

B.C. Rockhounder

**The Great Chelsatta Lake
Agate Hunt**

**Ignorant, Sentimental
and Metamucil**

**Islanders Put Their Stamp
on Summer Camp**

The Oldest Wood in the World

Strike it Rich

**Gold Copper and Cobalt
Mineralization at the Merry
Widow Mine**

**Rattle Snakes on Railway
Tracks**

Rockhound's Code of Ethics

- 1. I will respect private property and do no Rockhounding without the owner's permission.*
- 2. I will use no firearms or blasting material in rockhounding areas.*
- 3. I will take garbage home or deposit in proper receptacles.*
- 4. I will leave gates as found.*
- 5. I will do no willful damage to materials or take more than I can reasonably use.*
- 6. I will fill excavations which may be dangerous to livestock.*
- 7. I will build fires in designated places or safe places only, and make sure they are completely extinguished before leaving.*
- 8. I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.*
- 9. I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.*
- 10. I will obey all laws and regulations of forestry and game departments in the area in which I am hunting.*
- 11. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources and wild life.*
- 12. I will always use good outdoor manners.*

The British Columbia Rockhounder

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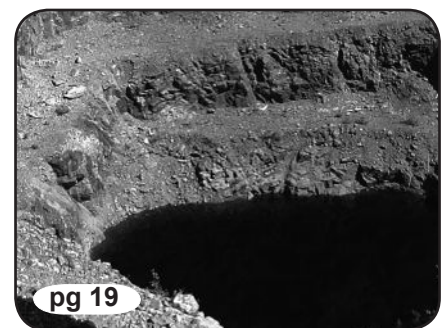
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Front Cover

Merry Widow Mine, Vancouver Island BC

Photo: Diane Bowman



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Presidents Message

Harley Waterson

Welcome back from the great summer! I certainly heard about the fabulous summer camp event on the Island that many of you went to. Alas, I was not able to go, and it sounds like I missed a great event. A big thank-you to the organizers, and all of the people who assisted in the background to make the event a success!

The fall season of club shows is also in full swing with the Surrey club, and Richmond shows coming up soon! I certainly hope to see everyone's new treasures collected over the summer in the club cases!

Society News: Just a quick background on the "Society" for new club members. The Society is a group of volunteers from a number of the BC lapidary clubs. The main focus of the Society is to assist with support and events that are open to all BC club members. Under this heading would be the three main society events, Rendezvous, Summer Camp, and the 'big-show' in Abbotsford. Also included are the Rock Auction at Rendezvous, Rockhounder magazine, and some supporting items such as the WagonMasters, book sales, and insurance for club members. Each club has representatives that are invited to the meetings, and are able to vote on any items that need approvals.

As mentioned, the Society is made up of volunteers from various clubs, and as always, new volunteers are always welcome! If you are new to a club, or even a long time member, please take some time to help out in some way, even if it's just to help set up a show, a showcase, or contribute an article on your summer escapades to the Rockhounder, or your own club newsletter!

What's new: In addition to the three main events that the Society organizes, we have discussed organizing a fourth annual event,

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Harley Waterson
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which will be a "tailgate" sale. A large number of you are not "dealers" but may have some surplus items to sell. I'm hoping that we'll have a large number of dealers, and individuals sign up for a space! The plan is to advertise within the clubs to have a large number of people turn up with hobby related items to sell! At this time we have no date other than a target of Sept 2007, nor a final location. I have volunteered to head an organizing committee as I will hand over the presidency next spring. As always, I will be looking

for some volunteers to assist with the planning and operation of the event! If all goes well, this will become the fourth annual event hosted by the society for all clubs.

Lastly, I hope that you noticed the new format for the Rockhounder Magazine. Your editor, Win Robertson, has been busy tweaking the format, and I think it's a great improvement! Drop her a note if you like the new format, or if you have an article for a future editon!

Harley Waterson

Many Thanks

for all the articles that were sent to me for the Rockhounder. They are enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to:

R.K. Brown, Diane Bowman, De Singleton,

Bill Needoba & Jo- Anne Blomquist

for all the pictures taken at summer camp.

Win

Eureka! Quarry Near Oilsands Full of Ancient Artifacts

By Bob Weber

The Canadian Press, Edmonton
(Sep 15, 2006)

Oilsands activity has uncovered vast wealth of a different kind

a 10,000-year-old quarry rich with tools and weapons from some of the first Albertans, including a pristine spearpoint still smeared with the blood of a woolly mammoth.

An archeological field worker shows a 10,000-year-old spearpoint later found to have traces of woolly mammoth blood on it. The artifact was uncovered at an ancient stone quarry in northern Alberta.

"It's got this echo of the Ice Age world," said Jack Ives, Alberta's provincial archeologist, who described the find in a hearing before the province's energy regulator yesterday.

The so-called Quarry of the Ancestors, which scientists suspect may be one of the first places

"There's quite a rich concentration of artifacts" where humans put down roots in northern Alberta after the retreat of the glaciers, is found on an outcrop of hard, fine-grained sandstone adjacent to the Albian Sands oilsands lease about 75 kilometres north of Fort McMurray.

The \$12.8-billion Albian Sands project is before the province's Energy and Utilities Board.

The quarry was discovered in 2003 when Birch Mountain Resources, which quarries limestone in the area to make chemicals used in oilsands mining, conducted a routine archeological survey prior to its own proposed expansion.



The site's importance was evident almost immediately, said Nancy Saxberg, who conducted the field work.

"We went into the woods and dug a couple of holes, and everywhere we dug a hole we found archeological material," she said.

Spearpoints, knives, scrapers, stone flakes and tiny micro-blades that would have been fastened to a wood or bone handle all began to emerge from the boreal loam.

"People were prying this stuff out of the ground in chunks," Saxberg said.

One investigator turned up a spearpoint still sharp enough to penetrate flesh. When tested, it contained traces of proteins that matched elephant blood. The only possible source would have been a mammoth, an animal thought to

*"There's quite a rich
concentration of artifacts."*

have died out more than 10,000 years ago.

"It was pretty thrilling," Saxberg said.

The site, spread out over a square kilometre, was so large that Saxberg said the normal archeological practice of establishing the

boundaries of a site had to be modified.

"We couldn't define the sector because the sector was so freaking huge."

As well as offering beautifully preserved examples of fine ancient craftsmanship, the Quarry of the Ancestors will provide vital clues to North America's human history.

The soil at the site is unusually deep for the area, said Ives, allowing archaeologists to separate material from different time periods.

"There appear to be opportunities to learn more about chronology," he said.

Tools fashioned from rock known as Beaver River Sandstone have also turned up at hundreds of sites in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Until now, the source of the stone has been mysterious. It came from the Quarry of the Ancestors.

"There's a vast area in which this raw stone material was circulating," Ives said.

Ives has assembled what he believes to be the outline of the area's history.

People first started coming into the area about 12,000 years ago, as the glaciers gradually retreated north into what is now the Northwest Territories. People followed their retreat, passing through the quarry area as part of their nomadic rounds, stocking up

on the excellent stone and hunting when game presented itself.

Human occupation was interrupted about 10,000 years ago when a massive flood from Glacial Lake Agassiz inundated the area. People returned as the floodwaters abated, this time sticking around instead of just passing through. The quarry was a centre of occupation for thousands of years.

The depth of that history has thrilled members of the Fort MacKay First Nation, on whose traditional land the quarry sits.

"The community, especially the elders, found it to be very important to them," said Lisa Schaldemose of the Fort MacKay band.

Although band members are cautious about claiming the quarry's ancient toolmakers as ancestors, artifacts are on display at the band office and community gatherings have been held on the site.

In an area where land access is increasingly complicated by oilsands leases, Schaldemose said Fort MacKay wants the quarry to be permanently available to its community for use as a gathering place.

Everyone agrees the quarry, which is surrounded by oilsands leases, should be preserved.

Birch Hills Resources, which owns the quarry rights, will expand elsewhere, said owner Don Dabbs. "We recognized the importance right off the top. This area has had a very long history of being important to people."

TransCanada Pipe Lines has rerouted a line to avoid the site. Shell Canada has altered plans in the area. And Ives's department is asking Community Development Minister Denis Ducharme to declare the site a provincial historic resource, which would preserve it.

The Quarry of the Ancestors is irreplaceable, said Saxberg.

"This is an example of an early, early time when people are staying in one place and getting to know the landscape and getting to know the resources that are there," she said.



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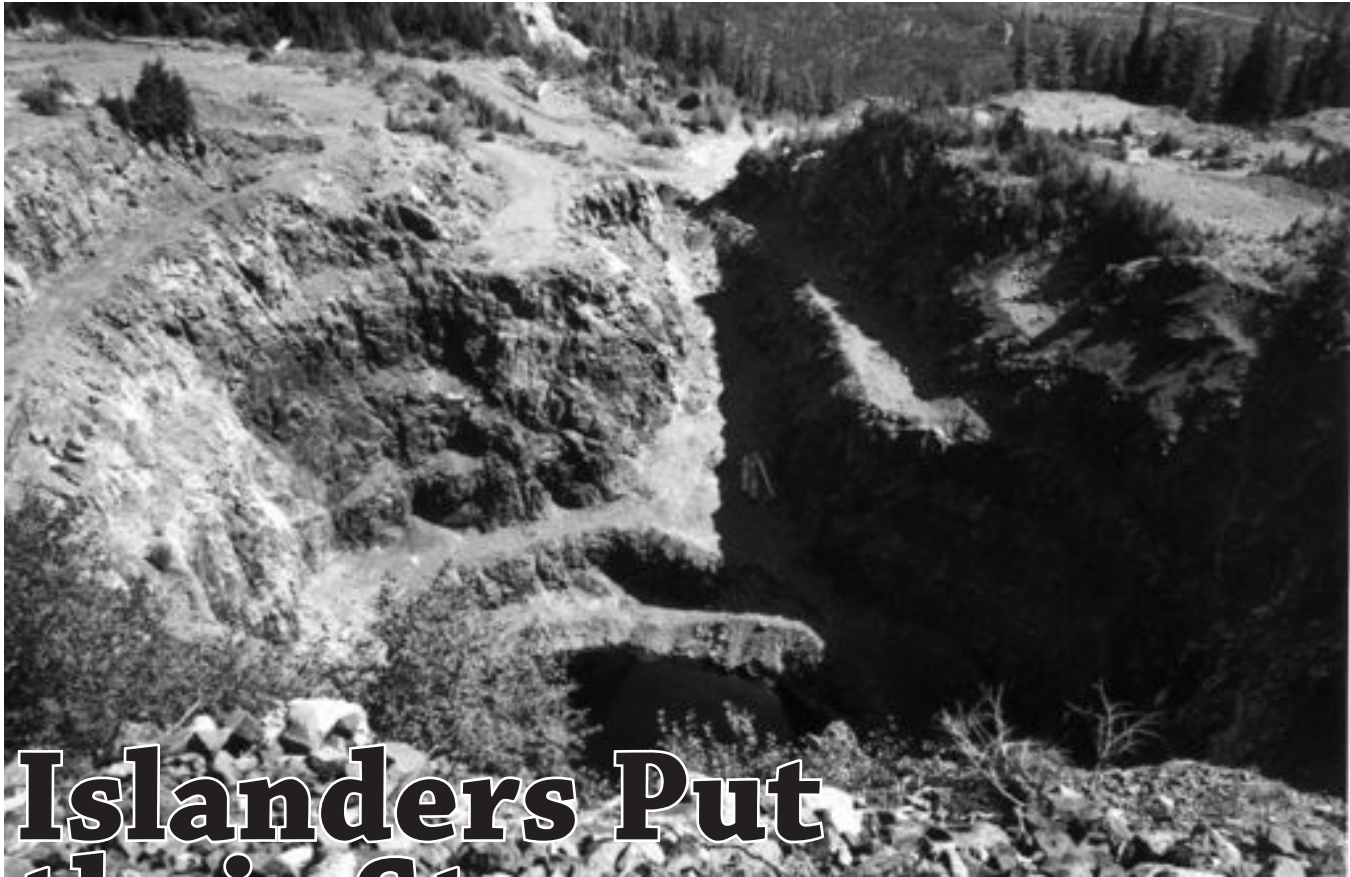
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SPECIAL CONGRESS REPRESENTING INVOLVED BULLETIN EDITORS



Merry Widow Pit

Islanders Put their Stamp on Summer Camp

John Bowman

The 2006 BC Lapidary Society summer camp, held in Port McNeil, at the northern end of Vancouver Island, was a big success attracting over 90 rockhounds from all over the province. It was a unique summer camp, with many different events scheduled over the six days, including social events most evenings and many lunches and dinners supplied to participants. Everything was well organized, right down to an on-site washroom with covered tarp at the field trip locations!

