



Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada

La Federation Canadienne des Gemmes et des Mineraux

FOUNDED 1977

ALEXANDRITE



] This 1.29-carat Russian alexandrite displays the change-of-color that has made stones from this deposit so famous.

From the [Mary Murphycollection](#).
Photos ©1988 Tino Hammid, Los Angeles

Newsletter
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2006 EXECUTIVE

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SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC

This is a separate entity of the GMFC. Since it's inception, it has accepted memorial donations for a scholarship fund. In 1993 the GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc. became operational with Tax exemption status. The first scholarship was awarded in 1994. In 2004, one graduate scholarship for \$1000.00 and four \$500.00 undergraduate scholarships were awarded. The following procedure is used for the graduate scholarship. Each GMFC member club is encouraged to nominate one of their members who has performed outstanding service to the Earth Sciences through his/her work for the hobby as a candidate for the Honorary Scholarship Award. The winner has the honor of selecting the Canadian University where the \$1000.00 Scholarship will be awarded in his/her name to a student working on a Master or Doctoral degree in one of the Earth Sciences.

The \$500.00 scholarships are awarded to a first year student at a Canadian University, College or Technical Institute. To qualify, a student must have been a member of a GMFC club for 5 years or the child or grandchild of a member who has been in good standing for at least 5 years. If the parent or grandparents are deceased, he/she must have been a member for five years prior to death. Each spring, application forms are sent to each GMFC member club.

GMFC Scholarship Foundation

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Newsletter exchanges, reprint requests and contributions may be forwarded to the GMFC secretary. The articles published in the GMFC newsletter may be reprinted for non commercial purposes provided credit is given to the author. Articles may not be edited or re-written to change their meaning or substance without the authors prior written approval.

About the GMFC

The Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC) was founded in 1977 as an organization to assist its members by various means to promote the earth sciences, to protect collecting sites, to educate collectors, and to foster goodwill, friendship and rapport among all. The federation currently consists of 55 member clubs across Canada.

Member clubs benefit from comprehensive third party liability insurance provided to members. Our federation also provides assistance to member clubs by loaning multimedia materials (such as slides and videos) for meetings, and a directory of member clubs, individuals and dealers is published yearly. An interest-free loan is provided by the GMFC to the host club of the annual show. GMFC members adhere to a Code of Conduct for Canadian collectors respecting the earth sciences, and the federation keeps its members informed of government legislation on collecting sites

Annual Show & Convention

Each year the GMFC and a host member club organizes a national gem, mineral and fossil show within Canada. Demonstrations, field trips, dealers, displays and speakers are featured at the annual shows. The annual meeting and committee meetings are held in conjunction with the annual show.

Membership

We accept new members anytime. Federation dues are normally collected during the fall. A newsletter is included with the membership. Please contact the GMFC if your club would like to become a member.

Disclaimer

Letter, articles and editorials in this newsletter express the opinions of the author and not necessarily that of the GMFC. While all articles are verified to the best of our ability, the GMFC, its directors and officers, the publication and its staff assume no responsibility for the contents of this publication. The editor reserves the right to accept, edit or reject all materials submitted for publication.

EDITORS DESK

This edition of your Newsletter has again been prepared by the two amateur interim editors John Hausberg and Mal McMurdo. We are still searching for a new editor as the one we interviewed declined after some health problems. The objective is to get the information enclosed out to the members prior to the April teleconference.

LARIMAR, the Caribbean Gemstone

Larimar is a blue colored variant of the mineral **pectolite** with the hardness of 5 to 7. The color can range from deep sky blue to azure bluish green of the Caribbean, with white marbling to milky greenish shades. Its characteristics colors and variations of texture make it a very unique and interesting gemstone.

It has only been found in one location on earth, in the mountain region in the Dominican Republic that is difficult to access. The Dominican Republic is also an important source of amber and conch pearls.

Larimar was found in the seventies although natives knew of the stone much earlier. Water eroded fragments of pectolite were first found in the alluvials of the Rio Borucco, and later traced to their upstream source.

The trade name Larimar was given to the stone by Miguel Mendez, who named the stone after his daughter LARIssa and the Spanish word for sea: MAR - LARIMAR.

All mineral rights in the Dominican Republic belong to the government, and pectolite mining is permitted only by concession from the Dominican Bureau of Mines: the Minería. The commercial quantities of blue pectolite available at this time are all mined in that mountain area.

