

A Report on the Burgess Shale Fossil Casts Loaned to the Port Moody Rock and Gem Club by the Royal Ontario Museum

February, 2015

The Port Moody Rock and Gem Club (the “Club”) wishes to thank the Royal Ontario Museum (the “ROM”) for loaning us 16 Burgess Shale fossil casts. These casts were the central display at our October show and later at two subsequent “Burgess Shale Night” events at local schools in February. The following report summarizes our use of the casts.

About the Club

Situated in Port Moody, British Columbia (the *City of the Arts*), the Club provides facilities and events for those interested in both the exciting hobbies of lapidary, faceting, and rock hunting and geology and earth sciences in general. Founded in 1978, the Club is a member of the British Columbia Lapidary Society, the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada, and the Port Moody Arts Centre Society. The Club is a non-profit organization and offers a fully equipped lapidary workshop to its membership.



Annual Rock and Gem Show

The Club has been hosting community oriented shows since its inception in 1978. Shows take place at Kyle Centre in Port Moody, generally during the last weekend of October. The event features dealers, demonstrators, activities for the kids, refreshments, and displays. Displays are of members’ work and materials on loan from special guest exhibitors. Show admission is by donation; revenues generated are used to fund the Club’s annual administrative costs and lapidary workshop.

Marvellous Mud – The 2014 Rock and Gem Show



Our 2014 show was themed, “Marvellous Mud”, and took place on October 25th and 26th, 2014.

The show’s display room featured specimens of fossils and their respective stories. Many of the fossils on display were from British Columbia. The central display was the collection of 16 Burgess Shale fossil casts on loan from the ROM.

The casts were displayed in two glass podium cases flanked by posters containing write ups and photographs. Each cast was represented by a large photograph and a profile card which included an illustration of what the animal was believed to have looked like.

The posters were assembled and designed by club members while the included photographs were largely provided by Jean-Bernard Caron of the ROM. One poster discussed the Burgess Shale in general while the other covered the story of the recent find at Marble Canyon.

Between the two glass podium cases was a third case containing a selection of fossils from other “Burgess Shale-type” deposits from around the world. Specimens from Chengjiang, China, the Kali Formation, China, and the Wheeler Shale, Utah were included.

The Club reached out to the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation in Field, BC. Kathy Taerum, Manager of Operations & Geoscience Programs, provided 200 handouts on the Burgess Shale and associated Geo-Walks. These handouts were made available to the public on the display table.

We extended an invitation to Rod Bartlett – fossil cleaner and artisan – to demonstrate at our show. His table and work bench were featured next to the Burgess Shale display. As it turned out Rod was very familiar with the Burgess Shale and had participated in ROM fossil hunting trips at Walcott Quarry. He was a welcome resource, answering questions not only about his work and collection, but the Burgess Shale display as well.



Other Displays

The display room also featured fossils from Harrison Lake, BC, the Okanagan Highlands, BC, and Fossil Lake, Wyoming. Erica Williams – a recently retired earth sciences teacher – hosted an interactive display table where guests were able to have a close look at a number of fossils, including bug fossils from the Okanagan Highlands.

Show Results

Our 2014 show attracted 1,100+ guests and was one of the Club’s most well attended shows of all time. A key reason for its success was the inclusion of the Burgess Shale fossil casts which were promoted in the local newspaper (attached). Most of the handouts provided by the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation were taken by the public. A number of our guests, impressed with the quality of the displays, suggested we host additional mini-shows at local libraries or schools.

Burgess Shale Nights

Given the positive feedback received at our October show our Club decided to make the most of the Burgess Shale cast loan and reached out to a number of local high schools. Earth Sciences teachers Aliisa Sarte at Port Moody Secondary School in Port Moody and Teena Della at Riverside Secondary in Port Coquitlam both agreed to work with us to host a “Burgess Shale Night” at their respective schools.