Those in attendance were truly spoiled by our camp hosts, members of the Ripple Rock Club based in Campbell River. (We remind

Society members that they should not expect this treatment at future summer camps. We will return to a more informally organized summer camp when we hold next year's event in the Burns Lake area).

We left Burnaby on Sunday and despite reserving a ferry, arrived at the Island over an hour late due to delays at BC Ferries. We stopped to have coffee with our friend Gwen Langill, from the Ripple Rock club when we passed through Campbell River. Gwen would have loved to be at summer camp but had relatives coming in that same week. As we made the trip from Campbell River to Port McNeil, I thought I spied a moose in the marsh to our left along the highway. (When I mentioned this at camp, everyone thought this was funny as the "moose" was built

by someone to trick people driving by. Apparently there are no moose on Vancouver Island, which I did not know, especially after seeing so many in Newfoundland.)

After checking into the Dalewood Inn in Port McNeil, we went for what turned out to be a long dinner (one hour wait for food) and then stopped by the camp to register and briefly visit our fellow rockhounds. We were pleased to see that many people from the Lower Mainland clubs had ventured over to the Island, including about 14 from our own Hastings Club. We were given a detailed agenda, complete with maps of all the collecting sites. They even had T-shirts and sweatshirts commemorating the event (thanks to Doug Murray), which we proudly wear.



Barney

Dinner at the Merry Widow



Lunch at Atluck



Free raffle table

Monday's field trip was what turned out to be my favourite of the week. This was a trip to the Merry Widow Mine. This mine operated for about ten years and closed back in the sixties. There are two big pits filled with water, however one of the pits had a ledge above the water where you could explore for specimens. There was a large variety of minerals to be found in the tailings piles surrounding these pits including magnetite, copper, garnets, calcite crystals, epidote, realgar, and many different types of pyrite to name. This was a wonderful site where you could spend days looking for material, and we were happy with the specimens that we collected. We had some light rain and it was a bit cool, but nothing serious. We were served a great dinner at the mine site. We saw a black bear foraging in a logged area off in the distance.

Day two was a two wheel drive trip intended for "old farts" and people whose vehicles were not fit for rough roads. Although a number of locations were on the schedule, we only attended the first one,

which was the dalasite location along the Atluck Lake road. There was plenty of dalasite, quartz and epidote to be found and it did not take us long to get all we needed. We were planning to visit the next location, the Salmon River iron ore mine, but that was cancelled due to

*We saw a black bear
foraging in a logged area
off in the distance.*

logging activity. We were served a lunch at the Atluck site, and then left to do some sightseeing at Port Hardy. Having never travelled north of Campbell River, we were determined to see some of the area while we were here. Although the town of Port Hardy has seen better days and is struggling without much of an economic base, we enjoyed the museum, the gallery of local artists and the first nations gift shop. We made it back to camp for the pot luck dinner where there was lots of good food and socializing with fellow rockhounds and their

pets. The camp dogs, Tess and Barney, were also on hand looking for scraps and keeping an eye out for bears at the camp garbage container.

On Wednesday, we took a break of rockhounding to go on a whale watch trip. A craft-making workshop was also held for those not wanting to go on the trip. About 40 rockhounds went on the whale watching trip and got to see numerous orca whales. Our captain gave us a short presentation on the orcas and we were fed an excellent seafood chowder for lunch. We later went back to camp for a seafood dinner that was incredible, with plates piled high with prawns, as well as salmon, scallops, oysters and many other dishes. That was followed by a free raffle where tables of prizes were given out to lucky ticket holders.

The Thursday trip was to Georgie Lake for Gordonite. We decided to pass that trip as wanted to do a kayaking day trip while we were in this beautiful area. We took a trip out of Telegraph Cove and we saw a pod of Orcas while we were on



Pot luck dinner

the water. We stopped for lunch at a place called the Blinkhorn Peninsula and we found some Gordonite, the material that the people on that day's field trip were collecting. We enjoyed our kayak trip although the trip back against the wind and the tide was a bit of a challenge. We made it back to camp just as they were finishing the hobo stew in time for the hillbilly band, the ugly rock contest, and the boner and bozo awards. Bob Morgan took home an award for having yet another flat tire during a field trip, while Arthur Lu from our club took home a picture of Barney, who for some reason took to barking at him whenever he saw him during the first part of summer camp.

Friday was a trip to the Three Island Lake area for quartz crystals. Most of the clear crystals that were found were loose on the road and along the side of the road. The quartz that was found in the surrounding hillsides was not clear. We found a few clear crystals along the road and brought home on piece of the white crystals found in the host rock. There was some speculation that the clear crystals may have been brought from outside to confuse us rockhounds, but this has not been confirmed. That evening, we had a wine and cheese night at the camp where there was a wide variety of food to nibble on and a great selection of wine and other spirits. People began to say their goodbyes and

make plans to head home. There was a pancake breakfast the next morning, but we did not attend as we wanted to spend the day doing some sightseeing along the way back to Nanaimo. Once again our ferry was late so we left at 11:00 pm instead of 9:30 making for a long night.

Our thanks go to Charlie and Lena Hallstrom for all the work they put into this summer camp. We also thank the many other members of the Ripple Rock club for helping Charlie out. It is not hard to see why the Ripple Rock club has been increasing in membership when you look at the enthusiasm and organization that exists in that club. Your efforts made summer camp 2006 an event to remember for all those lucky enough to attend.



Q. What's the Difference Between Fossilized and Petrified?

Andrew Alden,
Your Guide to Geology.

A. It can be a little confusing. A fossil is any evidence of life that has been preserved in rock. So fossils include not just organisms themselves, but also the burrows, marks and footprints they left behind. Fossilization is the name for a number of processes that produce fossils. One of those processes is mineral replacement. This is common in sedimentary and some metamorphic rocks, where a mineral grain may be replaced by material with a different composition, but still preserving the original shape.

When a fossil organism is subjected to mineral replacement, it is said to be petrified. For example, petrified wood may be replaced with chalcedony, or shells replaced with pyrite.

This means that out of all fossils, only the creature itself could be fossilized by petrification.

And not all fossil organisms are petrified. Some are preserved as carbonized films, or preserved unchanged like recent fossil shells, or fixed in amber like fossil insects.

Scientists don't use the word "petrified" much. What we call petrified wood, they'd rather call fossil wood. But "petrified" has a nice sound and I like to hear it. It sounds right for a fossil of something familiar that looks lifelike (like a tree trunk).

Charley and His Crew Lead the Way in Island Hospitality

De Singleton

Never, in the history of the Rockhounds, has there been a Summer Camp such as the one we had at Port MacNeill! Charlie Hallstrom, with his supportive wife Lena, and his club behind him, had planned an active and interesting summer camp with hospitality that was unbelievable. Here's my story of how it was, in the summer of 2006.

We turned off the highway at the colourful road sign announcing that we were entering the quaint and picturesque town of Port MacNeill. We found the Broughton Strait Campsite after asking some advice from a group of locals. Our campsite was tucked in a corner, so after Bob's display of deft maneuvering with the trailer, we were able to set up camp.

Down at the main site, we connected with a gaggle of other rockhounds. Charlie and his gang had organized a sheet with a grid, outlining the week's events, attached maps and information for each day's events and brought samples of possible finds at each site. It was exciting to see the variety of rock and such different specimens than we have near home.

Our first field trip was to the Merry Widow Mine. Off to a bit of bad luck, we had a flat tire. My fiancé, Bob Morgan, had it soon fixed, and we were ready to start looking for minerals.

This was the field trip to end field trips for me, as I had the most exciting time ever. On the flat area below the parking, we were collecting beautiful samples of magnetite, embedded with white



Bob Morgan exploring the Merry Widow pit.

calcite rhombohedrons and studded with small actinolite, epidote and garnet crystals. It seemed that each one was a piece of art, and I picked up too many, despite my resolve to take a minimal amount of the material in order to leave plenty for

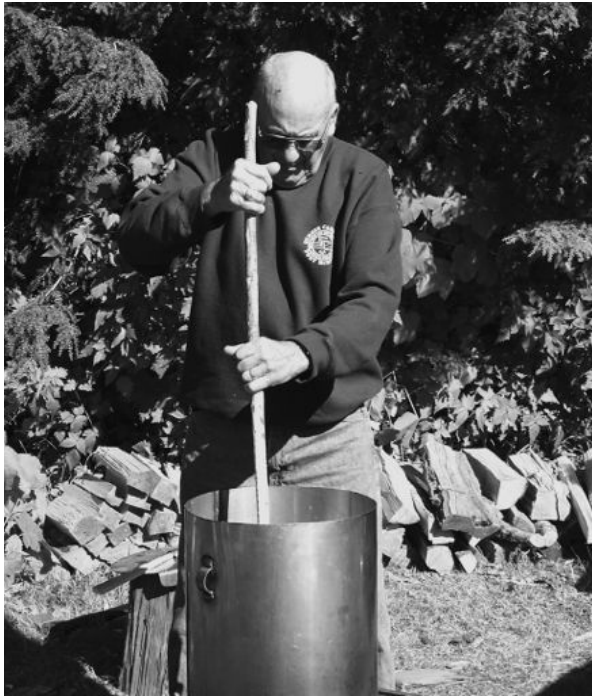
*This was the field trip
to end field trips for me*

future generations. There were also samples of chalcopyrite, bornite and eurythrite (cobalt bloom). I didn't find any of the eurythrite, but others did. The site has a deep pit, with a pool at the bottom. We walked all the way to the bottom, and found chalcopyrite along the

way. This trip reminded me of the mines we visited on our Yukon trip last year, in the Whitehorse area of the copper belt. The specimens have a fascinating mix of four or five different minerals and each one is arranged like a work of art.

At 4:00, Charlie Hallstrom and friends announced dinner. Dinner at a mine site? For the Island folks, it goes with the territory. These people are amazing. They had cooked us a hearty and delicious pork tenderloin dinner, with potato salad, coleslaw, and dinner rolls! Then they proceeded to serve us all. It was my version of fine dining, with a view for miles, fresh air, great food, great specimens and good chatter among friends.

