



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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President's Message

Field Trip May 11: Long Lake Zinc Mine

The field trip to the Long Lake Zinc Mine scheduled for May 4 has been postponed to May 11 on account of rain. If you are planning on going please let me know (pres@olmc.ca). Details can be found in the April newsletter. Gord Brown will lead.

My notice list is about to be cleaned up. Anyone who isn't a paid up member for 2024 will be deleted. Hint, hint!

The search for a new workshop continues. There are numerous opportunities on the edges of the city but very little which is centrally located.

The old Colonnade workshop is now officially gone. We are now officially debt free with over 100K in the bank.

The date for the 2024 Ottawa show is Sept 21-22.

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

In Memorium

Frank Stoyles

Long time club member and field trip leader [Frank Stoyles](#) passed away on March 21. Frank was very active in the club until the Covid pandemic hit. He happily led many field trips to the Quadeville quarry, the winding trail to the Craigmont mine, Bancroft, and other places. He always seemed to happen upon a perfect crystal, which he might offer to less lucky people. He will be sorely missed.

George W. Robinson Jr.

[Dr. George Robinson](#), formerly of the Museum of Nature, recently passed away on April 14. Dr. Robinson was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge about minerals and mineral localities in our part of the world. He wrote or contributed to eight books and over a hundred scientific papers. He received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award in 2012. He was also an avid field collector and gemstone faceter.

Search for a New Studio... Continues

President Kerry Day reports on the latest attempt to rent a space for a new studio.

Over the last 3 weeks the executive pursued 228 Hannah near Montreal Road and the Vanier Parkway as a new workshop location. Our understanding was that it was \$2600/month all inclusive. It turns out that \$2600/month was the introductory first year rate. The rate increased by \$200/month/year. Had we signed, we would have been paying \$3400/year in the fifth year (\$40,800). Furthermore, we would have been 40% responsible for the exterior of the building. An attempt was made to negotiate with the realty company, but their demands were firm. **We have walked away from 228 Hannah.**

So, we are now back to square one. If anyone has a location that we should pursue, please feel free to contact any member of the executive. It must be centrally located give or take. Locations such as Kanata, Stittsville, Barrhaven, Orleans, Merivale Road south etc do not make the cut. One of the reasons we walked away from 190 Colonnade was its remote location in the southern part of the city. Our budget is \$2000/month, give or take. We can get by with 1000 ft².

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting

The club's annual general meeting was held on Sunday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m, in a room at 380 Springfield Road. About 25 people attended in person. It was also hosted on Zoom, and one person joined on-line.

Last year's minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

Membership Chair Nathalie Bourget reported that the club has 136 members. She reported the numbers have rebounded from the low of 106 in the last two years.

President Kerry Day explained why the proposed studio location of 228 Hanna Street was not acceptable. The club and the landlord were unable to find a compromise. The club has hired a

commercial real estate agent to help with the search. Workshop Chair Jean-Guy Bradette explained why it so hard finding an affordable place (\$2600/month) with the right features. Everyone is encouraged to help with the search. For now, the Executive is not considering places in the suburbs.

A new mineral club made from the defunct Mineral Interest Group is starting up as a non-profit. The name is not yet started, and they do not yet have a meeting place.

Treasurer Catherine Garrett gave the financial report. The club has more money in the bank thanks greatly to last year's gem show revenue. One recurring cost is storage for club studio furniture.

The news that Frank Stoyles had died recently was met with great sadness.

The election of the Executive Committee was held. The results are:

President: Kerry Day (acclaimed)
Vice-President: Matthew Poirier (acclaimed)
Treasurer: Catherine Garrett (acclaimed)
Secretary: Bill Hendrick

The Executive Committee will appoint the Chair positions at the next Executive meeting. This gives club members time to nominate themselves for the positions.

Show Chair Stéphane Jetté noted that Dealer Chair Vemo Ho is leaving, and needs a successor. Club member Mary-Jo Hass offered her time to become a co-show chair, working with Stéphane on this year's show.

The next auction is still in the planning stages. Vice-President Matthew Poirier, who has been running them, is considering have a mixed live/on-line auction. The club's old silicon carbide grinders may be on the bidding block, depending on what the eventual new studio looks like.