The Burgess Shale Nights took place in Port Moody and Port Coquitlam on February 10th and 17th, 2015 respectively. They featured both the Burgess Shale fossil casts and a selection of other fossils which were also on display at our October show. Erica Williams – who hosted the interactive display table at our show – offered to organize and host presentations on both the Burgess Shale fossils and geologic time. As such, each Burgess Shale Night featured a display room and a presentation room. Club members

hosted the displays and fielded questions about the fossils. The Port Coquitlam installment of the event received a story and photograph on the front page of the local newspaper (attached).

Conclusion

The Burgess Shale story and fossils generated significant interest in our community. It led to greater awareness of this world famous site and exposed guests at both our show and the subsequent Burgess Shale Nights to the earth sciences and paleontology. Our club wishes to thank Jean-Bernard Caron and Peter Fenton at the ROM for their assistance and making the casts available to us. We encourage the ROM to continue working with organizations like ours. Groups like ours may be small – not one's typical museum or university – but are firmly embedded in the community and have unique ways of reaching the public.



The Burgess Shale display at the October show featuring the casts, two posters, and an assortment of fossils from Chengjiang, China, and the Wheeler Shale, Utah from approximately the same time period (500-515 mya)



Case one of two at the October show containing the Burgess Shale fossil casts.



Case two of two at the October show containing the Burgess Shale fossil casts.



Club member Susie Parks talks fossils with students of Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam



Erica Williams presents on the Burgess Shale to guests at the Burgess Shale Night at Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam



Club member Rose Kapp talks fossils with guests at the Burgess Shale Night at Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam



Club member Andrew Danneffel talks Burgess Shale at the Burgess Shale Night at Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam

TRI-CITY ARTS

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Rockin' out with mud

By Janis Warren

THE TRI-CITY NEWS

There are a few spots in the world where rock and gem collectors are like kids in a candy store.

Harrison Hot Springs, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Madagascar are the places where Andrew Danneffel has found or purchased his treasures — all of them dating back millions of years.

He has ammonite fossils from Hale Creek, on the west side of Harrison Lake, that he dug up with his brother this year. They date back 66 million years, when the dinosaurs died.

Danneffel also jaspers from Oregon and Africa, polished rocks that look like an artist has hand painted them. The 23- to 5 million-year-old stones, a form of chalcedony, offer lovely colours and flow patterns of volcanic activity.

And he has a complete fossil of an ancient perch fish embedded in limestone, carefully retrieved from Fossil Lake near Kemmerer, Wyo. The wall display he bought is 52 million years old and is what aficionados call a "Konservat-Lagerstätten," a highly preserved deposit.

These discoveries — and many more — will be exhibited this weekend for the Port Moody Rock and Gem Club's 36th annual event titled Marvellous Mud — A Discovery of Fossils and Mud-Formed Jaspers.

Mud, Danneffel said, was a popular theme for the 60-member group a few years back and it wanted a second go for a show. "We know that mud is dirty and sticky stuff," he said, "but for geologists and lapidary artists, mud preserves the past and gives us all kinds of things to work with. Mud covers the ingredients in fossils."

Special to the event this year are Burgess Shale fossil casts from the Royal Ontario



JANIS WARREN/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Top, Andrew Danneffel, chair of the 36th annual Port Moody Rock and Gem Club show, talks to his daughter about the fossils and jaspers he will display at the event this weekend. On Saturday at noon, Mayor Mike Clay will officially open Marvellous Mud — A Discovery of Fossils and Mud-Formed Jaspers, at the Kyle Centre in Port Moody. Below (left and right), treasures from Hale Creek near Harrison Hot Springs and (middle) an Oregon jasper.

Museum. The 500-million-year-old originals were unearthed in 1991 in Field, B.C., and show the outline to an ancient

metre-long predator called the Anomalocaris canadensis, which lived in the ocean during the Cambrian period.

Danneffel said the club feels lucky to have been loaned the casts for this weekend's gathering. "It was a major coup

for us and something we hope to do more often."

• Marvellous Mud runs on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. at the Kyle Centre (125 Kyle St., Port Moody). Entry is by donation. Visit portmoody-rockclub.com.

