




THE TELEPHONE CITY CRYSTAL



	<p>April 2020 VOLUME 102 ISSUE 1</p>  <p>Featuring: Minerals of Canada</p>	
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A Message from our BOD

Greetings from a distance to all our members! During the current Covid-19 pandemic, we have had to postpone our Annual Gem and Mineral show and close our workshop doors. We understand that times are uncertain and maybe even a little frustrating, but we will all do our part to help ensure the passing of this virus so that we may return to some form of normality.

Know that our Gem and Mineral show WILL be at a later date in the year; however we cannot announce any dates at this time.

During this time would be a great opportunity for many of our members to put their craftsmanship to work! There are still many areas you can go to rockhound alone or with members of your household. Find some new specimens or pick from your current collection and transform it into a work of art. Perhaps you may want to sell some pieces at the Gem and Mineral show or place them into the silent auction. Now we have extended to time to work on these items and spend time doing that which we love!

If any member has any helpful information, tips, tricks, stories or even just some fun facts that they would like to share with our members, we encourage you to share them on our Facebook page, or send them via email to ctaylor.1187@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone as soon as possible back at the workshop and meetings. Stay safe!

Cleaning some common minerals

Here are some helpful hints on some common minerals you may find this coming season:

1. Calcite- Matrix can be removed by placing the specimen in vinegar or acid.





HINTS & TIPS



Safety first!!

Extreme caution is advised when working with malachite, for the material is poisonous.

1. Never touch the material with your tongue, and do not repeatedly wet your fingers.
2. When cutting be sure to wear a mask and wash your hands and skin often.

If you are smoking while cutting or grinding and the smoke becomes sweat, you are absorbing the malachite. The copper oxide will mix with moisture in your mouth, react with the tar in the tobacco and turn into saccharine. Take precaution at once!

**WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY....STAY HOME
WHENEVER POSSIBLE....PRACTICE SOCIAL
DISTANCING.....We will get through this!!!**



BLMS **INFO**

MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2020 !!!NOW ACCEPTING E-TRANSFERS!

Membership cards valid until February 1, 2021

As per our Bylaws

Article 2: Membership

Item 2.1 Qualifications for membership: Membership in the Society shall be open to all individuals who agree with the constitution, by-laws and objectives of the Society and pay the appropriate fee.

Item 2.2 Fees: Annual fees shall be due and payable not later than January 31st each year, and shall be collected by the Treasurer. New members who join the society during the period from Sept. to Dec. 31 shall be entitled to a membership card for the following year.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

Members who have not renewed their membership for 2020 will not receive BL&MS Newsletters, and will not be allowed to use the workshop until such time as they renew their membership.

Membership renewals and new memberships can be acquired at the monthly meetings, the workshop or by mail.

Please pay via cash or cheque.

Note: If paying by cash at the Workshop please bring the exact change.

BL&MS Membership Fees

Single \$20.00 Family \$25.00





CURRENTLY CLOSED

We are always seeking new volunteers for workshops, if anyone has any suggestions; please contact Allan Hietapakka at allanhietapakka@gmail.com.

NOTICE: THE WORKSHOP IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19

Day	Hours	Workshop Instructors
Sunday	CLOSED	Ernie Edmonds / Allan Hietapakka
Monday	CLOSED	*****
Tuesday	CLOSED	Jordan Hill
Wednesday	CLOSED	Ernie Edmonds / Allan Hietapakka
Thursday	CLOSED	Amanda Disher
Friday	CLOSED	*****
Saturday	CLOSED	Brad McClelland/ Ellen Boyington

The days & times are also posted on our website & Facebook sites.

Website: www.brantfordlapidarymineral.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Brantford-Lapidary-and-Mineral-Society-102281731186467/>

WORKSHOP PUNCH CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED AT MEETINGS OR THE WORKSHOP

There are four levels of Workshop Punch Cards which are available for current members to purchase at our BL&MS Monthly Meetings and at our Workshop. Please pay by cash (exact change) or cheque.