Heading back to camp, our



Stu, stirring the "Hobo Stew" cauldron.

talk was mainly of the flat tire, as we could not go without a spare on isolated mountain roads. We determined that we would have to stay back the next day and try to find a place to get the tire repaired instead of going on the field trip. Da Da! Enter Wayne Rogers! He had a tire repair kit, and knew how to repair the tire. He'd done it many times, he said, and quite obviously he had. He skillfully went through well-practiced steps, and we pumped the tire up. It held that night, and was still inflated the next morning. We were on our way once more, thanks to Wayne.

The Tuesday field trip was creatively called, "Old Farts and 2-Wheel drives". Meaning, the roads we were traveling that day, would likely be fairly good roads. After we completed all the appropriate turns, we arrived at a site along Atluck Lake. We left our cars to meander upwards along the road, searching the roadside. If we tapped the corner of a promising rock, we found a fresh break with bright green epidote crystals, starkly standing against a white-quartz background. They were pretty specimens, and there was plenty for everyone. There were also good specimens of dallasite, some sort of purple stone, and zeolites in vugs. We had a good lunch of hot dogs and icy cold pop, cheerfully served by the Ripple

Rock club members, and then moved on to our next stop.

Our second, of the three stops was for marble. There was white marble as far as the eye could see. I have never seen so much marble before. Some of the pieces were water worn and had very attractive, natural sculpting. I found a piece I could comfortably carry, as well as a few other pieces, and we were on our way once more.

The third and final stop of the day was along Highway 19, where there were piles

of rice rock porphyry. The area was easily accessible and there was abundant material. I chose a bread loaf sized chunk for slabbing and polishing, and we were ready to head back to the camp.

At camp there was a pot luck dinner, with heaps of food and lots

*With some perseverance
we persuaded that rock
into the back of Bob's
lovely new Armada*

of stories to share. We toddled off to bed, happy, tired, and ready for the next day of fun.

Wednesday was set aside for whale watching, and many of the group chose to do that. Bob wanted, more than anything, to go back up to the Merry Widow Mine. It would not be safe to go without a back up vehicle, and we found two other like-minded rockhounds in our friend, Dave Barclay, and his cohort, Fred. I had written directions the day before, and we were easily able to find our way back up there. It's a long drive, but well worth it. We found all of the same specimens as on Monday, but more and better. Bob nailed some quarter inch garnets. We found a very heavy magnetite boulder, with $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$

inch octahedrons, well defined with $\frac{1}{4}$ of the crystal exposed. Magnetite is a very heavy mineral, and that rock must have been 150 pounds. With some perseverance we persuaded that rock into the back of Bob's lovely new Armada, and got it home. It was another excellent day.

Once back at camp, Charlie, Lena and the Ripple Rock team had prepared us a seafood feast, complete with salmon, prawns, oysters, scallops, whitefish, salads, veggies, fruit and all. After dinner the members of the Ripple Rock club outdid themselves. They had a free raffle, with tables heaped full of good items to give away. They worked so hard supplying us with everything, that I felt overwhelmed by their generosity. We ate, we schmoozed, we drank wine, we took our treasures and had the time of our lives!

Thursday we went to Georgie Lake for the Gordonite. We meant to ask for whom the Gordonite was named, but never did. The gordonite is a rock with green epidote, white quartz and orange feldspar. The combination of these three minerals together, forms a very striking-looking rock, and I believe, will polish well. Everyone had as much as they wanted, and we left early.

We stopped at Port Hardy, by a seaside park, and sat in the sun, contentedly munching our lunch on a park bench while we took in the feast of scenery, and listened to the blue waves lap the shore. A tall ship sailed out of the harbor, against a bright red Canadian Coast Guard vessel. We walked and talked, and shared the pleasure of a new place to see.

Dinner that evening was hobo stew (any can of food, but no fish, soup or chili), and a bun. We had an ugly rock contest, and voted for our favourites. I wish I could recall the names of the winners. Many of them were the children, as they are always imaginative, and have a very encouraging club. We had gifts for our trip leaders. We gave our sincerest thanks to wagonmasters, Charlie and Lena Hallstrom, Doug Murray, Bill Luoma and Dan Mooney. We applauded them loudly and enthusiastically, as they, and all



Sharing lunch with the seagulls at the waterfront park in Port Hardy

the Ripple Rock Club members had worked so hard on our behalf.

Our final day of fieldtrips was a place called Three Island Lake, for quartz crystals. Once we arrived and began looking, I saw some small, milky quartz crystals in vugs. I could hear the children on the walkie-talkies, saying that they found one after another! I met a young man of about 8, who told me how to find them. He said to watch the ground and pick up your feet, don't shuffle, then there they are! I followed his advice, and found clear, clean single crystals strewn on the earth's surface, just as the young man had said. There was some very finely-patterned dallasite, which polishes beautifully.

Lunch was served to us once more. The seafood salad was delicious, and the cook should be applauded! Green salad and a roll completed this excellent meal.

After lunch we drove up the hill. Max Baaske smashed a rock, and found a colourful, purple, radiating balls with green, epidote and white shot through it. He gave half to Marie, of Abbotsford Club and

kept the other half of this lovely specimen.

Following dinner, we attended the wine and cheese party. Afterwards, we sat in a semicircle and watched Island entertainment at its best.

Jack and Jan Boyes, Maria and Marina Tsougrianis sang a rousing rendition of "The Rockhounding Ground, to the tune of Squid-Jigging Ground. Four very brave men, Stu, Jack, Dave and Dan, did a skit about rock hounding equipment, with so many double entendres that I laughed until tears ran down my cheeks. They were very clever lyrics, and Jan is the very talented writer of this piece. Dave West and Jack Boyes, along with the children of Campbell River, did a skit called "I wanna Be a Wagon Master". It was all very entertaining, and they challenged us all to enter into the same arena at the next summer camp. We might need them to share their talent around a little.

The dogs, Barney and Tess, tore off, madly barking. "Bears", they all said, as though it were nothing.

Next morning was the pancake breakfast, when we once more

enjoyed the hospitality of these wonderful people in the Ripple Rock Club. We said good bye, and thanked them all, as they had given us the finest show of organization and hospitality of summer camps ever seen in the history of rockhounding. Well done, Charlie, and all of you in the Ripple Rock Club! We enjoyed this summer camp so very much, and will carry the wonderful memories for years.



Psychiatrists say that one of four people is mentally ill. Check three friends. If they're okay, you're it.

Rattlesnakes on Railway Tracks and Other Exciting Rendezvous Adventures

De Singleton

Rendezvous in Heffley Creek, May 2006. My most unusual Rendezvous yet, with many "firsts".

Let me explain. I had an extra "In lieu of day off, so instead of arriving after everyone is asleep. Bob Morgan and I arrived early on Friday. We didn't know where

Heffley Creek was located, but my scanning view locked in on all the rigs and tents camped at the end of a potato field, and instantly recognized that configuration as a bunch of rockhounds. This year we were early enough to get a good spot in the field, complete with many unclaimed potatoes strewn about the back area of the trailer. We discussed roasting them for dinner, but thought they may have been sprayed for seeding and decided against it. The usual gang was there, and the visiting and rock finding discussion was infectious and exciting.

We settled on the two fieldtrips we would take, and headed off to get a good night's sleep. Up early, we went for agate and ferrerite at Kamloops lake, on a trip led by Bruce Ritcey. The way was long, but we're used to that. The ferrerite is a rare mineral, and I have never collected it before. The road into the site was long, and part of it was slanted on a hillside. The SUV in which I was riding, felt like it wanted to roll right over, and it was unnerving and a little scary for us city slickers.

There was a large boulder on the



Bob had lots of advisers to change a tire.

side of the "mountain track", and we rubbed into it along the side of the truck.

Once parked, we began to wander around, looking for minerals along the hillside and railway track. There was an abundance of material. The femerite forms in tiny circles along a blue agate, just like lily pads on a pond.

A loupe is necessary in order to have a clear look at these orange-coloured, radiating crystals of femerite. Georgina, from Abbotsford Club, found a very nice sized sample about Vi inch in diameter.

Bob decided he was going down to the lakeside, and I thought I would go, too. I moved to follow in Bob's footsteps, but just as I had my foot in the air to leap, and looked at where I would be landing, I saw a RATTLESNAKE in that exact spot! It was docile, and not at all perturbed to have me shrieking, "A rattlesnake,

A rattlesnake!" Bob claimed it was a piece of curled iron from the railway, but after much directing and shrieking on my part, he saw it, too. It was well camouflaged in it's grassy home. Bob paled at the realization that he had leaped over the top of it a few minutes earlier.



Wagonmaster Bruce Ritcey surveying the Paxton Valley

The snake had its beady eyes trained on us, but did not move.

Others came to observe, and take photos.

We moved on down the hillside to the lake. It was cooling and relaxing to poke around the logs. I thought the blues in the agate were very striking against the orange coating of ferrierite, which is the colour it

*Bob claimed it was a
piece of curled iron
from the railway,*

had weathered, and picked up quite a few of them.

Simon Cantin came down the hill to find us, and gently broke the news that we had a flat tire. When we went to change the tire on Bob's new Nissan Pathfinder, we had a hard time working the tire release and the rod used to release the tire snapped apart and broke in the process. Fortunately, Jerome Albo had his Nissan there, and he used his tool to release the tire.

We returned to Kamloops and went immediately to the dealership to buy a new tire. They had none



Snake in the Grass, definitely not an iron bar!

in stock, and so we were forced to drive without a spare. We had a good time at the auction that evening, and were up early to go on the next day's trip.

Because we had no spare tire, we asked for a ride with some friends, Anne and David Williams, of Abbotsford club. They generously took us along to the Paxton

Valley. The trip in was long, but well worth the drive for the beautiful scenery. From the top there is a vista view along the valley below, and we had a good day of hunting. One young man, Evan Hall, found a beautiful geode with clear crystals inside. I think it was the find of the day.

Once back at Heffley Creek, we changed and went out for dinner with some friends, then joined the others for the AGM, back at the hall. Our president, Harley Waterson, conducted an efficient meeting and the business was soon done.

We were well rested for the trip home the next day, but felt tense driving without the spare tire. At Merrit, the tire light went on in the truck, but it turned out that one tire was just a bit low. When we added air, we were on our way home again, and arrived without incident. It was a good Rendezvous with plenty of events to relate.



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The Rockhounding Ground

Janice Boyes

To the tune of that old
Newfie standby
"The Squidjigin' Ground".

Oh! This is the place where the
Rockhounds all gather,
to find rocks, and talk rocks, and
swap rocks around....

All sizes of figures with pry bars and
diggers,
We congregate here on the
Rockhoundin' ground.

The ghost of Fred Olkovick always
is with us,
That ancient prospector loved
digging around....
When he moved to Black Creek,
you'd hear the truck springs creak,
Eleven truck loads of what Freddie
had found.

My dear buddy Lois, she taught me
to grind cabs,
To shape them and smooth them
and polish them bright....
If I didn't do it, I'd hear it from Lois,
And have to repeat it until it was
right.

For Tee-shirts, Doug Murray's the
boy that you must see,
He's got 'em in sizes from large
down to small....
They come in three colours, dark
green, blue and ocean,
For tee shirts and sweatshirts, our
Doug has 'em all.

Oh! Ripple Rock's Charlie is such a
hard worker,
he's organized Summercamp down
to the ground....
He'll keep us so busy, that we'll all
be dizzy,
There's not a spare minute when
Charlie's around.



