

ALBERTA ROCKHOUND NEWS

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President's Message



Brett Jensen

Greetings Everyone!

Following the successful national rock and gem show in Lethbridge, Judy and I headed south for a break from the early cold weather. We enjoyed warm sunny skies in Quartzsite, Arizona and were able to rejoin the Quartzsite Roadrunner Gem and Mineral Club and attend their first meetings and field trips. We have enjoyed our membership in that club, one of the largest in the world, if not the largest, (membership usually reaches nearly 1000 by closing time at the end of March) and where I greatly enjoy the myriad of rock collecting sites and Judy learned faceting and silversmithing. I have certainly learned lots there, most importantly that there are lots of different ways of running a rock club. Unfortunately because of the month that we stayed there I missed the November AFRC meeting. Many thanks to Holger and John for running the meeting and keeping the AFRC on track. I have written a short report on the Lethbridge show which is also included in this edition of the Rockhound News.

As I reflect back on my long history in the lapidary hobby, I see a common pattern or evolution in the path taken by myself and many others. Most rock lovers begin simply as collectors, some at a very early age. I received my first rock hammer as a gift from my father at age 8 and I still have, use and cherish that rock hammer. I was hooked and made it a goal to become a geologist. I collected rocks for years and went through many rock collections. I was very fortunate to find a career teaching geology at the college level, which enabled me to build on my knowledge and to continue to collect. My wife encouraged me to do something with all those buckets of rocks and I joined the rock club quite late in life when I seemed to have more time for my hobby. I, like so many others have related to me, found real joy and affinity with other "crazy" people who just love rocks. The club membership enabled me to learn the lapidary arts without large monetary expenditures and to hone my skills until such time as I was able to acquire my own equipment, usually second hand from retiring rock hounds. After collecting, purchasing and making lots I was asked to share my material by selling it and to share my knowledge and skill by teaching others. This evolution from collector to maker to artist to teacher to dealer seems to be a common pattern shared by many.

I have heard criticism of some club members who stop or pause along this path for some time as simply a collector. Some just enjoy the friendship of like-minded people who share common interests and who like to talk about rocks, minerals or fossils without progressing to lapidary artist. In my opinion that is OK. If some people lack the ability, the time or means to acquire the skills to become good at lapidary, they can still enjoy membership in a club. Other people may stop somewhere else along the path or simply run out of time before coming a master lapidary artist or dealer. Most clubs have rules banning or restricting commercial work at the club. Most clubs are registered nonprofits and that status could be threatened by allowing commercial activity at the club. Sometimes it is difficult to precisely define what constitutes commercial work. Most club members know when they have crossed the line and voluntarily retreat from club activities.

I think there is a place for dealers and vendors in rock clubs and their continued association with clubs should be encouraged.

Occasionally there may be some that have to be reminded of the rules and feel alienation from the club as a result. I definitely feel an affinity to those dealers who have progressed from collector to hobbyist to dealer. They share a true passion for the hobby. Most long time club members feel a need to give back to the club in some way, such as teacher, shop supervisor or club administration. That keeps the club healthy and vibrant and growing. Occasionally some who have evolved to commercial vendor level see other club members simply as customers to be exploited or even worse as competitors in the market. This philosophy is destructive and unhealthy for any club. We freely share our knowledge and expertise without thought of financial gain out of our true love for the hobby and everything that goes with it.

I hope you have found the time to enjoy the hobby even in the cold winter months and have found ways to share your passion with others. Till next time, Brett Jensen.

CRLC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ARTISAN FAIR

The annual CRLC Christmas Artisan Fair was held on 2 November 2019.

This was the fourth year of Calgary hosting a Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club (CRLC) Christmas Artisan Fair. The first two years, the Artisan Fair was hosted at the CRLC clubhouse. This venue was deemed too small so the organizers started renting the small hall in the Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association in 2018. This was our second year hosting the Artisan Fair at the Community Center.

Overall, the organizers were pleased with the event. It was estimated that approximately 300-400 people attended the event (free parking and free admittance at this location). There were 29 vendors from CRLC Calgary filling 31 tables. A wide range of mainly handmade goods plus jewellery, rocks, gems and lapidary works were available for sale.

Poster cards for the show had started to be given out at the CRLC Rock, Gem and Mineral show at the VIVO Center in May 2019. Besides the poster cards, advertising included big board street signs, FaceBook, email and a lot of free radio and Internet sites. Feedback said that the poster cards, FB and Internet were the most successful.

An email was sent out to the vendors asking for feedback and ideas for improving the show. There were a number of good ideas that we will look into developing for next year including increasing the number of tables available for vendors and a door prize to help track number of attendees.

We look forward to seeing you at the 5th Annual CRLC Christmas Artisan Fair, 7 November 2020 in the Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association.



ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUB MEMBERS

*Calgary Facetors Guild
Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club
Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club
Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Guild
Medicine Hat Rock & Gem Club
Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association*

OBJECTIVES OF THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS

1. To promote and encourage the study, cutting, polishing and engraving of gemstones and rocks and other geological materials and lapidary work as a hobby other than for the purpose of trade, industry or business.
2. To encourage the exploration of Alberta for lapidary materials, and to promote and create a greater interest in Alberta finished and unfinished rocks and minerals.
3. To encourage and promote the close association with, and exchange of information between rock hobbyists and lapidary groups to stimulate interest in and disseminate knowledge about mineralogy and earth sciences.
4. The Alberta Federation sponsors a website which its members may use to promote the activities and events of their club.
5. The operations of the Alberta Federation are to be mainly carried out in the Province of Alberta, under the Canadian Rockhound Code of Ethics.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS is a member of THE GEM AND MINERAL FEDERATION OF CANADA. Each club pays their members dues to the AFRC Treasurer by February 1st and each paid up member is entitled to 3rd Party Liability Insurance which covers events such as field trips, rock and gem shows, and other organized events.

