

President's Message Contents

A new GMFC year and a new president.

Let me introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. My name is David Barclay. I live in the West Kootenay area of B.C. in the small historic mining town of Slocan (Pop. 400). It is a beautiful place set at the end of a large lake between two mountain ranges. Living here over the past 29 years I have pursued rocks, minerals, fossils, crystals, etc. with as much vigor as time restraints have permitted. I have been in and around the BC Rockhound fraternity for over 40 years. I spent a number of years in mining exploration as a field geologist. I also hold the CIG gemology diploma. I teach gemstone and geology courses through the Elderhostel program and take people of Rock walks for the local Recreation Commission. I appear at gem shows as a dealer under the name C & D Gemcraft. Geology has always been my passion and I enjoy reading about, field trips and teaching about rocks, minerals, crystals, fossils and anything to do with the earth sciences.

At the recent annual meeting in Winnipeg, I had the honour of being chosen President. I wish to thank all those who helped to get the show together. Many people pitched in and worked long and hard to put this show on. Thanks to all.

All those, past and present, who have laid the groundwork for what the GMFC represents today deserve a great deal of credit for a lot of hard work. Nothing happens in any organization without hardworking, dedicated people and we have and have had our share of them. Committee heads who have contributed much time and effort because of their love of earth sciences, are the driving force of groups like this one. Thank you for all your hard work.

We have some new challenges to deal with in the coming year. The GMFC needs to gain a wider sphere of awareness in the public eye. To this end we are hopeful that the Ontario clubs (CCMFS) who are considering rejoining the GMFC will do so. This will result in a much larger united membership with the common goal of furthering education about earth sciences. The fight to maintain access to collecting sites must be placed on the "high priority" list. Dissemination of information through brochures, newsletter, advertisements, internet sites, etc, will help in this endeavor. Personal contact between members, member clubs, executive members etc, will be pursued. More information about our scholarship program (which is doing well, thank-you John) will be spread about to ensure those who qualify do indeed know about it.

In closing, I wish to thank Mark Curtis for his great work on the Newsletter. This is one of the best ways that we can tie this national group together and spread information and ideas. I urge everyone to consider contributing to this so that we can build a bigger and better GMFC.

Thank you all for the honour of being your president. You will be hearing from me.

David Barclay
President

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First Vice President's Message

by John A. Hausberg, 2001-2002 First Vice President

Annual Convention and Annual Meeting report.

St. James Civic Centre in Winnipeg was the venue for the 2001 Convention, Show and Annual Meeting. Your Directors tackled a full agenda in two days of meetings. Then another day was spent assisting the setting up of the show. On Saturday the 16th of June all the G.M.F.C. members who were in Winnipeg, well almost all, gathered for the Annual General Meeting. The Directors' reports and the plans for next year were presented to the meeting. A great dinner followed, with all present feeling full and satisfied the Annual Awards presentations took place. Bill Gottschall from the Prairie Rock & Gem Society was the recipient of this year's Honourary Scholarship Award. (His profile is in the Scholarship report). This was followed by the Bill Downton Awards.

The Annual meeting established two committees and I wish to tell you about their tasks. The first one that I am Chairing is charged with reviewing the G.M.F.C. Uniform Rules. The rules are reviewed every two years. When changes are proposed, then a committee is struck to deal with them. If you have any suggestions for changes to the competitive rules, you must send your suggestions, along with the reasons for the change to me. The deadline for suggestions is Thursday, November 15th, 2001. The committee will study all proposals and submit a report with their recommendations. This report will be published in the spring issue of our Newsletter so you can review it before the next Annual General Meeting.

The second committee is charged with reviewing the G.M.F.C. By-Laws with the view of changing some sections. If you have any suggestions re By-Law changes you can send your submissions, along with your reasons to Committee Chairman, Don Fabrick. Your submissions must be in by Thursday, November 15th, 2001. This committee will also publish any proposed changes in the Spring Newsletter.

We have a busy season ahead of us to work on the projects we have taken on, I hope it leaves some

time for partaking in the hobby. Have a great year, hope to see you in Calgary next May when we will celebrate our 25th Anniversary. Remember that there are things that are a must to attend, like weddings, funerals etc. and the G.M.F.C. 25th Anniversary.

Best regards.

John A. Hausberg
First Vice President, GMFC



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Scribbles From the Scribes

by Trudy Martin & Ron Bundus

The Show in Winnipeg proved to be an excellent Public Relations and Publicity promotion for both the GMFC and Rockhounding in general. Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines had a large free-standing display. One table had quality mineral specimens and the other table had common household products, stuff that we use every day, made from these minerals. The booth was manned by friendly, knowledgeable staff from the department.

Two other displays, unique to Manitoba, were the replica of the world's largest trilobite, recently discovered near Churchill, in northern Manitoba and replicas of skeletons of plesiosaurs and mosasaur, extinct sea reptiles from the Morden area of southern Manitoba

The Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Society sent a display - a large poster size map of Nova Scotia and information about their club and the rocks and minerals found there.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines, the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, the Morden Museum and the Nova Scotia Gem & Mineral Society. Certificates were also given to Elmer and Alice Clarke, Don Rotherham and Christopher Redd who demonstrated faceting and silversmithing during the show. Mr. Hans Schmid accepted the certificate for Canadian Rockhound's participation at the show.