Lena, Charlie & Mable, Lunch on the Merry Widow

Our Charlie's unique, he is one in a
million,
The kind of a fellow who gets things
well-done....
He's organized Summercamp right
to the minute,
To keep up with him, you must
know how to run.

Gwen Langill's a Gem and she puts
out the "Bugle",
She keeps us informed about things
we should know...
Dear Gwen and her notepad are
things that make us glad,
When we see her coming to write
'bout our show.

Oh, Mabel's a facetter, Mabel's a
spinner,
A talented Lady that I'm proud to
know...
Whenever there's work to do,
Mabel's right in it,
A hard working Lady at every show.

The mighty Max Baaske, he swings
a big hammer,
There's no rock that's too large for
Max to attack...
If he cannot break it, it's not for not
trying,
He'll drill it and wedge it and give it
a whack!

I hand it to Charlie for marrying
Lena,

The woman's amazing; she must be
a saint...
She puts up with Charlie and all of
us Rockhounds,
She keeps right on smiling and
never looks faint.

Oh Dan and Rose Mooney and
dear doggy dash hound,
Are right in the thick of all
rockhounding things...
Dan does the rock auctions, while
Rose and the doggy,
Are usually there cheering him on
from the wings.

There's Lewis and Joan and they're
at every outing,
He'll tell you about every rock that
he's found...
With pockets of crystals, and stories
a-plenty,
He's sure to be found on the rock
hunting ground.

Oh, Derek and Mary are so very
helpful,
They'll offer a hand at the drop of a
hat...
They're very hard workers, and so
very useful,
You'd better be sure we are grateful
for that.

And then there's Dan Mooney on
radio duty,
While guiding the group on a field



The Charlie - built "Biffy" on the Merry Widow tailings pile



The Leaverite Chorus led by Jan Boyes providing some very lively entertainment

trip or more...
His usual call in the way of a warning
Consisted of "Hill coming up—
Going down."

I've heard of Bob Morgan and his trucky troubles,
He seems to get stuck in each mudhole he finds...
And at Merry Widow, or on the way up there,
He flattened a tire on the way to the mine.

About trucky troubles, Max also can have them.
He tore off a manifold on the way up...
Until it was fixed again, we'd hear him coming,
a singular sound to come out of his truck.

*Up at Merry Widow, the weather was lovely,
A typical up-island beautiful day...
With wind in the morning and rain after noon-time,
The tarps they did flap and my broly blew away.

The Charlie-built biffy was very elegant,
A beautiful blue tarp against a rock wall...
A nice fruity odour would greet each glad user,
with privacy a-pre-ci-ate-ed by all.

You'll hear Janice Boyes long

before you do see her,
She's bellowing verses to this silly song...
She is most annoying and very uproarious,
disturbing the peace of the rockhounding ground.

There's plenty of fun and there's plenty of laughter,
at Ripple Rock's Summer Camp in Pt. McNeill...
With Field trips by Charlie and crafts taught by Dor'thy,
There's lots of good food and the friendships are real.

With singing and laughter on Thursday at skit night,
The North Island Leaverites put on a show...
There's really dumb jokes, but its harmless amusement,

And nobody's sorry to see us all go.
Here's to Clarence Langill, he was a mad poet,
He wrote silly songs for the Leaverite band...
Without him we struggle to keep the tradition,
Best hill billy band in the whole goldarn land.

With enthusiasm we'd sing our wee hearts out,
As loud as we could and as tuneless as rocks...
With Gwen's pansy hat nodding time to the music,
We're a hill billy band from our hats to our socks.

If you like nice music you'll be disappointed,
You're stuck here with us and we'll yell in your ears...
Our voices are loud and our rhymes are atrocious,
But it's summer camp so be glad you are here!



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Strike It Rich at Hedley's Historic Mine Similkameen Indian Band Pumps Life Into Town With Tours

Laurie Carter

Kamloops Daily News, Tuesday, August 22, 2006

A flyspeck on the B.C. roadmap, Hedley once boasted hotel bars open 24/7 (the better to serve off-duty miners) and four or five brothels (ditto).

Large-scale gold mining started early in the 20th century, the Gazette began printing the news and the Similkameen Valley's first bank opened its teller cage. But the new millennium dawned on a sleepy little backwater gradually descending into oblivion after the mines closed and most Okanagan-bound traffic abandoned Hwy. 3.

That Hedley suddenly stands on the brink of a second gold rush is due to a quirky twist of fate involving the Upper Similkameen Indian Band and a played-out mine.

I pick up the story at a foursquare ochre-red building in the middle of town. The former schoolhouse (1939 to 2004), recently reborn as the Snaza'ist Centre, is home base for a unique new attraction, the Mascot Gold Mine Tour.

Browsing the centre's airy exhibition rooms I learn that the Similkameen people have mined the striated rock faces in the area they call, Snaza'ist (that's sna-za-ee-st) meaning striped-rock place, for thousands of years. You have to see the surrounding cliffs to fully appreciate their gravity-defying skills -- extracting ochre for paint, chert for arrowheads and products such as opals, quartz crystals and

even gold for trade and personal use.

The 19th century was half over before white prospectors turned up -- even then in only a trickle, nothing like the rushes that surged into the Fraser Valley, the Cariboo and the Yukon. And while some struck it rich panning the creeks, the first hard-rock mine didn't open until 1904, launching Hedley's short-lived golden age.

Earth-toned interpretive displays, echoing the colours of the striped rocks, and a stunningly surreal Vancouver-produced video make the connection with the Mascot.

In 1899, a hard-luck prospector named Duncan Woods identified a 16-hectare unclaimed sliver of Nickel Plate Mountain and staked it as the Mascot Fraction. Trouble erupted five years later when the adjoining Nickel Plate Mine found its main ore body angled into the Fraction and superintendent Gomer P. Jones met Woods to suggest a deal.

Nobody knows just what happened, but the ensuing feud lasted until Woods finally sold his claim to the Vancouver-based Hedley Mascot Gold Co. in 1933. The wily old prospector, who by this time was close to 80, grumbled: "I got all this money, now what can I do with it?"

The new company had its own problems. That old nemesis, the Nickel Plate, owned the other side of the mountain leaving the Mascot nothing but a sheer cliff access - - 900 metres above town. Working from a string of buildings perched on tiny footholds in the all-but-vertical rock face, miners had to tunnel almost a kilometre to reach the ore body. Then the only way to get the ore to the smelter in town, and the easiest way to transport both men and supplies, was a Hail-Mary ride on the Mascot's aerial tram.

These are the features that make the Mascot such a unique part of our provincial heritage -- a bit of heritage that was nearly lost.

Aboard a new tour bus on the 45-minute ride to the mine site, tour guide Harry Alton, an outdoorsy looking guy wearing a prospector's beard and a feather-accented

Indiana Jones hat, fills in the story. After operations ended in 1949, the buildings lay abandoned, slowly decaying for more than 50 years. Eventually they were slated to share the fate of other historic B.C. mining structures such as Hedley's own smelter -- purposely burned to the ground.

For a time, the Mascot was reprieved with a provincial heritage-site designation. But when funding was withdrawn in the mid-'90s, the mine again faced doom.

Enter the Upper Similkameen Indian Band. Recognizing the tourism potential (that apparently escaped government officials), the

*Working from a string
of buildings perched on
tiny footholds in the all-
but-vertical rock face,*

band bought the mine and, heavy on the irony here, rescued an important remnant of white history. Restoration has been ongoing since 1995. Now with the creation of the Snaza'ist Centre and the Mascot Gold Mine Tour, the whole town's future looks brighter.

Shannon Beglaw expertly manoeuvres our bus around 48 switchbacks as we climb to 1,620 metres on a gravel road smooth enough that I can decipher my notes without too much guesswork. She adds short sidebars to Harry's commentary -- "mostly fir and lodgepole pine with more aspens as we get higher up . . . the Indian paint brush is red and those yellow daisy-like things are brown-eyed Susans . . . see the piles of rocks and logs in that dried-up tailing pond -- they were put there specially for the marmots . . . keep an eye peeled through this stand of aspens, we've been seeing a doe with two fawns in here the last week."

We don't see mama deer among the trees; she's browsing at the edge of a meadow a half-kilometre farther on.

The bus ride ends at a narrow turn-around wedged between the

rocky tree line and . . . space. We shoulder into our jackets (it's cooler up here) and follow Harry along a contour-hugging track. He stops before an unpromising tangle of sagging timbers hanging over emptiness and a massive red and white sign that reads: Danger Keep Out. Surely this isn't the Mascot.

Harry cracks a grin that says, I love this part, and launches into his spiel.

The Canty and Good Hope mines, too small to support their own mills, trucked their ore here and loaded it onto an aerial tram for transport to the Mascot. Interesting -- but the best part of this stop is the view. There's an alpine feel to the distant snow-spangled rim of Cathedral Ridge and far below, the green-rimmed Similkameen threads through the valley past the Tinker-toy village of Hedley.

Down the track we round a rocky outcrop and do a Keystone Cops routine when Harry stops short. A young mountain goat regards us with mild surprise, briefly considers, then skittles down the loose talus bank, a chorus of shutters baa-zeeping in his wake.

We have to follow him down the giddy slope but our route is a series of sturdy wooden stairways that jig and jag toward a clutch of shiny tin roofs about a million miles below.

"Six hundred steps going down -- 700 coming up!" This from a man who knows what he's talking about. Mike Lich, our second guide, worked on the reconstruction, regularly navigating these stairs with an armload of 2x4s balanced on his shoulder.

By comparison, our descent is easy. We stop at the cookhouse level where a spur-line from the tram dropped supplies right on the cook's doorstep. Down another flight is the main level and mine entrance. Harry and Mike kit us up with white hard-hats and headlamps powered by a battery pack (heavy) that straps around your waist. One behind the other we file through the granite portal.

Our lights cast triangular beams that bob in random patterns along the damp curved walls.

"This is the ventilation pipe,"

says Harry. His words bounce off the stone, landing in my ears from many directions. He explains that, for safety, the pipe is always strung on the left side as you enter a mine. That way, if the lights should fail, you can always find your way out by feeling for the pipe and keeping it on your right. To make the point, he instructs us to turn off our headlamps. Complete -- utter -- impenetrable blackness.

our route is a series of sturdy wooden stairways that jig and jag toward a clutch of shiny tin roofs about a million miles below.

To lighten the mood Harry challenges us to name the Seven Dwarfs -- we come up with five - - and whistling Off to Work We Go, marches us deeper into the mine. At a junction of two tunnels he groups us along the wall and suddenly we're in the midst of a work crew -- shovelling ore, filling skips, preparing to blast. The sound and light show is incredible.

Back in the sunshine we have plenty of time to poke around and check out the displays in the former compressor room. A scale model of the mine and underground workings is all the more remarkable when you consider what must have been involved in getting it here.

Life on the cliff had its compensations: \$4.75 a day (good

money in 1941); card games in the cook house; and three squares whipped up by cooks so good the miners from the Nickel Plate often hiked over for pie. Safety dictated a strict no-whisky rule, though some miners obviously didn't get the memo as restoration crews found numerous empties in the building walls.

On a lookout ramp, I'm joined by a canyon wren that doesn't know the Hi Ho song but has a pretty good tune of its own. I'm glad to take it easy for a few minutes before the inevitable. Climbing back to the landing doesn't prove too bad, although a seven-year-old in the group sparked considerable envy when she scooted by us -- a pink streak -- running up the steps.

