw which is available to any member of any club for slicing big rocks on a per hour charge.

We had a rude awakening. The Village Green Mall decided we were not a non profit organization. They are now charging us commercial rates. The club decided to bite the bullet and carry on with Mall sales on a ‘user pay’ basis.

The Tailgate sale at the Village Green Mall was attended by 4 of our members, one from Penticton and one from Oliver. The cost to the Village Green Mall was $105.00. Sales were dismal. Is it worth it? This will have to be decided. Next Wed. is our election of Officers for the 2009 term. New People, New Enthusiasm!

Yellowhead Lapidary Club Report
It has been a quiet summer. We cancelled two trips due to the heat in August. We had a very good trip to Strawberry Hill.

A new executive was voted in May, 2008.

President: Herman Schneider
Secretary: Litta Hansen
Treasurer: Monique LaFrance

We have one more field trip to dig up some newly found fossils. And we are still dreaming of a workshop.

High Country Rockhound Club
Hosted the Interior Zone Roundup the June 21st weekend at the Logan Lake campgrounds, There were 25 members from of the Interior clubs gathered to enjoy the weekend.

The club had 2 very good field trips to new areas led by Jan Kohar & Dan Guillou, with everyone getting some nice agates and some very interesting crystals & mineral specimens.

We had nice sunny weather for the field trips, with the rain holding off until we were ready to tuck into the pot luck dinner. Fortunately High Country club & Dan had purchased 10x20 portable shelters which had been set up at the campgrounds & were put to good use for the dinner & the silent auction.

As we were hosting the zone Roundup in June, we had a couple of field trips to reconnoiter new locations for the event.

The club donated a large plate glass display case to the Science room at the Logan Lake High School & provided a selection of local rocks & minerals for the students to identify & display.

The club will be organizing a display and children's workshop for student’s day at the Kamloops Exploration Group's (KEG) conference in April 2009.

A Practical Guide to GPS - UTM

By Don Bartlett
http://www.dbartlett.com/

For those looking for more information, check out:

NASA's World Wind Site
Lets you zoom from satellite altitude into any place on Earth.
http://worldwind.arc.nasa.gov/index.html

Fugawi Mapping Software
http://www.fugawi.com/web/products/fugawi_canada_maps.htm

The Tourateck Page in Germany
Where a working copy of the Tourateck QV mapping software may be downloaded
http://www.ttqv.com/main.php?sprache=2

MapMan
A free generating tool designed primarily for owners of Garmin units with mapping capability
http://www.mapman.org.uk/.

Dale DePriest's very complete Garmin site.
http://www.gpsinformation.org/dale/
A very complete Search & Rescue page from British Columbia with much other material and links. Well worth a look!
http://www.sarinfo.bc.ca/

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