People's Choice Award Ribbons were presented to Mel & Trudy Martin for their case of Agate, Ron and Marlyn Bundus for their case of Minerals and Grace Leeuw for her case of Picture Rock - many of them in frames.

Another hit at the show was the Before and After cases of material from the Souris Gravel Pit. Some visitors to the show, long time Manitoba residents, didn't know they had such a unique area in their province. I'm sure everyone from Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia stopped in at Souris as they returned home from the show.

At the Annual Meeting Saturday evening, the names of editors and authors who participated in the Club

Newsletter Contest were read out. Those in attendance came up to receive their certificate. Those absent had their certificate's mailed to them. Victoria Garlinski, GMFC Secretary and Show Organizer received a bouquet of flowers along with her Certificate of Appreciation for a job well done.

Editors and Authors - be aware the 2002 contest starts with the September issue of your club newsletter. Score sheets and contest guidelines will be mailed to editors and clubs before the end of November - the summer has been too hot and too busy to get them ready any sooner. With the Show and Convention in Calgary in May 2002, cut off date to receive entries will be the February 2002 issues. Newsletters, articles and poems should be sent to Trudy Martin, 110 Lissington Drive SW, Calgary AB T3E 5E3

2002 Show & Convention

Plans are progressing well for the 2002 Silver Jubilee Show & Convention. There are already 40 confirmed registration forms for show case displays. Don't delay - get your form in as soon as possible. There is only room for 80 show cases.

This show will have a Competitive Class. The Single Stone Cabochon - Novice Level is a 30 x 40 mm oval agate any type or colour. The Single Faceted Stone - Novice Level is a 10 mm Zircon Cut in natural quartz, any colour. Contact John Hausberg 80 Coach Side Terrace SW, Calgary AB T3H 2T3 for a competitive form and cutting diagram.

Updated information - hotel / motel lists, camping areas, etc. will be sent to all clubs before the end of December. Quite a number of our American friends have indicated their intention to attend the show. We hope our Canadian members will make an extra effort to attend as well.



Junior Rockhound: A Free Online Earth Science Magazine for Schools and Beginners

by Dirk Schmid, M.Sc.

In the last two years a national effort has been made in Canada to connect schools to the internet. At the same time, school curricula in Ontario and other provinces have been revised to include or increase studies on the earth sciences. In other provinces, projects are underway to promote interest in and increase knowledge of the earth sciences. For example, museums and universities in Alberta and Saskatchewan have implemented government funded programs to teach youth about rocks and paleontology.

The Junior Rockhound was created by the Canadian Rockhound magazine in 1998 to address the need for an earth science website that could be used by schools in the classroom setting. Since its creation, the Junior Rockhound has been visited by tens of thousands. The National Science Teachers Association (USA) recommended one of the articles on rocks and minerals to teachers, and Canada's SchoolNet has listed the Junior Rockhound in its educational website directory. Many schools across Canada have made use of the magazine, and even adults and parents have enjoyed visiting this site!

This past summer, in response to the significant increase in the number of visitors to the magazine, the Junior Rockhound was expanded and redesigned. The new version of the Junior Rockhound now includes useful resources, such as a list of recommended books. Where appropriate, links to relevant websites are included within the articles. Many articles are illustrated with diagrams and colour photographs. Photographs were provided by collectors and organizations across Canada.

The Junior Rockhound introduces youth to the world of rocks, minerals, fossils and geology in general. Articles presented in the Junior Rockhound help schools learn about topics such as the three basic rock types found on the earth, the theory behind continental drift, how fossils are formed, and what dinosaurs are. A diagram of the Rock Cycle shows how the three rock types are formed.

Most of the articles were written by Marilyn Fraser of Mississauga, Ontario. Marilyn has contributed a number of articles related to paleontology, mining and basic geology. Between 1988 and 1994 she published the Cab & Crystal, a Canadian magazine on the earth sciences. Her work has also been published in the Canadian Gemmologist, and she received an Honourable Mention from the Canadian Authors Association National Student Competition in 1995.

The Junior Rockhound magazine is periodically updated and expanded to include new content related to the earth sciences. It is edited and produced by Dirk Schmid, an environmental microbiologist. Dirk developed an interest in Geology in 1992 while studying at the University of Winnipeg. Part of his fascination for geology and minerals arose from extensive hiking expeditions in the Rocky Mountains in Alberta and British Columbia during the 1980's. His most memorable trip was to the famous Burgess Shale fossil beds in 1991, where he met Dr. Des Colins from the Royal Ontario Museum.

You can visit the Junior Rockhound on the internet. Access is free. The website address for the magazine is: <http://www.canadianrockhound.com>

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What is a Pebble Pup??

by Trudy Martin

This article was written back in October 1975 in response to the question by a new member with 2 young children. The article / editorial was published in our club newsletter, The Calgary Lapidary Journal and, I'm pleased to report, brought a few more volunteers to work with the children. Sometimes it is worth while to dust off these Oldie Goldies and print them again for a new generation. I hope you enjoy it. [TM]

Young children who show an interest in studying, collecting and working with rocks are generally referred to as Pebble Pups. Adults, just starting in the hobby, sometimes refer to themselves as Pebble Pups to show they are just learning and hope the more experienced, full fledged rockhound will share some of his or her knowledge and pass along a few helpful hints or procedure that, through trial and error, they found to be easier, faster or better.

