

# Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada

La Federation Canadienne des Gemmes et des Mineraux

FOUNDED 1977

## Newsletter

Autumn 2007

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Yukon emeralds – photos from the Yukon Geological Survey website (Yukon Energy, Mines & Resources)

**GMFC President's Report**

*-- submitted by Darlene Itcush, GMFC President*

As we approach the end of the year, my term as President of the GMFC is drawing to a close. It has been quite an eventful year.

We had a very successful meeting & show in Winfield, B.C. this past August. Many thanks to Dave Barclay and the members of both the Kelowna and Vernon rock clubs - you did a fantastic job. At our annual meeting Trudy Martin from Calgary was made a lifetime member. Congratulations Trudy on this well-deserved honour.

Our secretary Maureen Wade was quite unwell earlier this year, and although she is recovering she has decided to resign as our secretary. Thank you Maureen, for all that you have done - we wish you well in the future. In addition, we were finally able to find a newsletter editor, a position that has not been filled for a few years.

There will be some other changes to the executive for next year.

- Ken Dewerson has resigned as Treasurer but will stay on as a Vice-President.
- Dave Cole has resigned as Insurance rep.
- Donnamae Chionis is going to be taking on a dual role as both Secretary and Insurance rep. (Thanks Donnamae – I know you will do a great job.)

Although my year as President comes to an end, I will continue as a delegate from Saskatchewan.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2008 GMFC Show in Edmonton.

**From the Newsletter Editor**

*-- submitted by Madeline Sheridan, newsletter editor*

Hello and thank you to everyone who sent me thanks and compliments on my first GMFC newsletter, and well wishes for the future ones. But most of all, I send heartfelt thanks to Murray Nicholson and John Hausberg for suggesting a PDF producer that does not cost as much as the ring saw my husband wants! Guess Peter can get his Christmas gift now...

Once again, I must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. Somewhere there is a prankster who is determined to prevent me from getting these out. I hope to get future newsletters out ON TIME, so that what you read will be timely and topical.

Until then, enjoy the (late) news from this past summer. Have a great autumn, and talk to you sometime soon.

## **2007 GMFC Annual Meeting**

-- submitted by Maureen Wade, GMFC Secretary

Hello to all! It came around again, the GMFC Annual Meeting and show in Winfield, BC. Thank you for all the effort put forward by members of the Vernon Lapidary Club and the 1120 Club of Kelowna. Special thanks to David Barclay and Ken Dewerson who made this event possible. The show was held on Saturday and Sunday with nine dealers from BC and Alberta. All dealers were happy to participate in this show and the area was happy to see this kind of show being put on.

The directors held their meeting on Thursday August 16, 2007. After a marvelous dinner the Annual Meeting was opened at 7:30 pm. President Darlene Itcush welcomed all directors, thanked everyone for being there, and in particular thanked the Vernon Club, the 1120 Club, David and Ken for making this show and meeting possible.

John Hausberg remembered fellow rockhounds who have passed on.

Membership is slightly down from last year. This could be because the clubs have not sent in all the information.

The various reports were read. Highlights are as follows:

### Executive and portfolios:

- Mal McMurdo was appointed as Auditor.
- Terry Bacon has been approached to take over from Elmer Clarke as Wagon-master for field trips.
- Donna Mae Chionis will take over the Insurance portfolio from Dave Cole.
- Maureen Wade is resigning as secretary effective December 2007 due to health. So we are looking for someone to take over this position.
- Ken Dewerson is also resigning and would like someone to take over the position of Treasurer.
- There was a motion to combine the position of secretary and historian, and the information ID duplicated. This was passed.

### Awards and thanks:

- Trudy Martin of the Calgary Club was nominated and voted to a Live Member of the GMFC for her long and dedicated service to the GMFC.
- Darlene will write a letter of thanks to Bob Findlay for his many years of service to the GMFC.

### Scholarships:

- The Scholarship Foundation has received many donations from clubs and various members. These donations helps the GMFC continue to give scholarships to deserving qualified young people to continue their education.
- The Grey Fox Associates Inc donation, for the third year, in memory of Del Novlan, went to Samantha Peake from Calgary.
- The other two winners of the \$500.00 Scholarships were Wade Ohrlein from Surrey, BC and Kevan Bryant from Coaldale AB.
- There were a total for five applicants, so keep those young people applying.
- The Harry Wetter/ GMFC Honourary Scholarship has yet to be awarded by the University of Calgary.

