



# Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada

La Federation Canadienne des Gemmes et des Mineraux

Founded 1977



**Picture by Bill Lechner  
Diopside from Bill's collection**

**NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2010**

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



WIN ROBERTSON

The holiday season is almost here, the back country will soon be covered with snow and I hope everyone had a chance to go out and hit pay dirt while the sun was shining. Now there is time to participate in the winter activities of your club. Those of you that are "old hands" should pass their knowledge on to the newbies, particularly the young people. I encourage those of you that have a little free time and a desire to see our hobby continue forward into the future to volunteer for a committee.

Not just in your club, get involved in the provincial organization your club belongs to, and the GMFC. You don't have to be a committee chairman, just say that you will help on the committee. What you will receive in camaraderie is far in excess of the effort you extend.

## EDITORS MESSAGE

The picture on the front cover was taken from the Canadian Micro Mineral association's Newsletter "Micronews", the picture was taken by Bill Lechner the president. The picture was taken with a stacking technique using 12 images, for an article on the technique check out the following site. Automated Multi-focus Imaging - Eugene Cisneros <http://www.mineralogicalrecord.com/pdfs/MULTI-FOCUS%20ARTICLE.pdf>

The next article by Trudy Martin is very timely, we are all getting older. How organized is your collection? would your family know what to do with the collection?. So many times the collection is carted off to the dump. A family in Vernon BC this last year, had their fathers collection of rocks & minerals, they needed the space and had no idea of the value or what to do with the specimens. In the end before the last resort of dumping them, they called upon the president of the Vernon Lapidary Club who suggested that the club auction them off at the annual show, the proceeds to be split between the owner, the club, and the GMFC Scholarship foundation. The owner received over \$1400, the Scholarship received over \$700, and the specimens went to people who appreciated them, everybody wins.

The last article on the Tumbler Ridge fossils is printed unedited, I am sure we all recognize the need for responsible collecting and protection of rare paleontological sites. I don't believe a total ban is necessary



KEN DEWERTSON

## YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

As Public Relations Director and Newsletter Editor for the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club, I get 95% of the phone messages and emails for our club. It makes sense – direct all the enquiries to one person who can then pass them on to whomever can answer the question.

Have you ever received this phone call?

**My father was a Rockhound. He passed away last month. We are trying to clear the house and there is all this ROCK we don't know what to do with.**

OR

**My husband was a club member years ago. We are selling our home and moving into a Seniors Residence. The movers are coming TOMORROW! Can you come today and take all this rock & stuff?**

Well, let me tell you, over the years we have become very adaptable and, since we are both **retired**, we can come and go at a moments notice. At times, I wish we had a TRUCK rather than just two cars to pick up all these items. It would be helpful if people would think ahead and notify us, in advance, not just at the last minute.

We recently went to help the son of a club member. The dad had passed away. The son was not a rockhound and had no idea of the value of the rock, slices, silver or equipment that was left in the boxes and bins in his dad's rock room. The mother had been a silversmith. She had passed away 10 years previous yet there was still all these tools and silversmithing equipment. The dad was a **collector** and hadn't thrown anything out in 40 years! So, as you can imagine, there was a lot to be done. The room had to be cleared as the house was up FOR SALE. Hence the purpose of this article.

### ROCKHOUNDS –

#### YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU!

There is no way, when your number comes up, that you can take your Rock Collection with you when you go to your heavenly reward. It has to stay behind for your family to dispose of.

What are they going to do? Most of them have no idea what the rocks are or what they are worth. As the old saying goes, **They will probably throw out the baby with the bath water!** They have no idea what is **gem material** and what is **leaverite**. It is up to **YOU** to make sure your collection is correctly identified.

**PLEASE, put labels or stickers on your rock, slices, faceting rough, minerals, fossils and silver.**

An uninformed person can't tell the difference between a piece a sodalite and a piece of lapis. Nor can they tell the difference between **genuine**, gem quality faceting rough and glass.