Larimar is still a very rare gemstone. This year for the first time many dealers at the 2006 Tucson show carried rough and slabbed larimar, as well as finished jewelry. The slabs went for \$0.75 to \$7.00 **per gram** depending on color, very expensive since the slices were fairly thick.

Working larimar can be very tricky, Gary Bojeck uses Opticon to stabilize the piece while he is working on it.

This article is from the Montreal Club's Geminews, March 2006 issue.

The Calgary Geological and Lapidary Museum Society.

A number of Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club members are trying to get a Geological & Lapidary museum going . They are hoping to get financial backing from industry for their project This is not an official club project, but it is something that might be of interest to Rock hounds across Canada.

If you are interested in supporting them and becoming a member of their society then you should contact them. They are not asking for financial support, however the number of members supporting the venture is important to them.

For further information you can contact their spokesperson at:

The Calgary Geological and Lapidary Museum Society
Edward R Fewer, Publicity Director (403) 461-5153
#2 -14736 Deerfield Drive SE, Calgary, AB, T2J 5Y1
E-Mail < cenozoicascapture @hotmail.com >

A politician is someone who divides his time between running for office and running for cover

Now you should all understand why I have a hard time with English.

OK, give this one some thought... English is difficult? You betcha! Can you read these correctly... the first time?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The landfill was so full; they had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) Please polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could be in the lead if he would lead out.
- 6) The soldier choose to dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, it is time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does strange antics when the does are around.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong for us to wind the sail.
- 18) I shed a tear upon seeing the tear in the painting.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) I need to intimate this to my most intimate friend.

Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, no ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins were not invented in England nor were French fries invented in France. Sweetmeats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose 2 geese; so why not one moose, 2 meese?

Is it not crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think the first teachers of the language, should have been committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

How is it that people recite a play and play at a recital; ship by truck and send cargo by ships; have noses that run and feet that smell?

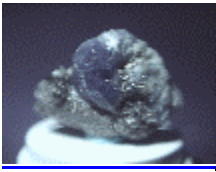
How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down; you fill in a form by filling it out and an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all.

This is why... when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

By Marion Eccleston, Oxford County Geological Soc. "Conglomerate" Newsletter.



JUNE BIRTHSTONE - ALEXANDRITE [Traditional]

The [Gemstone](#) Alexandrite is the *color changing* variety of the mineral [Chrysoberyl](#). The June [Birthstone](#), its color varies from red to green depending upon the light source.

Alexandrite is named for the former czar of Russia, Alexander II, and was first discovered in the Ural Mountains of Russia, supposedly on the day of his birth. Chromium gives alexandrite its color and while, in most minerals, a trace element like chromium would provide only one color to the mineral, in alexandrite it gives it two! Coloring agents are dependent on the wavelength of light and the chemical bonds in the crystal to determine the color that they will cause. An element like copper, in normal light, can cause a green color in malachite and a blue color in azurite, it all depends on the character of the chemical bonding. In a single specimen of alexandrite, the chromium is in such a balanced situation that the color of the specimen depends on the character of light that hits the crystal. If the light is natural sunlight or fluorescent light, the crystal will be green; however, if the light is incandescent light from a common indoor light bulb, then the crystal will appear red.

Synthetic corundum spiked with trace elements that yield an alexandrite-like color change are sold as alexandrite on the gemstone market. These stones have a red-violet, near-amethyst color in incandescent light and a blue-violet color in daylight. They are far cheaper than natural alexandrite, which are some of the rarest and most expensive of gemstones.

Pearl Gemstone June Birthstone [Modern]

It is firmly believed that wearing of **pearl** ensure happy conjugal life and protection from widow-hood. Anybody wearing an unblemished Pearl earns riches and is blessed by goddess of wealth Lakshmi. He or she lives long and all his sins are said be washed away. He gets vitality, becomes intelligent and achieves a high position in life. Pearl with a yellow luster brings wealth. A reddish pearl makes one intelligent. White Pearl bestows fame and the Pearl with blue hue is the giver of good fortune. The wearing of a defective pearl brings troubles. The Pearl, in which there is spot without luster like the hole, that pearl, is likely to cause leprosy to the wearer. If in any pearl there is a spot or sign looking like the eye of a fish, the wearer suffers loss of children. The Pearl, devoid of luster is said to shorten life. The Pearl that is flat brings a bad name to the wearer. The Pearl that is long instead of being round makes the wearer foolish and an idiot. If a side of the Pearl is broken, the wearer of such stones suffers the loss of his livelihood.

