



# The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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### Website:

<https://olmc.ca/>

### Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/OttawaLapsmithMineralClub>

### Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/olmcnews/>

## President's Message

We recently bumped up workshop fees to make the workshop somewhat more self-sustaining. Workshop sales and club auctions will also lessen our dependence on show income.

Our January gas bill was \$477. Our landlord has confirmed that we are on a dedicated gas line. The culprit is probably the air conditioner. Next fall we will have to have it removed for the winter.

Our first courses will be offered in March. Participation is limited to four people. They are not free courses! More will follow.

Thanks goes to Eric Clara for donating bound volumes of the Wirewrap artist; to Kat Schroeder for donating an abundance of surplus government supplies; and to Michel Fortier for rebuilding the big saws.

Kerry Day

OLMC President

All members are invited to submit articles, proposals, and thoughts that could be included in the newsletters. Also, feel free to send your Classified ads by e-mail to: [news@olmc.ca](mailto:news@olmc.ca)

# Workshop News

## Status of the Workshop

The collection of cabochon templates has been found! All of the templates are now on top of the red tool cabinet in the grinder room.

President Kerry Day has done more work and purchased more supplies. He installed two push diode night lights above and beside the outdoor lock. He bought a modern LW/UV flashlight for the reception area. He bought five pounds of #2 grit (~100-200 grit) off of Amazon. And, he bought a pack of new four-inch opal saw blades.

The club is missing one heavy box of steel bench blocks for the silversmiths. They could not be found in the storage locker. Colin Geitzler has offered to donate some.

There is a shortage of plate Silver and Silver wire at the workshop. If anyone has any for sale, please make it available.

You may now pay dues, fees and purchases by Interac E Transfer at the workshop.

Users have noticed that the new bubblers aren't powerful enough to keep the wheels wet. Judy Courteau found more powerful ones that will be installed.

Jean-Guy Bradette ordered two 600 grit and two 3000 grit 8-inch wheels for the Titans. They will be changed as soon as they arrive.

Two of the bins of periodicals have been delivered to the library, plus the binder set of Wirewrap Magazine purchased from Andre Ruest at the gem show.

**Workshop Supervisors:** It is important to remove the garbage bag at least once a week to prevent food waste from stinking. There is no disposal bin on the property.

## Upcoming Courses

Colin Geitzler has volunteered to give capping courses for \$65. Sign up by contacting Jean-Guy Bradette at [workshop@olmc.ca](mailto:workshop@olmc.ca). President Kerry Day will give a course on cutting and flat lapping once all of the saws are up and running.

## Ottawa Valley Mineral Club Seeks Members

Folks can join the OVMC club in person at regularly scheduled meetings at the Museum of Nature, second Thursday night of the month at 5:50 pm.

Museum entry is free on Thursdays, parking is \$5 flat rate, or free on the street. From the main entrance on the ground floor, turn left and go through the coffee shop. The meetings are on during the winter months; nice weather is for field trips!

Please see our web presence to confirm a meeting is on. We try for the second Thursday night, but sometimes re-schedule.

Site: <https://www.ovmineralclub.ca/>

Also on [Facebook](#)

We can take membership fees by e-transfer, check or cash. There are a number of ways to sign up for the club and get on the e-mail list.

Through our website:

<https://www.ovmineralclub.ca/membership>

Write to us for any information request:

[membership@ovmineralclub.ca](mailto:membership@ovmineralclub.ca)

[ovmineralclub@gmail.com](mailto:ovmineralclub@gmail.com)

## Executive Committee Updates Workshop Fees

The club executive has updated the fee schedule. Effective immediately the following fees apply:

Single membership = \$20 (unchanged)

Family membership = \$30 (unchanged)

Use of the workshop = \$5/day or \$15/month or \$120/year

Use of the diamond machines (Titans, red and green) = Free for the first hour and \$3 for every additional hour.

Locker = \$60/year (unchanged)

Big oil saws = \$3/cut

Commission on sales made at the workshop = 20% (unchanged)

Show admission = \$8/person (13 and up) (unchanged).

Show tables = \$185 and up (unchanged).

Parking is free at the workshop, but it is limited. There is free street parking on Billings Avenue, but it is further down the street.

### WORKSHOP SALES

All club members are invited to place rock, mineral, fossil, precious metal and jewelry items for sale at the workshop. The club takes a 20% commission on all sales. As of this moment there are no limits.

### CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE

The club has an abundance of it's own rock, mineral and fossil specimens for sale at the workshop.

### JEWELRY REPAIR & SPECIAL ORDERS

All such requests will be forwarded to interested club members. If you wish to be such an interested club member please forward your name to me or any member of the executive. All such transactions will be between the club members and their customers and will not involve the club.



### On-Line Auction March 23

Our next online auction is scheduled for March 23-30. All club members may contribute as many as 5 buy it now and 5 auction items. The deadline for form submissions is March 15. Auction forms are forthcoming.

### New Mailing Address:

The location where our mail was being received and/or our P.O. Box used has closed.  
Our new P.O. Box Address: **PO Box 57012, Ottawa RPO Gladstone, Ottawa, ON, K1R 1A1**

## Annual General Meeting in April

The OLMC will hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April.

**Time:** April 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m

**Place:** OLMC Workshop  
136F Billings Avenue, Ottawa

A Zoom meeting will be set up for members who cannot attend in person. The URL will be sent by e-mail to all active members.

The AGM hear reports from the chairpersons, including club financial report. Most importantly, it is the time for present members to vote for a new Executive Committee (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary) from the list of nominees. Any active club member can be nominated.



### *From the Library:*

This primitive drill has probably some similarity to tools used in more recent times, and of which literary descriptions exist: a hollow cylinder made of bone or bamboo stem, turning on a smooth vertical pivot and kept rigid at the top by a wooden framework.

With the emergence of bronze implements in the 15th century BC and then of iron tools almost a thousand years later, the bamboo sticks were of course replaced by metal tubes. The general method of work, however, remained unaltered; and so it is easy to imagine how agonisingly slow the process was.

Oscar Luzzatto-Bilitz  
Antique Jade

*Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club presents...*



**OLMC On-Line Auction**  
**March 23-30**

<https://32auctions.com/olmcmarch2025>

**Featuring:**

- Unique and beautiful jewellery made by club members
- Selected minerals and lapidary rough

Local pick-up is free, \$20 delivery charge for shipping  
Details will be posted on the club website <https://olmc.ca>

**Anyone can bid  
~ or ~  
"buy it now"!**



## Special Auction Information for Club Members

The next on-line auction will run from March 23 to March 30. Any club member can submit ten lots – five “buy it now” and five “for bid”. By March 15, all submission must be delivered to the club workshop or Kerry Day ([pres@olmc.ca](mailto:pres@olmc.ca)) at 101 Promenade Ave, Nepean, and all information including photos provided to Matthew Poirier ([auctions@olmc.ca](mailto:auctions@olmc.ca)). If you have a minimum price on your auction lots please make sure that they are clearly stated. Updated inventory forms will be e-mailed as soon as they are available.

## From One Maker to Another

### Covington Expando Drum Rotation

According to the Covington manual, the arrow shows the correct orientation and the direction of rotation of the drums for the green Covington arbors. The grit belts also have arrows for the same purpose.



### Working With Amber

Amber can be worked very easily. It can be filed down to a shape and sanded with an aluminum oxide paper of finer and finer grades (200,400, and 600 grit) until it is ready for the polishing stage. Amber can also be faceted if the lap speed is reduced. You may also try embedding pieces into resins to make beads or other ornaments.

Polish amber with one of: (1) tripoli with oil; (2) aluminum oxide; (3) tin oxide;(4) Linde A; (5) rouge, applied dry. Dip the amber piece into the lubricant (oil or water) and then dip the piece into the polishing compound. Then rub vigorously on a smooth surface such as a leather strop, or a chamois attached to a hard board.

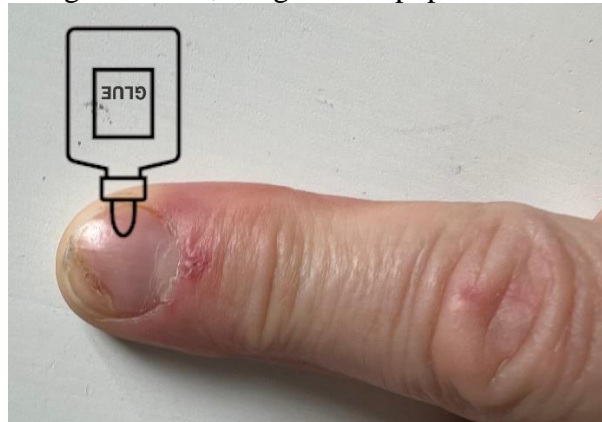
### Subrilli Diamond Flexible Polishing Pad

A number of online stores sell these, and also Walmart, apparently. They come in 12 x 4.5 cm rectangles and 10-cm diameter discs. You can get a plastic handle that will attach to the felt part of the pad for an easier grip.