Many children are born Pebble Pups since either or both parents had already been bitten by The Rock Bug (Rock Pox is highly contagious). These children probably cut their first tooth by biting on an agate key chain teething toy and were well along in school before they realized other children in their class didn't have words like Agate, Petrified Wood, Dinosaur Bone, Crystal or Fossil in their vocabulary.

Theses children are very fortunate. They will go on Rock Hunts with their parents, learning the names of the different types of rock -- not just "pretty rock". As they advance in their knowledge and interest in the hobby, they have their parents to teach them - how to identify the different Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Crystals; how to cut and polish a stone; how to mount it in a setting; how to use and care for equipment and so on.

There are a few children who, on their own, have an inborn, natural interest in rocks and minerals. If this interest is not shared by his or her parents the child must learn on his own. How much easier, even for adults - more so a child, to have some knowledgeable person explain about Rocks, Mineral, Fossils and Crystals from his or her own experience than to try to read an understand the

same things from a book - even with a dictionary handy to look up the big words !

We have quite a few Pebble Pups in our club membership. The younger ones may be content to sit with Mom & Dad through the meeting - squirming and fidgeting now and then (but so do some of the adults) and quite happy to go home, after cool-aid and cookies, with their little bag of rocks.

But what about the older Pebble Pup ? The technicalities of minutes, committee reports and discussions are of no real interest to them - they came to learn more about their chosen hobby. Often, the program presented at the meeting opens their eyes to a new facet of the hobby - the movie on the Indian Carvers or the Fluorescent Mineral Display. Having now wet their appetites, what are we going to do to satisfy their search for knowledge? If they are not kept interested, they will get bored and soon sports or other activities will take precedence and their Rock Collection will end up in a shoe box on the shelf.

Remember - The Pebble Pup of Today is the Rock Hound of Tomorrow. If we don't keep them interested now, our club will go the way of our emblem, Stegosaurus, and other petrified fossils.

Many of the clubs have an active on-going Pebble Pup Program. How about sharing the How To of your best programs with the other Pebble Pup Leaders? It may just give them some new ideas for the coming term.

Perhaps, in the future, GMFC could publish these programs into a pamphlet and make it available to the clubs. Let's give it a try ! [tm]



Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada

Summary of Annual Meeting Minutes

June 13 to 16, 2001, Winnipeg, MN

The Annual Meeting convened in the St. James Civic Centre where President Ron Shannon called the meeting to order.

The key items of debate focused on the topics of: (1) Individual memberships; (2) The GMFC Uniform Rules book; (3) Updating of the GMFC Constitution & Bylaws book; (4) Changing of the GMFC fiscal year; (5) The GMFC invitation to the CCFMS to join the National body; and (6) The GMFC Scholarship Fund report.

1. The Bylaws wording of Individual Memberships has caused sufficient differences in interpretation that the definition is to be reviewed and a clearer wording presented at the next annual meeting in Calgary. Also, the Annual Membership fees were increased from \$5.00 to \$20.00.
2. The Uniform Rules Book is due for its term update. John Hausburg will chair the team to do this. Of note, this will include a new form to be used in the judging of faceted stones.
3. The GMFC Constitution & Bylaws is also due for its scheduled mandatory review. This review is significant in the event that the CCFMS should join, prompting the following motion: *"Moved by Hausberg/Fabrick that in the event that the CCFMS rejoins the GMFC, the three Vice-Presidents of the GMFC be elected as follows: one (1) for British Columbia and the Territories, one (1) to represent Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; and one (1) to represent the CCFMS members in Ontario and Quebec. Directors will be according to the Bylaws and Membership. CARRIED."* The Bylaw review committee will be comprised of Don Fabrick (c), Ron Shannon and John Hausberg.

4. The GMFC fiscal year was voted to be changed from its current end of August to be the end of December. The next fiscal year beginning in September 2001 will 16 months long. This will bring all reporting periods within the same time frame.
5. With the objective of speaking with the strongest possible voice to preserve our rockhounding interests, and to make available the GMFC services to more rockhounding hobbyists, in December of 2000, the GMFC extended an invitation to the CCFMS to join with the National organization. This invitation is now under review by the Provincial Executive and the local Clubs.
6. The GMFC Scholarship Award for \$1000.00 this year went to Bill Gottschall of the Prairie Rock & Gem Club of Regina. Bill Gottschall will select the University and the University will select the student.

The incoming executive for the next year (16 months) is as follows:

President	Dave Barclay
Past President	Ron Shannon
1 st Vice-President	John Hausberg
2 nd Vice-President	Darlene Itcush
3 rd Vice-President	Don Fabrick
Secretary	Maureen Wade
Treasurer	Ken Dewerson

Directors

Public Relations	Ron Bundus
Membership/Directory/Supplies	Alice Clarke
Newsletter Awards	Trudy Martin
Education	Peter Meyer
Insurance	TBA
Field Trips	Elmer Clarke, Don Itcush, Don Fabrick, Don Rotherham, Bill Wutzke, Peter Meyer
2002 Calgary Show	Lavern Novlan

GMFC Scholarship Foundation John Hausberg
Historian Margaret Lowe
Editor Mark Curtis

AD Hoc Committee

Bylaw review Don Fabrick (c),
Ron Shannon, John Hausberg

At the end of the Annual General Meeting, President Ron Shannon presented outgoing Secretary Victoria Garlinski with a flower arrangement and a big thank you for her 5 years as secretary of the GMFC.