To the novice, slices of jasper are just that – **jasper**. They can't identify Bruno Jasper, Biggs Jasper, Rainforest Jasper from the run-of-mill jaspers found in the local gravel pit. When it comes to **Agate** – well, that's a horse of a different color! Some agate is **priceless** because the area it was found in is no longer available for hunting.

Minerals and Fossils are another major problem.

If they don't have a label or a sticker to identify

what they are and where they are from, the family will be at a loss to put a value on the specimens. Other collectors, museums and dealers, will be hesitant about purchasing the collection if it is not properly identified.

So, Rockhounds, it is up to you, while you are still here on earth, to properly identify your rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones and jewelry. If specific pieces are to go to specific relatives or organizations, write it down. An inventory sheet with approximate dollar value would be helpful, too.

Don't put it off – **do it now** – while you are still here. Your family will thank you when the time comes.

**By – Trudy Martin  
Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club**

**In Memory of Dave Capstick**

Dave was a member of the 1120 Kelowna BC Club. Dave was a man in good physical condition, who loved to roam the local hills searching his favorite agates. As a geologist Dave was always the trip leader at all events, Pictured is Dave discussing a field trip with GMFC President Win Robertson



**In Memory of Jean Billings**

Jean was an active member of the Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club and was the wife of long time GMFC Executive member Gordon Billings. Gordon & Jean worked diligently on the 2010 GMFC Show and Convention in Campbell River



**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL DEALER**

**The Geode Man**

Ivan & Wendy Leverage of Surrey BC Support many of the GMFC sponsored Gem Shows. They have a fine selection of Thundereggs, Brazilian Agate & Petrified Wood Along with other Lapidary products. You can see them at the Shows or email them at [iwlever@shaw.ca](mailto:iwlever@shaw.ca)

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**ROMAN HELMET FOUND**

As a metal detector dealer and user, the following article really interested me, how many of you own a metal detector for prospecting purposes?

A Roman Helmet was found by an amateur metal detector in Britain 45 miles south of the Scottish border.

The helmet was believed to have been worn not in battle, but in sports parades.

The helmet was recently auctioned off for \$3.2 million



### BAHIA EMERALD

A gigantic emerald weighing more than 800 pounds will once again be the subject of legal arguments in Los Angeles. A judge is due to continue hearing testimony on the case of the Bahia Emerald an enormous gem that was dug in the Brazilian jungle almost a decade ago. Since it was pulled from the rain forest the emerald has been valued at about \$400 million and has created a wealth of controversy over who actually owns it.

A judge is currently hearing from Anthony Thomas who says he bought it for \$600,000 in 2001 but he never received it. Instead he claims the Brazilian miners who sold it to him kept it and told him the shippers lost it so they could resell it to someone else for more money. The Los Angeles Sheriff's dept now has it under lock and key



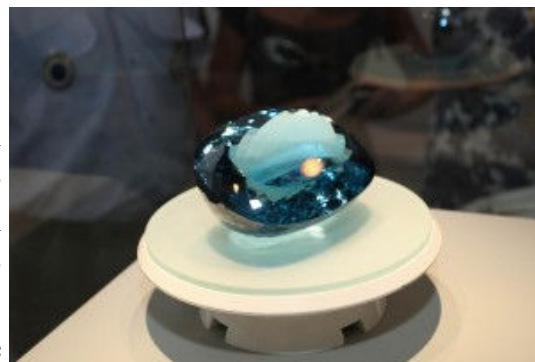
### CALGARY MAN FINED FOR ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT RARE GEMS

Canada customs has issued a \$2500 fine after seizing a cache of rare gems and fossils at the border. The man was attempting to export \$ 100,000 worth of ammolite gems to a trade show in Arizona without acquiring the proper permits. If he wishes to get the fossils back, he will be required to pay a penalty of \$28,000 under the customs act.



### The 'Marbella' Topaz

This beautiful exhibit has belonged to Programa Royal Collections since April 2000, when the group purchased it from Russian dealers at the Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson, Arizona (USA). The stone's dimensions are 100x130x70 mm and it weighs 8,225 carats. Its exceptional qualities saw the topaz added to the 'Special Exhibition Gems' collection, which boasts a magnificent selection of precious stones whose size and purity make them unique specimens unrivalled anywhere in the world.

