



BUGLE



Published by
RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB
Box 6, Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9

Editor: Gordon Burkholder

Volume 28
Copy 10
December 2017

Regular monthly meeting
2nd Friday each month at 7:30 pm
(Except June, July & August)
Craft Room, Campbell River Community Hall
401-11th Ave
Campbell River, BC



RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB

RIPPLE ROCK EXECUTIVE 2016

President	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
Vice-President	Janice Boyes	250-337-8461
Past President	Kathy Young	250-285-3343
Secretary	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388
Treasurer	Dennis Cambrey	250-337-8949
Wagonmaster	Shane Mawhinney	250-285-3465
Assistant Wagonmaster(s)	<i>vacant</i>	
Show Chair	Pat Doyle	250-285-2377
Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Shop Maintenance	Harry Kerr	
Entertainment	<i>vacant</i>	250-285-2377
Publicity	Diane Cooper	250-830-0889
Bugle Editor	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
Non-Executive Positions		
Webpage Manager	Janet Burkholder	info@ripplerockgemand mineralclub.com
Showcase	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Slab Draw/Collection	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Coffee Break	Jack and Jan Boyes	250-337-8461
Basic Lapidary Instructors	Steve Cooley Gordon Burkholder	250-287-4388 250-923-1740

Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

Senior	Jan Boyes
Intermediate	Melissa Ticknor
Junior	<i>vacant</i>

WORKSHOP

Shop located at 246 Dahl Rd.
 For general shop info contact
Beba Adams 250-926-0044
**The workshop hours are posted on the
 club website.**
www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com

MEMBERSHIPS

A single membership is \$15.00 and a family is \$25.00. Memberships may be paid at the *General* meetings or by mail to Box 6 Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9.

Election Results

President, Linda Henderson

Treasurer, Dennis Cambrey

Secretary, Steve Cooley

Wagon Master, Shane Mawhinney

Assistant Wagon masters, Ron McBurnie and Linda Henderson

Show Chair, Pat Doyle

Shop Coordinator, Molly Milroy

Shop Maintenance, Harry Kerr

Bugle Editor, Dennis Cambrey

Past President, Kathy Young

Junior Delegate, Sunday Cousins

All other offices are vacant

Our thanks to all of these wonderful folks for volunteering to keep our club running.

FIELD TRIP

Bus rental to Abbotsford Show April 12, 2018

Steve has been hard at work looking into the rental details for a trip to the Abbotsford show in April. There are several other clubs also investigating the idea and we may be able to coordinate our efforts with them. It looks like it is a very reasonable fare that would have to be charged in order to make this a go and I'd like to thank Steve for doing the leg work. He'll be providing details in the upcoming weeks.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Our annual Christmas dinner will be held this Friday at the Community Center in the Lounge. Things begin at around 6 pm and dinner should be ready by 6:30.

Linda and Diane will be the chef de tets preparing the turkey and ham. All other dishes are pot luck so bring along a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert to share with your fellows. Remember to bring along your own plates and cutlery as well as a glass or cup. Spoons and other tools for dishing out the food will also have to be provided by each of us.

Editor's Notations

My last edition

As I am sure you are aware, this is my last edition as editor of the Bugle. Dennis Cambrey will assume the role for the next year or so. If you have something to submit for publication please make sure he gets the item at least 10 days before the publishing deadline.

Gordon Burkholder

What do YOU think?

Is coal an appropriate gift for naughty boys and girls?

BY MATT SONIAK DECEMBER 12, 2016

The tradition of giving misbehaving children lumps of fossil fuel predates the Santa we know, and is also associated with St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, and Italy's La Befana. Though there doesn't seem to be one specific legend or history about any of these figures that gives a concrete reason for doling out coal specifically, the common thread between all of them seems to be convenience.

Santa and La Befana both get into people's homes via the fireplace chimney and leave gifts in stockings hung from the mantel. Sinterklaas's controversial assistant, Black Pete, also comes down the chimney and places gifts in shoes left out near the fireplace. St. Nick used to come in the window, and then switched to the chimney when they became common in Europe. Like Sinterklaas, his presents are traditionally slipped into shoes sitting by the fire.

So, let's step into the speculation zone: All of these characters are tied to the fireplace. When filling the stockings or the shoes, the holiday gift givers sometimes run into a kid who doesn't deserve a present. So to send a message and encourage better behavior next year, they leave something less desirable than the usual toys, money, or candy—and the fireplace would seem to make an easy and obvious source of non-presents. All the individual would need to do is reach down into the fireplace and grab a lump of coal. (While many people think of fireplaces burning wood logs, coal-fired ones were very common during the 19th and early 20th centuries, which is when the American Santa mythos was being established.)