Details of the other reports will be available at your local club meetings.



The Geological Occurrence of Semi-Precious Stones

from The Quarterly Bulletin of The Lapidary Rock & Mineral Society of B. C. May, 1948.

Minerals associated with basic volcanic rocks like basalt.

Many basalts contain small to large spherical cavities caused by expanding gas at the time the rocks were formed. These cavities are called vesicles and at some time after their formation, fluids rich in silica (perhaps driven off during the dying stages of volcanism) percolate through the basaltic rocks and fill the vesicles with one or more of the 50 odd varieties of quartz. Quartz may exist in two varieties--crystalline and crypto crystalline. Vesicle fillings are usually, but not always, the crypto crystalline kind and we may have varieties based on colour, texture, inclusions and so on. The commonest is chalcedony which is usually clear or milky. Other varieties include jasper, agate, sard, carnelian, and many others. Colouring agents are usually small amounts of iron, chromium, nickel, manganese, titanium or carbonaceous matter. Some world famous localities include Brazil, Uruguay, Lake Superior, and Oregon. These vesicle fillings are hard minerals and they are also tough because of their fine grained texture. By weathering of the volcanic rocks, the vesicle filling materials find their way into the streams and rivers and ocean beaches. Some have been transported many miles by glaciers. Chalcedonic material is generally found in areas of Tertiary or late Mesozoic volcanic rocks. In B. C. we have large areas of such rocks on Graham Island; in the Cariboo, Chilcotin, Kamloops, Nicola, and Princeton areas. Jasper and hematite are found in many placer operations in the Yukon. A green chalcedony called prase is found near the headwaters of

the Niocamen River, north east of Lytton.

Opal is another mineral which is sometimes found in volcanic rocks, it may be in cracks and crevices as well as in vesicles. A nice variety has been found at Dropping Water Creek northwest of Stump Lake. Other localities include the Tertiary agglomerate at Savona Mountain, Mount Ida near Salmon Arm, Loon and HiHum Lakes north of Cache Creek. The beautiful clear fluorescent variety occurs at Loon and HiHum Lakes.

Petrified wood is fairly common in volcanic and sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous and Tertiary age. Dr. H. V. Warren discovered a petrified forest on the S. W. side of Chilko Lake and another on the Upper Tchzikazan River. Opalized or agatized wood is fairly common in the Cretaceous and Tertiary rocks on the Hope Princeton Highway.

When a lava flow cools very quickly, perhaps by water or ice, it hasn't a chance to crystallize and a glass forms. If the lava is acidic we get obsidian; if it is basic we get tachylite. This material is often translucent or transparent and may show beautiful flow banding. There are several areas in B.C. where volcanic glass may be found but they are rather in the areas include Anahim Peak, in the Western Chilcotin, the Eastern slopes of the nearby Ilgauchus Mountains; Upper Masset Inlet; and Peninsula Bay on Fraser Lake.

A less common vesicle filling mineral is prehnite which may be found near the mouth of Ferguson Creek, also on the dumps of the Le Roi Mine at Rosslund. Prehnite is one of the components of "Dallasite" which is found on several of the beaches on Vancouver Island. Other minerals which may fill

vesicles include native copper, datolite, epidote, and several zeolites. Chasm Creek north of Clinton is an excellent locality for zeolites.

In certain basalts the gem variety of olivine known as Peridot or evening emerald occurs. The basalt may be porous but the peridot does not fill vesicles as do the quartz family minerals. Olivine is a high temperature mineral and forms early in the melt so the mineral forms crystals (phenocrysts) in a fine grained groundmass. Two localities in B. C. which have yielded stones of gem quality are Timothy Mountain north of Canim Lake or about 25 miles east of Lac La Hache, and Lightning Peak at the headwaters of Granby River.

Minerals associated with basic intrusive rocks.

Diamond is associated with ultra basic rocks such as dunite and peridotite, both of which alter readily to serpentine. Diamonds have been reported from B.C., in geological literature but at least one of these was later shown to be a mistake. Unfortunately it has not been corrected in print. Most diamonds submitted for examination prove to be of quartz, zircon or chalcedony.

Minerals associated with metamorphic rocks.

In B.C. next to volcanic rocks, the metamorphic rocks yield an interesting variety of semiprecious stones. Perhaps the most interesting is Jade. There are two varieties of jade, jadeite and nephrite. Jadeite is a pyroxene and nephrite is a textural variety of tremolite--actinolite. Both are fairly hard and extremely tough because of a finely fibrous interwoven texture. Only nephrite has been found in B.C. to date Both varieties are believed to originate by the metamorphism of serpentine. They usually occur as narrow lenses or pods in serpentine rather than in large bodies.