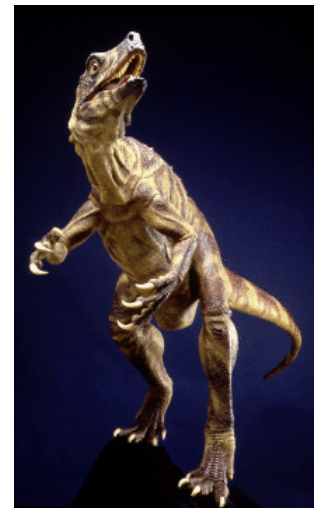


THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE PRINTED IN  
THE STAR.COM. October 3rd 2010  
by Dirk Meissner



A team of researchers has discovered a field of untouched fossilized dinosaur remains near Tumbler Ridge, B.C., proving that giant plant- and meat-eating prehistoric animals roamed northeastern British Columbia millions of years ago. But the elation over the dramatic discovery — much of which was just sitting on the surface — is dampened by the provincial government’s Stone Age attitude toward protecting and promoting heritage lands, artifacts and projects. Paleontologist Richard McCrea and his four-person research team made the discovery last month during a three-day expedition into a remote forested area in B.C.’s Peace River area. The results were promising, McCrea said, with up to 150 kilograms of fossilized dinosaur remains found on the surface, there was no digging required. “We have bones from plant-eating dinosaurs and we have some bones from large meat-eating dinosaurs, probably a tyrannosaur,” he said. “We did a sweep and the indications are pretty good we probably have quite a lot of bones in that area,” said McCrea. “We could possibly start two excavations in two widely separated areas we had explored. Things look promising.” But McCrea doesn’t want to reveal too many details about his discovery, because British Columbia has no laws that protect such finds. He often identifies himself as a geologist looking for coal seams when he comes across other hikers, over concerns they could damage or take advantage of a sensitive fossil area. “This is the only province in the country with a substantial paleontological heritage that does not have legislation, does not support institutions or projects,” McCrea said. “Essentially, British Columbia has no infrastructure for handling this at all.” McCrea — who has lobbied the government to introduce protection legislation similar to Alberta’s heritage law which includes fines and jail terms — said the B.C. government doesn’t want to spend the money and doesn’t want to deter potential resource investors. “That idea should have died with the dinosaurs,” he said. “Industry will meet whatever criteria the government comes up with.” McCrea said he’s currently working with a wind-power company in the Tumbler Ridge area that has already developed a protocol to protect possible dinosaur sites found near its wind turbines. B.C. Agriculture and Lands Minister Steve Thomson said the province has recently completed a public consultation process examining the management of fossil sites. “The province is working towards closing the regulatory gap on managing B.C.’s fossils,” said Thomson in a statement to The Canadian Press. “We’re aware that British Columbians want measures in place that balance social, environmental and economic values of fossils when land use decisions are made.” Thomson’s statement said his ministry is working with agencies, stakeholders and the academic community to identify the elements needed for management of B.C.’s fossil heritage. A report on the fossil management framework will soon be posted to the Ministry’s website, but no date is provided. McCrea, who has been part of the fossil management process, said British Columbia must do more to protect and preserve its large and yet undiscovered fossil reserves.

