

B.C. ROCKHOUNDER MAGAZINE

Issue#4 - 2020

PHOTO EXTRAVAGANZA

EDITOR'S NOTE

Once more it is time for the BC Rockhounder to go to the virtual presses and we have no shortage of great images in this issue. We were provided great shots from both members and non-members alike, and have quite a breadth of goodies to share.

Although we all have been restricted from doing our normal meetings, shows and other group events, some field trips (both solo and club) have continued - one of the great things about Rockhounds in the time of a pandemic - our most strenuous activities are outside.

I continue to look for ways to include as many rockhounds in all of our BCLS clubs as I can, and I see you all on the various social media platforms, but haven't heard much from you in regards to submissions. I cannot stress enough that this publication is intended to be for you and by you. Please consider sharing your activities with the rest of the BCLS here as well as online.

As always, I am very open to suggestions - be it for content, presentation or just about anything - I very much want to provide the best I can for the readership, so feel free to reach out with your opinions, ideas etc.

Greg Carson



FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

ROCKHOUNDER@SHAW.CA

ROCKHOUNDER@BCLAPIDARY.COM

If you are a BCLS member and business owner / hobbyist who wishes to promote their products, consider placing an Ad here in the Rockhounder. There is currently no charge for members, we only ask that the Ad be Rock or Lapidary related.

rockhounder@bclapidary.com

Greg Carson, Editor

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CLUB NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL
1120 ROCK CLUB	Lindea Parnell	president@kelowna.rocks
ABBOTSFORD ROCK & GEM CLUB	Michelle Floris	marsharargentino@gmail.com
ALBERNI VALLEY ROCK & GEM CLUB	Les Bontron	lbonttron@telus.net
COURTENAY GEM & MINERAL CLUB	Russell Ball	dj_fossil@hotmail.com
COWICHAN VALLEY ROCKHOUND CLUB	Jennifer Proctor	jeproctor@shaw.ca
CREATIVE JEWELLERS GUILD OF BC	Silvia McIntosh	info@creativejewellersguild.com
CRESTON VALLEY PROSPECTORS	Gerry Rehwald	rehwaldg@telus.net
DELTA ROCKHOUNDS GEM & MINERAL CLUB	Stephen King	stgking@icloud.com
FRASER VALLEY ROCK & GEM CLUB	Carol Alexander	cjapaints@hotmail.com
GOLDEN ROCK & FOSSIL CLUB	Stan Walker	swalker@persona.ca
HASTINGS CENTRE ROCKHOUNDS CLUB	Paul Pinsker	pinsker@novuscom.net
HIGH COUNTRY ROCKHOUND CLUB	Jan Kohar Gord Lavery	gkohar@telus.net glavery@telus.net
INTERLAKES ROCKHOUNDERS	Elsie Babcock	greem@shaw.ca
KOKANEE ROCK CLUB	Udo Matern	xldigger@shaw.ca
LAKES DISTRICT ROCK & GEM CLUB	Helen Brown	rkbrown49@hotmail.com

CLUB NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL
MAPLE RIDGE LAPIDARY CLUB	Anne Gapper	annegapper1@gmail.com
PARKSVILLE & DISTRICT ROCK & GEM CLUB	Guy Chouinard	m82fish@gmail.com
PENTICTON GEOLOGY & LAPIDARY CLUB	Jerome Albo	arnoldalbo@gmail.com
PORT MOODY ROCK & GEM CLUB	Darrell Akerstrom	djakerst@sfu.ca
PRINCETON ROCK & FOSSIL CLUB	Maureen Parsley	meparsley@gmail.com
QUESNEL TUMBLING RIVERS ROCK CLUB	Jackie Kimmie	quesnelrockhounds@gmail.com
RICHMOND GEM & MINERAL CLUB	Darlene Howe	darhowe@shaw.ca
RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB	Steve Cooley	scooley@uniserve.com
SELKIRK ROCK & MINERAL CLUB	Frank Fowler	ffowler@telus.net
SHUSWAP ROCK CLUB	Florence Jarvis	shuswaprockclub@gmail.com
SURREY ROCKHOUND CLUB	Gord Venn	gordvenn@shaw.ca
THOMPSON VALLEY ROCK CLUB	Edna Park	ednapark@telus.net
VERNON LAPIDARY & MINERAL CLUB	Tony Heisterkamp	chewe@telus.net
VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY	Doug McLeod	wesmac12@gmail.com