We're breathing normally by the time Shannon appears with the next group and we load up for the return trip. Part way down (after spotting two bucks browsing on a hillside) she stops at a lookout for photos and brake check. Under the trees I notice a trio of mauve flowers and start shooting -- the Mariposa lilies are in bloom.

With an all-around experience like this -- great cultural centre, underground mine show and an alpine eco-adventure -- all loaded into one four-hour tour, Hedley's future is looking golden.

IF YOU GO

- Open daily May long weekend to Labour Day; open weekends Labour Day to Thanksgiving.

- Budget a minimum of 4 1/2 hours.- For more information, visit online at www.mascotmine.com

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The Oldest Wood in the World

Carla Helfferich

This article is provided as a public service by the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in cooperation with the UAF research community. Carla Helfferich is a science writer at the Institute.

On a bright summer day in 1987, researcher Jane E. Francis was busy with her wood saws on Axel Heiberg Island, high in the Canadian Arctic. The wood she cut was not driftwood destined for the campfire, though it did burn perfectly well. Instead, it was to be saved for laboratories and museums. Which was entirely as it should be, for the wood was 45 million years old. Dr. Francis is an expert on fossil trees, and she was sampling the remains of ancient forests.

Fossil forests are not particularly rare, even in what are now the extreme cold ends of the Earth. That Canada's far north once harbored stands of trees has been known at least since 1883, when a member of the Greely expedition found petrified wood on Ellesmere Island. But petrified wood is no longer truly woody---its cell structure has been penetrated and replaced by dissolved minerals. What remains may have the approximate appearance of wood, down to growth rings and bark scales, but it is stone, usually quartz or calcite. What Jane Francis investigated was something else entirely---true wood that had been mummified, not

petrified.

Francis recounts the story of the mummified forest of Axel Heiberg Island in last January's issue of *Natural History* magazine (it takes a while for me to get through all the wonderful things there are to read). For someone like her, accustomed to working with wood long since turned to stone or reduced to a carbon smear between layers of sedimentary rock, investigating the ancient wood must have been a joyful experience. She even had quantities of perfectly preserved dry leaves and feathery conifer needles to examine.

The extraordinary state of preservation of trunks and stumps, leaves and litter came about because of floods and chance. When they lived, the trees formed a mostly swampy forest in a broad plain cut by several rivers. Every so often, the rivers overflowed in a massive flood---perhaps akin to the hundred-year floods that hydrologists today use to assess flood plain hazards. The rivers carried heavy sediment loads, the eroded products of a mountain range to the west of the forest site. When the rivers flooded, the sediments they dumped on the plain sealed the forest floor, smothering stumps and fallen logs in the process.

The sediment particles were very fine, so the cap they formed sealed out both rot-causing bacteria and entry of petrifying mineral solutions. That was good luck for future scientists, but still not quite enough. If sediments build up thick enough for long enough---and 45 million years

is plenty long---then increasing temperatures and pressures can turn buried organic matter into coal. Yet even though the process of flooding and forest regrowth was repeated many times over thousands of years, the sediments on the old flood plain only built up to a depth of a few hundred feet. That was enough to compress the wood and squash some delicate bits of forest residue, but not enough to change the organic materials into anything else.

The final element of favorable chance was changed climate. The gradual chilling of the high latitudes killed the forests but preserved their remains. As erosion brought the mummified forest close to the surface, the refrigeration effect of the ice age held decay at bay.

The different forest layers document the slow coming of the cold. A subtropical swamp like the Florida Everglades, complete with bald cypress trees and alligators, was replaced over thousands of years by mixed woods including birch and alder, then by stands of pine, fir, and spruce.

Today, the only woody plant found on Axel Heiberg Island is the arctic willow. Its sprouts may reach a few inches high, even in the protection of stumps that once bore trees reaching a hundred feet high.



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Gold-Copper-Cobalt Mineralization at the Merry Widow Mine, Northern Vancouver Island, BC

James W. Laird

Laird Exploration Ltd.
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The Merry Widow Mine is an iron-gold-silver-copper-cobalt deposit located near Port McNeill on Northern Vancouver Island, BC.

Exploration and mining in the Merry Widow Mountain area dates back to the 1890's. High-grade gold-copper-cobalt mineralization was identified at the Merry Widow Mine early in its exploration history; however, subsequent magnetite iron mining selectively omitted the gold/silver/copper/cobalt-bearing sulphide mineralization as a serious impurity in the iron ore.

The precious metal mineralization occurs in extensive massive sulphide zones within the Merry Widow mine workings. Visible gold has been noted in several areas, and is often intimately associated with well-formed cobaltite crystals and tellurobismuthinite. Mine production culminated with 3.4 million metric tonnes of ore containing 1.68 million tonnes of iron mined from the Merry Widow, Kingfisher and Raven magnetite skarn deposits from 1957 to 1967.

Copper, iron, gold and silver were also mined at Cominco's underlying Coast Copper/Benson Lake Mines "Old Sport Horizon" from 1962 to 1973, producing a total of 2.62 million tonnes of ore containing 41,193 tonnes of copper, 506,148 tonnes of iron, 124,386 ounces



Merry Widow Mine open pit

of gold, and 377,165 ounces of silver. Cominco staff calculated that remaining ore reserves of the Benson Lake Mine at closure in 1972 totaled 501,000 tons averaging 1.3% copper, 0.02 oz/t gold and 30% iron with an inferred

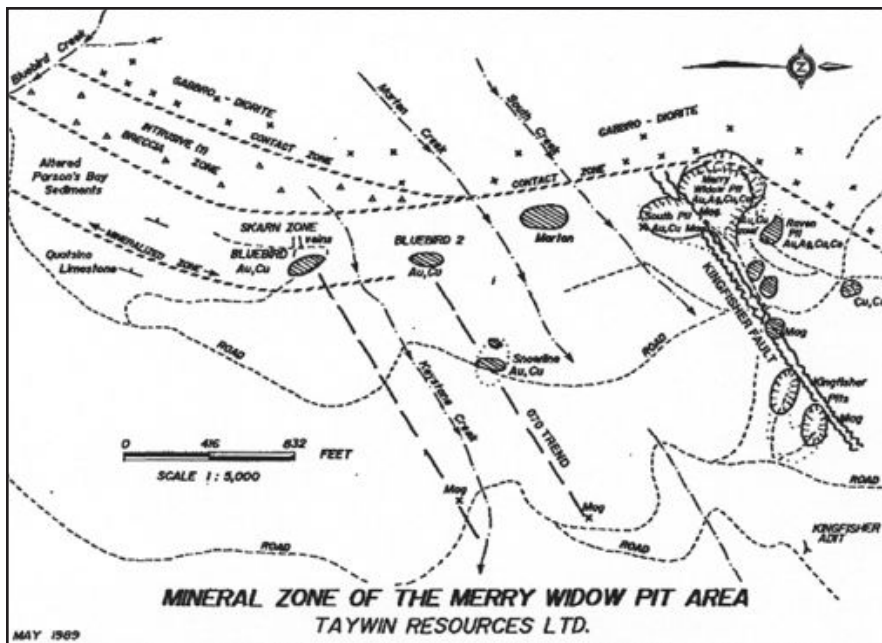
Visible gold has been noted in several areas

additional resource of 3 million tonnes at a similar grade.

During the late 1980's and the early 1990's, Taywin Resources Ltd. and Laird Exploration Ltd. conducted comprehensive programs to investigate the potential of the gold-copper-cobalt mineralization at the

Merry Widow Mine. Exploration included 2850 metres of diamond drilling in 42 holes, giving very strong results, but the political climate at the time precluded project financing and production development ceased.

Other significant gold-copper-cobalt mineralized zones include the Marten, Bluebird, Bluebird II, Bluebird Creek, Snowline, Raven, North Notch, Dry Hill, Independent, Radio, Keystone, Rambler, Whiskey Jack, Summit, Kingfisher Drift, and numerous other showings. The widespread abundance of gold showings on surface, together with the known depth and breadth of existing mine workings, have outlined a strongly mineralized area over 5 kilometres in length,



1.5 kilometres in width and over 1.5 kilometres in depth.

The geology of the highest grade zones of gold-copper-cobalt and the general arsenical mineralogy of the gold zones indicate a complex geological and structural history. Native arsenic, realgar, arsenopyrite, visible gold and bismuth tellurides are all diagnostic minerals of late Tertiary age deposits on Vancouver Island. Mt. Washington, Zeballos, and many other Tertiary gold deposits have great mineralogical similarities to the Merry Widow Mining Camp.

It seems likely that a Jurassic iron skarn deposit (185 my) has been

over-printed by a much younger gold-arsenic-cobalt deposition (35 my), contrary to common beliefs of a one-phase Jurassic deposition. Using this geological philosophy, the author discovered the Tertiary-aged Teihsum River gold deposit on the west side of Merry Widow Mountain in 1990. The Teihsum River was drilled in 2005 with significant economic results in gold values, and spectacular deposits of arsenical minerals were discovered as well (Cover of the BC Rockhounder, Summer 2005).

Minerals of note in the Merry Widow Mine area include; magnetite, colloform magnetite, pyrite,

marcasite, chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, sphalerite, cobaltite, native gold, arsenopyrite, tellurobismuthinite, native arsenic, malachite, erythrite, annabergite, realgar, scorodite, andradite-grossularite garnet, calcite, actinolite, diopside, chlorite, quartz crystal, epidote, and many others.

The current owners of the Merry Widow Mine, Grande Portage Resources Inc. (GPG-TSX), have recently flow an airborne geophysical survey of the Merry Widow Mountain area, and re-drilled several of the 1989 drill holes. Results have been spectacular, and a new BC gold mine is in development. Again, the old miner's adage of "the best place to look for a new mine is beside an old mine" has run true.



Index to Mineral Links

These mineralogy links highlight those sites that specialize in mineral data. The category of subgroups focused on minerals and mineral data.

www.webmineral.com/other.shtml

One of the great joys of this hobby is that it provides the opportunity for life long learning. Besides the joys of finding, seeing, touching and making things with rocks and minerals ~ there is the joy of learning more about them. There are many resources out there. Here is just a small sample to set you on your way.

www.cfms.ca/Online_Resources/links.html#Odds

PALEONTOLOGY & FOSSILS RESOURCES

Here is a selected list of Web pages dealing with Paleontology and Fossils.

www.members.cox.net/jdmount/paleont.html



Merry Widow Mine

The Great Cheslatta Agate Hunt

Jo-Ann Blomquist

We've had a very quiet summer here in the Lakes District (Burns Lake). One by one our scheduled field trips were cancelled as our wagonmaster, Mary, was busy with a family crisis. And very recently she lost her mother. We are all very sorry for your loss, Mary.

With Art and I being new to the area we've been eager to get out and see what's around us, so in early September when Ernie, Bev and their daughter Leanne invited us for a 5 day campout/rockhound expedition we jumped. We were going on a fieldtrip for ourselves, but also exploring sites for the next Summer Camp. The 5 of us, and our collective group of 4 dogs, met at Binta Lake. Actually, they arrived a day before us. By the time we

A table full of agates



Art with an agate as big as his head. Found near Cheslatta Lake

showed up the 3 of them had collected enough rough agate and some VERY pretty opal to cover an entire picnic table. They found it along logging roads near Knapp Lake, which is usually gated off, but fortunately for us the gate was open.