“British Columbia has a massive paleontological heritage,” he said. “It’s fairly widely recognized and it’s pretty well known, except in British Columbia. A lot of B.C. specimens grace the museums all around the world. Several in the U.S., some in England and plenty in Western Canada. Alberta and Ontario both have a pretty large collection of B.C. specimens.” University of Victoria history Prof. John Lutz said British Columbia lags behind much of Canada when it comes to heritage protection. He was part of a group representing heritage academics and organizations, museums and archivists that discussed drafting a B.C. heritage policy five years ago. The group said the province needs legislation to protect fossils, landscapes and sacred sites, and must develop policy to deal with cultural and heritage property, but little has been done, he said. It led Lutz to speculate the B.C. government doesn’t want to spend the money on heritage protection and fears antagonizing potential investors. “We are on the cheap side when it comes to that, and I think our government is still of the mentality that small government is better and that left to its own resources the free market will take care of things that are important,” said Lutz. But he said heritage legislation has two huge benefits: it protects cultural history and is good for business because it promotes tourism. The Tumbler Ridge area’s member of the legislature agrees that heritage, especially dinosaurs, are good for tourism. The Peace Region’s Paleontology Research Centre, a decommissioned elementary school turned museum, offers a world-class dinosaur exhibits with bones gathered from the Tumbler Ridge area, said Blair Lekstrom, and MLA and former Liberal cabinet minister. “The work they are doing is amazing,” Lekstrom said. “Not only for Tumbler Ridge and the Peace region, but our entire province.” He said heritage protection is an important part of B.C.’s economic future. This is an issue of provincial significance, and the province, hopefully, will see its way to find some way to fund this,” Lekstrom said. McCrea said the volunteer-operated paleontology research centre will run out of funds within a month because its annual grant from Tumbler Ridge’s municipal government was cut to \$152,000 from \$200,000 this year. McCrea said he’s on the verge of helping unearth a major fossil dinosaur find in what amounts to his backyard, but a slow-moving government is restricting a potential cultural and economic windfall. “We’re picking up the slack,” he said. “We have this amateur volunteer organization that’s taken on what should be a provincial responsibility and we’re doing a damn good job with the few resources we have.”



## GMFC Positions Vacant Wanted



### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

A member to take on the position of GMFC Newsletter Editor,  
If you feel you have the ability or are willing to learn.

Please contact the incoming

President Dave Barclay at moew@shaw.ca

Your services will be appreciated and greatly rewarded.

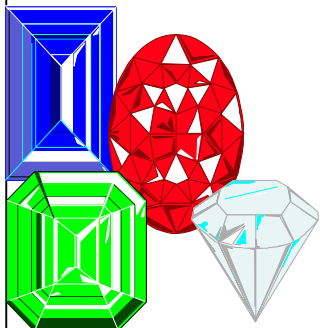
### INSURANCE REP

A member to act as Liaison with our insurance company,  
And to get answers to questions from the general  
Membership.

Please contact Ken Dewerson at kdewerson@shaw.ca



### GMFC GEM SHOW & CONVENTION



2010 Show & Convention at Campbell River was a huge success, good  
attendance with over \$800 donated to the GMFC Scholarship Fund.  
The Show was such a hit that the Ripple Rock Club are now making it  
an annual event.

2011 Show will once again be in BC in the Kootenays, exact location  
still to be decided.

Information will be in the March Newsletter.

2012 Show is still looking for a sponsor, preferably in the Alberta region

### BC Society Island Zone GEMBOREE 2011 JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

This years Gemboree will be held at Charlie and Lena Hallstrom's place:

3906 South Island Highway

Campbell River, B. C. V9H-1M1

For information on Free Camping, and Field Trips contact:-

Lena or Charlie, Phone: (250) 923-5670





**CALGARY ROCK & LAPIDARY CLUB  
51st ANNUAL  
GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL  
SHOW**

**FOSSILS OF ALBERTA**

Saturday, May 7, 2011 9 AM - 6 PM

Sunday, May 8, 2011 10 AM - 5 PM

**West Hillhurst Arena, 1940 - 6 Ave NW, Calgary  
Dealers, Demonstrations, Displays,  
Fish Pond, Silent Auction, Information**

There is only room for 64 show cases.

Be sure to pick up and fill in your exhibitor form early

**BC GEM SHOW**

**APRIL 8, 9, 10, 2011**

Club & Special Displays

Demonstrations, Dealers

Children's Creative Workshop, Grab

Bags, Spin & Win

Adults - \$6.00 Students 6-17 \$2.00

Under 6 (accompanied by an adult) Free

AG-REC BLDG. CFV FAIRGROUNDS

32470 Haida Drive, ABBOTSFORD, BC

For more information, check out their web site

<http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/gemshow.html>



**THE GMFC SHOW & CONVENTION 2011  
KOOTENAYS BC  
LOCATION & DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