Nephrite occurs in the Fraser River as water worn boulders from Hope to Lillooet. The source has not yet been discovered. It may lie in the many small bands of serpentine south and west of Lytton. Another possible area is the Shulaps Range where large bodies of basic rock occur. Many Indian artifacts of Jade have been found near/ytton and this may have been a manufacturing site. Dr. Bordon of U.B.C. has noted boulders of Jade in the Marpole midden. Jade was undoubtedly used as trade goods by the Indians.

Vesuvianite, a complex silicate mineral is similar to jade in some respects. It is yellowish green in col-

our, hard, massive, but not extremely tough. It occurs in place on the Green Gold Jade claims at the head of Kwoiek Creek on Antimony Mountain. It is also found as gangue mineral at some of the copper mines on Texada Island.

On the bars of the Fraser River there are found boulders of every kind and description. It is from this heterogeneous sample that many of the stones on display have been taken. There is a peculiar white variety of garnet with flecks and dots of green vesuvianite. Others are practically pure greenish white garnet. Another odd one is called locally "intestinal stone" because this is exactly what it looks like. This turned out to be a light coloured pyroxene with green chlorite.

A so-called white jade proved to be a white quartzite with considerable sillimanite. This mineral is fibrous and is associated with two minerals that are not found elsewhere in B. C. These are lazulite and dumortierite. The lazulite occurs as small indigo blue grains in a groundmass of white quartz and sillimanite needles. The dumortierite occurs as tiny purple prisms in the same assemblage as the lazulite. It is hoped that some enterprising rockhound may find these rare and interesting minerals in place.

Axinite is another mineral which is occasionally used as a gem stone. It is so named from the shape of its crystals which are brown to purplish brown in colour. Crystals of this mineral may be found at Mile 23 on the Hope-Princeton Highway. It also occurs in the Hedley area.

Epidote is another metamorphic mineral that is occasionally found in good quality crystals. Excellent crystals are found on Prince of Wales Island in Alaska. It may be found in the copper ores of the Greenwood-Phoenix area with garnet, specularite, and tremolite. A delicate pink variety of epidote known as thulite has been found in the Fraser Canyon, at Harrison Gold Mine, Whitesail Lake, and at the Klukwan Iron deposit at Haines, Alaska.

Rhodonite is a pink manganese silicate which resembles thulite but is usually a little darker. It occurs at several places on the north side of Cowichan Lake. It occurs typically as a fine grained mixture of rhodonite, yellow garnet, quartz and black streaks of manganese oxide. Rhodonite has been noted in the volcanic rocks of the Olympic Peninsula. It occurs with chert at the Iron King Mine North of Keremeos.

Garnet is a very common metamorphic mineral. Ex-

cellent crystals occur in the Wrangell schist and in areas adjacent to the Stikine and Skeena River. Unfortunately most crystals are full of inclusions and too fractured to be of much use. Garnets of various kinds are found in the copper ores of Texada Island and the Greenwood-Phoenix camp.

Kyanite, a product of regional metamorphism, occurs as cornflower blue crystals in the rocks of the Big Bend area, at Mica Mountain at the head of the North Thompson, and near Armstrong and Enderby.

Staurolite, a complex silicate is often associated with kyanite and has been found in the Big Bend and in the Rocky Mountain Trench.

Ruby and sapphire, the gem varieties of corundum, are sometimes a product of contact metamorphism. Some of the finest material found occurs in crystalline limestone at Moguk, Burma. Small sapphires may be found in limestone at the Empress Copper Mine, near Harrison Lake.

Collinsite and Apatite are two minerals peculiar to B. C. and have a rather unusual origin. Both are phosphate minerals and occur on the north shore of Francois Lake. In early Tertiary times it is thought that a bird rookery existed on a small island in the lake. The island was overrun by a lava flow which converted the excrement into the minerals apatite and collinsite and several bituminous products. The minerals occur in concentric alternation crusts with a radial fibrous structure which looks attractive when polished.

Minerals associated with acidic intrusive rocks.

The acidic intrusive rocks include well known rocks such as granite, grandiorite, and syenite. These rocks do not contain gem minerals as an essential part of their makeup. These rocks may contain veins or dikes called pegmatites. These pegmatites contain the same minerals as are found in a granite but the dikes are characterized by their very coarse grained size. Individual crystals reach feet in size.

There are two kinds of pegmatites -- simple and complex. The simple kind contain quartz, feldspar, mica, amphibole, pyroxene, and little else. The complex kind contain all the simple assemblage and in addition may contain a whole host of rare and interesting minerals such as emeralds, ruby, sapphire, zircon, chrysoberyl, tourmaline, and many others. Unfortunately, B.C. is poor in pegmatites. We have some simple ones but very few complex ones.

Beryl, garnet, zircon, and tourmaline have been

found but they are not of gem quality. Beryl has been found near Albert Canyon, near Myrtle Lake, and in the McDame area in northern B.C. From the rockhound viewpoint there is little hope of finding anything interesting in streams traversing strictly granitic areas.

There are some interesting pegmatites in Manitoba and N.W.T. Other famous pegmatite areas include New England States, South Dakota, San Diego, Brazil and Madagascar.