Publicity and communications:

- The new editor of the newsletter, Madeline Sheridan (*madpete@accesscomm.ca*) NEEDS reports and news of club happenings for the newsletter. Please let her know what is happening in your club/zone. We need these happenings and news from all the clubs to keep the newsletter happening. Editors from club newsletters, pass your newsy tidbits and your newsletters to Madeline.
- The GMFC website is up and running but it needs updating. Darlene will contact Murray Nicolson about updating it. Donna Mae Chionis will update BC information to give to Darlene.
- There was a reprint of 1000 colouring books. The Rock of Ages club in Winnipeg sold 500. The Medicine Hat club took 100 and with other sales, there remain on hand 360 books. Contact Alice Clarke or David Barclay if you wish to get some for your club.
- We all need to promote the GMFC, everywhere. There are too many new members at the club level who have no idea who we are or what we do. This information needs to be put out there all the time. The colouring books and our website are ways to promote the GMFC. The cookbook is waiting in the wings as another means.

Future meetings and shows:

- The 2008 show and annual meeting will likely be taking place in Alberta (Editor's note: this has now been confirmed, at publishing time).
- The location of the 2009 show and annual meeting was discussed. We are looking into holding it in Prince Albert, Sask.

The Executive for 2008 was elected:

President: David Barclay (BC)  
1st Vice President: Win Robertson (BC)  
2nd Vice President: Peter Hagar (SK)  
3rd Vice President: Ken Dewerson (BC)

The next teleconferences will be held:

October 14, 2007 @ 12 noon BC time  
April 20, 2008 @ 12 noon BC time



**2008 GMFC Annual General Meeting to be held in Edmonton**

*-- submitted by Edward Zeschuk*

The Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club (ETLC) members passed the motion to host a Lapidary Show in Edmonton together with the annual general meeting of the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC). This will be the first show put on by the ETLC in conjunction with the GMFC in about 25 years. The purpose of the GMFC show is to educate the public about our lapidary hobby and activities.

The dates are tentatively August 15, 16 & 17, 2008. Friday, August 15 will be the "set-up" day, and the show will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday.

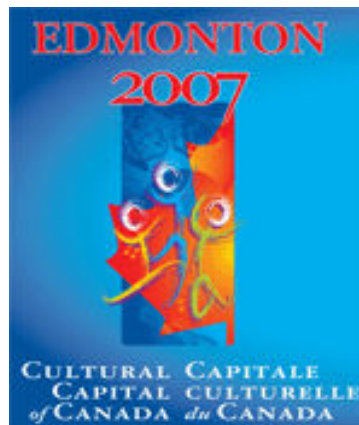
The hall at 9109-182 Street is very close to West Edmonton Mall and near the Whitemud Freeway. No firm details have yet been finalized but the lapidary community will be kept informed as they develop.

This will be a modest show. The tentative location could hold approximately six or seven dealers, about twelve show cases and four or five demonstrators. There would be a food concession.

Because of the very successful May Daze hosted by the ETLC in Edmonton in 2006, the members are confident that with the help of the GMFC, members of various clubs and the enthusiasm of the ETLC group, this event should be a success.

Pencil these dates into your calendar and plan your schedules to avoid date conflicts. The success of this event depends on as many as possible attending and doing their part.

More to come in the future...



**GMFC Scholarship Foundation Report 2007**

*-- submitted by Don Fabrick, President, GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.*

Thank you to the Vernon and Kelowna clubs for all of their work on this fine show and allowing the GMFC to participate. The show was very good with a number of fine exhibits and dealers participating. Special thanks to Dave, Maureen and Ken for their efforts and organization.

It has been a busy year, with 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.

There are two student scholarships awarded for \$500.00 each as well as one for the Del Novlan Memorial Scholarship. There were a total of five applicants.

- This year the Del Novlan Memorial Scholarship winner is from Alberta: Samantha Peake from Calgary. The Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club will be contacted.
- The winners of the student scholarships are Wade Ohrlein from Surry BC and Kevan Bryant from Coaldale AB.
- A special thanks to the Grey Fox Associates Inc. for their third donation of a scholarship in memory of Del Novlan.

The Harry Wetter/GMFC Honorary Scholarship award has not yet been finalized. We will be contacted by the University of Calgary when a student is chosen. I have received information that both Mr. & Mrs. Wetter have passed away. I intend to send certificates of recognition to their family once the award is finalized.

The Honourary Scholarship for this year has been chosen. This was a difficult decision with two candidates being very close. A tie by the readers was broken by an independent reader, and the winners were Don and Vi Merkely.

I hope the various clubs involved in GMFC will actually read the newsletter and the reports. It does help them to keep informed. Also it is necessary to inform the editor of events and other information that people need to know.

