

GAC CORDILLERAN SECTION

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Exploration Series “Early Stage Active Projects”

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

8:00 am: Registration – Networking

8:20 am: Presentation begins

**Discovery Center, Geological Survey of Canada
1500 - 605 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC**

Cost: \$5 – Pay at Door – Coffee & muffins provided

RSVP: space is limited; please pre-register by email at: talks@gac-cs.ca

Jade in the Canadian Cordillera: Geology & History

Discussion Leader: Barry J. Price, M.Sc., P.Geo.,



Jade is a significant contributor to BC’s mineral economy.

The geology and mineralogy of jade deposits in BC and the Yukon will be examined. There are two types of jade:

1. Nephrite jade is a form of the amphibole minerals tremolite and actinolite, along with minor accessories, chlorite, magnetite, picotite, chromite, diopside and green chrome mica (fuchsite) It is commonly green, but may also be white. Nephrite has been discovered in commercial quantities in several parts of BC and is an important commodity.
2. Jadeite is a pyroxene mineral which may be white to grey, lilac, bluish, and in its most valuable color, bright green. It is a high pressure mineral found in metamorphic terranes. No commercial jadeite has been found in BC.

Theories on the origin of nephrite involve serpentinization of ultramafic slices, shearing along major faults, metasomatism by calcic and silicic fluids leading to chert-like bodies, silica carbonate veins and masses, tremolite/diopside mixtures and in places bladed to nephritic tremolite. Nephrite may form from metasomatism of different wall rocks, metasediments, marble and granitic bodies. Wall rock may affect colour and purity of the jade. Grading of jade for gemstones and other commercial purposes will be reviewed.

Individuals and companies behind the jade discoveries in the Cordillera will be discussed along with the discovery histories and exploration techniques used in jade exploration. A brief look at the distribution of jade on worldwide basis will also be presented.

Barry James Price, B.Sc., M.Sc., P.Geo.

Barry Price was born and educated in Smithers BC and has been keen on geology since High School, when he took a correspondence course in Geology from Victoria.

In 1961 he became a first-year student in Geology at UBC and graduated in 1965 with a B.Sc. degree in Honours Geology. Summer work in 1963 and 1964 was with the Geological Survey of Canada in the Rocky Mountains. In 1965 he left BC for Alberta, where he joined Cal Standard (now Chevron) as field and wellsite geologist based in Calgary and Edmonton.

In 1968 he spent part of the summer prospecting on the Queen Charlottes and then re-entered UBC Geology (now Earth Ocean and Atmospheric Science) as a master's student, obtaining an M.Sc. in 1972.

During the summers 1969-1972 he worked with Mike Beley in Manex Mining, service company in Smithers and Vancouver, and worked for Archer Cathro in the Yukon and NWT and JR Woodcock in BC.

It was in 1969 when he met Win Robertson (the Jade Queen) who needed geologist for her Jade property on O'Ne-el Creek in the Omineca. This led to other work in jade exploration on Ogden Mountain, the Yukon, Kutcho Creek area near Dease Lake and elsewhere.

In 1979 he started his own consulting company Rapitan Resources Inc. involved in consulting, diamond exploration, and prospecting ventures with classmates Jim Christie, Wayne Livingstone and Gordon Richards (JMT Services). He was also manager of Petra Gem Explorations, which was involved in consulting on gem materials (mainly jade) including work on a gem carving property in the Philippines.

In 1993 he formed BJ Price Geological Consultants Inc. and has been involved in consulting for junior mining companies with properties in Canada, USA, Mexico, Panama, Chile and Argentina Portugal, and other countries as far as Tajikistan and Serbia.

In 2015 he was jointly awarded the AME BC Frank Woodside Past-presidents and Chairs Award., along with Jerry Asp and Hans Smit, for distinguished service to the Association and contribution to the Mineral industry.

He has served as a Director of numerous junior companies, and is now partly retired working out of his North Vancouver home, but still maintaining close ties with the jade mining and exploration community.