Andrea Wunk, avid Rockhounder and Photographer, shared a number of fantastic photos with us, ranging from Scottie Creek Amethyst to Chilliwack Quartz to Fraser Canyon Serpentine and the ever popular Fraser River Agates.











Santa Claus Mountain



Feldspar and Azurite,
Fraser Canyon

Members during the outing to Turlite Mine





During a solo trek up French Creek (Parksville area) this summer, I found some very interesting rocks and geological formations that I thought folks might enjoy.

- Greg Carson





Sedimentary stones of varied inclusions, from the classic sandstone above to the altered/metamorph on the previous page.

Fractured concretion slowly eroding out of the bank





Concretion slowly eroding out of the bank



Sedimentary formations that look eerily like long lost man made bricks



THE ABBOTSFORD ROCK AND GEM CLUB WORKSHOP AND HISTORY

by Georgina Selinger

The Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club was originally known as the M.S.A. Rock & Lapidary Club, which was formed on April 9, 1979. The club was originally formed to promote rock hounding and lapidary to seniors. The Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club became a member of the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada in January 1998 and a Chartered Member Club of The Lapidary Rock & Mineral Society of British Columbia on May 17, 1998. The Club continues to host field trips and inspire its members to develop their lapidary, metal work and field research. Many club members have expertise in lapidary, silversmithing, lost wax, gemstone faceting, cabochons, beading, carving and precious metal clay.

After many years of fund raising and saving, the club signed a 2 year lease with the Peardonville Community Hall Association, in February 2019. We also became a non-profit society in 2019.

We can use the upstairs in the hall for our monthly meetings and approximately 1000 sq. ft. in the basement for our workshop. The downstairs however, required a major cleanup of cob webs, debris, and moldy drywall. We replaced, added new, and painted drywall, painted the floors and put sealant on the cement walls, then paint. Broken doors were replaced, painted & dead bolts installed. Gaps to the outside were filled & insulation added. We wired the shop and added lighting & a fan over the saws. Then shelves & tables we installed for the polishing units and storage. All of the saws & equipment needed refurbishing, new saw blades etc. 10 joyful and hardworking club members took 189 man hours to clean, paint and repair to get our space up to code. Then countless hours of moving equipment, repairs and set up of the machines by Ray Selinger & Al Homenuke.

By November 2019 our shop was ready to show off for our 1st Gem Show, which was an amazing success! We had a lunch counter, 10 vendors, door prizes, an auction and display cases. We had 450 attendees over the weekend, plus 77 children.

Excitement brought in January 2020 with workshops starting and many more scheduled for March and April. Then in mid-March everything was closed down due to Covid-19. In the summer we re-started our meetings outside, and opened the workshop with one shop foreman opening for one family group, everyone wearing an N95 mask, both for shop & Covid-19 safety. As our shop is so large, the plan was to separate the two, someone could cut, the other could polish. That way there would be no 'cross contamination' between attendees. We had a few shop openings, then mid-November everything was shut down again.

Going back to September 2020, the club was able to host an outdoor tailgate, which again was a great success, making about 60% of our 2019 show profit. We also signed up a dozen new members during and after the tailgate.

Fingers crossed, we, as well as other clubs, can host our gem shows again in 2021.

Check us out on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/AbbotsfordRockAndGemClub>



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



FINISHED SAWS

THE BCLS REPORT

Submitted by the BCLS Executive Secretary

The BC Lapidary Society held their 2020 AGM by ZOOM on December 6, 2020, with 26 members joining in. It went extremely well and if we are unable to meet together in March, we may do it again. This looks like a really good way to go as it enables all clubs to participate without leaving home, and they can also join by phone if they wish.

