



# Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show and Sale

Special Edition of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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## Show Chair's Message

Dear OLMC members,

As you know, the Gem Show is our main way of collecting funds to rent a workshop place. Unfortunately, given that we could not hold a show in the last two years, the Club's funds have been running lower to the point that we had to close the workshop.

Now, we are setting up another show to rebuild our funds in order to sustain a new workshop. To be able to run a great Gem Show, we need many volunteers!

Please volunteer for one 2-hour block or more on the different task required. The list of stations and contacts is on **page 3** of this newsletter. Contact by e-mail the Team Leader to offer your time based on the task you would like to fill.

We need your help to keep the Gem Show alive, to ultimately keep the Club alive!

Stéphane Jetté  
**OLMC Show Chair**



Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale

Salon annuel des pierres, minéraux et bijoux

**SEPT 21-22, 2024**



## About the Show

The 56th Annual Ottawa Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show and Sale will be held in the curling rink arena at the Nepean Sportsplex during the weekend of September 21-22. The show has the feeling of an open-air bazaar. Shoppers can visit the many colourful booths competing for their attention. Vendors display wares from around the world. Mineral rough, crystals and clusters, polished slabs and cabochons, faceted gems, beads, jewellery components and finished jewellery, art objects, ancient fossils and meteorites, books and machinery are all within reach. With such a variety, it is easy to find the perfect thing.



## History of the Show

The show and sale started humbly in a school gymnasium, with the goal of helping the club pay rent for a new workshop and a recently purchased Titan grinder. Over the years, the show expanded to larger venues hosting around sixty vendors from all over the region selling stones, crystals, jewellery, art, fossils, and many other unique and sparkling things from around the world. A growing number of academic partners who generously donate their time, letting visitors learn about mineralogy, geology, lapidary and silversmithing, or just appreciate the fascinating beauty of minerals in colourful displays.





Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club

# Volunteer

2024 – MEMBER – 2024

**Everyone**, please consider volunteering for some sort of task at the show, whether it is helping to advertise, for setup/takedown, or for one or more two-hour shifts at one of the booths. They are all simple jobs, enjoyable experiences, and the time passes quickly. You will have plenty of time to take in the show and to shop!



Throughout Saturday and Sunday, we have eight 2-hour timeslots: four slots on Saturday from 10h am to 6h pm, and another four slots on Sunday from 10h am to 5h pm. Given these times, and depending on the task, the number of volunteers varies. Each task has a leader. Contact by e-mail the Team Leader to offer your time based on the task you would like to fill.

*All volunteers get free access to the premises on the day of their volunteering 2-hour block.*

If you are available without a task preference, provide this information to the Show Chair, who will coordinate with the team leaders and assign your help where it is the most required. Please contact Show Chair **Stephane Jette** at [showchair@olmc.ca](mailto:showchair@olmc.ca).

If you are interested in being a part of our club sales and creative presence, you'll enjoy more than just visibility for your one-of-a-kind products: sellers receive 90% of the sales of their work, with the remaining 10% retained by the OLMC. We allot equal table space for members, and provide display options for those who don't already have their own preferred set-up. Don't hesitate to join us if you have just a few treasures to offer – we are more than happy to accommodate! Please contact **Vicki Jasperse** at: [vicki\\_jasperse@rogers.com](mailto:vicki_jasperse@rogers.com)

Online table: <http://olmc.ca/gs2023-volunteers.html>

| Team Leader                   | Name              | E-Mail   | Shifts (Volunteers) Needed       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Show Chair                    | Stéphane Jetté    | <a href="mailto:showchair@olmc.ca">showchair@olmc.ca</a>                 | N/A                              |
| Dealer Chair                  | Vema Ho           | <a href="mailto:dealerchair@olmc.ca">dealerchair@olmc.ca</a>             | N/A                              |
| Main setup/teardown           | Calvin Jones      | <a href="mailto:calvinjones01@gmail.com">calvinjones01@gmail.com</a>     | Many on Friday a.m., Sunday p.m. |
| Admissions                    | Catherine Garret  | <a href="mailto:treasurer@olmc.ca">treasurer@olmc.ca</a>                 | 14 (22)                          |
| Children's Fish Pond          | Darcy Paquet      | <a href="mailto:sylsaza@gmail.com">sylsaza@gmail.com</a>                 | 7 (8)                            |
| Club Creations                | Vicki Jasperse    | <a href="mailto:vicki_jasperse@rogers.com">vicki_jasperse@rogers.com</a> | 7 (8)                            |
| Demonstrations                | <b>TBD</b>        | <a href="mailto:showchair@olmc.ca">showchair@olmc.ca</a>                 | <b>TBD</b>                       |
| Door Prizes                   | Jean-guy Bradette | <a href="mailto:jbradette7752@rogers.com">jbradette7752@rogers.com</a>   | 2 (1)                            |
| Membership & OLMC Information | Nathalie Bourget  | <a href="mailto:nat.bourget@videotron.ca">nat.bourget@videotron.ca</a>   | 6 (2)                            |
| Ushers                        | David Carty       | <a href="mailto:dcarty@trytel.com">dcarty@trytel.com</a>                 | 24 (16-24)                       |

# Welcome to the OLMC Rock Show



**Above:** Jean-Guy Bradette and Natasha Girard oversee the door prize table and announcements.  
**Below:** Lovely door prizes donated by show vendors

The **Door Prize Booth** is one of the first things you will see when entering the venue. Fill out a ballot for a chance to win something beautiful donated by the generous vendors at the show. Names are drawn every hour and announced over a sound system. If your name is called and you are unable to hear, don't worry. The club will try to contact you using the information provided so that you can claim your prize.

