

Thanks a Bunch!

- The Authors—Isabel Lopez, John Bowman
- To everyone helping set up the meetings.
- **For your articles. Please keep them coming.**

COVER PHOTO

Columnar basalt, highway 97, North of Alexandria

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Abbotsford Show features Pacific Rim Minerals

The 2007 Lapidary Society show in Abbotsford has concluded with some great displays, lots of dealers, and good attendance to make it another successful event. This year's theme was minerals of the Pacific Rim. While there were lots of those, there were also minerals from all over the world and a good selection of specimens from our province.

The item that caught your eye as you entered the show was the beautiful jade eagle, which was displayed courtesy of Jade West. The carving was exquisite, as the photo shows. Another major



special display was a few showcases of fantastic agates from the Shaw Springs area. These were some of the best specimens ever collected by the Shaw family from that locality, featuring excellent banding and large sizes. Among the special displays were at least two from Hastings Club members. John Prychun had an excellent display of Vietnamese minerals, while Karl Friedmann had his informative ammolite case on display.

There was an incredible display of fluorite specimens included in the special displays that was one of the better specimen cases I have ever seen at the show. Other cases included a variety of Chinese fluorites, a nice case of Black Tusk Quartz specimens, and materials from the Okanagan Opal claim. A display of stamps and corresponding specimens that had been put together by the late Phyllis Richardson was included in the Special Displays in memory of Phyllis, **Okanagen Opal** who had passed away during the previous year. There was also a case of opal specimens, a collection of Montana agate, some gold



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specimens from the Lilloet area, rock carvings and jewellery.

Besides the special displays, there was the usual excellent assortment of displays put in by the various clubs from around the province. This included an excellent case of nephrite jade cabs from around the world, displays of petrified wood, the beautiful carved stone jewellery of Guenter Otto, some nice picture jasper cabachons, and a case of “rock oddities” that told the story behind various specimens. There were also some nice cabs of flower stone on display, some nice framed intarsia work, and a good collection of Buse Lake blue agate specimens. The Thompson Valley club did well when it came to the People’s Choice award taking home the top two prizes.

The Hastings club cases included Nick’s river bar case with a few of his carvings, Diane’s ocean jasper cabs, Liz and Karl’s display of fossils and coral, Joseph’s Montana agate cabs, Lillian’s silver jewellery, and my field trip case. We had a good display but we could use a few more cases if people want to join in to display in next year’s show.

The show also featured the usual Spin and Win, grab bags, a large number of demonstrators explaining how to do virtually every part of the lapidary hobby, and children’s activities. I did not get a lot of time to check out all the dealers but managed to make a few quick trips around to see what people were selling. I was



Nick Tsougrianis’s river bar display

looking for fluorite specimens and bought a nice Mexican specimen from the couple from Quebec who always have a good variety of materials for sale. I also bought a beautiful slab of rainbow fluorite from Dave Barclay. I agonized over a specimen from Illinois that had nice zoning in it but I managed to agonize long enough for someone else to buy the one that I was looking at. I am hoping to put together a nice fluorite specimen case, however, after looking at the fluorite case that was in the special display, I realized that my collection has a long way to go.

One unfortunate note was an incident involving people trying to break into one of the showcases. They were not successful because a member of our club happened to come along at the right time and noticed the damage to the case before it was broken into. It may be that we will have to make some changes in our cases to make them harder to break into as the current design was not done with security in mind.

I always come away from the Society show impressed with the creativity of the members of our clubs. People are always coming up with new ideas on what to do with rocks and new ways of displaying their materials. Thanks to all of the members of the show committee, especially our Show Chair Cam Bacon, for all of the hard work that goes into putting on a major show like the Abbotsford event.

Now it’s time to get out in the nicer weather and look for some nice materials to put in our showcases for next year. See you out there.

Submitted by John Bowman

Hastings Centre Rockhounds April 26th, 2007

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:46 pm with Linda Foy presiding.

President: Linda Foy: we have an auction tonight with some nice specimens. Please write an article for the newsletter. We need grab bags (7 by 9 inches) by our next show. We need to make 300-400 bags.

Secretary: John Bowman: we received newsletters from Richmond and Campbell River clubs along with Rock and Gem and Rock and Mineral magazines.

Treasurer: Sue McElgunn: reported on our bank balance and advised that we had rolled over our GIC and made \$104 in interest.