The Four Levels of Workshop Punch Cards are as such:

1. 1 session for \$12.00
2. 5 sessions for \$55.00 (\$11 per workshop session)
3. 10 sessions for \$100.00 (Save money - \$10 per workshop session)
4. 20 sessions for \$180.00 (Best Savings - \$9 per workshop session)



NOTE: Each session is for ONE workshop usage per person. The Workshop Punch Card MUST be punched by the Workshop Instructor for EACH PERSON on EACH DAY of their workshop usage BEFORE they work on the machine.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  <https://www.facebook.com/Brantford-Lapidary-and-Mineral-Society-102281731186467/>

NOW ON TWITTER TOO  [@BrantfordS](https://twitter.com/BrantfordS)

Request a copy of the newsletter be emailed to you in PDF format instead of mail, email Christine Taylor at ctaylor.1187@gmail.com. Note: A PDF copy of the newsletter is posted also on the BL&MS Website.





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MUSEUMS and Mineral related

As you may already know....Any museums would be closed until further notice.

The CCFMS has a list on their website of Museums with Mineral & Hobby Related Items in Ontario. Go to the Menu on the CCFMS website www.ccfms.ca and click on "Hobby Items" then Click "Museums".

The list of Museums in Ontario includes:

- Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON
- Bancroft Mineral Museum, Bancroft, ON
- Bruce Mines Museum, Bruce Mines, ON
- Canadian Drilling Rig Museum, Selkirk, ON
- Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, ON
- Cobalt's Northern Ontario Mining Museum, Cobalt, ON
- Earth Sciences Museum, University of Waterloo, ON
- Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum, Elliot Lake, ON
- Miller Museum of Geology and Mineralogy, Kingston, ON

If you go to the "Museums of Ontario" website (www.museumsontario.ca) they list the following Museums as having Minerals on display: Dryden and District Museum, Dryden, ON also displays Pioneer and Native Artifacts as well as Minerals

ROM - ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

- Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Meteorite Identification Clinics at the ROM

More Information, contact ROM: 416-586-5549 or ROM website: <https://www.rom.on.ca/en/visit-us>

Visitors with rocks, minerals, gems, fossils or suspected meteorites can have them identified at the special ID clinics, held 6 times a year. These clinics are free to the public but patrons wishing to visit the rest of the museum will be charged admission. No appointment necessary, first come, first served. Sorry we can't ID stone artifacts & NO appraisals will be done. Hours: Wednesday 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Location: School Groups Lunchroom, President's Choice School Entrance on Queen's Park, doors nearest Museum subway shop.

CLINIC DATES FOR 2020 – CLOSED-April 15th /TBA- June 10th / August 19th / October 14th / December 9th





MINERAL OF THE MONTH:

Over the next year the newsletter will be focusing on “Minerals of Canada.” Each month we will feature the rock/mineral of one of our beloved provinces. For April We take a look at not the “official” mineral but a rare one, and the largest producer of it. We look to Manitoba and Cesium.

Cesium



Category/Class	Alkali Metal, silicate
Colour	Pale Gold, usually colourless, also white, grey, pink, blue and violet
Hardness	.2/6.5-7
Crystal System	Body Centered Cubic, Isometric
Transparency	Opaque
Luster	Vitreous, greasy
Fracture	Conchoidal, uneven

Cesium or caesium: Cesium (Cs) is a waxy, silvery-gold metallic element that is the softest of all metals. Cesium is a very reactive metal, that when mixed with cold water, produces an explosive reaction. Its melting point is so low that it will melt if it is held in the hand. However, because it is so reactive, it can seriously burn the skin, so it must be handled with great care. It can be found in the Tanco Mine or Bernic Lake Mine in Manitoba, where it is the largest producer of cesium in the world. The Cesium is brine produced from the largest pollucite deposit known.

