



BUGLE



Published by
RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB
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Editor: Steve Cooley

March 2024

Regular monthly meeting

2nd Friday each month at 6:30 pm

(except July & August)

Craft Room, Campbell River Community Hall

401-11th Ave

Campbell River, BC

RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB

RIPPLE ROCK EXECUTIVE 2024

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| President | Molly Milroy | 250-203-2447 |
| Vice-President | Dagmar Hughes | 250-203-6339 |
| Past President | Melissa Ticknor | |
| Secretary | Owen McIlvenna | 778-840-6936 |
| Treasurer | Dennis Cambrey | 250-337-8949 |
| Wagonmaster | Julie Olmstead | 250-287-0348 |
| Show Chair | | |
| Shop Coordinators | Ian Shepherd Maggie Bradshaw John Fisher | 778-269-2655 604-789-7847 250-338-4573 |
| Entertainment | | |
| Publicity | Show – Julia Olmstead Website – Nick Lyon Facebook – Julia Olmstead | 250-287-0348 250-287-0348 |
| Bugle Editor | Steve Cooley | 250-287-4388 |
| | | |

WORKSHOP

Shop located at 247 Dahl Rd.

For general shop information contact
Ian Shepherd 778-269-2655
Maggie Bradshaw 604-789-7847

MEMBERSHIPS

A single membership is \$15.00 and a family is \$25.00. Memberships may be paid at the General meetings, or by mail to the address on the Bugle cover.

Programs:

The Club meets at 6:30pm on the 2nd Friday of each month (except July and August), in the craft room at the Campbell River Community Centre, 401-11th Ave downtown Campbell River. Guests are always welcome! After each meeting, we have entertainment related to some facet of the lapidary hobby.

Workshop:

The Club has an equipped workshop for lapidary work. New members must take a training course to learn lapidary arts and equipment before regular access to the shop is allowed. There is a minimal charge for the use of the equipment.

Field Trips:

The Wagonmaster organizes several family friendly field trips and camps throughout the year.

Newsletter (Bugle):

The Bugle is the Club newsletter. Its purpose is to inform members about monthly meeting, field trips, camps, activities, and almost anything related to RockHounding and Lapidary skills and equipment.

Code of Conduct (British Columbia Lapidary Society):

- I will respect private property and do no Rockhounding without the owner's permission.*
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in Rockhounding areas.*
- I will take garbage home or deposit in a proper receptacle.*
- I will leave gates as found.*
- I will do no willful damage to materials or take more than I can reasonably use.*
- I will fill excavations which may be dangerous to other people or livestock.*
- I will build fires in designated places only, and make sure they are completely extinguished before leaving.*
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.*
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.*
- I will obey all laws and regulations of forestry and game departments in the area in which I am Rockhounding.*
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources and wildlife.*
- I will always use good outdoor manners.*
- I will show respect to other club members.*

Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club Membership Application

Single membership, 18 years and up, \$15

Family membership, 2 adults and children under 18, \$25

Membership is for the calendar year.

Name(s): _____

Children: _____

Phone: landline _____ or cell _____

Email: (our primary method of communication) _____

By signing this application, I agree to abide by all Club bylaws and rules.

A Poem Written After a Trip to Hill 60

Real Feet and Wooden Legs

My first trip as a rock hound-er
Was really quite a fright
“Don’t bring too much gear” they said
“It’ll just be over night”

Well, we drove for hours on a dirty old road
And finally arrived at the start
“They’re crazy as pet coons” I thought
“I’ll just follow that old fart”

He had real feet and wooden legs
And a two-tone toque on his head
He gave everyone a two-tooth smile
Then he turned to me and said

“The Greeks had their king of Gods
I think his name was Zeus
He lived up in the mountains
By the eternal fountain of youth

I know you think you were searching
For that youthful fountain
But you know all the good rocks
Are right on top of the mountain

The best of rocks are hard to find
You know mother nature is kind of cruel”
Oh sure I thought, is he full of it
You don’t learn that in any school

We climbed and crawled for hours and hours
And it got really bad, then worse
I knew right then there were two ways out
By parachute or by hearse

I nearly died thirty times that day
How could they call this pleasure
The there it was, my find, my prize!
And the thrill of hidden treasure

Well it rained and blew all day
And the bugs ate us up all night
Then I carried that rock back down the hill
They called it LEAVERITE

I went to look for rocks that day
Way up the mountain
But returned with many treasured friends
And some water from that fountain.