MINUTES: ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS, DIRECTORS MEETING

Sunday, November 24, 2019. 10:30 a.m.

Held at the CRLC Club premises - #13 3650 – 19 Street NE, Calgary, AB

Meeting began at 10:28 a.m.

Holger Hartmaier (CRLC, AFRC Vice-President) **chaired the session** as Brett Jensen (SARA, AFRC President) was unable to attend.

1. The AFRC does not have a Secretary. Karen-Anne and John Cherwonogrodzky (JohnC, AFRC Treasurer) of the MHRLC, volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

Roles of the Secretary: JohnC (MHRLC) suggested that perhaps the difficulty in having a Secretary is because of the intimidating list of responsibilities. As one example, the bylaws state that the Secretary is to keep and maintain the records, which are 2 filing cabinets.

As an aside, JohnC said that he had been given copies of some historical reports of AFRC from the previous Treasurer, Irene Novlan. It makes for some fascinating reading and he volunteered to submit an article to the Newsletter on some key items of interest.

It was suggested that someone may step forward to fill the position if they were clear on the responsibilities, therefore as Pauline Zeschuk (ETLC) had been AFRC Secretary for 2000-2012, she was asked to give some insights into this position.

- Her main role as Secretary had been mainly to **keep the minutes** of every meeting, then have these reviewed/ corrected/ approved by the President prior to these going into the Newsletter for general distribution. The minutes were then adopted at the next AFRC meeting. A tape recorder is available to record the meeting.
- Her other roles had been **communications** (i.e. writing letters as in the example of clarifying provincial policy regarding ammonite/ammolite), arranging insurance for events.
- With regards to the 2 filing cabinets, she said that these had been given to CRLC for **storage of archival files** 3 years ago. She will check with Mike O'Toole (CRLC) to see if these are there.
- An important reason for storing records is to have access to the Motions passed. JohnC said that he had a list of Motions passed up to 1991, Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) had a list to about 2001. The Motions are noted in the Newsletter Minutes. Pauline (ETLC) will look into having the **list of Motions updated** and completed.

In summary, although the roles of the Secretary may appear intimidating, it may be less than perceived. The 2 filing cabinets of records may be housed at CRLC, insurances for events are often arranged by the AFRC Treasurer, communications and correspondences are sometimes done by volunteers with an interest or expertise in the topics.

It was also decided that a new process be followed before the minutes are forwarded for inclusion in the newsletter. After drafted, the minutes will be reviewed by the President with any corrections or additions added. Then that draft will be circulated to the Directors/ Delegates for review and comments, then publication 3 days later.

2. Consideration of Agenda:

- 7.3: Rejuvenation: Alberta Palaeontological Society (APS) as AFRC member, Holger Hartmaier (CRLC)
- 8: Correspondence, regarding rock hounding, c/o Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC)
- 10.2: Fossil/Gem/Rock gathering, use, sale, regulation, etc. Ron Biel (LHLG) or JohnC
- 10.4: May Daze 2021, Lacombe HLC
- 10.5: AFRC expenditures

3. Roll Call:

Calgary Faceters Guild (present) Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club (present)
Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club (present) Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Club (absent)

Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club (present) Southern Alberta Rockhounds Association (present)

As there were new AFRC Directors/Delegates (CFC, CRLC, SARA), there was a round table of introductions.

4. **In Memorium:** none

5. **President's Message:**

The President was away, but members that attended the GMFC National Rock and Gem Show of Canada (4-6 Oct. 2019) thought that it was successful, with about 1000 people attending the event, a lot of positive feedback and about 25 GMFC/AFRC members attending the supper. Although some vendors did back out (bad weather was predicted), the Gem Show still did well. Its success was due to many volunteers, and Brett should be especially complemented for all the work that he did.

6. **Minutes of September 08, 2019 meeting:**

- a) Item 5: Instead of “vug vasts”, this should be “vug blasts”
- b) Item 8: Holger Hartmaier (CRLC) noted that in previous meeting Minutes, it was suggested that anyone receiving fraudulent solicitation on their emails should send note to phonebusters.com or send email to Telus to investigate. Minutes, with corrections, were accepted by all.

7. **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

- **7.1 a) Plates** on the Traveling Memento: Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky had procured 3 plates to update the list of AFRC May Daze hosts (2017 - SARA, 2018 – CRLC, 2019 – MHRLC) on the Traveling Memento. As Edmonton TLC will be hosting May Daze in 2020, they were given the moment for them to update. AFRC will cover any expenses for this.
- **7.1 b):** JohnC had procured **AFRC Badges** and Executive position/Director **tags** and distributed these. As some members were away, he will mail them theirs.
- “Life Member” tags for the Novlans were made and will be mailed to them.
- **7.1 c):** JohnC wondered if **VESTS** should be bought to place these badges/tags on. He and Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) will investigate, but will do no purchases without approval by the committee.
- It was asked if the vests would be available only to the Executive/Delegates, or open to anyone with an AFRC membership. In John's view it would be available only to the Executive/ Delegates. The reasons for this are because it identifies them at the AFRC May Daze/AGM/ Auction for those needing information or assistance, it shows support at special events such as Gem Shows, and it distinguishes their role for AFRC at club meetings.
- It was asked that, if vests were provided, would they have to return these should they no longer be attending AFRC functions. JohnC thought “no” and that these would be theirs to keep. It is similar to awarding someone a “Past Executive” badge in recognition of their service.
- Overall, the consensus was that the representatives liked the idea of vests. There was a request
- that the vests be light-weight, comfortable and easily worn at meetings rather than something thick and overly warm.
- **7.2: Website:** As the discontinued Grande Prairie is still on the AFRC website, they should be removed. It appears that some of the newsletters have not been posted on the website. When the update is done, personal information (e.g. names) should not be included.
- **7.3: Rejuvenation: 7.3 a) The Alberta Palaeontological Society (APS):** Holger (CRLC) noted that APS consists of members with exceptional knowledge and experience on fossils, dealing with the government and its poli-

cies. When trying to resolve or clarify issues on collection, use and possibly sale, the AFRC should involve APS. The objectives of AFRC were read, and it was evident that APS would fit our criteria for being a member.