Uses: Used as a catalyst in chemical reactions, and because it is easily ionized by light it is used in photoelectric cells and infrared detectors. It is used in specialized alkaline batteries for sub-zero temperatures. The most accurate clock in the world, the “atomic clock,” measures time based on the very precise vibration of the electrons in the outer shell of the cesium atom. This clock is accurate within 5 seconds every 300 years! Cesium-137 is radioactive and may be used for radiation therapy to treat certain cancers. Space travel engineers have discovered that burning cesium in space is a very efficient form of fuel. It is determined to be 140 times more efficient than any other fuel.

Varieties: There are 11 major isotopes of cesium but only 3 have long half-lives.

Also Found In: 2/3 of the world’s supply is in Manitoba, small quantities in the USA



Cesium*

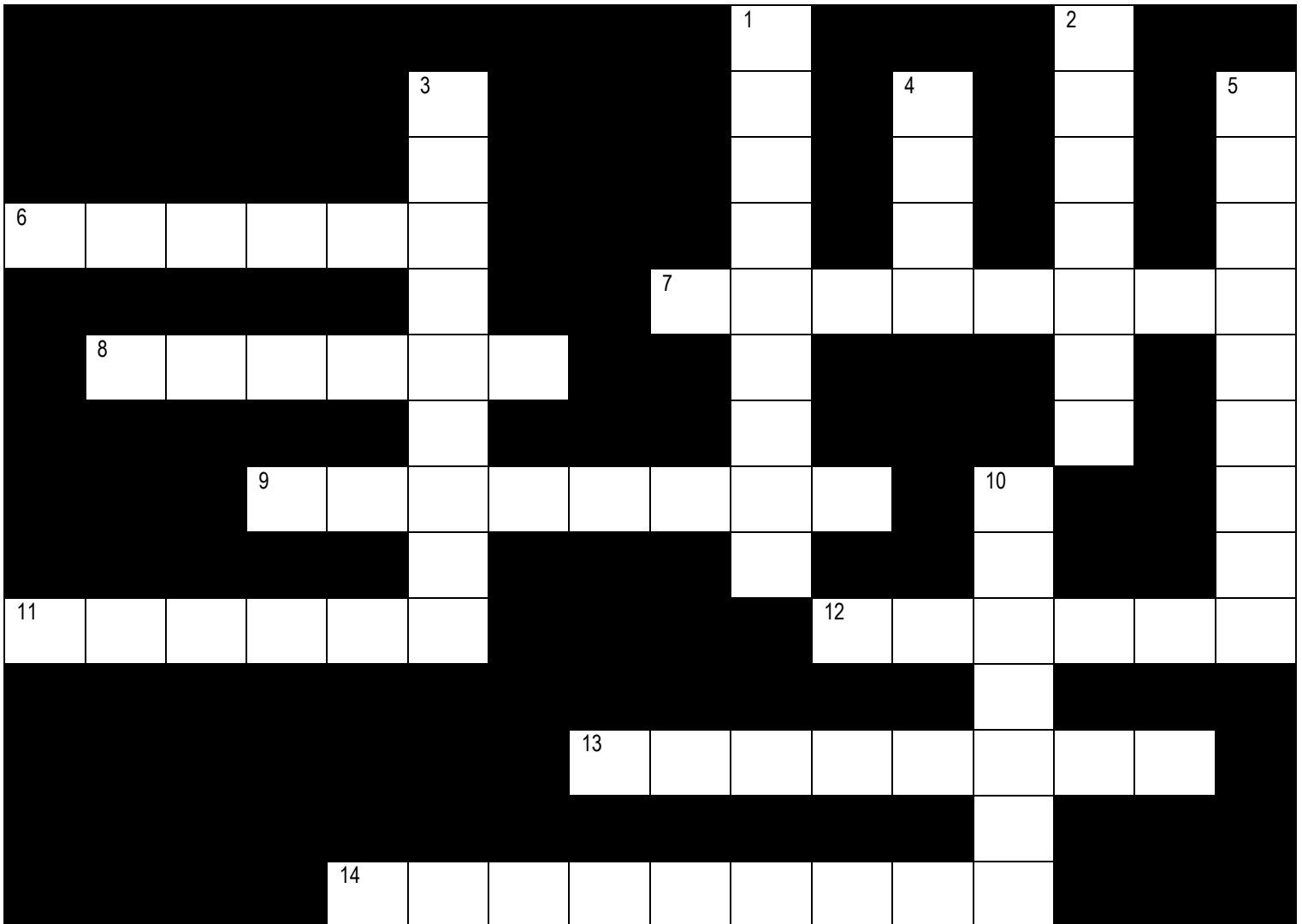
atomic number	55	132.905	atomic weight
symbol	Cs		acid-base properties of higher-valence oxides
electron configuration	[Xe]6s ¹		crystal structure
name	cesium*		physical state at 20 °C (68 °F)