If visitors check a box on the form, their e-mail addresses will be added to the club list for announcements of auctions and future gem shows hosted by the Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club.



**Ottawa LAPSMITH and MINERAL Club**  
**Club Lapidaire et Minéralogique d'Ottawa**

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**DOOR PRIZES / PRIX DE PRÉSENCE**

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Deposit this form into the box at the INFORMATION.  
 Déposez ce formulaire dans la boîte à l'INFORMATION.

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NAME - NOM \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS - ADRESSE/APT. - APP. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY - VILLE \_\_\_\_\_ PROV. \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE - CODE POSTAL \_\_\_\_\_

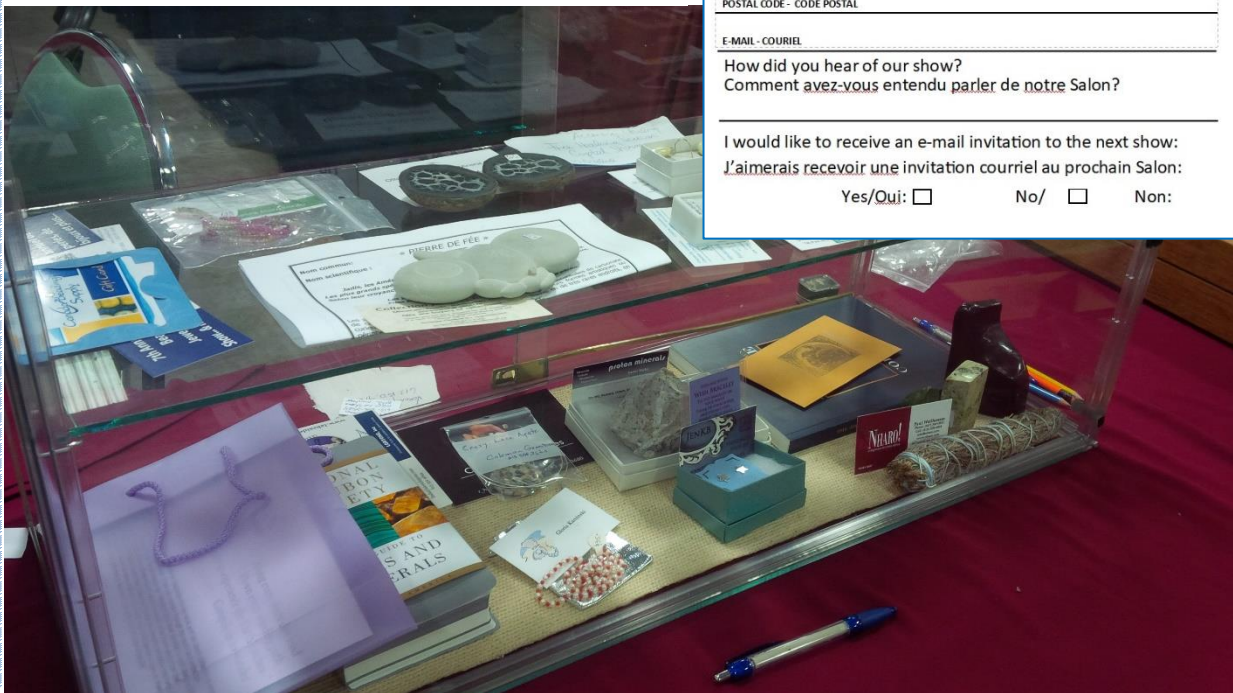
E-MAIL - COURRIEL \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear of our show?  
 Comment avez-vous entendu parler de notre Salon?

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I would like to receive an e-mail invitation to the next show:  
 J'aimerais recevoir une invitation courriel au prochain Salon:

Yes/Oui:  No/  Non:





## Join Our Rock Crafts and Silversmithing Club

Are you intrigued by the lapidary and silversmith club, and want to learn more about it? Head over to the membership table close to the venue entrance. Club members will answer your questions as best they can. There are brochures explaining club activities, and a form to join up. Sometimes there are trade magazines to browse through.

Every member gets access to the club newsletter, and announcements of club activities such as field trips, special auctions, meetings and other activities. When the club has a studio, members can use the saws, grinders and polishers for a small daily fee, in addition to the informative library resources. You can simply stop in and chat with other club members over some tea or coffee, too.