Pearl. Gem [The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001-05.]

hard, rounded secretion formed inside the shell of certain mollusks, used as a gem. It is secreted by the epithelial cells of the mantle, a curtain of tissue between the shell and body mass, and is deposited in successive layers around an irritating object—usually a parasite in the case of natural pearls—that gets caught in the soft tissue of the mollusk. The pearl is built up of layers of aragonite or calcite (crystalline forms of calcium carbonate) held together by conchiolin (a horny organic substance); its composition is identical to that of the [mother-of-pearl](#), or nacre, that forms the interior layer of the mollusk shell.

Pearls may be rice-shaped, round, pear-shaped, button-shaped, or irregular (baroque) and are valued in that order. Pearls found attached to the inner surface of the shell are known as blister pearls. The best pearls are usually white, sometimes with a creamy or pinkish tinge, but may be tinted with yellow, green, blue, brown, or black. Black pearls, because of their rarity, are often highly valued. The unique luster, or orient, of pearls depends upon the reflection and refraction of light from the translucent layers and is finer in proportion as the layers are thinner and more numerous. The iridescence which some pearls display is caused by the overlapping of successive layers, which breaks up light falling on the surface. Pearls are not cut or polished like other gems. They are very soft and are injured by acids and heat; as organic products, they are subject to decay.

Commercially valuable pearls are obtained from pearl oysters (especially of the genus *Pinctata*) and from freshwater pearl mussels (especially of the genus *Hyriopsis*). The largest natural pearl center is the Persian Gulf, which is said to produce the finest saltwater pearls. Other important sources are the coasts of India, China, Japan, Australia, the Sulu Archipelago, various Pacific islands, Venezuela, and from freshwater pearl mussels (especially of the genus *Hyriopsis*). The largest natural pearl center is the Persian Gulf, which is said to produce the finest saltwater pearls. Other important sources are the coasts of India, China, Japan, Australia, the Sulu Archipelago, various Pacific islands, Venezuela, and Central America, and the rivers of Europe and North America. In ancient times the Red Sea was an important source.

Nearly all of the world's supply of cultured saltwater pearls is produced by the Japanese, who have perfected the techniques of saltwater pearl cultivation. These pearls are commonly produced by placing a small mother-of-pearl bead enclosed in a piece of mantle tissue in the body of the oyster. The oysters are then placed in cages that are suspended into sheltered bays for the period of time (up to 4 years) required for pearl formation.

Freshwater pearl cultivation is dominated by the Chinese. To produce freshwater pearls, a small piece of mantle tissue from one mussel is placed into a second mussel; shell beads and small seed pearls are also used. The quantity of freshwater pearls produced far exceeds that of saltwater pearls, and freshwater pearls are also significantly cheaper. Although many freshwater pearls are irregular oblong "rice pearls," round and near-round pearls are also produced. Inferior Chinese pearls are crushed and used in cosmetics and medicines.

See N. Landman et al., *Pearls* (2001).

The secret petrified forest in BC. **Some worry a rich cache of petrified wood could disappear**

This headline in Maclean's April 10-2006 issue caught my attention.

Sarah Efron from Maclean's Magazine, along with De Singleton and Dave Capstick visited the site .located in the Kamloops area..

De Singleton, a rockhound from Kamloops, describes the wood as having patterns of brown, black, cream, tan and grey all blended together. She could see wood grain patterns and tree's growth rings in some pieces.

Dave Capstick, a geologist from Kelowna had seen a particularly impressive log on a previous visit in 2001, now found only a deep hole where the log had been.. It appears someone has removed a large amount of petrified wood from the area. Both Singleton and Capstick worry that all the petrified wood might disappear before steps can be taken to protect the site.

The site is located on Crown land and one would think that preservation would be easy. Some time ago, a group of rockhounds in BC formed a group dedicated to preserving sites like this. Unfortunately, the group was not able to gather enough support from the rockhounds to keep going.

Individual clubs, provincial associations and the GMFC all profess to be concerned about sites like this being cleaned out by individuals who's motive is strictly profit.

We, the clubs and associations must get our act together and work together to preserve sites like this.

There will always be people who are prepared to plunder sites, but we can at least try to put up roadblocks in the path of these individuals. The B.C. Forest Service is aware of this site, but they need to be prodded into action.