Lost and Found Found after the Christmas Dinner



David Turner's talk, specimens and pictures inspired me to plagiarize several internet sites about Greenland.

Gemstones have been found in Greenland, including **diamond, ruby, sapphire, korerupine, tugtupite, lapis lazuli, amazonite, peridot, quartz, spinel, topaz, and tourmaline**. Most of Greenland's ruby and sapphire occurrences are located near the village of Fiskenaesset/Qeqertarsuatsiaat on the southwest coast.

Kornerupine - valued as a [gemstone](#) when it is found in translucent green to yellow shades
Tugtupite - vitreous, transparent to translucent masses of [tetragonal](#) crystals and is commonly found in white, pink, to crimson. name is derived from the Greenlandic [Inuit](#) word for [reindeer](#) (*tuttu*), and means "reindeer blood"

Greenland Rubies

Recovered from formations which are nearly three billion years old, Greenland rubies are among the most ancient in the world. Mined in Aappaluttoq (*ah-puh-lu-tok*), the source boasts beautiful shades of red and pink, along with some blue and colourless sapphires. Aappaluttoq (which translates to 'red' in Greenlandic) was named for the enormous amounts of red corundum crystals present in the earth.

The site is operated by LNS Greenland A/S—a [sister company of Greenland Ruby](#), which is in charge of sorting, selling, and marketing the material. The current mining operation is estimated to have at least 10 years' worth of supply for the market in ethical gemstones. At least two other deposits have been identified, but not further studied or exploited.

In 2019, Greenland Ruby became the [first coloured gemstone miner to join the Responsible Jewellery Council](#) (RJC). The membership recognizes and certifies responsible practices in its mine and processing plant, as well

as within the site's human operations. In the coloured gemstone industry, this distinction is a source of great pride for the company as a whole.

Aappaluttoq's ruby and sapphire deposit was first discovered in the 1960s by the Danish Gemological Survey; permits to mine, however, were not approved by the government of Greenland until 2016, with mining operations officially launched in May 2017. The years of commitment to the cause were what allowed this seemingly impossible project to come to fruition. These are the only gemstones mined in Greenland.

Ruby crystals are from the sapphirine localities in the Fiskenaesset area. The color varies from rose-red through pigeon-blood red. Fiskenaesset rubies have an unusually high chromium content (up to 3.0%) and are reportedly strongly fluorescent under LW UV light.

Most of the crystals are opaque but some are translucent/transparent. This material is well suited for cabochons and the resulting piece is a wonder of colors - ranging from deep red, green, yellow, gold, white, black, and many colors in between.

This area is being commercially mined currently, and specimens are no longer available.

