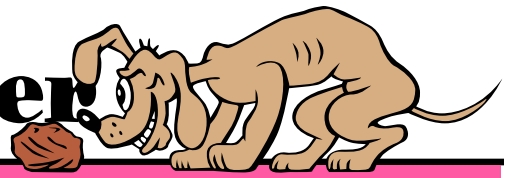
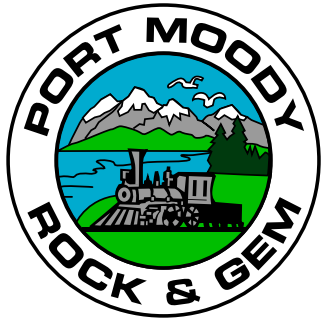


# Port Moody Rock & Gem Newsletter



February 2008

Editor: Rose Kapp (roszay@shaw.ca)



website:

[www.portmoodyrockclub.com](http://www.portmoodyrockclub.com)

**President:** Andrew Danneffel

**Vice President:** Warren Edwards

**Past President:** Drew Rekunyk

**Secretary:** Chris Laurin

**Treasurer:** Marlene Flanagan

**Membership:** Sonja Stubbings

**Workshop:** Andrew Danneffel,

Bill McCracken, Geoff Cameron,

Shirley & Warren Edwards

Richard Wile, Tom Schlegel

**Newsletter:** Rose Kapp

**Society Delegates:**

Gary Richards (Sr.)

Drew/Diane Rekunyk (Int.)

Ken Ayres (Jr.)

**General Meetings:**

Last Thursday of each month

(except July, Aug, Dec)

7:30 PM, Arts Centre,

St. Johns St., Port Moody

**Next Meetings:**

Feb. 28, 7:00, Kyle Centre

Mar. 27, 7:30, Arts Centre

**BC Society Website:**

[www.lapidary.bc.ca](http://www.lapidary.bc.ca)

To err is human,  
but it feels divine

Mae West

## Rock News



(Photo: Xinhua News Agency)

### Jade from Qinghai Used in Olympic Medals

Olympic medals presented at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing will incorporate jade from the province of Qinghai, on the northeastern area of the Tibetan Plateau, in western central China, according to a Jan. 1 story from the official Xinhua News Agency.

Jade bands like these will be incorporated in this summer's 2008 Olympic medals - white for the gold, light green for the silver, and light green for bronze.

This is the first time that non-metal materials will be used in such medals, according to Xinhua, but one of our readers recalls lead crystal or polished glass being incorporated into the medals presented at the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France.

[www.palagems.com/gem\\_news\\_2008\\_v1](http://www.palagems.com/gem_news_2008_v1)

### Rare Fossils Found in Canada

In a collaborative research article published last week in the prestigious British journal *Palaeontology*, a team of Canadian scientists revealed rare new horseshoe crab fossils from 445-million-year-old Ordovician-age rocks in central and northern Manitoba, which are about 100 million years older than any previously known forms. Paleontologist Dave Rudkin of the Royal Ontario Museum, with colleagues Graham Young of the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg and Godfrey Nowlan at the Geological Survey of Canada in Calgary, gave their remarkable new fossils the name *Lunataspis aurora*. Rudkin explains, "Understanding how horseshoe crabs adapted to this ecological niche very early on, and then remained there through thick and thin, can give us insights into how ocean and shoreline ecosystems have developed through deep time." *Weekend Post*



*National Post, Sat., Jan 26, 2008*

### Treated Topaz Truths



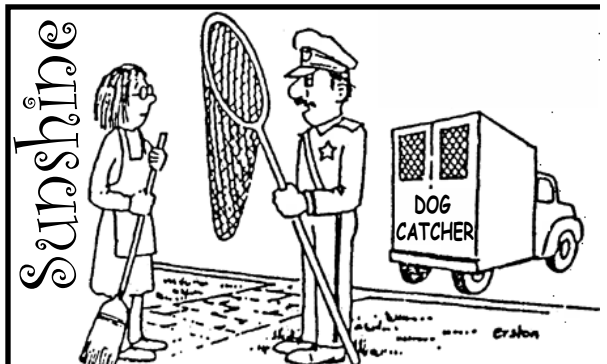
© geology.com

Blue topaz is a very popular gemstone but this color is rarely found in nature. To produce blue topaz, some dealers will irradiate clear topaz then heat it to produce a blue gemstone. The most desirable blue topaz stones have a color that resembles aquamarine. Today, most of the blue topaz being sold as a gemstone has been treated. Dealers should label these stones as "treated" or "enhanced" so that customers know the stone's history. The price of blue topaz has declined in recent years because so much blue topaz has been produced through treatment.

A small amount of topaz occurs naturally as pink and red crystals. These are the most expensive colors of natural topaz. However, brown topaz can sometimes be heat treated to produce a pink stone.

Two other colors of topaz are seen in the gemstone market. One is a green topaz that has been produced by diffusing chromium into the outer surface of the stone. Another treated stone is sold under the name "mystic" topaz. This is a stone with an iridescent appearance that is produced by vapor coating the surface of clear topaz with titanium oxide. This surface coating is not permanent and many mystic topaz gemstones quickly show signs of wear.