### Finger Nail Technology

If you are polishing a stone on a grinder and the wheel cuts your nail deep enough to show pink (very painful), then a drop of crazy glue on the red spot can fill the hole. When the nail grows back, the glue will pop out.



## ~ ~ ~ The Humble Bench Pin ~ ~ ~

### From the Silversmiths Meeting held on 2022-11-29

A great presentation of ideas is “Modifications for your bench pin” from the MetalSmith Society (on [Instagram](#)). To the right is an example of a free Bench Pin Pattern that the society offers. It uses a larger pin that provides space to work on a piece.

### More Ideas from the Group

Safety is always number one priority: Cut into the bench pin, not your finger.

Sand all the edges and holes on your bench pin on a regular schedule to keep it looking tidy

Add a groove to your bench pin wide enough to contain the grooveless edge of your file. Place your item to file on the pin, place the file in the groove, and file with ease,

Glue fabric to one side of the bench pin to reduce scratching on sheet metal and vibrations. It may catch on sharp shapes and small shavings.

Drill a small hole into the bench pin to hold pieces steady for setting stones.

Cut tubes by carving a groove across the bench pin, and make a saw cut through the bench pin to cross the groove.

### Old School Tips

A bench pin with a u-shape cut out of one side, or a circle cut out of the middle big enough to hold your mandrel is great for stone setting. Alternatively, the circle cut-out can hold a cone-shaped dop stick to which your piece is attached, so both hands are free to set a stone or do other work. You can turn the piece by lifting and rotating the dop stick. One tedious part is dissolving the wax or shellac after the work is done.

A bench pin with a narrow slit for the saw blade can be handy when working with small bezel pieces.

Use a small table like a TV tray underneath the bench pin to catch falling debris and dust. It may be small enough to store under the work table.



*Bench pin design from Metalsmith Society*



*The Karl Bench Pin: raised bench pin for low tables, designed by Karl Schutt*



*Bench pin used by Vicki Jasperse has a large work surface. It has its own stand that can be clamped to a table.*

## Member Profile: Csilla Ekes



I started making cabs and bronze crafts and helping my Dad. I grew up handling the tools. But I never liked what my Dad did, giant objects like lamps and racks and everything. That wasn't my thing. I've wanted to make jewellery when I was ten years old. My parents took me to an exhibit and I just fell in love with silver work. And then I just kept making jewellery since I was a teenager.

Then I came to Canada and got married. I took my first class from Karl Schutt in 1990. I just kept going after that. I make jewellery for a living. I mostly do gold work, very detailed, very fine gold work.

I did a few things during the pandemic, if you remember those silversmithing challenges. I do production work also, so I have my own moulds. I cast lots of small earrings using lost wax casting. About two years ago I started to teach silversmithing classes. Before the pandemic, before the club had to close down, we started up

these silversmithing classes in the club. We had one class that was very successful, and the second one sold out, and then the pandemic lockdown hit, so we had to stop doing that. There was nothing happening for two years. Now, I'm teaching at Loretta Studios.

For my stones, I get a supplier. I don't do stones; I can't do everything. All these little things are products of the teaching. At every setting class and ring making class, I have to demo a setting, and after I go home and finish it. We start out, I always say the easiest setting is a round stone, so start with that.



The feather is my favourite. That was all handmade from scrap. Because when you do the engraver with lots of parallel lines it gives you the feather texture. I also like the hand-made chain that was done by casting. Some of the rings are made from cast components or casting.





### YouTube: Tonga 2022 volcanic eruption... [from spaaaaace](#)

Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai erupted three times in less than thirty days. The volcano has sporadically erupted since 2009 with the most recent activity beginning in late December 2021, when a series of Surtseyan eruptions built up and reshaped the island while sending bursts of tephra and volcanic gases spewing from the vent.

