

R O C K B L A S T
Newsletter of the K.W. Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 1 No. 5

February 22, 1966

President Prof. Stuart A. Harris 268 Lincoln Rd. Waterloo
Secretary and Editor Gord Saunders 41 Forest Hill Dr., Kitchener

Regular meetings held on first Wednesday of each month, except July and August in Room 3 E 10, New Arts Building, Waterloo Lutheran University.

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Next meeting Wednesday, March 2, 1966 - 8 P.M.

Programme will include the showing of two Bell Telephone colour films - "Crystal Clear" and "Introduction to Crystals".

Members and guests are invited to bring crystal specimens to the meeting.

April meeting - Prof. Harris will discuss the physical properties of minerals.

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Minutes of meeting February 1, 1966 - Attendance 18

Meeting held at Ruge's Gold and Gem Shop, Kitchener.

Minutes of the January 5, 1966 meeting were adopted as set out in Rock Blast No. 4.

Correspondence - The February 20th deadline announced for Scarborough's cabochan contest; excerpts read from other newsletters. Letters sent to the editors of "Gems and Minerals" and the "Lapidary Journal".

Library committee report - New chairman G. Downing reported that the display is to be set up in the Kitchener Library's lobby for the month of March. Shelves and backdrops are available and the library will supply books. Committee members will select specimens from club members' collections.

It was voted to insure the display for the month.

Following the business portion of the meeting those in attendance split into two groups. One group viewed many fine gems and set stones while the other watched a demonstration of melting silver, forming a mould from cuttle-bone, etc.

Mr. Ruge is to be heartily thanked for opening his store to our club for this meeting.

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Welcome to the following new members;

Robert Boettger	233 Duke St. E. Kitchener	745-4802
Wilbert C. Drury	Arthur Ontario	112
W. Piotrowski	395 Ottawa St. S. Kitchener	

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Answers to last months' quiz:

1. Nine elements most common in the earth's crust, in order:
1. Oxygen 2. Silicon 3. Aluminum 4. Iron 5. Calcium 6. Sodium 7. Potassium
8. Magnesium 9. Titanium
2. The most common metal - Aluminum.
3. Seven rarest natural elements in order:
1. Polonium 2. Actinium 3. Protactinium 4. Xenon 5. Krypton 6. Radium
7. Neon.
(Incidentally Rhenium is 9th rarest, couldn't place number eight.)
4. The rarest gas in the air is Xenon.
5. The heaviest natural element is Uranium.
6. The heaviest man-made element is Laurencium.

Answers to last months' quiz continued:

7. The lightest element is Hydrogen.
8. The lightest solid element is Lithium.
9. The densest metal is Osmium.
10. Two of the hardest elements are Iridium and Ruthenium.
11. The softest element is Cesium.
12. Francium has never been seen.

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Further Questions in An Element-ary Quiz

1. How many elements were known in 1963?
2. How many of these are man-made elements?
3. When was the first Technetium produced?
4. How many of the elements are gases? - Active?
Inert?
5. How many are metals? - Solid?
Liquid?
6. How many are non-metals? - Solid?
Liquid?
7. Which is the most reactive non-metal?
8. Which metal is almost impervious to corrosion?
9. Non-metals and most gases expand when they freeze. Name one of the few metals that reacts in this manner.
10. Which element has the highest melting point?
11. Name the two coloured metals.
12. Gold is the 16th rarest element. Total world production from 1493 to 1963 is worth less than 71 billion dollars at to-days price. If it were all melted down and formed into a cube, how big would the cube measure along it's edge - 10 feet? 25 feet, 50 feet, 100 feet, 500 feet or 1000 feet?