	Alkali metals		Solid
	Body-centred cubic		Strongly basic

*Also spelled caesium.
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NEW! Crossword Puzzle- Common Minerals



Across

- 6- The main source of Lead
- 7- An iron ore, sometimes used in Jewelry
- 8- Sometimes called 'fool's gold'
- 9- Sulfide mineral, long metallic slender Bladed crystals
- 11- A very heavy sulfate mineral
- 12- Rock salt
- 13- Calcium fluoride
- 14- A bright green copper carbonate

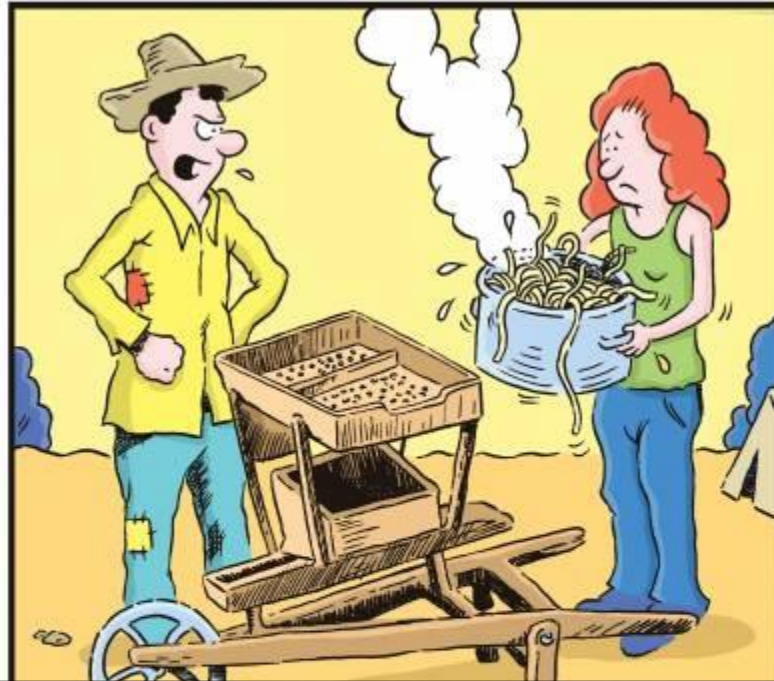
Down

- 1- A naturally magnetic rock
- 2- A bright blue copper carbonate
- 3- Metamorphic quartz sandstone
- 4- A silicate mineral known for its perfect cleavage into thin sheets
- 5- Strontium sulfate, its name means celestial
- 10- A common carbonate mineral, often a replacement mineral in fossils

If any members have suggestions for future crossword clues, please email to ctaylor.1187@gmail.com



THE LIGHTER SIDE



"NO, you can't drain the spaghetti in it!"

***UNTIL NEXT
TIME.....
Keep Hounding
and stay safe!***