The membership affirmed the executive as follows: President, Ted Aberly, Maple Ridge Club; 1st Vice President, Andrew Danneffel, Port Moody Club; 2nd Vice President, Michael Hill, Victoria Club; 3rd Vice President, Edna Park, Thompson Valley Club; Treasurer, Craig McMorland, Port Moody Club; Recording Secretary, Linda Strand, Parksville Club.

The Society had to cancel both 2020 & 2021 Gem Shows and Rendezvous due to the uncertainties of Provincial Orders going into next year. Maybe we will be able to have an outdoor tailgate or even Summer Camp. But unfortunately it's nothing we can plan for at this time.

In order to assist the clubs in a small and equitable way, the Executive is waiving the BCLS dues for 2021 and will pay the GMFC costs on behalf of the clubs. In order to benefit from this, the clubs must still submit their membership lists and the breakdown of family and single memberships. Any membership fees the clubs collect from their members can be retained for themselves.

There were 3 applicants for the scholarships this year and due to the extraordinary events of the past several months, the Society awarded all 3, \$1,500. This is a onetime exception due to Covid-19. They are: Emily Norman, Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Club, Duncan Robinson, Lakes District Rock & Gem Club and Michael Hill, Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society.

The Society currently has 29 member clubs – 1120 Rock Club; Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club; Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club; Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club; Cowichan Valley Rockhound Club; Creative Jewellers Guild; Creston Valley Prospectors & Lapidary Club; Delta Rockhounds Society; Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Club; Golden Rock & Fossil Club; Hastings Centre Rockhounds; High Country Rockhound Club; Interlakes Rockhounds; Kokanee Rock Club; Lakes District Rock & Gem Club; Maple Ridge Lapidary Club; Parksville & District Rock & Gem Club; Penticton Geology & Lapidary Club; Port Moody Rock & Gem Club; Princeton Rock & Fossil Club; Quesnel Tumbling Rivers Rock Club; Richmond Gem & Mineral Society; Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club; Selkirk Rock & Mineral Club; Shuswap Rock Club; Surrey Rock Club; Thompson Valley Rock Club; Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club; Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society.

We encourage the clubs to write up articles for the Rockhoulder. This is a magazine for members, and the more submissions there are by the clubs and members, the valuable it is to our fellow rockhounds! Tell us your struggles and how you are coping and surviving this pandemic. Some clubs had to completely shut down both meetings and workshops, others met outside a few times or opened their shop to 1 or 2 people. There have been online sales, raffles, an auction and at least 1 tailgate sale. Quite a few were able to go on fieldtrips while keeping a physical distance. Tell everyone your story.

FLOWERSTONE FIREPLACE SURROUND

by Greg Carson & Austen Scott

A long time friend and fellow rockhound, Austen Scott, was having one of our mutual friends over for a visit (pre-lockdown) and while viewing his pretty impressive mineral display, the topic of enclosing a new fireplace surround in a panel of cool rock slabs came up as an idea. Austen bumped it to me and while I did indeed have some slabs available, I didn't have anywhere near the quantity necessary. We kicked the costs in time and blade wear that creating the slabs on my saws would take around and realized that our mutual friend would be better served by purchasing slabs from a local merchant.

We had both dealt with Ernie Carlson before (a member of the same BCLS club as I am - PDRGC) and knew of his Rock Guy shop on the old Island Highway between Qualicum and Courtenay, with a large selection of slabs and other rock goodies, so Austen went for a drive and sourced out a huge bin of flowerstone for a very reasonable price. Then it was back to town and start the rough layout on a back plate. Austen and the homeowner worked together and after roughing out the layout, cut the slabs to final size with a wet tile saw and adhered them to the backplate, finishing the work with a dark grout to really make the stone stand out. No high end polish was desired for the slabs so they were left matt, which allows for easy cleaning and wipe on polishes of different types to be applied as wanted or needed.









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