Member Chair Nathalie Bourget is ready at the membership table with help from Stephanie Jette.

## ***OLMC Maker's Market***

After working for a year or more with stone to create something unique and spectacular, you may be interested to find out if your hobby can become a source of income. The club's sales table is the perfect risk-free way to do that. The booth is staffed by club members and only sells items made by OLMC members working at home or at the club studio/workshop.



## Demonstrations: Flat Lap

Flat lapping is a simple activity that anyone can do with the right equipment and a lot of patience. Often this is the first polishing technique that new club members are taught. All that is needed is a plate of glass or other suitable material, some silicon carbide grit, some water, and a small stone. Then, manually drag the stone along the glass surface in a controlled fashion with ever finer grits until smooth.

Everyone is welcome to try this fun demonstration. The club provides the materials. Sometimes visitors to the show bring something from home that they want to change or fix, assuming this technique is suitable for the task.



**Above:** Bob Boisvert demonstrates proper technique to interested visitors.

**Left:** Bill Weiler describes the patient work of faceting gem stones.



## Demonstrations: Faceting/Carving

The club provides a faceting machine and accessories for club members who want to demonstrate faceting. Members are free to work on their own stones. Show visitors often ask about how the machine work, about the various designs and how they are followed, and what the stone looks like at various stages as work progresses. Members can also demonstrate stone carving, as long as they use tools that do not generate much dust and noise. Many people see only the finished piece of carving, so seeing the tools used and the work in progress can be fascinating.





**Above:** Kat Schroeder and Anna Grealy polish cabochons while waiting for questions.

**Below:** Jenn Abrams uses proper technique to grind a stone into shape.



## Demonstrations: Titan

A popular tool for everyone is the Titan, a machine with a set of diamond-coated grinding wheels intending for making cabochons. There are two sides to the machine, allowing two demonstrators to work simultaneously. Some pre-shaped stones may be provided, but people can bring their own material.

It is quite common for a small crowd to gather around. Club members should be willing to answer questions and show the proper safety procedures, the process of selecting a stone and a shape, and good grinding technique. Very likely some show visitors will bring something like a dull ring stone that they would like re-polished. Demonstrators can use their discretion on whether to accept the request. One unusual request involved repairing a statuette that had fallen off a table.

## Demonstrations: Silversmithing

Although silversmithing can take a lot of time, it is still possible to do some simple activities to demonstrate the art. Presenters can make small things such as jump rings, or demonstrate hammer and saw skills.

**Below:** Every year, club members and show partners are welcome and encouraged to make stand-alone displays of their crafts, of mineral finds during rockhounding trips, and academic studies. The club can provide a display case. There have also been some interactive displays and educational DVDs played in a rest area.



**Above:** Pat Moore demonstrates silversmithing to onlookers.  
**Below:** A visitor enjoys an interactive display of mineral sites.





## Academic Partners

The OLMC is proud and very appreciative to have academic and scientific groups attend the show. Some groups prefer to have a large display of exquisite mineral samples, such as the Geological Society of Canada, Canadian Museum of Nature and Jeffrey de Fourestier have done. Some partners prefer to have a small presentation space where they can speak directly with the public such as the Ottawa-Gatineau Geoheritage Project, Carleton University Earth Sciences and the Institute of Archaeology St. Andre have done. And still others including Karen Fox, Matt Dixon and Jeffrey de Fourestier, are willing to provide professional mineral identification services free to the public.

**Left:** Jeffrey de Fourestier peers through a microscope to investigate a mineral.



**Above:** Blyth Robertson, Carleton University Earth Sciences, and member of the Ottawa-Gatineau Geoheritage Project, presents detailed information about the amazing local geology.





## The Vendors

Recent shows have about 60 vendors. Each one has unique stones, fossils and crafts from around the world on display. Walking around the booths is like wandering through a combination museum and art gallery. The proprietors are experts on what they sell, so do not hesitate to ask questions about where a particular item came from and how it was found or made.







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# 56<sup>th</sup> Annual OLMC Gem Show

## September 21-22, 2024

Vendors are invited depending on the products they sell and the show's balance of product variety. We are particularly interested in hearing from you if you offer goods and services in:

- Minerals / Rock specimens / Mineral-related products
- Jewelry / Metal work / Jewellery findings
- Beads / Bead work / Bead findings
- Lapidary supplies & equipment
- Faceted & polished gems
- Lapidary materials / Lapidary work
- Fossils
- Stone carving / sculpture
- One-on-a-kind handcrafted products (by seller/artist) related to lapidary and minerals

If you wish to participate our show, please email us along with the following info:

- The products you sell (please provide pictures or an URL where we can review your products i.e. website, facebook page etc.)
- The number of sales tables and back-up tables you prefer
- Your contact / business info (i.e. name, phone number, address, email etc.)

Contact: Vema Ho, Dealer Chair, [dealerchair@olmc.ca](mailto:dealerchair@olmc.ca)  
Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club