- Mark Williams (CFG) made the motion to invite APS to be a member of AFRC. Pauline Zeschuk (ETLC) seconded the motion, approval was unanimous.
- Should they join, a club with less than 40 members may have 3 representatives, those with 40 or more can have 4 representatives.
- Holger (CRLC) will contact the Executive of APS to let them know they are welcome to join AFRC. He noted that just as he is a member of both AFRC and APS, there may be members of the Society who may already be AFRC members.

- **7.3 b) Military Bases:** On a few occasions, JohnC was asked if AFRC had contacted any Military Bases (e.g. Alert, Nunavut) to see if there were potential new members. Some have field trips, rock collection or lapidary work for recreation. Although they may not be in Alberta, in the past (1964-1967) AFRC had as affiliates the Cypress Hills Club (Maple Creek, Saskatchewan) and Whitehorse, Yukon. The Directors suggested that rather than being Club members, they might just wish to know about our website www.afrc.ca and access our Newsletter. JohnC will try to contact them.

8. Correspondences

Alice L. of the Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Society contacted the MHRLC. She will be traveling through Alberta and BC and was wondering if there were sites where she could do rockhounding **and collecting**. Karen-Anne Cheronogrodzky (MHRLC) volunteered to convey that request.

There were several discussions about Alberta regulations against this.

- In general, Alberta has regulations on fossil collecting, but not really for rock/mineral collecting, except as noted below.
- The general population may only surface collect fossils. This means only those fossils that are laying loose on the surface and can be picked up without doing any excavation to remove it from the surrounding sediment or bed-rock. A special permit is required to collect fossils by excavation.
- Rock, mineral and fossil collecting is not allowed in National Parks and Provincial Parks.
- Recently, many of the riverbeds have become protected areas (such as the Castle River) and other rivers flowing off the Eastern slopes of the Rockies. No rock, mineral or fossil collecting is allowed. The limits of these protected areas should be known before embarking on any collecting trip.
- Dinosaur bone and petrified wood may be surface collected on Crown Land or private property with landowner's permission, but may not be altered or worked (e.g. lapidary work), though many do.
- Under current legislation, ammonite shell and any member of the ammonite family (ie. scaphite, baculite) cannot be surface collected anymore, anywhere, except by permit.
- Out-of-province visitors are subject to the same regulations as Albertans, however they can't take the fossils out of province when they return home without obtaining a disposition certificate for the fossil material. Rocks and minerals are not under this requirement.
- Albertans can hold onto their fossils as custodians of the province, but need a disposition certificate to obtain ownership, and/or to take them out of the province. Note, it seems that a disposition certificates does not necessarily mean you can sell the fossil.
- If you purchase Alberta fossils (say an ammonite) at an out of province location (i.e. in Quartzsite or Tucson, Arizona), you will need to get copies of the dealer's disposition certificate and receipts of purchase to bring them back into Canada/Alberta.

- Not following the laws and restrictions may impose heavy fines.

It was recommended that Karen-Anne have her contact the Calgary Club for some ideas of where she may be able to rock hound when visiting Alberta.

It was discussed that we need to assess if there is anything on our website that is not accurate or has changed with regards to field trips and collection of specimens. Aside from knowing what is not allowed, we need to learn what IS allowed and where. Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) agreed to check if the information on our website is accurate.

9. Committee Reports:

- **9.1 Treasurer's Report:** There is a legal requirement for the Treasurer to give hard copy printouts of the **Bank Statements** since the last meeting to the Executive. He has kept a copy of these, and gave a copy to the Vice-President. No other Executive was present.
- Over the past 3 years, interest on our **GIC** was a total of about \$2000. On September 23, 2019, the GIC was rolled into another 3 year term (YR 1: 2.02%, YR 2: 2.06%, Year 3, 2.10%).
- As some had previously asked him about **May Daze income and expenses**, JohnC also distributed the Sept. 08, 2019 Treasurer's Report where this was itemized and explained.
- JohnC presented the November 2019 Report on the **chequing account and minor Business Account**. Due to confidentiality, the figures cannot be presented here.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements was moved by Lynne Kuehn (SARA), Seconded by Mark Williams (CFG) and approved by all.

- **9.2: GMFC Report:** This was tabled, but some information was presented in Item #5.
- **9.3: Alberta Rockhound News:** The Editors noted that they will do this for 1 more year and then a replacement will be needed. In the meantime it is important for the President's Report to be sent in (Holger will contact Brett for him to submit this for the Newsletter), to send in club activities, and any articles of interest (e.g. Dale will do a small report on the Calgary November Artisan Show, JohnC will do one on the history of AFRC). The Minutes need to be sent in within 2 weeks after a meeting.