Ernie brought his boat, which is kind of like a barge - long, wide and shallow. Perfect for landing on sandbars and beaches, and also perfect for carrying PLENTY of rocks. We spent 2 days scouting

the shores of Cheslatta Lake. We found many, many agates and some opal, but our quest was for that precious "fire" opal. Right next to the lake is an enormous volcanic plug named Tye Butte, which could be why this stuff is so abundant. For all the years Art and I have spent rockhunting on the southern Fraser River, he always said "I want to find an agate as big as my head". Well, here he found some pretty big ones, but nothing quite that big.

The remaining days were spent driving the many logging roads. Ernie has quite a nose for agates. We were next to a freshly logged area and he wandered up a hillside. Why, I don't know, because we weren't finding much along the road. Leanne was working at a seam of what we later determined was black agate (and later found a large deposit of), when Ernie called from above "leave that and bring the pry bar up here". There, sticking out of the ground, like eggs in a barnyard, were huge agates. They had to be persuaded from the basalt they were in and actually had moss growing on them. It was quite exciting. Finally, Art got his hands on an agate that was, in fact, as big as his head. Now what will his goal be? As big as a car? Well, wouldn't you know, imbedded in the road was one the size of the hood of our

truck! To get it out will require an excavator, though, I'm afraid. Our hosts were more than happy to let us take all these treasures home (apparently, Ernie has one in his front yard that weighs 300 lbs!) as this is nothing new for them. We are so used to the agates in the Fraser River, where it's a big deal, and a grand day, to go home with a handful and maybe a pocketful, but never a truck full!!!

Back at camp, the Olinyk clan prepared to go home (Art and I stayed another couple of days). Ernie may find a lot of rocks, but he's also ruthless about weeding out the leaverite. It was almost heartbreaking to watch him toss handful after handful into the bushes. The rest of us suggested salting the beach so someone else might find them but he just kept tossing. So, if you're ever at Binta Lake, check those bushes!

For a couple of more days Art and I combed logging roads on the backside of the ridge along the north side of Knapp Lake. There

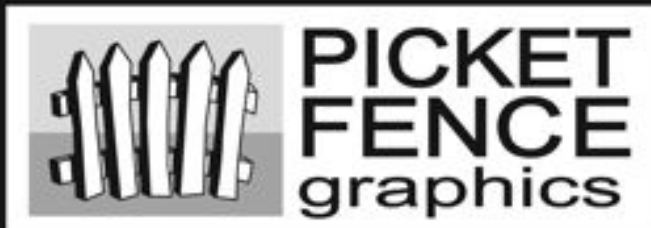
was a distinct lack of the material we had been finding earlier. We did find a tiny amount of quartz crystals, but not worth getting excited about. All this can mean is more exploration required



Perfect craft for grounding up onto sand bars and beaches.



Leanne, Bev, Ernie and Bailey having lunch on the shore of Cheslatta Lake.



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Ignorant, Sentimental and Metamucil

*Or, everything I know
about rocks, I learned in
kindergarten.*

Doc Rock*

Everyone knows there are three kinds of people in the world (people who can count, and people who can't), but not a lot of folks know there are also three kinds of rocks – *ignorant*, *sentimental*, and *metamucil*. This goes contrary to all common experience, which says there are only two kinds of rocks in the world (those you make money out of, and those you don't).

Ignorant rocks are formed in fiery volcanoes and at mid-ocean bitches, which is why the sea is often called a cruel mistress. These rocks are formed from *palaver* that comes from deep down in the bowels of the earth, and is burped out of the ground in great molten blobs, like the cheese on pizza,

only hotter. It can burn you just like melted mozzarella. Don't ever walk up to a volcano when it's burping, and especially don't breathe what comes out, because you'll only do it once. Volcanoes are full of stinky gas, just like the school kitchen. Sometimes, there's so much gas that the palaver is filled with little bubbles, and cools like a rock sponge they call *punish*. Your mom probably has a piece of punish in her bathroom. She uses it for scraping the dead skin off her feet, only we never say things like that in polite company, says my mom.

Ignorant rocks look different, depending on whether they cooled quickly or slowly. Some lava forms *obstetrician*, which is really smooth and black. Stone Age people made arrowheads and spearheads out of it, because they hadn't invented guns and bombs yet. The neat thing about obstetrician is that it can be made so sharp, it will cut anything, even the side of an elephant, which is why there are no elephants in Canada. Nowadays, doctors use special obstetrician scalpels to cut you open when you are sick and want to get better.

Granite is also an ignorant rock,

but unlike punish and obstetrician is doesn't come to the surface, but stays in the plutons, which are hot pools underground. Because the pools are surrounded by cold rocks, granite hardens slowly, and this lets all the little *quartz* bits to get together, and all the *hornblowers* to get together, and all the *mikes*. In this way, the birds of a feather flock together, and granite looks like salt and pepper, and not smooth and black like obstetrician or like *bullshit* (which is another ignorant rock). Bullshit rocks make up most of the ocean floors, so they are the most common rocks on Earth. That's why they say there's more ignorance on the planet than hydrogen, and it has a longer shelf life.

Everything about rocks is old. I mean, really, really old. You think your dad is old, but compared to rocks, he is a sprung chicken. Rocks are totally old. The Earth is over 4 billion years old, and the Sun is even older. If you write out 4 billion in numbers, it has 9 zeros and 3 commas, which is one BIG number. There are still some really old rocks around, but the problem is they keep being washed away into the sea. This is called corrosion,

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and it's happening everywhere, all the time. Tall mountains like Mt Everest are corroding away at a huge rate, and pretty soon will be flat as a pancake, which is why so many people are trying to climb it now, while it's still almost 9 kilometres high.

Sentimental rocks are the result of all that washing away. They are very clean rocks, of course, because of all the washing, and they are carried to the sea by Gravity, which is what makes things fall, especially water. Every day, millions of tons of sand and gravel and silt and mud are washed to the sea, carried there by rivers. Of course, when you look at a river, all you see is the smooth top, but underneath, it is full of sand and gravel and mud and silt rolling on down to the ocean.

Apart from Hollywood, where you can't believe anything they tell you, all sand and gravel and silt and mud sinks to the bottom, where it forms layers. Every year, there's another layer formed. Year after year. Layer after layer. My dad says it's like governments, except these layers are thin. But they add up over millions of years, and when they do, the sand at the bottom starts to get squished by the weight of all the sand on top, and slowly the sand turns into *sandstone*. And the silt turns into *siltstone*. And the mud turns into *mudstone*. You can see that geologists are very imaginative when naming rocks.

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Ignorant Sentimental and Metamucil cont'd

The cool thing about sentimental rocks is that that's where you find fossils. Fossils are animals that turned to rock, like the Rolling Stones. The first person to figure out that fossils were stone animals was Leonardo da Vinci, but he wrote it all down in left-hand mirror writing, and then his diaries were lost for 250 years, so we didn't know that. Instead, we had to wait for someone else not so famous to realize that. For the longest time, fossils were thought to be the work of the Devil.

The best fossils are made from hard things, like bones and especially teeth. Teeth are much harder than bones, and make great fossils. Watch your dog chew a bone, and see which disappears first – the teeth or the bone. On the other hand, your skull is a really soft bone, like a watermelon really, and that's why you should always wear a helmet when you ride your bike. Whenever your head meets a brick, the brick wins, because it's harder.

It's a strange thing, but we often find fossil shark teeth, but we never find fossil shark bones. This is not because sharks go to a big bone yard in the sea, but because sharks don't have bones. And they're not made of Jell-O either. Instead, they have *cartilage*, which is pretty soft. We have cartilage in our noses and ears. Without cartilage in our ears, they'd flop like a dog, and we'd look funny. Hard things like

bone and teeth make good fossils, and that's why museums are full of dinosaur bones and dinosaur teeth. You hardly ever see dinosaur skin, because it's soft, and doesn't fossilize. As a result, scientists just make up what they think dinosaur skin might have been like. Some think dinosaurs were scaly; others think they are feathered; still others think they were hairy. My mom thinks they were pink, like pigs. I'd like to



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go to a museum to see a dinosaur with pink skin. The third (and final) kind of rock is called **metamucil rock** because it's been churned up inside to make it change. How do you change a rock (apart from putting a fresh diaper on it)? Heat and pressure change rocks. Just like you. If they put you in an oven and cooked you for a thousand years, you would change. And if an elephant sat on you during recess, you would change – so much your mom wouldn't recognize you. It's the same with rocks. If they are cooked or squished, they change into something else. Sometimes the rocks change into wonderful things that are very expensive, like gemstones.

Gemstones are usually very hard. A German scientist named Fred Moo discovered rock hardness, and made a scale from 1 to 10. Anything that's a '1' is really soft, like soapstone, which doesn't have any soap in it at all. It's called soapstone because it's slippery like soap. Soapstone is so soft you can scratch it with your fingernail. It's made of the mineral *calc*, that is really baby powder. Of course, when you go to the store and buy baby powder, its small talk in a pretty bottle with roses or lavender added to make it smell nice, because talk by itself doesn't smell of anything.

*The only other kinds of
rocks there are... are
space rocks.*

At the other end of the Moo Scale is '10', which is a diamond. Your mom might spend a thousand dollars to buy a ring with a diamond in it, but I'll bet she wouldn't spend that on a ring if it had talk in it, because talk is soft and wouldn't last a week. A diamond, on the other hand, will last almost forever, and when she dies, your mom will leave it to her daughter, and when she dies, she'll leave it to her daughter, and when she dies ... well, you get the picture.

One of the coolest metamucil

rocks is jade, which is green and comes from British Columbia. In fact, British Columbia has more jade than the rest of the world, which is why people in Vancouver often looked green and jaded. Jade is really a rock fibre that has been changed into a gemstone. The Chinese have been carving it for 5,000 years, and there are lots of Chinese sayings that include jade. For instance, if a teenager has nice skin, they say "she has skin like jade". This doesn't mean she's green; it means her skin is glowing, just the way jade does.

We all know that at the Olympic Games the medals are bronze, silver and gold, but long before the Olympics, the Chinese awarded ivory, gold and jade as prizes. They considered jade to be more precious than gold. Jade is also very tough. In fact, it's the toughest rock in the world, which is why it makes such great tools, like axes and stuff. Before they discovered jade, ancient people used flint and obstetrician, but once they found jade, they never looked back, because a jade axe will last for generations, but a flint one won't.

The only other kinds of rocks there are, apart from ignorant, sentimental and metamucil, are space rocks. These are meteorites that fall out of the sky. Lots of people think that they are rare, but scientists have discovered that about 20,000 tons of meteors fall onto Earth every year. The Earth is putting on weight. The reason we don't all wear helmets when we go outside to play is that they mostly burn up in the sky, and fall as dust, which is a good thing, because the only thing that has ever been killed by dust is my granny, every time she visits.

If you were out in the street, riding your bike, and you suddenly heard a huge roar and then the ground in front of you exploded, and you put you bike down, and went to the lip of the crater, and look in, and saw a big rock at the bottom of the hole in the ground, and you climbed down into the crater and touched it, what would it feel like – hot or cold?

Lots of people think it would be hot, because it's just been burning through the atmosphere, but the truth is that the inside would be the temperature of space, which is really, really cold. That's why you must always wear your woolies when you go into space, otherwise you'll catch your death, so my mom says. Anyway, a meteor might be hot or cold. The smart thing is not to touch it. Not at first, anyway.