The most effective way to do this is by writing to the Minister in charge. Rich Coleman is the Minister of Forests in BC. I challenge all clubs in BC to write to the Minister, urging him to find a way to preserve this site. Mr. Coleman is a former RCMP officer, who I am sure, is up to that task.

Definition of a Lapidary: Someone who grinds their fingernails, sands their knuckles and polishes their vocabulary while trying to do the same thing to a piece of agate.

from Sooner Rockologist via Deming Rock Chips 12/96

Unofficial Medical Directory

Artery..... The study of paintings.

Barium.... What doctors do when patients die .

Caesarean Section...A neighbourhood in Rome.

Cauterize ... Made eye contact with her.

Coma ...A punctuation mark.

Enema..... Not a friend.

Fibula..... A small lie.

Labour Pain.... Getting hurt at work.

Morbid.....A higher offer.

Node..... I knew it.

Pelvis..... Second cousin to Elvis.

Recovery Room....Place to do upholstery.

Secretion.....Hiding something.

Tablet.....A small table.

Tumor.....One plus one more.

Bacteria..... Back door to cafeteria

Benign..What you be, after eight

Catscan..Searching for kitty

Colie..... A sheep dog

Dilate.... To live long

Fester..... Quicker than someone else.

Impotent..... Distinguished, well known.

Medical Staff..... A doctors cane.

Nitrates..... Cheaper than day rates.

Outpatient..... A person who has fainted.

Post Operative.....A letter carrier.

Rectum..... Nearly killed him.

Seizure.....Roman emperor.

Terminal Illness....Getting sick at airport.

Urine..... Opposite of you're out.

From the Oxford County Geological Society "Conglomerate"

GMFC Scholarship Foundation Report

I thank John and Mal for their work on the newsletter

It has been a busy year, many donations have been received from numerous clubs and members. Thank you to all who have donated; it helps us in achieving our goal in getting out more scholarships.

A special thanks to The Grey Fox Associates Inc. for their donation of a scholarship in memory of Del Novlan. Hopefully we will get students from AB this year.

The Ken Dewerson /GMFC Honorary Scholarship award is to be finalized.

There will be two student scholarships awarded for \$500.00 each as well as one for the Del Novlan Memorial Scholarship. The candidates will not be known until the forms are sent in.

There was mention of allowing nieces and nephews to be eligible for scholarships. This is, in my opinion, not a good idea at this time. We are getting a good number of applications 8 to 12 and to open it up further would be a nightmare to go through 20,30 or more applications to pick 3. Also for the entrants getting rejected would tend to lose the anticipation of winning and may cause a loss of interest.

Also there was talk of a change to \$1000 award although there may be some complications with the bylaws and the constitution.

If anyone needs forms please contact me.

Thanks and have a great summer.

GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.

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Motions re the GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.

We had one motion brought up in Ottawa at the Annual Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors recommended to the GMFC Annual meeting that the motion be tabled to the 2006 Annual General meeting. The Annual General meeting approved the motion be tabled and requested that the motion be published to inform the membership.

There are also two notices of motion published here. These motions are published for your information. Please read all the motions and let your GMFC Directors know how you would like them to vote. Any and all comments for or against must be forwarded to a GMFC executive prior to the 2006 Annual General meeting.

Motion #1

This motion was proposed to the Ottawa convention by the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs. The motion was passed at their Annual meeting in May 2005 and reads:

“That the GMFC give members the opportunity to sponsor a neice or nephew for a scholarship”

This motion was tabled to the 2006 Annual General meeting of the GMFC

Motion #2

I, Lavern Novlan will move or cause to be moved at the next GMFC Annual General meeting:

“That childless couples, who are members in good standing in their own provincial club, be allowed to submit the names of their nieces and/or nephews for Undergraduate Scholarships”

Motion #3

I, John Hausberg will move or cause to be moved at the next GMFC Annual General meeting:

“That the Graduate Scholarship of \$1000.00 awarded each year to a Graduate student in the Earth Sciences at a Canadian University, in the name of the Honorary Scholarship Award winner, be replaced by the following:

An Undergraduate Scholarship of \$1000.00 be awarded to the top student applicant each year. This Scholarship to be in the name of the Honorary Scholarship award winner. The student will be paid \$500.00 upon winning the award and a further \$500.00 at the start of his/her second year of post secondary education”

G.M.F.C. SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC.

