

Vancouver Island Zone Report to BCLS  
October 4 Meeting  
Gordon Burkholder  
Zone Chair

The Vancouver Island Zone is being chaired by the Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral Club. The chair is Gordon Burkholder Ulla Williams is Treasurer and Jan Boyes is the Secretary. Our term of office runs through to November 2016.

The Gemboree was organized by the Zone committee with participation by all clubs. This change was introduced because the regularly scheduled club is totally given over to getting their new shop up and running. The Gemboree was a one-day affair which featured a BBQ lunch and a live auction. It was a success having members from every club participating and raising over \$500 for the Zone's bank account.

Campbell River's **Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral club** reports that membership of the club remains fairly constant at approximately 100 souls, with some members as others move on to new explorations. Our primary focus of lapidary skills continues and our shop is devoted to cutting, shaping, and polishing rock. Lessons on basic skills are provided to all new members prior to their accessing the shop independently. Members continue to provide classes on wire wrapping and we have carving workshops bi-annually.. We continue to strive to provide our members with activities at the monthly meetings that will improve and expand their knowledge and skills.

Our annual show may be looking for a new venue for the next show but more details will be made available well in advance to allow people to make the necessary plans to attend.

The **Parksville Mineral Club** representative, Marion Barclay reports that their lovely secretary, Marion Cameron, has died.

The club held their Mini-Show as part of the Coombs Fair, August 8-9. This was their tenth anniversary of participation with the Fair and they have finished the renovations on the building at the Fair grounds that will become our workshop and lapidary space. The next task is building benches and renovating equipment donated to the club. We are ready to have workshops and classes there.

The Club also received a \$1500 grant from the District 69 Recreation Commission for funds to operate youth rock hounding programs and have applied for a Seniors Horizons Grant for new lapidary equipment.

The **CowichanValleyClub** reports, through their representative Judy Moss, that they presently have 50 members.(13 family and 24 individuals) in their club. They had a fairly well attended summer BBQ at the home of Ken and Donna Buchholz in June. At present they have no wagon master but have continued with weekly field trips lead by Neil Bonner with slightly smaller attendance. These trips have been more difficult with the dry weather as we haven't been able to get into any gated areas. However Neil has been creative in finding us places to explore.

Their 2016 Gemboree Committee has met and they now have a registration form which was made available at the September 2015 Gemboree. Lots of fun events planned and we look forward to a well-attended weekend at Camp Creina July 8-10, 2016.

Complete information on the Gemboree is available through their executive committee.

Peter Shuya reported for the **Courtenay Gem and Mineral Club** informing delegates that the Club Show date was changed from the 1st weekend of May to a weekend in April.

The show did well.

The discussions about moving the Club workshop continue. Russ ball is willing to have it in his back yard if a suitable 'moveable' building or trailer can be found within the budget. The end of year picnic was held at Kin Beach and was enjoyed by all who attended. There are 30 members of whom 14 are active.

The **Victoria Lapidary and Mineral Society**'s Leni Gagnon sadly reported the passing of members Molly Beddington and Phyllis Hoffman. They were long time active members who will be missed.

Their Club bursary was won by Sean Maier and the club encourages other clubs to to have their young members apply for it if they are continuing their education in the Earth Sciences field or Geology.

Other events included another successful Show, Club picnic and field trips.

The **Port Alberni Club** did not have a representative present and forwarded no report.

**Vancouver Island Zone** business included reimbursement of club reps for mileage attending Zone meetings and representatives discussed a series of not-so-new topics like low levels of participation in meetings and with club activities as well as how workshops run and deal with issues that are of importance to club members. As always many ideas were shared and a wide variety of perspectives were voiced. Representatives went back with reports for their home Club.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon Burkholder