10. New Business:

- **10.1 May Daze 2020:** The **ETLC** will host the event and have Woodbend Hall near Devon booked. It will be the May long weekend, May 15-17. There is a campground close by. JohnC noted that the number of items at the AFRC Live Auction is limited to 200 ("items" being a single box of materials, a faceted stone, a slab of granite, etc.). Each seller is limited to a maximum of 10 items. To date 19 of the 20 available seller spots, each group of their items referred to as a "lot", have been booked, leaving 1 Lot of 10 items still available.
- In addition to passing on the Traveling Memento to the ETLC, they also received the guest book and the poles to hold the May Daze road signs in place. The road signs were not yet passed on and are still with the MHR&LC. Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky also compiled a detailed report and binder of materials on hosting a May Daze and passed this on. Each club who hosts in the future will be encouraged to update the binder with their materials. For instance, number of attendees, program, suggestions for improvement etc.
- **10.2: Fossil/Gem/Rock gathering use and regulations.** The letter from the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, with regards to fossil gathering was distributed, as was information and views from Ron Biel (LHLG) and JohnC. A review of the presented 8 points was begun, but was tabled as being too involved and complicated for the time allowed. In the meantime, there were some key points:
 - AFRC should focus on regulations and locations allowed for its members. It should not ask about requirements for businesses, dealers and sellers as this is not AFRC's concerns.
 - The 1st step in addressing this topic is the need for a clear understanding of the rules. What are the official regulations for rocks, minerals and fossils with regards to a) finding and collecting these b) ownership and disposition c)

cut and polishing (e.g. petrified wood, ammonite, dinosaur bone). Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) volunteered to research this (e.g. Dept. of Natural Resources, Provincial Government Regulations, Heritage and Resources Act, Mining regulations where the over-burden is unrestricted).

- The APS has dealt with many of the above issues and has knowledge of others as well.
- **10.3: Election of AFRC Executive Officers for the term Jan-Dec 2020.** All positions were announced 3-times for nominations from the floor:
 - **PRESIDENT:** Brett Jensen (SARA) had agreed to serve an additional year. There were no other candidates.
 - **VICE-PRESIDENT:** Holger Hartmaier (CRLC) agreed to serve an additional year. There were no other candidates.
 - **TREASURER:** John Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) agreed to serve an additional year. There were no other candidates.
 - **SECRETARY:** There were no candidates. Position is currently vacant.
- **10.4: May Daze 2021.** The **Lacombe Handicrafts and Lapidary Guild** have volunteered to host this. The Hall has already been booked.
- **10.5: AFRC Income and Expenditures:** The Treasurer was asked to give a summary of this and the following points were presented:

- **INCOME:**

- Most of our funds are locked into a 3 year **GIC** and are not accessible until the end of term.
- The Club collects **membership fees** from the various clubs (\$5 for family, \$4.50 for adult, \$4 for student) and of this about 80% is sent to GMFC for membership (\$4.06 for family, \$3.56 for adult, \$3 for student).
- It was asked if the fees for GMFC membership were correct as these had previously been only \$1. JohnC stated that this had been so many years ago, but that over the years their fees had increased to that stated. Despite this, AFRC has not increased its fees since 1991 (28 years).
- Our main source of income has been the **Live Auction** at May Daze, which varies but income minus expense has averaged about \$700 a year.

- **EXPENSES:**

- Our main expenses are the **GMFC membership** and **May Daze**. For the latter, we pay the hall rental, insurance, reasonable losses for the Friday BBQ, the Saturday pancake breakfast, refreshments (coffee, tea, water), photocopy of Treasurer's Report and Administrative Motions for the AGM.
- We pay \$500 a year for **Director's Insurance**. Volunteers are covered so long as it is publicly announced that they are part of the AFRC May Daze and Auction Committee.
- There is also a maximum of \$250/club for **Workshops** with the requirement that this award is first presented and approved by the Executive/Delegates before the Workshop, and that the sessions are announced to AFRC clubs and members who are welcomed to attend.
- There are miscellaneous expenses such as Clubhouse rental, badges and tags, purchase of membership cards.

11. Announcements:

The **meetings** for 2020 are

- April 5th (due to Easter being the following week)
- May Daze and AGM (Edmonton), long weekend, 15-17 May
- September 13
- November 8

12. Adjournment: 1:32 p.m.



2019 NATIONAL ROCK AND GEM SHOW IN LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

On October 4th, 5th and 6th of this year the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association (SARHA) in conjunction with the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC) was proud to sponsor the 2019 National Rock and Gem Show in the West Pavilion of the Lethbridge Exhibition in Lethbridge, Alberta. Brett Jensen, president of the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association (SARHA), acted as show chairperson and was aided by many of the club members. Planning for the event began almost 2 years prior to the event. This was the first club sponsored show in 18 years for the SARHA.

In spite of a thick snowfall the weekend before, the show was a success, having met or exceeded each of the goals in the areas of attendance, vendor participation, club participation and finances. Our goal for attendance for the 3 days was at least 1000 and that was exceeded. We wanted at least 20 commercial vendors but due to several last minute cancellations we had only 19 but the goal that the vendor fees which were kept low at only \$90 per 8 foot table would at least cover the facility rental fees was achieved and exceeded. The club took on 4 responsibilities: gate admission and door prizes, club promotion and demonstrations, silent auction and children's activities. Gate admission fees were kept low at only \$2 per adult and free for children 12 and under. Club members manned the admission gate, collected fees and awarded hourly door prizes donated by vendors and club members. The club booth consisted of display cases by Randy and Christine Kiemele, Jonathon Legge and Brett and Judy Jensen and demonstrations of cab making by club member volunteers. We were able to inform people about club activities and even to sign up new members. The Lethbridge College also allowed the display of a new college sceptre designed and created by club member and college instructor, Jonathon Legge. The silent auction consisted of a variety of rock related materials donated by club members. A specific children's auction was a big hit. The proceeds went to covering the costs of the event and general revenue for the club. The children's corner consisted of 4 free activities: mineral identification, rock identification, fossil finding and identification and inukshuk making. After completing each activity the children were rewarded with a mineral specimen (selenite), a polished rock, a dinosaur bone fragment and an inukshuk, respectively. The club volunteers were kept very busy all weekend with enthusiastic participants. The fossil finding (Southern Alberta fossils hidden in tubs of sand) and the inukshuk making were especially popular. Mining Matters, the national educational program of the Mining Association of Canada, also supplied a person, display materials and give aways for children.