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Prince Albert SK S6V 5R3

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OBJECTIVE:

To provide undergraduate scholarships in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (500.00) to first year students at accredited Canadian universities, colleges and technical schools. The scholarship money is to be used exclusively for tuition and books.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. (a) The applicant must be the child or grandchild of a G.M.F.C. member who has been in good standing for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of scholarship application or
 - (b) had been a member in good standing for at least five (5) years prior to the date of death and died within the preceding five (5) years.
 - (c) Any member in good standing for at least five (5) preceding, consecutive years may apply for a scholarship.
2. The applicant must be in the process of graduating (or have graduated) from a secondary school which is accredited by the provincial Department of Education in the province where the applicant resides.
3. The applicant must be accepted as a full-time, first year student at an accredited Canadian university, college or technical school.
4. A resume must be submitted with the application.
5. The application form must be obtained from the Club to which the applicant, parent or grandparent belongs (or belonged).
6. The applicant can qualify under section 1. (a), 1. (b) or 1. (c). All other sections apply to all applicants.
7. Prior to being forwarded to the G.M.F.C., the application must be signed by the President of the local Club.

G.M.F.C. SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC.

Scholarship Application Form

(For students who are starting their first year of secondary education.)

Please Print

Name _____ Surname _____
Full given names

Address _____

Town or City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Birth Date _____ S.I.N. _____

School attended _____

Location _____

Institution to be attended _____

Location _____ Faculty _____

Degree, Diploma or Certification sought _____

Attach Official High School Transcript of your marks.

(Consult the Eligibility listed on the page 13 of this journal prior to answering the next questions.)

Are you ___ Your parent(s) ___ Your grandparent(s) ___ Current members of a Club affiliated with G.M.F.C.?

Name of member _____

Name of Club _____

Has the person indicated above been a member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of this application? _____ Dates of membership _____ To _____

If the person named died within the past five (5) years, give the date of death _____ And dates of his/her membership for five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding his/her death.

Attach a Resume which should include any extra-curricular activities, community activities, work experience and any hobbies.

Date of application _____ **Applicants signature** _____

To be completed by the G.M.F.C. Affiliated Club.

Do you verify the Club affiliation of the applicant? _____

Do you endorse this application? _____

I hereby certify that the answers given to the eligibility of the applicant are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date _____ Club _____

President _____ **Signature of President** _____

Application must be submitted by July 31st to the address listed on the back page.

A NOTE TO ALL CANADIAN CLUB NEWSLETTER EDITORS

By – Trudy Martin, Editor – The Calgary Lapidary Journal

Even though the GMFC Club Newsletter Contest has been discontinued, there is still help available to those editors who want it. I am still willing to critique your newsletter and will offer suggestions regarding format, spacing, content and overall appeal. All you have to do is send me your newsletter with a note that you want an assessment. It will be between you and me. No one else needs to know. There won't be any certificate or prize, just helpful advice.

For those of you who do not know me. I am the editor of our club newsletter, The Calgary Lapidary Journal. With the June 2006 issue, I will have completed 32 years as **The Editor**. You know the expression – **Been There – Done That** – well, I've done it in spades!

Back in 1974 we cut stencils on manual typewriters with the ribbon removed. Gunk & goop would build up in the keys, especially the C's, D's and O's. So you had to clean the keys with a toothbrush. If you made a typing error, there was this pink stuff, smelled like nail polish, to cover up the mistake so you could type over it. Well, my stencils looked like they had measles! We did our own printing on an A B Dick Mimeo that spewed pages across the room and we played Ring Around the Table as we collated the finished pages.

Times have changed over the years. I now have a computer with all the bells and whistles and the printing is done by a commercial printer who prints, collates and staples the pages before returning them to me. The computer has Spell Check but, as I have learned on many occasions, you still have to proof read with your eyes. Too many words can slip buy on Spell Check.

Another resource available to editors is **SCRIBE – an organization OF editors, FOR editors**.

SCRIBE is an international group with 200 plus members. There are 2 in England, 1 in South Africa, 19 in Canada and the remainder in the USA. I have been a member since 1982 and am proud to be the first Canadian to serve as Scribe President.

SCRIBE publishes a quarterly newsletter with timely hints and tips. It also prepares a yearly CD which is mailed FREE to all paid up members. The CD contains upwards of 30 newsletter, articles and clip art. If you want some ideas on different newsletter formats – across the page, two columns, three columns – there will be examples to look at. If you need an article to fill up that blank page – there are plenty to choose from on the CD.