September 11, 2023

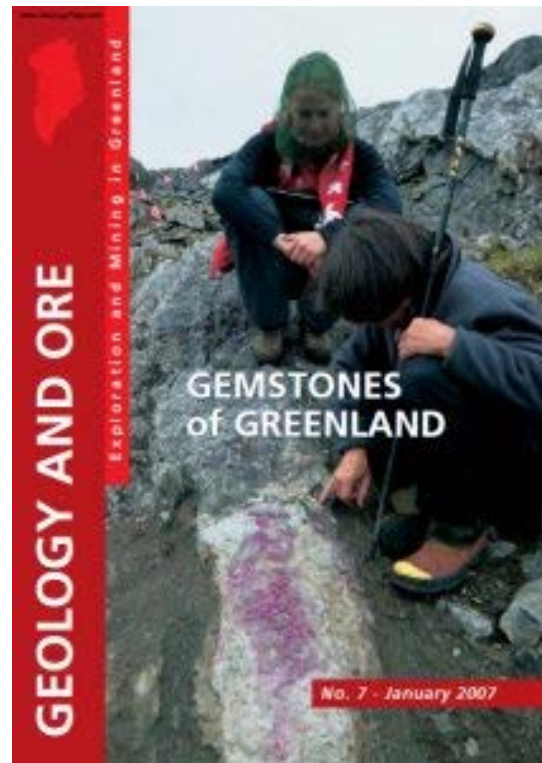
Greenland Ruby has suspended operations at its Aappaluttoq ruby and pink sapphire mine because it wasn't producing enough gemstones.

GemGuide, which was first to report the news in the trade, published a story back in August quoting Greenland Ruby Chief Commercial Officer Hayley Henning, who said production at the site [hadn't been meeting expectations for the past year or so](#).

Michele Billam, the company's chief sales and merchandising officer [told JCK](#) last week that mining operations had been suspended for care and maintenance since January.

There is still rough material to be processed and ruby inventory is still stocked in Thailand, but "sales have been very low,"





Renewed focus on Greenland gemstones has been experienced since the turn of the century.

Two gemstone companies have demonstrated solid and continued interest in the potential of classical gemstones in Greenland in this period. Diamonds and rubies are definitely now in focus with the size of diamonds growing almost with every new exploration event. The largest diamond to date has just been reported at 0.122 carats.

Rubies and pink sapphires are now at hand with large, high-quality stones in faceting as well as in carving types. Exploration activity targeted at both commodities may be approaching the next stage, with pre-feasibility studies and production considerations. A number of other species of coloured gemstones and generally lower-priced semi-precious gem material have also been found, and these are often very much in demand locally as well as internationally. Well-known examples are kornerupine, tugtupite, lazurite and amazonite. Several multi-coloured rock types have been produced on a small scale locally for many years and have gained high popularity among tourists and collectors, with the famous nummite, greenlandite and 'ice blue' chalcedony being the most favoured.

A number of additional classical coloured gemstones such as beryl, cordierite, peridot, tourmaline, garnet, spinel and topaz are known from scattered occurrences, but their potential has never been tested. The variety in the Greenland geological environment, not least the pegmatite occurrence, is definite justification for more systematic exploration for such stones.



"For ages, the Inuit of Greenland have understood the power of tugtupite. Legend has it that lovers can cause the stone to glow fiery red just from the heat of their romance. The brilliance and vibrant colors announce the intensity of their love."

Tugtupite was discovered in 1957 close to the town of Narsaq and to-date has only been found in two other areas - Mt. St. Hilaire (Canada) and the Kola Peninsula (Russia). Tugtupite at Kvanefjeld is scattered in irregular hydrothermal veins up to 50cm wide. Only tugtupite from Greenland is deeply colored and valued as a gemstone.

December 6, 2018

The ruby crystals found in Greenland were formed in strata covered by ice between 2.9 to 3.1 billion years ago. It would - therefore - be fair to say that these are the most ancient gemstones on earth. Members of the local population first came across these rubies several centuries ago, while hunting deer in the mountains.

Rubies mined in Greenland partly owe their beauty to Borax, a flux that helps to enhance gemstones by healing small fissures and fractures. It does not in any way affect the colour of rubies, but makes them more durable and prevents them from flaking apart, making it easier to cut larger specimens which would have not been made possible if it was not for treatment. Borax enhancement is a part of the process done in Thailand that includes cleaning, cutting and polishing gems. According to Hayley, "it is an acceptable way of treating rubies and pink sapphires as long as it is honestly disclosed".



Natural crystalline form of Greenlandic Aappaluttoq mine rubies The Greenland Aappaluttoq mine