Meteors fall all over the world, but most fall in the sea, so they are lost. On land, you'd think the most meteors would fall on Russia, because that's the biggest country in the world, but the truth is, the most meteorites are found in Antarctica, because it's covered in ice. When a meteor falls, it sinks into the ice, and then gets carried away towards the sea on the glacier. When the glacier melts, all the meteors are dropped in a small area where it's easy to find them. A Japanese scientist discovered this 20 years ago, and now there's a big race to find the most meteorites.

Why? Because meteorites help us to understand space. There are two ways to learn about space. Either you spend 5 billion dollars on a rocket, and hope it works, or you get a bicycle and ride around, looking for space rocks. In Canada, they don't even give you the bicycle – you have to buy it yourself.

Doc Rock has been teaching basic earth sciences to K-grade 5s for the past 14 years, and has heard everything. He has recently retired.



Overheard at the Gem Show

A mother and son were looking at a giant faceted citrine:

Mother: "This is a 10,000 carat quartz stone. It used to look like that big crystal sitting there just behind it."

Son: "How did they get the carrots in it?"

ROCKHOUNDER CLUB NEWS

Vernon Lapidary and Mineral Club

2006 Activities

John Stelfox

2006 is proving to be an active and interesting year for this club. The new Executive and Committee chairpersons presented the 70 members with Year 2006 Schedule of Activities at the January meeting that contained a full schedule of exciting event for this year.

Thirteen field trips were arranged and by July 24 we had already been on four (Monte Lake/Douglas Lake, Rendezvous 2006 at Heffley Creek, Becker Lake Galena mine, Bouleau Lake jasper/opal).

Four Rock and Lapidary classes have been held on Facetting (Ted Bazell); Cabouchon Cutting and Fitting (Arnold Schoepp); Mineral/Rock Identification (John Stelfox); and Lost Wax Casting in May (Erick Kemp of Richmond). Eric plans to give us another class next year.

Wire

Wrapping (Clara Rodrigue) is forthcoming in August

The monthly meetings have been interesting with guest speakers on

Finding and Identifying Gold (James Jason and Steve Fulbrook); Global Warming (Janet Denison); New System of Staking Claims (Steve Fulbrook); and Ontario Minerals and Rocks (Gary Steadman).

In addition to our Mall Sale and Display in April, we had a tailgate sale with 9 vendors on July 2nd.

John Stelfox spent one week in June in the Yukon and donated some books on Rocks, Mineral, and Lapidary to the Carmacks First Nations.

Dawn Charlie and her daughter, Cindy, were glad to get the books and gave John a tour of the First Nations Interpretative Centre and Greenhouse. Amazing to see the

numerous vegetables, including green peppers as big as a fist, carrots, lettuce and so much more. The Interpretative Centre is very interesting and the Rock club is increasing in activity.

The Vernon Club congratulates the BC Lapidary Society members who do such a great job in producing the interesting and informative Rockhoulder. Which we look forward to receiving. We also want to thank the Society and the Thompson Valley Rock Club for doing a great job on the Rendezvous 06. Those of our Club who were able to attend really enjoyed it.

Interlakes Rockhoulders

Mike Bolivar, President

Well it's another season of rockhound meetings. Sept. attendance was low so an informal meeting was held. Oct. meeting we will vote on our constitution and rendezvous related matters. We will need volunteers to help out.

Shop Foreman

Shop is still not finished. Ken Ford and myself have started insulating and drywall. Hopefully this will be finished soon.

Wagon Master

We had some successful trips this summer. Crater Lake had great attendance but not much was found except golf balls. Ten members with 4 wheelers explored the Friendly Lake area for copper minerals but had no luck.

Black Dome Mountain was another well attended trip. Lots of thunder eggs were found (38 lbs the largest). My brother, Brian, and myself 4 wheeled up to the peak and found amethyst and coloured quartz crystals. We also tried to find the old Vidette gold mines but no luck.

Penticton Geology & Lapidary Club

Gloria Bordass

Since the Zone Meeting in March, our Club has not been very active regarding meetings. Nine members took part in the annual demonstration held on Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th during the Cherry Lane Shopping Centre's hours of business.

In May, six members attended Rendezvous at Heffley Creek with three of these members doing demonstrations during the weekend. Also on May 1st, six members put in a display at the Penticton Library. The display was set up until May 31st.

We have had only two meetings so far this year - April 5th and June 7th. The week-end of June 9-11 saw six of our members attend Campout at Princeton. Later in the month, on June 25th, seven members, five guests and three rock pups (dogs) held a wiener roast and field trip in the hills behind Ollala. This outing was in memory of Sid Stromgren, a member who passed away early in March of this year. Our mission was to find the outcropping of material that he had found sometime last year.

The next Club meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 4th at which time the annual sale which is being held Fri. Oct. 20th to Sun. Oct. 22nd at the Cherry Lane Shopping Centre during its regular hours will be discussed. Our membership is presently at 19 adults.

ROCKHOUNDER CLUB NEWS cont'd

Yellowhead Lapidary Club

Tom Hambrook

We are sixteen months old. We are doing OK for our age.

We have a set of rules, Constitution and Bylaws.

Some members left because their work schedule or health could not accomodate Club functions

We had a table at the North Thompson Fall Fair on the Labourday weekend. The payoff was new members.

We have had some excellent field trips over the past two seasons and there are a couple already planned for 2007,

Our Field Trips often draw 50% to 75% of our members.

The meeting schedule is filled with activities until Christmas and plans are in place for several meetings from January to June of 2007

Thompson Valley Rock Club

The Club held its June Social and Silent Auction at our last meeting before the summer break. The Social was well attended and everyone seemed to have fun. We did well on the Auction and almost everyone got something they liked. Thanks to all who attended and helped out with the food and auction.

The Family Picnic was in July up on the Dewdrop. It was a beautiful, hot summer's day and a lot of members came out for the occasion. Many thanks to those members who helped with the BBQ. Thanks to Bruce Ritcey for bringing along his "Toss the Ball" game. A prize will be awarded to the person who won the game at the next meeting.

Everyone enjoyed the day.

In early August our club set up a display at the "Communities in Bloom Extravaganza" at McDonald Park. This event was very special for us as we were the only club invited to set up a display for the event. Organizers for the event commented that our club had the best display of the 14 organizations attending. The city provided the tent covering, a skirted table and a couple of chairs.

We provided a couple of extra tables, more chairs, two display cases filled with members' treasures and we had a large backdrop with a photo montage for our club's various activities. Many volunteers put in extra hours working on the event as well as the time spent at the event itself. A big thanks to everyone who helped by coming out to the event and a special thanks to Jacki Dowdell for organizing our efforts. We handed out tumbled stones and fossils from McAbee, donated by Dave Langevin, to all the kids that dropped by (and more than 1 adult too) and all of the brochures we had with us that day. We can count the event a great success for our club and something to take pride in. Now let's hope that Kamloops wins the big prize for the "Communities in Bloom" contest.

Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Club

The year ahead is one of great promise for our organization and the year 2007 will be the 50th anniversary celebration of our club's initiation. What about complimentary champagne at our annual Rock & Gem Show? I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Gilles Lebrun reported that the trip to the Blue Grouse mine was successful and that members collected garnet scam. The next field

trips are June 10 to the home of Ken and Margaret Wright, as reported in the June Laphound News, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. There will be a field trip on June 25 to Loss Creek for gold panning, July 9 to the Sunrow Mine at Jordan River, and August to Copper Canyon, as reported in the Laphound News.

Neil Christensen brought several pyrite and arseno pyrite specimens from Mount Washington. The display table also included garnet specimens from the Blue Grouse mine on the south shore of Cowichan Lake.

Everyone enjoyed the strawberry social following the meeting. Thank you to Patrick Lydon and Magdalene Magon for preparing the strawberries, and to Irene Philips, Barbara Smith and Betty Goodwin for serving. **Club Picnic**

We had a lovely warm sunny day at Beaver Lake. There were 14 members present. Lots of food also cards, bacci ball and word games were played with prizes for the winners.

Our field trip in August was supposed to be to Copper Canyon to look for flowerstone. Seven of us left Colwood Comers heading north. On arriving at the gate into the Canyon we discovered that there was no entry because of extreme fire hazard. After a short conference we decided to go to Mt. Tzouhalem to look for crystals. We arrived there and discovered the place quite changed.

Some crystals were collected then we split up. Three members wished to picnic by the river so they went to the Chemanis River where they had lunch and found some flowerstone. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was a lovely day.

Trip to Madras

Five of us rockhounds left on the 10.15 a.m. Coho on Wednesday. We arrived in Port Angeles at 11.45 and proceeded south. We stopped at a park on the route between Port Angeles and Olympia and had a picnic lunch, then on to

ROCKHOUNDER CLUB NEWS cont'd

Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Club cont'd

Portland where we spent the night. Next morning we continued on to Madras, arriving there at about 1.30 p.m. After making a tour of the show we had supper then had an evening entertained by the Skillet Lickers Band.

On the Friday we joined 62 cars full of rockhounds for a field trip. Our long line of cars wove through town and onto the highway. After a few miles we turned off and then onto the ranch land. Here we travelled 5 Vi miles on a dirt track to our destination (still on the same ranch). The day was very hot but everyone went searching for petrified wood or some of the lovely coloured jaspers found in the area. Geodes were also found. For lunch we were treated to a barbecue with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and cookies along with a variety of drinks. On our return to Madras we stopped at the Richardson Ranch where they have a great selection of rock from all over the world, also finished stones and jewelry. There are piles of rock out in the open for your perusal, very competitively priced. One can also go to their diggings for geodes. We returned to our motel and had a welcome swim in the pool. After supper we played cards and had an early night.

Saturday was hot but cloudy and we set off for Sisters where there was another rock show. This one is held in school grounds and is a very good show. We ate a picnic lunch there under the trees, then went for a walk around town. This is a very touristy place with all sorts of fancy shops. On returning to Madras we had supper then headed for the fairgrounds again to take part in their auction.

We left on Sunday morning headed for Portland via the Dalles. We shopped a little on the Sunday and most of Monday, heading home on the Tuesday morning. There was very few cars at the border and we got through quickly and were just in time for the 5 p.m. ferry from Tsawwassen.

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ROCKHOUNDER CLUB NEWS cont'd

Summer Camp cont'd

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Located in the centre of town on Hwy 16.

Fully renovated (1998) single, twin & Jacuzzi suites; cable TV, licenced restaurant; lounge & bar. non-smoking & smoking accommodation available;

Maj CC, Cash, DC, Travellers Cheques; pets on approval, \$10; CP 2 day, 24 Units - \$59-69; Add'l \$10 LS Rates

Sunshine Inn

940 Hwy 16 W, Box 891, Burns Lake, VOJ 1E0

250-692-7696, toll free 866-388-1100, Fax 250-692-3145

Hwy 16, to west end of town. Newest accommodation in Burns Lake, built in 2000; queen beds; kitchenettes; suites; movie channel; continental breakfast; laundry facility; air-conditioning, hiking & boating nearby; new restaurant next door; smoking accommodation available; Maj CC, Cash, DC, Travellers Cheques; no pets allowed; CP 12 hrs.

49 Units - \$65-85; Add'l \$10 LS Rates
For more information visit the webpage: <http://www.bcnorth.ca/sunshine/>

For more accommodations information check the British Columbia accommodations guide.