The last mineral I would like to mention is called sodalite. It is associated with a small body of syenite in the Ice River in Yoho Park. This mineral has a nice blue colour and occurs as irregular patches and as a dissemination in the syenite. It is well known in the Bancroft area of Ontario. The mineral has recently been found in some of the high peaks in the Bugabo area southwest of Golden.

Reproduced from BC Rockhouser, June 2001, with their kind permission.



Editor's Note: Please mark on your calendars that December 1, 2001 is the deadline for submissions for your next newsletter.



Quartz Crystals with large Albite and Muscovite, China

GMFC Club Newsletter Contest Results

16 June 2001

SMALL CATEGORY

LEVEL	NEWSLETTER	EDITOR	CLUB
First Level			
	Creations	Phyllis Richardson	Creative Jewellers Guild of BC
	Chips & Chatter	Ken Davies	Thompson Valley Rock Club
	Geminews	Martin van Kuillenberg	Montreal Gem & Mineral Club
	Mineral Vein	Tony Smith	Mineral Society of Manitoba
	Strata Data	Karen Lechner	Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough
Second Level			
	Nuggets	Ron Shannon	Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary
	Vox Rox	Lori Nelson	Willowdale Gem & Mineral Club
	Geminews	Sandy Metcalfe	Gemini Gem & Mineral Club of Burlington

LARGE CATEGORY

LEVEL	NEWSLETTER	EDITOR	CLUB
First Level			
	Surrey Rockhounder	Jim Singleton	Surrey Rockhound Gem & Mineral Club
	Prairie Gem	Olga Game	Prairie Rock & Gem Society
	Rock Vein	Rose Lacey	Winnipeg Rock & Mineral Club
	Laphound News	Barbara Smith	Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society
	Conglomerate	Graham Stead	Oxford County Geological Society
Second Level			
	Bugle	Clarence & Gwen Langill	Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club
	A. P. S. Bulletin	Howard Allen	Alberta Palaeontological Society
	Telephone City Crystal	Jean Moser	Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Soc.
	The Cutting Edge	Dirk A. Seelemann	Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club
Third Level			
	Rock Talk	Jerry Davenport	Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Club
	Nickle Basin Rockhound	Dick Adlington	Sudbury Rock & Lapidary Society

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL

First Level	Rock Collecting American Style	Lavern Novlan
	Obsidian	Lilo Grollmuss
	Ramblings of an Opalholio	Jack Fellows
	Husky (Calgary) Tower	David Blair
	Glass Engraving	Paul Milo
	Why Not	John Birrell
	Memorable Field Trips	Ted & Alice Jaquish
	Travelling in a Forbidden Land	Jack Fellows
	Shows at the Jubilee Auditorium	Dot McGowan
	Memories of a Student	Alice King
	Calgary Faceters Guild Origin	Larry Kidner
	My Favourite Field Trip	Joe Mac Donald
	Another Winter Odyssey	John Wesch
	Early Study Groups	Vi Merkley
	Chain Making	Del Novlan
	Book Reviews	Les Adler
	Jasper	Pearl Broad
	Gypsum	Earl McIlreath
Second Level	Quartz SiO ₂	John Saunders

LAPHOUND NEWS

Second Level	Did You Know ----	Betty Goodwin
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NUGGETS

First Level	Agate Hunting	Maureen Dowler
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PRAIRIE GEM

First Level	A New Rockhound's Experience	Carol Lyman
	Rockhounding a River	Happy Westin
Second Level	Rock Hunting in Strange Places	Emil Magnuson

ROCK VEIN

First Level	Living Sands of Lake Winnipeg	Martin Jalowica
	The Wonders of Sand & By-Pass Surgery	Alton Milne
	Where Worlds Collide	Alton Milne
Second Level	Ammonite	Donna Barnson

POEM - BUGLE

First Level	Window Woes	Clarence & Gwen Langill
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“Windows Woes”

by Clarence & Gwen Langill

We felt so old, so out of tune
So far behind the scene,
We thought it time to join the ranks
Of those with a “windows screen”

“It’s just a snap” “You’ll learn so quick”
“You’ll pick it up with ease”
“There’s nothing to it really”
“It’s really just a breeze”

It isn’t quite so simple though,
When the language is so new
With words like dos and megabyte
We seem to miss our cue.

And what about “default” you say?
I’m sure de fault ain’t mine
And when I turn it off too quick
It will tattle and pout and whine!

I put a disk into the tower
Will you please be nice and play?
But not a word or sound it made,
Must I sit and wait all day?

The envelopes came out thick and fast,
We felt too truly elated
But one had math and one had ads
And seven were similar dated.

I lost the tool bar, the cursor too
was ever a word just right?
I turned my back to adjust my chair
And the cursor’s out of sight.

But don’t give up, never say die,
We’ll press on to meet the net
But should it be tennis or fishing or bug?
I’m not just sure yet.

Feeling the heat in cool Tucson

Report on the 2001 Gem Show

by Wanderer

Some Februarys, Tucson is warm and sunny (shorts and T-shirts weather), and others it's so cold you wonder why you left Canada. This year started off feeling like you were in the Yukon. Snow on the Catalina Mountains behind the city warned visitors even before they landed that all was not toasty in the town. The nights were cold, and frost was noted in places where frost shouldn't be!