The feedback survey of vendors showed enthusiastic support with all vendors reporting that they would definitely return for the next show. All the vendors encouraged the club to do a show every year at the same time and place thereby building a reputation and growing client base that would support shows every year. Considering all the work that goes into such an event, the club member volunteers felt that they could possibly do shows every other year but probably not every year. Thanks to all the SARHA volunteers who worked so hard and made it all possible and to all AFRC members from out of town who travelled to support our event.



MHR&LC Christmas Party and 30th Anniversary Celebration

by Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky

On December 4, 2019, over 40 club members and guests gathered in a room at a local restaurant to enjoy a buffet dinner, in part to celebrate our 30th Anniversary as a club. It was also our regular December meeting that included the swearing in of two new Directors, Judy Champion and Bill Wilson. We also spread some Christmas cheer and had fun with a gift exchange. It was especially nice that our meal was paid for by the money we raised at our silent auction at May Daze 2019. As shown in the photo below, Shirley Metz, read the following history of our club that she and Marilyn Jetter prepared. She also recognized life time members in attendance who in addition to her, included her husband Slim Metz, Louise Wutzke and Manfred Sievert. Shirley read the following:

Our club was started by a tiny ad placed in *The Medicine Hat News* by 3 determined and enthusiastic couples. Twenty people responded. Now 30 year later, we have over 50 members. Our first years required a lot of work by the members. Advice was freely given by the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club and was greatly appreciated. A clubhouse was found, painted and a couple of donated machines were set up so members could learn their new craft. Our source of income at that time was from the fish pond at the mini-shows set up in the Medicine Hat Mall. Members also donated for our evening coffee.

Our first big event in 1991, was a GMFC National Gem Show with help from the Lethbridge and Calgary clubs. In the year 2000, we really tested our limits. First by moving our club location, secondly, we hosted the AFRC May Daze in Seven Persons and thirdly, in June, it was another GMFC show & conference. Through the years, we had mini-shows at the mall and have had semi-annual gem & rock shows with the Lethbridge club. Field trips were always a source of interesting samples to work with and great fun for the participants. We have also been able to make numerous donations to the Medicine Hat & District Health Foundation. Sharing this common interest in rocks and what is involved has been the basis for a lot of enjoyment and friendships within our club.

May your next 30 years be as informative and inspirational as the last 30 years.
Marilyn Jetter & Shirley Metz



Directors Judy and Bill being sworn in



Historical presentation of the club



May Daze 2020: Friday through Sunday, May 15, 16, 17

Held at the: Woodbend Community Hall,
26002 Township, Road 515, Spruce Grove, AB.

The hall is located about 15 - 20 minutes northeast of Devon, after crossing on the North Saskatchewan River bridge on highway #60. Signs to the hall will be posted.

May Daze is being hosted by the Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club at the same location where they hosted May Daze 1915. Ample trailer parking and tent set up is available. *More location information and other accommodation options are listed at the end of this article.*

Events Summary:

When you arrive at the Woodbend Hall, please sign in at the Greeting Table and receive your information for the weekend. This will include activities such as buying your Friday dinner ticket, signing the Guest Book, signing up for fieldtrips and receiving a gift bag. The Greeting Table will be operating on Friday afternoon, Saturday and until about noon on Sunday. It is helpful to have your membership card with you.

Friday: As participants to the event arrive, after signing in at the Greeting Table, display cases will be set up, auction items will be assembled on the tables provided, and general set up for the event will take place. The auction material will be set up for viewing until the Saturday evening auction. If you want a display case contact Pauline Zeschuk at paulinez8@shaw.ca.

There will be a monitor to help with directing the parking of trailers and vehicles outside the hall. Inside the hall, tea, coffee and water will be available all weekend.

The Barbeque Dinner will take place at about 6:00 pm

An evening program will be announced.

Saturday: Organized fieldtrips and Self-directed fieldtrips leave in the morning.

Breakfast and Lunch are each member's responsibility.

Demonstrations and "hands on activities" will take place in the hall during the afternoon.

A Silent Auction will take place in the hall on Saturday.

At about 5:30 pm, the Potluck will take place. Everyone participating in the Potluck Dinner is expected to contribute to the meal. The person bringing the item for the meal is expected to attend to the food item, such as place the item in the refrigerator or plug in a crock pot, as needed. He or she is also expected to place the item on the table when the meal is about to begin. Items not eaten at the Saturday Buffett will be kept in the refrigerators and served for lunch on Sunday.

Everyone participating in the buffet dinner will supply their own plates and cutlery.

A Live Auction will take place after the buffet dinner items are cleared. At the end of the auction the payment for each item will take place and the purchased items will be removed from the hall.

John Cherwonogrodsky and volunteers will carry out the duties required to hold the auction.

Sunday: Complementary breakfast: 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

Annual General Meeting: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Potluck left overs for lunch.

Tail gaiting outdoors. A set percentage of the total sales will be retained by the AFRC.

Indoor cleanup if tailgating takes place outdoors. (Indoor tailgating in bad weather).

Most people leave in the late afternoon. Campers may be an exception.

Accommodations info:

Rooms can be booked in Devon at the Key West Inn. The Key West Inn is located along Hwy. 60 which is used when traveling from the south, going north to arrive at the Woodbend Hall.

Rate details in email from the Manager below: Phone No. 780 987 2511

Good Morning Pauline, Dec. 26, 2019, Thank you for reaching out to me this morning.