Club Shows & Sales Fall & Winter 2006

Penticton Geology & Lapidary Club

October 6, 2006
"Mall Show & Sale"

Cherry Lae Mall, Food Court area Mall
2111 Main Street, Penticton, B.C.
For more info. Gloria Bordass:
250-493-1027

Richmond Gem & Mineral Club

October 21 & 22, 2006
"Annual Gem Show"
Saturday 10am-4:30pm, Sunday 10am-4pm
Richmond Cultural Centre
7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, B.C.
Admission by donation
For more info. Donnamae Chionis:
604-277-3222

Port Moody Rock & Gem Club

October 28 & 29, 2006
"Annual Show"
Saturday & Sunday 10am-5:00pm
Kyle Centre
125 Kyle St. Port Moody, B.C.
For more info. Ken Ayers:
604-936-4672
or go to the club web: Pt. Moody Rock & Gem Club

Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club

November 3 & 4, 2006
"Mall Show & Sale"
Village Green Mall
27 Street at 48 Avenue,
Vernon, B.C.
For more info. Mike de Tourdonnet:
250-542-0616

RENDEZVOUS 07 May 18 - 21, 2007

Roe Lake Community Hall
Roe Lake, BC,
hosted by the
Interlakes Rockhounds, Lone Butte, BC
and the
British Columbia Lapidary Society.

The Hall is located on Highway 24, between Sheridan & Bridge Lakes.

There will be free dry camping available at the hall.

Planned activities:

Late Friday afternoon and evening
- Registration and setting up of display cases
Saturday - Field trips, Rock Auction at 7:00PM
Sunday - Field trips, Bucket Raffle - 4:00PM
Sunday 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 treasures and demonstrate their skills. If you require a Society case
Please contact Mike Bolivar, Tel. 250-593-4007

Field trips will be posted later

Mountain Gems, Burnaby, B.C. will be the Rendezvous dealer
Phone: 604-298-5883, Fax: 604-298-2669
Toll free: 888-593-1888
Website: <http://www.mountaingems.com>
E mail: maclellan@telus.net

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

Accommodations:

Loon Bay Resort

C1 Airmail Road, RR 1
Lone Butte, B.C., V0K 1X0 Canada
Phone: (250) 593-4431 • Fax: (250) 593-4188
Web page: <http://www.loonbayresort.com>

Campground
Lakeside, 30 amp power, water and sewer \$ 26. Lakeside, 30 and 15 amp power, water - \$ 24.
Lakeview Pull-through, 30 amp power, water and sewer (big rig

ROCKHOUNDER CLUB NEWS cont'd

Rendezvous 2007 cont'd

friendly) - \$ 24.

Tent sites - \$ 20.

All prices are for one vehicle and 2 people.

Children under 6 years are free. For every additional person we charge \$ 2.00 per night.

Dogs: Each dog is 1\$ per night (up to a max. of 20\$) for the campsite.

Summer / Winter Log Cabins

1 - Bedroom Log Cabin (Queen bed and a bunk bed) for max. 4 people - \$ 80.-

2 - Bedroom Log Cabin (2 Queen beds & sofa bed) for max. 6 people PER NIGHT - \$ 105.-

(Summer / Winter Log Cabins)

Equipment 2- Bedroom Log Cabin: bathroom with shower, kitchen, living-dining room with sofa bed, electric heating and oven, covered veranda

Equipment 1- Bedroom Log Cabin: bathroom with shower, kitchen, dining room, electric heating and oven, covered veranda.

Summer CABINS

1- Bedroom Cabin (2 single beds) for max. 2 people - \$ 60.

2- Bedroom Cabin (2 double beds & sofa bed) for max. 6 people PER NIGHT - \$ 75.

Equipment: 2 room cabin: kitchen, toilet (shower in the shower house). All Cabins have Living-Dining room, an extra sofa bed and a covered porch.

Equipment: 1 room cabin: kitchen, toilet (shower in the shower house). All Cabins have Living-Dining room and a covered porch.

Greenlees on the Lake, B&B

Mailing Address C#69 Sheridan West Site

Lone Butte, British Columbia V0K 1X0

Phone : (250) 593-4171

Toll Free Phone : (877) 593-4171

Fax : (250) 593-4171

Web page: <http://www.bbcanada.com/3783.html>

Number of Rooms: 4

Beds Available: Twin, Queen,

Bathrooms Available: Shared, Pricing per night from \$55 Single Room, \$65 Double Room.

Large log home situated on shores of Sheridan Lake. 7186 Boulanger Road.

Whimsically decorated with antiques. A walk down memory lane. Enjoy the great outdoors, summer or winter, on our deck over looking beautiful Sheridan Lake.

Stroll to the waters edge to enjoy our water, fowl, ducks, and our majestic loons.

Families welcome. Full breakfast. Country evening 'Mug-up'.

Piney Point Resort

C# 5, East Sheridan Lake Road R.R. # 1

Lone Butte, B.C. V0K 1X0

Telephone: (250) 593-4614

Fax: (250) 593-4613

E-mail: visit@sheridanlakebc.com

Web page: <http://www.sheridanlakebc.com/>

Piney Point Resort has six cozy lakefront log cabins. The cabins feature spacious private decks with a spectacular view of Sheridan Lake.

We have only eighteen RV and camping sites so overcrowding is not a problem. The RV sites are equipped with 30 amp power, water, firepits and picnic tables. Some sites are pull-thrus to accommodate very large rigs and most have septic hookups.

Our Facilities include: Modern washrooms with flush toilets and hot coin operated showers located directly behind the cabins. We also have Laundry facilities, an RV Sani dump, boat launch, camp store and billard room.

Lakefront Log Cabins

All cabins have electric heat, hot and cold running water, refrigerator with freezer, 4 burner electric stove with oven, and microwave oven.

Cooking and eating utensils, pots, pans, dishes, and glassware are supplied, including drip coffee makers with filters and toasters.

Clean up supplies include dish towels, soap, and garbage bags. Bring your own bedding and bath towels or for a small fee we will supply them.

1 bedroom (twin beds) \$68.00 per night
2 bedroom (2 doubles & 1 single) \$78.00 per night

All rates are based on double occupancy

Children under 6 are FREE

Additional persons \$5 each

Pets: \$5.00 each per day, per cabin

- Please bring your own bedding, bath towels and personal supplies. Bedding can be supplied for a one time charge of \$6.50 per bed.

Sheridan Lakeside B & B

Denise & Michael Millham

7592 East Sheridan Lake Road

Lone Butte, B.C. V0K 1X0

Phone: 250-593 2322

<http://www.sheridanlakesidebb.com>

Enjoy our country hospitality in a beautiful log home with breathtaking view of the lake from all rooms. All accommodations are completely separate with their own private entrance. We offer four charming bedrooms. Two rooms feature private bathrooms and french doors opening on to your own deck with lakefront. The other two rooms share a full bathroom. Relax in the private large living room in front of a cosy fireplace, enjoying Satellite TV or games. For your convenience there are adjoining kitchen facilities as well as a BBQ firepit on the lake. The more adventurous may also enjoy tipis on the lake! Boat Launch and swimming dock available.

Included is a delicious Swiss style breakfast

Pets are welcome too

The Sheridan Lakeside B & B is a non-smoking log home, but we offer a covered smoking area facing the lake with table and chairs

Daily Rates per room, incl. breakfast*:

ROCKHOUNDER CLUB NEWS cont'd

Rendezvous 2007 cont'd

- Single C\$ 65.— to C\$ 75.--
- Double C\$ 75.— to C\$ 85.--
- Tipi C\$ 12.-- per person (please bring your own bedding)

Moondance Bay Resort

7237 Johnstone Rd.
Bridge Lake, BC V0K 1X0
(250) 593-2244
moondancebay@bcinternet.net
<http://www.moondancebay.com/pages/accomm.html>

Moondance Bay Resort offers private cabins with a view of Bridge Lake, steps from the lakeshore, and clean lakeside campsites. Reservations are highly recommended.

The Monticola

A premier cabin, the Monticola is a fully-updated 2 bedroom cabin with 1 Queen bed, 2 singles, and a double sofa-bed. It boasts stylish furnishings and laminate floors throughout. It has a full kitchen with dining table and chairs, and a full bathroom with a tub shower. Sleeps 6. \$135

The Montana

Another of our premier cabins, the Montana is a fully-updated 2 bedroom cabin with 1 Queen bed, 2 singles, and a double sofa-bed. It also has tasteful furnishings and laminate floors throughout, as well as a full kitchen with dining table and chairs, and a full bathroom with a tub shower. This cabin also has an electric fireplace. Sleeps 6. \$140

The Eagan & The Crystal

The Eagan and the Crystal are fully-updated 1 bedroom duplex cabin units, each with 1 double bed as well as a double sofa-bed in the livingroom. Enjoy stylish furnishings and laminate floors, as well as a kitchen (excluding oven), dining table & chairs, and full bathroom with a tub shower. Sleeps 4. \$105

The Birch & The Willow

These modern studio, duplex cabin units have an open, spacious feel and are very private. Each has a new Queen bed, sitting area with a double sofa-bed, kitchenette

(excluding oven), and a full bathroom with a tub shower. Sleeps 4. \$105

The Creekside

The Creekside is a rustic one room cabin, located near the campsites, with 1 double bed, 1 single, and a double sofa-bed. It has a kitchenette with refrigerator & propane stove, cold running water and electricity. Sleeps 5 \$60

Campsites

Our lakeside campsites include the use of picnic tables and fire pits. Clean showers, washrooms and laundry facilities and a public telephone are steps away in our Showerhouse, built in 2002.

Campsite \$20

With Power & Water \$25-\$27

There are many more resorts and B & Bs in the area.

Check your BC 2006 Approved Accommodation Guide for further accommodation information

Rotgut Cheered Ancient Peruvians

July 31, 2004

US researchers have unearthed what they say may be the oldest known brewery in the Andes, a pre-Incan plant at least 1000 years old that could produce drinks for hundreds of people at one sitting.

The University of Florida said its archaeologists and researchers from the Field Museum in Chicago found the brewery at Cerro Baul, a mountaintop religious centre of the Wari empire that ruled what is now Peru hundreds of years before the Incas.

At least 20 ceramic vats, ranging in capacity from 38 litres to 57 litres, were found at the site 2440 metres up in the mountains of southern Peru.

"You get the idea that this is massive production, not just your basic household making beer to consume by itself," said Susan deFrance, a professor of anthropology at the University of Florida.

Patrick Ryan Williams, assistant curator at the Field Museum, said the site was remarkable for its size. Small-scale brewing is known to have been carried out in the Andes for thousands of years, he said.

The Wari civilisation thrived from about 700 AD to 1000, conquering all of what is modern Peru before swiftly and mysteriously declining.

The brewery is thought to have produced chicha, an alcoholic drink derived at the time mainly from a berry of the molle pepper plant. Modern chicha is made from corn.

Last year University of Florida archaeologists discovered what they think are halls for "ritual intoxication" at Cerro Baul, where Wari noblemen feasted and drank.

Mike Moseley, an anthropologist at the university, said the halls were places "where politics were negotiated and economic decisions made".

Dr Williams said each nobleman would have drunk up to 10 litres of chicha in each ceremony.



*YOUR
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Send in your interesting stories about club events, up & coming shows sales, photos, even amusing anecdotes and interesting facts!

*see pg 1 for
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32470 Haida Dr. Abbotsford BC

for the whole family

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