"Fresh fish! Fresh Eocene fish!" Brazilian dealer offers fish and (rock) chips.

No matter, the greatest gem show on earth is above little things like the weather, and as the days progressed, that old Arizona sun happily made a comeback, so that by the end of a week, the fleece and thick socks had vanished, and we were almost back to normal. Even the snow on the hills had disappeared.

Madagascar continues to amaze and delight. Apart from beautiful spectrolite (labradorite) cut into a welter of spheres, cabs and sculptures, the country produces brilliantly pink rhodonite, beautiful sapphire crystals, fossil wood to die for, and, of course, it's been the world's best source of blue celestite (strontium sulfate) crystals for years. There are splendid ammonites coming from this island off the east coast of Africa too, cut into halves and calcified in yellows and golds. Some museum-like specimens were as large as 50cm (18") across, with exquisite detail.

But THE discovery of the year from Madagascar has to be their new ocean jasper. Suddenly, it's everywhere .. in slabs, cabs, baroques and statues. It's a truly spectacular orbicular jasper, better than the already bright Indian variety, and filled with pockets of white, yellow, red, pink, blue and green in such combinations of bands and blobs as to make a lapidary salivate! Just wish I could show you a colour photo.

There's an interesting tale goes with this new find. Back in the 1950's, a buyer to the island was shown a few pieces by a prospector, but the latter couldn't remember where he'd got the material. After some confusion, it was generally agreed that it came from a remote and rugged section of coastline, about 200km long, on the northwest side of the island. Not a very encouraging description to pinpoint the source!

In the 1977 edition of Grund's Mineral Encyclopedia, there was a photograph of the mythical jasper, but its source was still unknown. The mystery remained. Then, in 1998, Paul Obenich, owner of Madagascar Minerals, spent 45 days traveling up the coast, stopping at fishing villages and asking everyone he met if they knew of this striking rock. And finally he found it, but in the most bizarre locality. Measuring just 50 x 30 metres in extent, the mystery of why the deposit had remained hidden for so long became clear when he discovered it was only accessible at low tide! Hence the new name -- ocean jasper. For more information, write madminer@dts.mg.

Meeting people from faraway places is one of the big pluses of going to Tucson, and this year I had a chance to visit with Dr Anvar Yusipov, Director of the Sate Museum of Gems in Moscow (Russia, not Idaho). The author of a number of books on minerals of the largest nation in the world, he was good enough to spend time showing us where some of the major deposits are to be found in that sprawling country. The eastern states (such as Siberia) and the southern ones, running next to the heavily metamorphosed Tien Shan Mountains, are home to some rare and wonderful material. On the table in front of him, he had great slabs and blocks of purple

charoite for sale, but I couldn't help thinking that a trip to Russia (especially eastern Russia .. in the summer) would be a great experience.



Dr. Anvar Yusipov, Director of the State Museum of Gems in Moscow, talks about Russia's mineral wealth.

Close by, China is producing so many new and exciting materials. Their stibnite (antimony sulfide) crystals are wonderful, of course, and they are undercutting the meteorite market with affordable ironies and stonies from Guanxi Province. They have pyrite suns from the same area that look like crystalline pancakes, quite unlike the fiat, radiating ones from the Sparta, Illinois coal fields (Rusty's Rock Shop, please note).

There's nice pietersite (blue, green and gold iron-quartz blend, resembling tigereye) coming out of China too (it's more golden than the South African material). Most of it was in rough boulder form, but the cabs being sold by the African dealers were spectacular, as was the sugelite material, which comes from the same area in the Northwest Cape Province.

Talking of southern Africa, I had a chance to talk to the owner of the Kfistall Galefie, located just to the north, in Namibia's Swakopmund. About the only thing I knew about Namibia was the town of Tsumeb (in the north), which produces such wonderful copper mineral specimens, and that Namibia is home to the world's largest meteorite (the 66 ton Hoba Meteor which may, when it fell, have weighed more than 100 tons. To this day, it lies where it fell.).

It seems Namibia is full of world records. The Kfistall Galefie boasts the largest known quartz cluster in the world (14 tons, in case you're interested), plus there's a model of the (now nonexistent) Otjua Tour-

maline Mine, complete with twists and turns in dark tunnels.

Elsewhere in Africa, Verner Radl of Mawingu Gems is based in Arusha, Tanzania, below the slopes of snow-covered Mt Kilimanjaro. Things are not too happy in that country at present, with an unofficial war being fought between locals and foreign miners. There have been some ugly incidents on both sides, which has paralyzed the economy of this desperately poor country.

Ironically, Werner pointed out that Tanzania is mineralogically very wealthy, producing a bewildering variety of gems. There's tanzanite, of course, but a new source of green chrysoprase caught this wanderer's eye. This green chalcedony with a translucence glow comes almost exclusively from Australia, where it's found in seams up to about 10cm (4") thick. The Tanzanian material is a slightly darker green, but is found in considerably thicker chunks, which will please the gem-carving community.

Tanzania also produces enstatite, tsavoite, iolite, spessartine/a/mandite/rhodolite garnets, rutile, chrysoberyl, topaz, peridot and last but not least, catseye apatite. That's an impressive array, for a 'poor' country. To find out more, contact w.radl@t-online.de.