Lucara Diamond Corp [sold two diamonds](#) that it mined in Botswana -- 549-carat Sethunya and the 1,080-carat Eva Star -- for a total of \$54 million. The Karowe kimberlite has a unique mineralogy that produces diamonds of unusual size and clarity. Lucara continues to delve deeper where high-value ore is present.



## News Around the World

### Fossilized vomit is a thing and it was found in Denmark

Danish fossil hunter Peter Benniske [discovered some 66-million-year-old vomit](#) from a marine creature living in the Cretaceous sea. The specimen was found at the island of Zealand at Stevns Klint, a fossil-rich cliff and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This fossil, which is classified as regurgitalite, indigestible bits of sea lily were encased in chalk. Sea lily is an aquatic, plant-like animal related to sea stars and sea urchins that are formally called crinoids.

### Oxygen-making stones found at the bottom of the ocean

Naturally occurring [potato-sized metallic "nodules"](#) at five kilometers deep in the ocean have been discovered to split seawater into hydrogen and oxygen. It was previously established that oxygen production required sunlight for photosynthesis.

The nodules were found in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone in the Pacific Ocean. They contain metals like lithium, cobalt and copper. They form over millions of years when dissolved metals in seawater collect on fragments of shell or other debris.

They create electric fields about as strong as AA-sized batteries. Several mining companies have already developed technology to collect the nodules, remove them from the ocean, and process them. More than 800 marine scientists from 44 countries have signed a petition highlighting the environmental risks and calling for a pause on mining activity.



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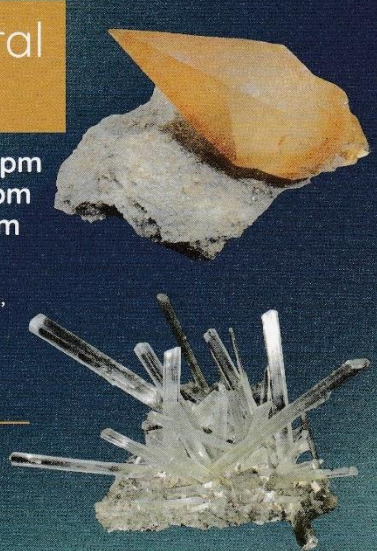
**The Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club's 30th Annual**

**Peterborough Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**


Friday, February 28, 2025, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Saturday, March 1, 2025, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Sunday, March 2, 2025, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Healthy Planet Arena, 911 Monaghan Road,  
Peterborough, Ontario. Minerals, Fossils, Gemstones,  
Beads, Meteorites and equipment.

*Displays and silent auctions.*  
*Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free*



Information  
☎ 705 749 8610  
Follow us on Facebook:  
Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club - KRFC



Workshop Schedule						
March 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm EC & JM
2	3	4 Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm JB	5 Lapidary 2:30-9 pm JGB	6	7	8 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm CG & KD
9	10	11 Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm DA	12 Lapidary 2:30-9 pm JGB	13	14	15 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm RB & JL Last day for auction lots
16	17 	18 Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm KF	19 Lapidary 2:30-9 pm CG	20	21	22 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm SJ & NB
23/30 Auction Week Mar. 23-30	24/31	25 Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm JB Library 2-6:30 pm	26 Lapidary 2:30-9 pm JGB	27	28	29 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm JGB & DP



# OLMC Membership Application

New Membership  Membership Renewal

Individual **\$20**

Family (2+ persons in the same residence) **\$30**

**Benefits:**

Monthly Newsletter

Newsletter advertisement: \$25 per year for members or \$55 for businesses  
*(Ten quarter pages per year over ten newsletters).*

OLMC online auctions

OLMC field trips

*More information can be found at <https://olmc.ca>  
You can also go on our Facebook page: [OttawaLapsmithMineralClub](#)*

Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify your e-mail address to receive OLMC's newsletter:

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a receipt?  Yes

Payments are payable by **cash, cheque** to Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club, or  
**E-Transfer** at [treasurer@olmc.ca](mailto:treasurer@olmc.ca) with the application form

Please mail your membership form and fees to:

Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club  
PO Box 57012, Ottawa RPO Gladstone, Ottawa, ON, K1R 1A1

*Please note that all membership information is used only for administrative purposes.*

Administration use only

Card provided:  Yes  No

Supervisor signed:  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_