Music to help Union Gospel

A chamber music concert to benefit the Union Gospel Mission will be held this weekend at a Coquitlam church.

Prime Chamber Strings, under ensemble director Jonathan Lee, will play on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at Mundy Park Christian Fellowship (2600 Austin Ave., Coquitlam).

On the program is: Sibelius' *Andante Festivo for Strings*; Borodin's *String Quartet No. 2 in D-major*; Mason's *Nearer My God to Thee* (arranged by H.K. Kim); and *String Quartet No. 12 in F-major* by Dvorak. Call 778-231-1602.

WINE RIDE

Sip a glass of vino in Port Moody next week — and support a Canadian Cancer Society fundraiser — at BC Uncorked: The Art of Food and Wine.

The charitable event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. in the grand hall of Heritage Woods secondary (1300 David Ave.), with proceeds to benefit Ride2Survive.

Drinks and food from more than 40 top-rated B.C. wineries and nine local restaurants, cafes and markets will be featured.

BC Uncorked tickets at \$55 include a souvenir wine glass.

Visit bcuncorked.ca for more information on the special benefit event.

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**TRI-CITY
NEWS**

POMO

Moody council is opposed to Burrard shutdown

SARAH PAYNE
THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Port Moody waded in to the Site C debate — by way of a discussion of Burrard Thermal — and will call on the BC Utilities Commission to conduct an independent review of both.

In a lengthy motion that received strong support from council, PoMo's resolution will ask the Union of BC Municipalities to oppose the closure of the Burrard Thermal power plant, slated for 2016, and for "an independent review to determine the economic, environmental and logistical impacts of recent electricity production decisions."

Last month, council asked staff to report back with all resolutions related to Burrard Thermal after the city received a letter from the minister of energy and mines, confirming BC Hydro will decommission generating capacity at Burrard in March 2016.

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THEY'LL BE ROCK-ING AT RIVERSIDE



JANIS WARREN/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Riverside secondary Earth Science 11 students Jaymee Lynn and Anna Doodson — with retired science teacher Erica Williams — hold fossils that will be part of a public display next Tuesday at the Port Coquitlam high school. The Feb. 17 event hosted by the Port Moody Rock and Gem Club will feature the Burgess shale casts the club has on temporary loan from the Royal Ontario Museum as well as notogoneus, trilobite and ammonite fossils. Guests will be able to study the preserved remains through microscopes and hear a presentation from Williams, who in the mid-1970s found dozens of snail and sea life fossils in Coquitlam — some dating back 16,000 years. The exhibit runs from 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 17 at Riverside secondary (2215 Reeve St., PoCo).

TRANSPORTATION REFERENDUM

**Premier suggests a transit ref.
Plan B: higher property taxes**

Mayors insist sales tax is the better option

JEFF NAGEL
BLACK PRESS

Premier Christy Clark says the possible defeat of a

proposed 0.5% sales tax by the No side in this spring's referendum on transit expansion might force Metro Vancouver mayors to raise TransLink's property tax instead.

TransLink already collects \$305 million per year — \$238 per average home

assessed at \$719,000 — from its dedicated property tax, which is charged on homes and businesses in addition to municipal and school property taxes.

The premier told reporters last Friday the mayors could still raise property taxes if voters reject the

sales tax because her 2013 election promise to subject any new TransLink revenue source to a referendum didn't apply to greater use of existing taxes.

"If they decide they do want to build transit without a Yes vote in this referendum, mayors will have to

fall back, I guess, on the existing funding mechanism that they have," Clark said at an event in Surrey. "They have always had the ability to raise money for transit through increasing property taxes and I suppose that would be one of the options available to them if

the referendum fails."

Clark said she will personally vote Yes as the owner of a home in Vancouver and added talk of defeat may be "hypothetical" because mayors are confident of success.

SEE MAYORS DON'T, PAGE A4



A local environmentalist says its a bad idea to stop burning natural gas at Burrard Thermal:
See Green Scene, A20