As per our conversation this morning, here are the room rates I can offer you for the May 18th, 2020 weekend. If 10 or more rooms are booked in advance...I can give a rate of 94.00 per night no matter how many people occupy the room. If less than 10 rooms then the cost is as follows...1 person 94.00 per night, 2 people 104.00 per night, 3 people 117.00 per night
I hope this info helps you and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Thank You
Diana, Front Desk Manager

Those who wish to camp in the Edmonton area after the May Daze event are invited to check the Lion's campground located in Devon near the N. Saskatchewan River. (780 987 4777)

Below is the access to the Woodbend Hall interactive map.

Regarding the Saturday Evening Auction, please contact John Cherwonogrodzky at [<cherwono@shaw.ca>](mailto:cherwono@shaw.ca) if you have any inquiries.

Demonstrations of lapidary skills are a great way to share information with AFRC members. It would be helpful to have a list of Demos. that are taking place on Saturday afternoon (May 16, 2020) in the next newsletter. If you are able to do a demonstration or do an interactive class, please contact Pauline Zeschuk at paulinez8@shaw.ca

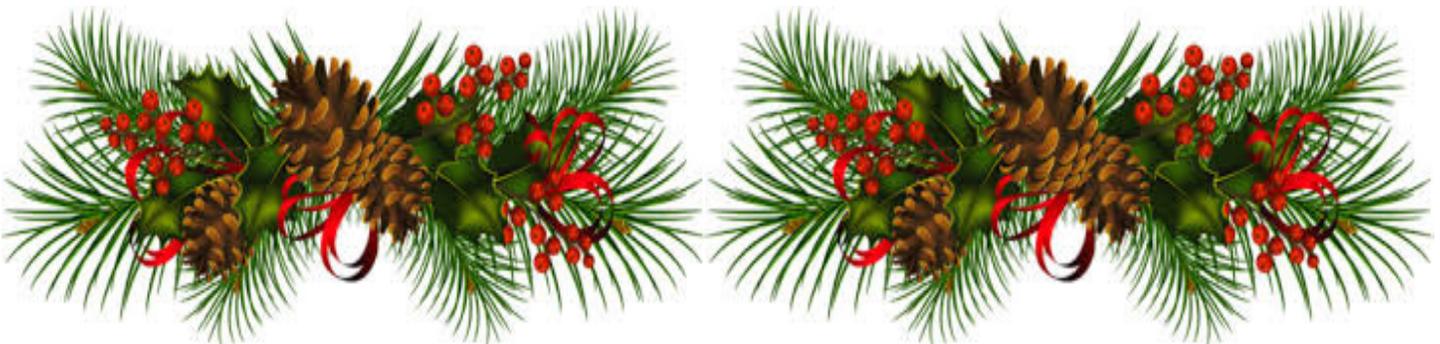
More detail will be included in the April newsletter.

Interactive Map to Woodbend Hall

Click on the link to access the map. Enlarge the map to see secondary roads leading to the hall from Hwy# 60.

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/53.4524189,-113.5137815/woodbend+hall+spruce+grove/@53.4346888,-113.6719222,11.5z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m1!4e1!1m5!1m1!1s0x539ff4f4256438b9:0xa20ab89493da22e5!2m2!1d-113.690244!2d53.425451>

Pauline Zeschuk, Event Co-ordinator.



THE BEGINNINGS OF AFRC (THE FIRST 10 YEARS, 1963/1964-1974)

by John Cherwonogrodzky

1. INTRODUCTION:

A few years ago, Karen-Anne and I were at a Saturday Farmer's Market in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. There, an elderly man noticed that she was selling jewelry and started a conversation.

"I used to belong to the Cypress Lapidary Club some 50 years ago. Have you ever heard of it?" he said with a chuckle.

To which I replied, "*Why, but of course. The Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs was an idea that started in 1963, then became reality and registered in 1964. Once formed, rock and lapidary clubs throughout Alberta joined, and there was a welcome to other clubs as well. The Cypress Rock & Fossil Club (Maple Creek, Saskatchewan) in 1968 (and Whitehorse, Yukon, years later) wanted such affiliation and joined the AFRC.*"

The man's jaw dropped.

What I didn't reveal was that I had learned this only a few days earlier, having browsed through **Irene Novlan's** (Former Treasurer) historical records that she passed down to me. Much of this is interesting, and below is a summary of AFRC's beginnings.

2. BEGINNINGS:

The creation of AFRC appears to me to have been passive rather than active. Rock and lapidary clubs were present throughout the province in the early 1960s, and some that knew each other wanted to get together to share their interests by forming a Society. On 23 February 1963, members of the **Edmonton Lapidary Club**, the **Gateway Rockhounds** (Edmonton), **Red Deer Lapidary Club** and the **Calgary Rockcrafters** met in Edmonton to discuss advantages and opportunities if such a Federation was formed. Mr. Del Harrison (Red Deer) and Mrs. Robinson (Gateway Rockhounds) were chosen to act as Chairman and Secretary, respectively.

The meeting was successful, and it was decided to hold another meeting a few months later, combining a "Rockhound Roundup and Campout" (May 11-12, 1963) at a camping park west of Red Deer, with a meeting on May 11 at the Recreation Building. An invitation was extended to rockhounds in Alberta, but also to those in the Northwest Territories. Don Harrison (Red Deer) was chosen as President, Dan McAllister (Edmonton) as Vice-President, Doreen Boucher (Red Deer) as Secretary, and Thomas Clark (Red Deer) as Treasurer.

The noted clubs, as well as the **Wetaskiwin Lapidary Club**, attended this event. It was moved that for this association that was beginning to form, membership fees would be 50 cents, with associated members paying \$1. It was moved and carried that a club had to have at least 5 members, in which case they could send 2 delegates with voting rights to the Federation of Rock Clubs. It was also moved that dealers could not be part of the Executive.