For more information, please contact:

Don Fabrick President  
GMFC Scholarship Foundation Inc.  
RR 5 Site 26 Comp 21  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R3  
Phone: (306) 764-0991  
Fax: (306) 764-5730  
Email: rdrunr@sasktel.net

**Photos from the October 12 Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club meeting:**  
**Del Novlan Memorial Scholarship presentation to Samantha Peake**  
-- submitted by Donald Fabrick



### **Honourary Lifetime Membership for Trudy Martin**

On Friday September 14th at the Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club meeting, John Hausberg presented Trudy Martin with a Honourary Life Membership in the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada. Her nomination was presented to the Board of Directors on August 16th 2007 at GMFC convention. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to grant Trudy that honour. There are now 4 Honourary Life Members in the GMFC.

Below is the nomination presented to the Board:

We nominate Trudy Martin of the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club for an Honourary Life Membership in the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada.

Trudy was present and became involved in the GMFC at the inaugural meeting of the GMFC in July 1977 in Calgary. She was appointed an Alberta Delegate to the GMFC Board of Directors for the first five or six years. She attended all the GMFC conventions when she was an official Director. For the first four years she was also the Editor of the GMFC newsletter.

She organized the Bill Downtown Newsletter contests and was the Director in charge to the day the program ended. Her time on that program after her role as a GMFC Director was over, qualifies her for the Honourary Life membership as a result of the motion passed in Winnipeg, giving members in charge of official programs Director status. She has more than the 10 years needed for this honour. She invested not only her time but also her knowledge in the program, going the extra mile to help Club editor with their newsletter. Her aim was to bring quality into these newsletters.

She joined SCRIBE and started workshops for Editors at the GMFC conventions. Trudy was also the first Canadian to become President of SCRIBE.

In the CRLC she is the hardest working member who never backs down from a challenge. She was the first woman President of the CRLC; she is also the only woman who has held the job of Show Chairperson. She has been the Editor of the CRLC newsletter for 30 years. Her and husband Mel also were delegates from the CRLC to the AFRC.

We believe that she is also the best un-official rockhound ambassador to the Northwest Federation of the US rockhounds. She receives more e-mails and phone calls from rockhounds visiting or planning to visit Canada, she can answer just about any question pertaining to the hobby. and do.

Trudy has been involved in the hobby for well over 30 years; she is just as involved in the hobby as she was when she first started. We the undersigned do not hesitate to nominate her.

- Nominated by John Hausberg, Pat Hausberg, Alice King, David Blair, Murray Nicholson, Alice Jaquist.

**Thank You**

-- submitted by Trudy Martin

You know those e-mails we all get: Forward this message to 25 of your friends and in three days time you will get a surprise.

Well, it works!

Last Friday at the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club (CRLC) meeting, John Hausberg called me to come to the front as he had a letter to read. "What did I do now?" was my first thought. As John read the letter outlining what I had done as a GMFC Director over the last thirty years, everybody heard what I had done – and it was humbling.

The prize was that I had been nominated for, and awarded an Honourary Life Membership in the GMFC.

The SURPRISE was that so many people who knew about it kept it a secret from me until that moment!

I am very pleased and honoured to be awarded such a prestigious award. I will continue to work for and support the endeavours of the GMFC, particularly in the area of Public Relations and Communication. As a 33-year editor of our club newsletter, The Calgary Lapidary Journal, it's something I know a little bit about.

My thanks to the members who nominated me and the GMFC Board of Directors for approving the nomination.



## **News from the Rock Clubs**

*This will be a regular feature of all GMFC newsletters. I want to thank the Calgary and Edmonton clubs for submitting articles. I hope that our other clubs across the country will follow suit. Photos are welcome.*

### **Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club – CRLC**

-- submitted by Trudy Martin, CRLC Reporter: [martintm@telus.net](mailto:martintm@telus.net)

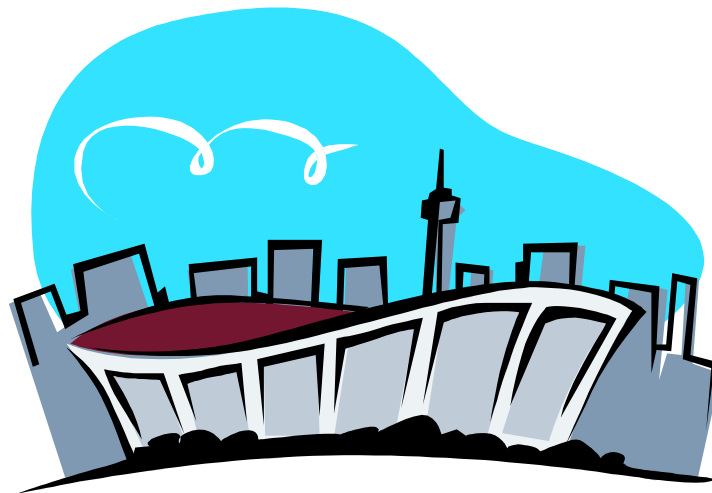
The fall season is here and it is back to club meetings and club activities following the summer holidays.