Ways and Means: John Prychun: we have four rows of slabs tonight. We are accepting donations of slabs of specimens.

Show Chair: Nick Tsougrianis: looking forward to our show next year. We have decided not to do an extra show this fall.

Field Trips: Bill Needoba: the next trips will be at Rendezvous in Roe Lake over the Victoria Day long weekend. Bill reported on Rendezvous for new members.

Membership: Lillian Brooks: three new members are here and two guests. 35 people are signed in. The door prize is a brooch.

Rep to Centre: Michael Edwards: there are new members on the Board. Norm Funk has left after many years of service. Just came back from Tucson and will do an article on the trip.

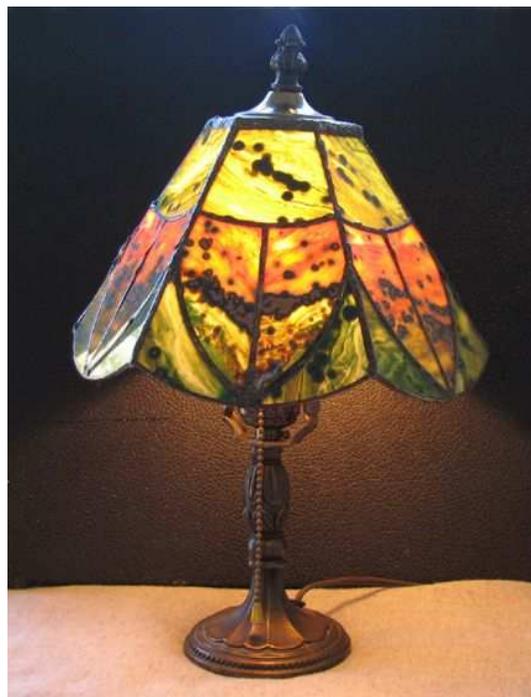
Rep to Society : John Bowman: reported on the Abbotsford show and issue with attempted break-in of showcase.

New Business: Linda reported that Dan Constantinescu was not at the meeting because his brother passed away last week. Jackie Walker fell and broke her wrist and leg and is in Burnaby Hospital, and is receiving visitors. Michael Edwards expressed his thanks to Dan for taking time to be at the workshop, which was above and beyond the call of duty.

Norma Gill will put on a gem tree workshop on May 27th in our club workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

*Next Meeting:
Thursday,
May 24, 2007
7:30 pm*



A tiffany style lamp shade made by artisans at The Gem Shop using thin polished slabs of Ocean Jasper. For more info see: <http://www.thegemshop.com/oce01.htm>

Norma Gill will host Gem Tree Class

Norma Gill has agreed to host a Gemtree Class (we will be making a small tree to start, to get the basics)

It will take place at the Workshop on the last Sunday in May (May 27th) at 1:00 pm until approx 3:00 pm.

Interested members please call Isabel Lopez (604-324 4484) or email: marisalopez@shaw.ca to register, so we know how many people will come.

See you there.



Attend this workshop and learn how to make a beautiful Gem Tree.

Remember:

RENDEZVOUS "07"

will be held at the
**Blue Hall
Interlakes Community Complex**
7592 Hwy. 24, Roe Lake BC
May 18 - 21, 2007

Lapidary Workshop hours

Monday & Thursday
(Wednesday on GM week)

with instructor
6:30 — 9:30 PM

Wednesday
10:00AM — 1:00 PM

Saturday (No instructor)

1:00 — 4:00 PM



Membership

Membership runs from September to June.

Single: \$20

Family: \$25

Membership with Hastings
Community Centre is required
for Club Membership

President: Linda Foy 604-299-3903

Secretary: John Bowman 604-421-1068

Field Trips: Bill Needoba 604-451-7701

Workshop: Dan Constantinescu 604-298-0239
Siggi Rohde 604-941-0300

ShowChair: Nick Tsougrianis 604-255-3232

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**2007 GEMBOREE
VANCOUVER ISLAND ZONE**

**June 1, 2 and 3rd Friday -> Sunday
Cowichan Exhibition Grounds
Duncan, B. C.**



Hosted by the Cowichan Valley Rockhounds

Mark your calendars, start gathering rocks & goodies for the Zone Rock Auction, book time off, and plan on attending a weekend with your rockhounding friends. **Off TCH from S turn left and from N turn right onto James St. by Cowichan High School, then past Community Centre first right onto Clements and through gate. Cars park on right in field, campers' park and go to registration for directions.