So ----

- if you want an assessment of your newsletter, send me a copy and I will read and critique it for you.
- If you want information about SCRIBE, send me an e-mail and I will send you a membership application form.
- Editors are always WRITE.

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PEGMATITES

A pegmatite is simply a very coarse grained igneous rock that usually occurs in dikes (seams of rock that cut across the main country rock) or lenses (pods of coarse-grained igneous rock included in other rocks). Pegmatites can be from a few inches th hundreds of feet thick. What makes many people interested in pegmatites is the fact that many exotic and important minerals, including many gemstones, are found in them.

A new technique in finding crystal pockets is to use Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to detect differences in density associated with crystal cavities. A portable radar device emits pulses which go into the rock and are reflected back by the various layers inside. A computer puts all the echoes from the layers into a format that can be interpreted (more or less) as a cross section of what the radar is seeing. A crystal pocket may show up as an anomaly in the rock layers. This anomaly, combined with geological knowledge and skill of the operator can greatly enhance the search for crystal pockets.

Pegmatites are widely distributed in the earth's crust and are found on all continents, even in Antarctica. They are most abundant in the mountain chains and on stable shield areas (like the Canadian Shield). Pegmatites are typically associated with large granite bodies often distributed along their margins, but are also found within them.

Pegmatites are almost as old as the earth's crust. Pegmatites of Precambrian age (2.8 to 10 billion years) are the most abundant and widespread. These are generally found in the stable shields of Canada, Greenland, Russia and similar geologic environments. In contrast, some of the youngest pegmatites (roughly 20 to 5 million years) are found in the Himalaya mountains of Pakistan and Nepal.

Granite pegmatites are important sources of rare-elements, such as Beryllium, niobium, cesium and gallium; industrial minerals; gems and minerals specimens. When present in economic quantities, these rare-elements may be extracted for use in a wide range of technological applications, such as lightweight alloys, ceramics, pharmaceutical products, prosthetic devises (tantalum) and integrated circuits and light-emitting laser diodes (gallium).

The industrial minerals, feldspar and quartz, are extracted from pegmatite deposits for use by the glass and ceramic industries, while mica is used in construction materials and insulation.

One of the features which attract many people to pegmatites, for the first time, are the abundance of minerals that are found in them. There have been about 550 different minerals found in pegmatites. Pegmatite minerals are typically much larger than most minerals in other rocks. For example, the minerals in granites are typically on the order of a few millimeters across whereas similar minerals in pegmatites may be several centimeters or meters across. The largest known crystal in a pegmatite, a spodumene from South Dakota, measured almost 13 meters long.

(Edited from www.pegmatology.com/basic.infor.htm#What) by Geminews the Montreal Gem & Mineral newsletter.

P.S. The article mentions Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) A GMFC Scholarship Winner in the mid 1990s .Percy Stafford's pick at the University of Calgary Jim Patterson did his Phd. on this subject and is a world expert on GPR.

Daffynitions: Field trip: an impossible trek to an inaccessible place for non-existent specimens.

Field Polish: Spit

Tumbler: Piece of equipment costing at least \$25 which makes \$250 worth of stones salable at 25¢.

Rock Show: Bunch of people displaying their best specimens and another bunch selling their worst.

from Sooner Rockologist vi Nodule Nocker News 2/97

"Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old secondhand diamonds than none at all."

Mark Twain

"Jewellery takes people's minds off your wrinkles."

Sonja Henie

Recommended Polishes For Lapidary Materials from Benjamin E. Schmidt

[Ed. Gem Cutter News note: I found this list of recommended polishes in some old files]