(1964) As the federation began to form, some of the meetings were arranged in Calgary so that the members could both attend the Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club's May **Rock and Gem Show** (begun in 1961) and meet other rockhounds/lapidarians. (No, not Laplanders.)

Also in the beginning, the Federation took a little time to sort out its name. It varied from the "Alberta Federation of Lapidary Clubs" to the "Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of Alberta". On **16 March 1964**, the Federation was registered as the latter. Part of its Objectives were "(d) *To provide equipment, machinery and educational, scientific and recreational facilities for the use and benefit of members and persons interested in lapidary work and for their instruction and enjoyment*".

At the Annual Meeting of 23 May 1964, it was noted that potential clubs might be in Drumheller, Three Hills, Ponoka, Hanna and other places in northern Alberta. In 1964, the **Tumblewood Rock and Gem Club** (Edmonton) joined.

(Please note that clubs arose, joined, split and renamed themselves. In my view this is a reflection of how dynamic, energetic and open to improvements that these were/are.)

On 26 September 1964, the Treasurer reported that the club was viable and had a balance of **\$51.90**. However, the registered name didn't sit well with most of the members. There was a consensus and then a pe-

tion to the Province of Alberta, under the Societies Act, on July 8, 1966, to change the name to the “**Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs**”. It was granted on 27 July 1966, though the date of the first registry (16 March 1964) is taken as the official beginning.

(1965) One of the first issues that the Federation undertook was to clarify, improve and where possible exempt paying taxes, duties and tariffs imposed on importing rough rock from the USA and other countries. (Then at 7.5% “*ad velorum*” which is just fancy Latin for “of value”). They sent a formal letter on 15 September 1964 and received a reply on 3 June 1965. The “Dominion Customs Appraiser” (for the Ministry of “National Revenue, Customs and Excise”) agreed that “*rough rock with quartz, jasper, agate, amethyst, onyx, black onyx, petrified wood, marble...obsidian...fossils unmanufactured...mineralogical specimens*” would be tariff free and free of customs duty. However “*serpentine, chrysotile, talc or soapstone*” would have a tariff of 15% and “*jewellery findings, jewellery or ornaments for the adornment of the person*” would have a tariff of 20%. Importing precious stones was a mixed bag in that these were subject to 11% sales tax but not the Excise Tax. Also in 1965, the University of Alberta offered a short course on prospecting (November – December) and the **Camrose & District Lapidary Club**, as well as the **Nanton Club** (50 km south of Calgary), wanted to observe at a Federation meeting.

(1966) There was a report of 26 members attending their field trip “Flight North” to the great St. Louis Fault (extreme NW Saskatchewan) and plans for the 1966 trip to Yellowknife. An issue discussed, brought forward by Red Deer was the popularity of the clubs and how to accommodate children younger than 16 years of age that were interested in rockhounding and lapidary.

(1967) In this year, the first “**Federation Newsletter**” was begun (Vi Brogan, Innisfail near Red Deer, Secretary and Editor) with articles on the contest for the design of the AFRC crest, the “Mammoth Rock Swap” and invite from the Cold Creek Conservation Park near Toronto., and an article on Jade. Letters of communication also indicate that other clubs (e.g. **Rocky Mountain House**) were interested in the AFRC because of their field trips, camping events, exchange of materials and associated events.

(1968) At the 20 April meeting, there were mixed feelings. Although new clubs in northern and central Alberta had joined (e.g. the Red Deer club had helped the **Stettler Club** get started and were helping one form in **Olds**), there was concern that those in southern Alberta were unknowns. Also, the AFRC had members in Saskatchewan who would have troubles travelling to and attending some of the events. At the 15 September meeting, the **Ponoka Lapidary Club** attended. Mrs. Alice Fairburn (Wetaskiwin Club) won a wallet for her winning **crest for AFRC**. There was also a decision for the Club to have its own liability insurance for members on an organized field trip (void if a member strays from the group). The 17 November meeting was attended by the Red Deer Rock & Gem Club, the Edmonton Gateway Rockhounds, the Wetaskiwin Rock and Lapidary Club, Rocky Gem Club (Rocky Mountain House), and also the **Drumheller Rock & Fossil Club**, Stettler Rockateers, **Eastend Rock Club** (Saskatchewan), **Cypress Rock & Fossil Club** (Saskatchewan).

(1969) At the 15 February 1969 meeting, AFRC addressed several issues. One was recommendations for a Provincial stone, but there were diverse opinions on whether this should be dinosaur bone, feldspar or others. Concern was raised on the abuse (hence leading to conservation, preservation and protection) of fossils, minerals and rocks, and discussions followed. A letter of inquiry was sent to the Head Curator of Natural History, Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta, who suggested that specific concerns and recommendations be sent to the Minister of the Department of Mines and Minerals.

The name for the **Newsletter** was changed to “**Fossil Trails**” (Orton Dodds. new Editor, Ponoka). Also in that year, the **Grande Prairie Rock & Lapidary Club** (34 members) was asked to join AFRC but declined. For rockhounds, they volunteered that in their area there were iron concretions, siderite iron ore, chert, jaspers, petrified wood (plentiful, all types, best in the east at Hardistry), dinosaur bone, cave onyx (west at Cadomin Caves), calcite, selenite, selenite, quartz crystals, carnelian agate, banded agate, franklinite, porphory copper, magnetite and flour gold. The Cypress Rock & Fossil Club also shared that in their area (especially in pits and gravel beds) were varieties of petrified wood (dark brown, agatized), ammonite, baculite, clams, dinosaur bone

(at Eastend), agate (clear golden and occasionally banded) and for the herbalist there was buffalo currant/wood and juniper roots.