Kirk Makepeace (left) and Earl Matheson hard at work at their Jade West/Jade Mine counter promoting and selling BC nephrite and rhodonite.

While on the subject of Africa, elsewhere in the show I was struck by the many dealers now selling soapstone carvings from Zimbabwe. This is an art form that's based on ancient carving traditions. But, like Inuit art, it has caught the eye of international collectors, so that today there are wonderful carv-

ings (real and abstract) pouring out of this land-locked country and into the homes of Europe and North America.

Closer to home in Canada, I saw an old favourite that's new again .. gaspeite. This is a pistachio green nickel carbonate that was first found in (surprise?) the Gaspé Peninsula in the 1960s. The original source seems to have better stability than the material coming from Australia, and there's a push to promote the 'real' gaspeite. In the summer of 2000, a Colorado company mined some of the Quebec stuff (the Aussie material being all but depleted now). Great Wall Trading showed nice cabs and baroques, some of which had hematite (iron oxide) and annabergite (nickel arsenate) inclusions that gave the pieces interesting purple and blue inclusions.

Also in Quebec, Tony Gordian is one of two operators who have continued to work a rare alkaline sill in beautiful lake country near Kipawa. The actual deposit, discovered in 1954, is just a few metres in length, and is lens shaped. It won't last long, but for now, it's producing red eudialyte (found around Mt St Hilaire, PQ), *gittensite* and *valesovite* (which contains *agrelite* that fluoresces pink under UV short-wave light). Black and white photographs fail to capture the colours shown by these unusual minerals.

Here in the west, Kirk Makepeace's Jade West of Surrey was busy, as always, with their jade, rhodonite and lapis sales at the JGX tent. He can be reached at info@jademine.com. Elsewhere, Sid McKeown of Sidrock in Whitehorse had some very striking free-form sculptures in rhodonite from the Anoraq Mine in the Yukon (which he has on contract from Earl Matheson at Jade West). Standing out on plinths in the courtyard at the Inn Suites, their smooth pink curves were impressive, and this viewer hoped that Sid would have some good sales at the show. He can be reached at sidrock@polarcom.com.

Where are we heading this year? Well, in the gem business, as in the stock market, there seems to be a trend back towards 'quality' stones. Sapphires are up, tanzanites are down. In coloured stones, it seems the Romans said it right two thousand years ago: *semper novum ex Africa* (always something new out of Africa). That continent continues to amaze with its diversity and variety of precious and semi-precious gems.

And the show itself? There were some changes, with most of the Congress tents disappearing to a

new site near the Holiday Inn's Holidome. A new location, and all the dealers complaining about the drop in customers .. who couldn't find the new venue. But at least the dust had gone too. The old site was a dust bowl of the first order. Otherwise, the turnout seems similar to other years, and the mood quietly optimistic.



My idea of hell on earth... the crowded Holidome on a Saturday.

And so, after a week of rushing and buying and chatting and packing, another great show was over. Hope to see you there next year, same place, same time! And bring your shorts and T-shirts.



Turquoise Colored Amazonite with Smoky Quartz, Spain

GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.

Report by President John A. Hausberg

Time to bring you up-to-date on what has happened since my last report. We met in Winnipeg in June at the Annual G.M.F.C. convention. There were five nominees for the Honourary Scholarship Award. The Committee selected had a tough job selecting a winner from all the deserving nominees.

At the Award Ceremonies following the Annual meeting I announced this years winner. Bill Gotschall of Prarie Rock & Gem Society. Bill joined the Cub in the 1950's, worked hard and was President in 1961. He then help the folks in Weyburn, Sask. form a club. In 1967 he moved to Yorkton ,Sask and helped form their club Parkland Rock & Gem club and was the first president.

Bill has been active in the hobby for almost 50 years and is still going strong. He gives classes, workshops and just plain friendly advice to anyone who asks. It's hard to find a rockhound in Sask. that has not met Bill and received advice or

encouragement from him.

Bill has selected the University of Regina for this years Graduate Scholarship. We will keep you informed on who the lucky student is.

This year ten young people have applied for the Undergraduate scholarships. A Committee of three teachers are presently reviewing the applications. Once they have made their choice I'll inform you. The students that applied will all hear from me before the end of August.

Yours in rockhounding.

John A. Hausberg

President
GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.



Show Calendar

September 15-16, 2001

Scarborough Gem and Mineral Club
Mid Scarborough Community Centre
Contact: 416-282-5319

September 22, 23, 2001

Surrey Rockhound Gem & Mineral Club
Sullivan Hall (63rd & 152nd) Surrey, BC
Contact: Alice or Elmer Clarke at 604-584-5592

September 29-30, 2001

Richmond Gem & Mineral Club
Richmond Cultural Centre

October 20-21

Burnaby Laphounds
Bonsor Park Recreation Complex

May 4-5, 2002

**GMFC Annual Show & Convention &
Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club Show**
Calgary, Alberta

If you would like a show listed on our Show Calendar page, please contact your editor, Mark Curtis at Ph (250) 246-4803, Fax 250-246-4912 or E-mail gmfc@chemainusmarketing.com