The CRLC meets the second Friday of the month. We hold a special program for the Pebble Pups to keep them occupied during the “business’ portion of the meeting. They join the adults for the program that follows the break for refreshments.

The meeting programs are varied: guest speakers, videos, as well as “Show and Tell”. The September program contained all three: speakers John Smith-Jones and Eric Dahlberg, a video on Peru by Patrick Bryant, and Show and Tell by Len Curle and Kelly Jackson. What more could a member want?

We are all looking forward to the October Pot Luck Supper and the November Auction. If any of you happen to be in Calgary on a meeting night, come and join us - the welcome mat is always out. Check our web site [www.crlc.ca](http://www.crlc.ca) for club activities, photos and links to many other interesting and educational sites.

Our big event of the year will be our 48th Annual Show on May 3 and 4, 2008. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar, and come spend the weekend with us. Shop ‘til you drop at the eighteen dealers in attendance, or enjoy the silent auction where bargains and treasures can be found. We look forward to welcoming you with our legendary Calgary hospitality!



## **Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club Schedule**

-- submitted by Edward Zeschuk

### Membership meetings

Meetings are held 7:00 pm every third Monday at 11B St. Anne Street in St. Albert, AB. The June meeting is a celebration of the year with a "pot luck" picnic at a local park. The club does not meet in the months of July and August.

In 2007, the club membership was 41 members.

### Workshops

The lapidary shop is located at the above address, and shop classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Many of the activities of our club occur when club members express an interest or desire to learn a skill. Because of this, specific dates are not set for many of the activities.

In addition to the cutting and polishing in the shop, the club also has hosted a number of special workshops:

- Silversmithing workshops; usually held after Christmas. By then the members have cut and polished some fine material that they can set in silver.
- Wire wrapping workshops; when members get the urge to set their creations.
- Some club members have recently organized a "beading" workshop that is currently in the development stage. A good deal of interest has been shown so it looks like it will grow.
- One of the members is very experienced in "flint knapping" and he ran two workshops last year. There was a good turn-out for the workshops but nothing has been set up for this year yet.

Contact the secretary (listed on the website) for the latest scheduled activities.



### **Mineral Claim Staking**

-- submitted by Ken Dewerson, GMFC Director

At the annual GMFC Directors meeting in Winfield in August, there was discussion during the draft Budget for 2008, about the miscellaneous item of claim staking. The question was asked what the claim staking expense was for.

The answer was that it was noticed that in BC, various society members had staked mineral claims. These claims were staked to protect the sites from commercial or private claims, and to have the sites open for the benefit of all rockhounds who seek permission and file a report on their activities on the claim.



One of the GMFC objectives is to promote the hobby and to encourage the conservation of mineral, fossil and geological occurrences of interest to the membership within Canada.

So to alleviate the individual's expenses and to promote other GMFC members to preserve the mineral sites in their areas, the directors approved to start an expense item under the heading of Claim Staking.

The GMFC will sponsor any individual member, Club, or Society that stakes a mineral claim for the benefit of all Rockhounds.

Submit claims for expenses to the secretary of the GMFC who will advise the directors to review and approve all or part of the expenses.

### **Cool Links**

-- submitted by Madeline Sheridan, Ken Dewarson and Peter Hagar

Are you interested in rock-related news? Here is a list of links that will take you to a number of neat articles on-line.

How about everyone's favourite: <http://www.gmfc.ca/>

Did you know 2007 – 2009 have been designated the International Year of Planet Earth? <http://yearofplanetearth.org/index.html>

Fossils in the news: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/story/2007/08/22/tech-fossil070822.html>

Geologist discovers "Martian mineral" ... in Ashcroft, B.C.: [http://qnc.queensu.ca/story\\_loader.php?id=4702546b59667](http://qnc.queensu.ca/story_loader.php?id=4702546b59667)

When you're in Edmonton for the 2008 GMFC AGM, check out the Mineral Exhibit at the Royal Alberta Museum: <http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/gallery/nathist/info.htm>

Do you have some suggested cool links for websites worth checking out? Please send them to [madpete@accesscomm.ca](mailto:madpete@accesscomm.ca).