That said, with the exception of Santa, none of these characters limits himself to coal when it comes to bad kids. They've also been said to leave bundles of twigs, bags of salt, garlic, and onions, which suggests that they're less reluctant than Santa to haul their bad kid gifts around all night in addition to the good presents.

Coal

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Coal is a fossil fuel which has been used as a source of energy in Canada since the 18th century. Canada is home to a tenth of the world's coal resources, the majority of which (over 90 per cent) are found in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. In recent years, the coal industry has been increasingly targeted by the environmental movement for disrupting local ecologies, creating adverse health effects and contributing to climate change.

Coal is a combustible carbon-based sedimentary rock formed from the remains of plant life and comprises the world's largest fossil energy resource. It is located primarily in the Northern Hemisphere. Coal is not a uniform substance; rather, it is a wide variety of minerals with different characteristics arising from the nature of its vegetation source, siltation history, and from the time and geological forces (including temperature and pressure) involved in its formation.

Coal is classified according to four ranks or classes: Anthracite, bituminous, subbituminous and lignite. Each is subdivided according to fixed carbon, and volatile matter content and heating value. The anthracite class, the most valuable, is a core resource for the steel industry, as well as some chemical industries. Sometimes referred to as metallurgical coal, anthracite and supplementary coals may be burned at extremely high temperatures to produce pellets of basically pure carbon, generally referred to as coke, which can then be used to produce steel. Though a mid-level player on the global coal market, Canada is a major producer of metallurgical coal, which accounts for approximately 90 per cent of its total coal exports.

Bituminous coal, besides its occasional use in steelmaking, is used as thermal coal for electric-power generation. Subbituminous coal supplies thermal-power fuel and steam for industry, and can be used in coal gasification and coal liquefaction. The lowest grade of coal, lignite, is used for the same purposes as subbituminous coal.

Canada's only known body of anthracite was discovered in northwestern British Columbia. Bituminous coal is found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and BC; subbituminous in Alberta; lignite in Saskatchewan and BC. In Nova Scotia, most of the coal is under the seafloor; in western Canada — which has about 97 per cent of the country's coal — formations are generally concentrated in southern and central Alberta.

Quinsam: Local Coal Mine



Environmental studies, including reclamation research, were initiated at Quinsam in the early 1980s. Quinsam began as an open pit mine in 1986. It switched to underground mining in 1993 with open-pit mining ceasing in 1994.

The underground coal mining at Quinsam uses room-and-pillar methods. This mining method uses mechanized, remote control continuous mining machines to develop a series of underground roadways in the coal leaving a series of pillars of coal. The continuous miners cut and load the coal into shuttle cars, which haul and empty the coal onto a belt conveyor system leading to a coal stockpile on the surface. From there, coal is transported to the coal preparation plant.

A front-end-loader feeds coal into the coal preparation plant where the coal is crushed, sized, sorted and cleaned through a series of physical processes.

SPOTLIGHT ON QUARTZITE

What is Quartzite?



Quartzite is a hard, non-foliated metamorphic rock which was originally pure quartz sandstone. Sandstone is converted into quartzite through heating and pressure usually related to tectonic compression within orogenic belts. Pure quartzite is usually white to grey, though quartzite

often occur in various shades of pink and red due to varying amounts of iron oxide . Other colors, such as yellow, green, blue and orange, are due to other minerals.



Quartzite in Kakwa Provincial Park

Characteristics and Uses

Quartzite is very resistant to chemical weathering and often forms ridges and resistant hilltops. The nearly pure silica content of the rock provides little for soil; therefore, the quartzite ridges are often bare or covered only with a very thin layer of soil and little vegetation.

Because of its hardness and angular shape, crushed quartzite is often used as railway ballast. Quartzite is a decorative stone and may be used to cover walls, as roofing tiles, as flooring, and stair steps. Its use for countertops in kitchens is expanding rapidly. It is harder and more resistant to stains than granite. Crushed quartzite is sometimes used in road construction. High purity quartzite is used to produce ferrosilicon, industrial silica sand, silicon and silicon carbide. During the Paleolithic quartzite was used, in addition to flint, quartz, and other lithic raw materials, for making stone tools.



Quartzite biface hand axe from South Africa

Ed Ritcey has a good supply of quartzite that he got from Doug Andersoff who harvested it from the Crofton Creek area in the interior of BC. Ed will be flat lapping and polishing some of these very beautiful pieces.



Most Rock Hounds know of the Arizona town that goes by the same name. **Quartzsite** is quite well known for its terrific club which has members from all over the USA and Canada. People gather there every year and take part in the rock related activities that are promoted by club members. Their annual sale is one that everyone should visit. It occurs in January and precedes the show in Tucson. Tens of thousands of rock enthusiasts annually make the journey to Quartzsite.

The club has a claim on a mountain of quartzite located just west of the main town site.