	Cerium Oxide	Tin Oxide	Linde A	Diamond	Chrome Oxide		Cerium Oxide	Tin Oxide	Linde A	Diamond	Chrome Oxide
Actinolite		ü				Labradorite		ü			ü
Agate	ü	ü				Lapis Lazuli		ü	ü		ü
Alabaster		ü				Lepidolite					ü
Amazonite		ü				Limestone	ü	ü	ü		ü
Amber		ü				Malachite		ü	ü		ü
Amblygonite		ü				Moonstone		ü			
Andalucite		ü				Nephrite		ü	ü		ü
Apatite			ü		ü	Obsidian		ü			ü
Aventurine		ü				Onyx	ü	ü			ü
Azurite		ü			ü	Opal	ü	ü			
Apophyllite					ü	Peridot		ü	ü	ü	
Aragonite					ü	Petrified Wood	ü	ü	ü		ü
Axinite	ü					Phenocite		ü			
Barite					ü	Pollucite		ü			
Benitoite	ü					Quartz	ü	ü			
Beryl	ü	ü		ü		Rhodochrosite		ü	ü		ü
Bloodstone			ü			Rhodonite	ü		ü		ü
Brazilianite		ü				Ruby				ü	
Calcite		ü			ü	Rutile			ü		
Cassiterite		ü				Sapphire				ü	
Celestite					ü	Scapolite	ü				
Cerossite					ü	Scheelite					ü
Chrysoberyl				ü		Serpentine		ü	ü		ü
Coral		ü				Smithsonite		ü			
Corundum				ü		Sodalite	ü				
Cubic Zirconia				ü		Sosolite	ü				
Danburite		ü				Spinel		ü	ü	ü	
Datolite		ü				Sphalerite					ü
Diopside					ü	Spodumene		ü			
Dioptase	ü					Sunstone		ü			
Diorite	ü	ü	ü		ü	Thompsonite	ü				
Enstatite		ü				Tiger-eye	ü	ü	ü		
Epidote		ü				Titanite (sphene)		ü			
Euclase		ü				Topaz		ü	ü	ü	
Feldspar	ü	ü				Tourmaline		ü	ü	ü	
Fluorite		ü			ü	Turquoise	ü	ü	ü		
Garnet	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	Unakite	ü				
Goldstone	ü	ü				Varicite	ü	ü	ü		
Hematite	ü					Vesuvianite	ü				
Hickoryite			ü			Williamsite			ü		
Howlite	ü	ü	ü		ü	Wonderstone,		ü	ü		
Hypersthene		ü				Wulfenite					ü
Jadeite	ü	ü	ü		ü	Zircon		ü			
Jasper	ü	ü	ü		ü	Zoisite	ü				
Kyanite		ü									

from Gem Cutters News 3/98 via Rock Rollers, 4/00

The Joys of Aging

I have become quite a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen each day. As soon as I awaken, **will power** helps me out of bed. When he leaves I go to see **John**. then **Charley Horse** comes along and he takes a lot of my attention. When he leaves, **Arthur Ritis** shows up and stays the rest of the day. HE doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I'm ready to go to bed with **Ben Gay**. What a day!

SOURIS, MANITOBA IN JULY

The town of Souris, Manitoba - home of the Swinging Bridge, Hillcrest Museum, Victoria Park, **The Rock Shop** and the world famous **Gravel Pit** - is celebrating its **125th Anniversary** the week of **July 1 - 9, 2006**.

There will be a variety of events from school reunions, street market, classic car show, antique machinery display and daily activities for children. Pancake breakfasts in the arena will start off each day followed by different sport activities - baseball, volleyball, golf. Also an art show, music in the park, strawberry social, seniors old time dance to name a few. For more details go to the Rock Shop Web Site <http://www.sourisrockshop.com/> and then click on **Visit the Town of Souris**

ROCK CANDY MINE

GRAND FORKS, BC

Trips are held every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in July and August

Every Saturday and Sunday in June and September

Advance booking is recommended.

Book through Grand Forks Visitor info.

250-442-2833

Price is \$18.00/adult; \$12.00/child or senior; plus \$1.00 per person BC land use tax.

Kids under 6 and adults over 75 are FREE, but must pay \$1.00 tax.

Prices are in Canadian Funds.

Collect all you can carry in one load. Hammers and safety goggles are supplied. Closed-toe footwear is required. Sun hat, sunscreen, gloves, lunch and lots of water are recommended.

Making a Rock Slab Stand

Cut a wire coat hanger at each end of the bottom as shown in Fig. 1 (below). Bend the straight piece of wire at a 90 degree angle at two points, each bend being made one inch from the wire's midpoint (Fig 2). Next, bend both ends evenly at 2 to 3 inches and with pliers curl up each end (Fig 3).



From Rocky Reader, Dec. 1991 via The Shin-Skinner News, 9/01 Via RockCollector 10/01 Time 12/96

"Experts predict that eventually every home will have a computer, which means that our personal lives will be just as messed up as things at the office. -Scribe, 1988



THE PRAIRIE ROCK & GEM SOCIETY &



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