*geology.com*



"Well, someone called and said  
there's a rockhound running loose."

*Rock Buster News 5/88  
via Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club 11&12/89*

## Meeting Highlights

January 31, 2008

- Reminder to please take up any issues with committee members rather than bringing them directly to the meeting in order to keep meetings short.
- Possible themes for this year's show to be discussed at next meeting.
- Motion approved to have room at Arts Centre as the primary location for meetings since it is free. Kyle Centre will be booked for meetings expected to be larger (eg, pre-show meetings). Kyle Centre has already been booked for February.
- Arts Connect is being held April 12 & 13 this year from 12-5. Possibility of setting up an arbour outside the shop. Volunteers?
- Art For You is being held on Sunday, April 6 from 11-4. Shop will be open for demonstrations. Volunteers?
- Maple Ridge club show Feb. 16 & 17 at St. Andrew's Church Hall (see their website for details).
- Workshop - Recommendation that work group be formed of people familiar with local rocks to sort through various rocks in workshop.
- All machines in working order, but one wheel developing a dangerous hole and should be replaced and one 8" is defective and should be shipped back to the manufacturer. New 10" diamond blade has arrived and been installed on the trim saw. Four new grinding wheels have arrived.
- Faceting - Have obtained their cerium grit.
- Special Workshops - Silver-casting workshop by Walt

Pinder at the Maple Ridge club. Will be held Saturday, February 23 from 10 to 4. Cost is \$10 not including casting silver.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

**Please Note:** In addition to sending out through email, we will also be placing the meeting minutes in a binder at the workshop. Starting next meeting we will no longer be reading the minutes out and instead voting to accept them "as distributed".

*Chris Laurin, Secretary*

## For Your Information... geology.com

The above web site is chock-a-block filled with information on geology, earth sciences, gems & minerals, news, maps and much more. The following are some if the topics you might find helpful.

**Free Guide to Rock Tumbling:** with how to choose rough, tumbler instructions, how to select a tumbler, grit, polishing instructions, supplies and tips.



**Teacher Resources:** Popular earth science lesson topics that include lesson plans, activities, projects, educational links, and much more. These beneficial resources can easily be modified and incorporated into the earth science classroom. Various grade levels.

**Printable mineral identification chart:** Organized in a systematic way - according to their properties. Used in mineralogy and physical geology courses at Mansfield University and in presentations of the National Science Teachers Assoc.

### Goody Schedule

After every general meeting there is a round of treats and coffee. Here's a reminder who's next on the list of supplying goodies.

2008

- February • Bill McCracken
- March • Harold Lindsay
- April • Chris Laurin
- May • Sonja

### Workshop Schedule

<b>MON</b>	Lapidary	8:30 AM - 12 noon
<b>TUES</b>	Lapidary	7:00 PM - 9:45 PM
<b>WED</b>	Faceting	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
<b>THURS</b>	Lapidary	8:30 AM - 12 noon

For faceting, contact Bill McCracken at 604-469-1726

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAPLE RIDGE LAPIDARY CLUB  
February 16 & 17, 2008

"Everything Jade"

Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 4  
St. Andrew's Church Hall  
22165-Dewdney Trunk Rd  
Maple Ridge

Admission by donation  
For more info: Irene Gross,  
604-4666-8607  
Email: Irene Gross:  
irene\_gross@yahoo.ca

HASTINGS CENTRE ROCK-  
HOUNDS

March 15 & 16, 2008

Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show  
"Kaleidoscope of Colours"

Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 5  
Hastings Community Centre  
3096 E Hastings St. Van.  
Admission is free, donations  
are welcome. For more info,  
contact Nick Tsougianis at  
604-255-3232 or Email:  
nickstolos@yahoo.com

FIELD TRIP

Saturday, March 15  
Harrison Lake fossils

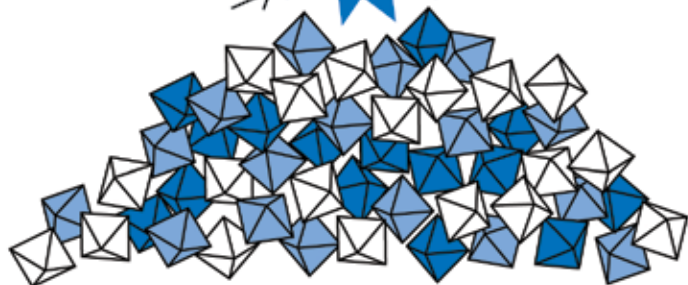
Clam & belemnite fossils.  
Tools: hammers, larger boulder  
cracking hammers, chisels.

**Meeting place:** Sasquatch  
Inn parking lot, 9 AM, Hwy 7  
at the town of Harrison Mills,  
west of Agassiz. **DO NOT  
GO TO THE TOWN OF HAR-  
RISON LAKE.** Sasquatch Inn  
is at the exit to the Hemlock  
Valley Ski area. If you don't  
know, please consult a map!  
Location is some 30+ KM off  
the main highway on gravel  
backroads. Have ample fuel,,  
snacks & beverages. **Leader:**  
Gord Pinder: 604-870-4779

For more information, check  
the society web site:  
www.lapidary.bc.ca/gemshow  
• US wagon master trips are  
listed at:  
www.mineralcouncil.org



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