Registration anytime Friday & Sat. 7- 8:30 a.m. for field trips - anytime for Gemboree. Registration \$10/each (children 12 & under free).

Sat. field trips will be leaving 8:30 - 9 a.m. returning to camp by 1 -1:30 p.m. in time for the **2 p.m. "ROCK AUCTION"** with our guest auctioneer from Port Alberni, **Dan Mooney**. Field trip destinations and other activities will be announced a bit later - we have several interesting locations to visit around the Cowichan Valley and surrounding areas. Following the **"ROCK AUCTION"** draws for the **bucket raffle**, and then the traditional fabulous **POT LUCK SUPPER** to be enjoyed by all. **50/50 draw** ongoing Fri. & Sat. with draw after dinner Sat.

Sunday morning the CVR will host **breakfast** (our treat); we're planning on bacon, sausages, pancakes and eggs, juice and of course coffee/tea.

We look forward to seeing you. Feel welcome to join in and give a helping hand at any time jump in don't wait to be invited.

***Coffee, tea, and other beverages available all weekend* Friday dinner BBQ** (hamburgers, beef and chicken, smokies, salad) provided by CVR Then social time around the fire with some fun entertainment - a *PARTY!*

Sat. you are on your own for breakfast and lunch, until the traditional evening **POT LUCK SUPPER** (can hardly wait), with more fun entertainment - another party?! **Sunday morning** will see a hearty **breakfast** for those spending the weekend with us.

Additional info will be provided with second notice in early spring. Each club will also be receiving Cowichan Valley maps and brochures at that time. .

General: Dry camping \$10 per night, with hydro \$15 night (**if you wish hydro, brim extension cords please**) - we collect for the Exhibition. Within a few blocks of the Exhibition grounds there are too many fast food restaurants and grocery stores to list. Country Grocery has a terrific deli and bakery just across the road. If you're not going on field trips you might visit the Farmers' Market downtown (leave on Clements, turn right go across the railroad tracks turn left and straight through to Trunk Rd. stay in right lane to turn - you'll see it right ahead of you at the turn), and then also take a moment to walk around town. Or stay in to visit, check out the rock auction and the bucket raffle items.

Thank youCRV contact Mike & Ulla Williams, 1-250-748-0203 williams~seaside.net



Hastings Centre Rockhounds Rockhounds

Hastings Centre Rockhounds
C/o Hastings Community
Centre
3096 Hastings St. E.
Vancouver, B.C V5K2A3

The Hastings club has been active for almost 50 years. Interests of members range from all aspects of the lapidary arts to rock, mineral and fossil collecting. We have a well equipped workshop where we cut cabochons, facet stones, and polish and set jewelry. More than half of our members are accomplished silversmiths and jewelry designers. Some make gem trees, do enameling, carve rock and wood, or collect minerals as well.

We also organize regular field trips to various rock hunting areas.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July, August and December) at 7:30 PM at the Community Hall, at the Hastings Community Centre.

Rock Auction a great experience.

We had a rock auction at our last meeting, and it was a blast! It is great for those of us who for different reasons cannot make it to the workshop. It gives us a chance to get little treasures made by others, like that Book Holder made by Cliff that I thought was mine, but actually went to someone behind me. What a shame! I came away with a little gem tree that went directly to my living room to decorate my book case. Plus I won two times at the raffle so.. I gave some of my "bootie" to my friend Gladys who had come to the meeting as a visitor. More so, we were enjoying ourselves so much that we decided to join forces and bid for the unknown specimens in the white bucket (nobody was allowed to peak at what was in there). Well, we got it! And it was heavy! Lots of rocks in there. Being newbeys, we don't know exactly what to do with all this, but my friend Gladys, who by now had signed and paid her membership, headed this week to the workshop and got her first acquaintance with some of the machines, under the patient guidance of workshop master Joseph....and Dan who was also there showing us around and cutting some beautiful slabs. She was thrilled and says thank you to Joseph and Dan (she will be back there soon!)

My real thing is collecting agates and I would like to buy a tumbler- a good used one if possible. If anybody is selling one, please let me know. It would be great if it complies with the three Bs.... BBB which in Spanish means Bueno, Bonito y Barato...something like Best Beautiful Bargain!

So, come and join us for coffee and snacks at our monthly meetings. I especially recommend coming to the auctions!

◆ Isabel Lopez