At the 17 May meeting, concern was raised on seeing people taking away dinosaur bones by the truckload. In the discussion, the view was that there should be legislation that would restrict someone to collect only what they could use. A motion was passed to provide a brief to the Attorney General on the topic and recommendations.

At the 19 October meeting, an **AFRC scholarship fund** was set up.

(1970) The scholarship fund was not supported by some clubs and so was placed on hold.

The Provincial Government did not feel qualified to make judgement on either dinosaur bone or petrified wood as the provincial stone, as there were some opinions that these fossils were not stones. It asked AFRC to find expert advice to support any decision on their stone of choice.

The **Leduc Lapidary Club** attended the 29 June 1970 AFRC meeting.

In May of this year, the Saskatchewan clubs invited Albertan clubs to join their “cavalcade” to the September Great Falls show. There was a little more to this than just a trip as there were thoughts on both sides of the border in forming a “North-West Federation” together.

It was raised that the **expenses of the Directors** to attend AFRC meetings (e.g. gas for their cars) should be reimbursed. This was tabled until a future meeting, but in the mean time it was viewed that individual clubs or members were responsible for their own expenses.

(1971) In the letter of 1 September, the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta contacted AFRC so as to include them in the List of Natural History Societies.

At the 5 December meeting, it was decided to have **membership cards** made with a member’s affiliation on one side, a code of ethics on the other.

At the same meeting there was discussion for a **Beauty Queen** to represent AFRC at events and Annual Shows. Requirements were that she be female, a member of a rock club that in turn is a member of AFRC, be over 50 years of age, be able to give speeches on rocks and lapidary, and be hospitable. At the 12 March 1972 meeting, the Edmonton Lapidary Club said that they initially had troubles choosing a contestant for the Queen contest but that one was eventually selected.

(1972) There had been some unusual items.

The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (USA) replied to AFRC asking how a federation manages club participation when great distances are involved. In their letter of 9 February, they stated they had difficulties as their clubs were in Alaska, Utah, Montana and Oregon, and they did the best they could with mail and telephone calls to keep them involved.

On 29 February, the Vice-President responded to a letter asking about the choice of the Provincial Stone. She stated that after 3 years and discussions between the **16 clubs** (additional clubs were the **Cardium Rock & Gem Club/Drayton Valley, Lloydminster Rock & Gem Club**), the consensus was that it should be petrified wood. The reason for this was that it was *“found province wide, visiting rockhounds could collect this on their vacations, it can be easily made into jewellery...by local hobbyists for sale through retail outlets to tourists as mementos of their visit to our Province”*.

A boat trip was being planned, and members wanted to know the type and size of the boats to be used. There was the suggestion that a camp be set up as a base so that boats could go up and down the river. Some clubs expressed no interest in the boat trip. It did take place on July 8-9, 5 people attended, and the excursion between Tolman and Morrin Bridges (near Three Hills) took 9 hours.

The Federation’s “Code of Ethics” for the membership cards was passed at the meeting. It read:

*“I pledge as a Canadian to keep the lands clean and free from litter. I will seek permission of the owner before hunting on private property and will respect and treat the land as my own. To leave fences and gates as I find them. To obey game and fish laws. **To use no explosives in collecting areas** [my bold texting] and to be careful with fires.”*

Despite the passing of this motion, there were continued correspondence of opinions and suggested changes

to the wording by members.

There were 3 notable motions at the March 12 meeting, the first being the order **lapel pins**, the second to acquire an **official die**, and to purchase **name tags** for the members.

(1973) In this year, the 4 March meeting was fairly busy.

There was an invite from the Geelong & District Gem & Mineral Club of Victoria, Australia for members and clubs to send in cabochons to their International Cutting Competition (deadline for submission 31 August, event for 26-28 October).

The motion for AFRC to receive material from the Geophysical Society was approved (?). Another motion approved was for a letter to be sent to the provincial government to consider giving rock-hounding areas when new parks are being planned.

At the 19 May AGM it was noted that the Provincial stone (petrified wood) could not be decided by the government because they were waiting for the **Bird Watchers** to choose a Provincial Bird (?!).

The motion for the AFRC to join the American Federation was tabled.

At the 2 December meeting, there was discussion of the AFRC, the Lapidary Rock and Mineral Society of British Columbia, and the Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies (Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec) joining to form the **Canadian Federation of Rock Clubs/Rockhounds**. (Was this the creation of the GMFC, or had this Federation been in existence already?)

The **Rimbey Rockhounds** joined the Federation. This club was given special permission from **Encyclopaedia Britannica** to reprint its articles on metamorphism, petrology and sedimentary rocks.

The AFRC also proudly announced that it had a **Gestetner** (Gesundheit to you too), a copier that used wax-coated paper to make 10-50 copies of a document.

On 21 November, AFRC provided the Calgary Eco-Centre Society a list of its clubs. Most have been noted previously but for the **Fort Saskatchewan Rock and Lapidary Club** (21 clubs in total).

(1974) The AFRC was still awaiting the Bird Watchers to decide on the Provincial Bird before the Legislative Assembly would address the recommendation for a Provincial Stone.

The Canadian Federation was becoming a reality, Alberta, B.C., Manitoba and Ontario attended the first meeting at the Winnipeg Rock and Gem Show. And B.C. offered the Canadian Rockhound Magazine to be their official publication.

At the 10 March meeting, there was a discussion about the **Travelling Bookends** that appeared to have been misplaced, then found and returned a few months later to the Cypress Rock & Fossil Club.

The Lacombe Handicraft and Lapidary Club was noted as a member in the 29 September minutes. After waiting years for the Province to decide on an official stone, AFRC finally got their answer on 4 December (3 weeks before Christmas). The Solicitor General wrote that to accept this, they would have to amend The Provincial Emblems Act and there was no interest in doing so.

THE END