Matthew Poirier presented: Mineral ID

Some time was spent for a rock swap after the meeting. Colin Geitzler had flats of picture jasper and Biggs jasper cabochons, and slabs. Eric Clara had a box of various large slabs and a small bag of amethyst. Kerry Day also had some slabs to swap. Jean-Guy Bradette brought flats of cabochons and Mexican opals, including some of his recent intarsia cabs.

Field Trip May 11: Long Lake Zinc Mine

The field trip to the Long Lake Zone Mine has been postponed to May 11, on account of expected rain. Gord Brown will lead a Fluorescent collecting trip to the old **Long Lake Zinc mine** SW of Sharbot Lake on Highway 7. You can meet Gord at the mine gate at 5 PM or Kerry at the Eagleson road Park and Ride at 3 PM. The fluorescent minerals are best seen with a SW UV or a MW UV but some do fluoresce in LW. This locality is now a pay locality with fees of \$20/person and \$20/20 litre pail of rock. Rain date is May 11. Please see the [map link](#) courtesy of Mindat. Experience from the last collecting trip is that fluorescent collecting is best conducted at dusk

CCFMS Request for Comment on Lapidary Kit Document

The Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies ([CCFMS](http://ccfms.ca)) has created a Lapidary Kit, intended to make lapidary easy to plan, schedule, and run lapidary workshops and clubs, and to help participants create works of art.

This draft kit is a 31-page document that has been two years in the making. It was e-mailed to affiliated clubs on April 15, as part of a “request for comment” period. The OLMC have posted a copy at http://olmc.ca/pdf/CCFMS_lapidary-kit_draft.pdf

The CCFMS sincerely request that clubs review this document and send in their comments. All comments are welcome, no matter how nitpicky. In fact, nitpicky is better.

- Was anything forgotten, or something that should be added?
- Are there spelling or grammar errors to fix?
- Are there any parts of the document that are really good?
- Other comments?

The Federation want to finalize the official document in September 2024, providing five months to receive feedback and make changes. The final document will be presented for approval by clubs in November.

Send your comments by e-mail to the CCFMS: executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com

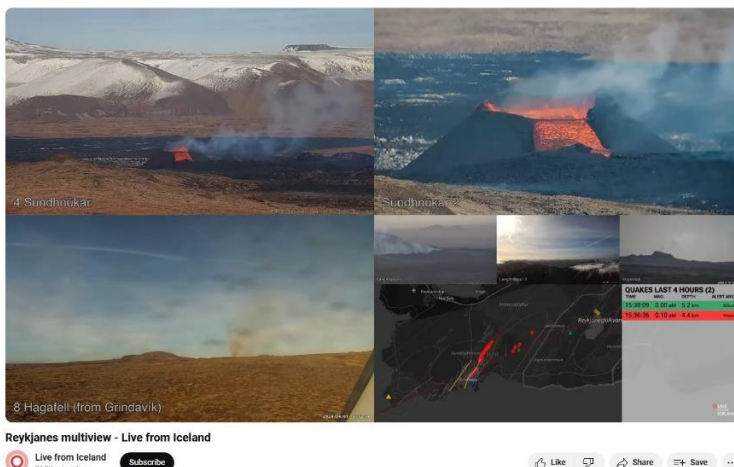
CCFMS Lapidary Kit – Table of Contents

English version – dated April 2024



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Livestream of Four Volcanoes

The Reykjanes, Iceland, live and [full colour multiview](#) began streaming on YouTube on November 8, 2023.

The site includes to interactive maps and more geological information. The graphic below is a screen capture from the live stream.

Glittering Gold and Crime



Peel Regional Police announced the arrest of two former Air Canada employees in the theft of \$22.5 million in gold and cash from Toronto Pearson International Airport April 17, 2023.

The 400 kilograms of pure gold and sums of foreign currencies were taken from the Air Canada cargo compound on the evening of April 17, 2023, using a delivery truck and an airway bill for a seafood shipment that had already been picked up.

Only a small amount of the gold has been recovered. There is evidence that it was melted down and made into

products to be sold on international markets.

Meanwhile, Brink's Canada, who was responsible for transporting the gold and currency, is suing Air Canada for negligence.

[[Read more from CBC...](#)]

On April 16, Ottawa police charged two people in regards to seven jewelry store thefts and armed robberies in the past year.

The modus operandi for these smash-and-grab crimes is two people entering a store, then bashing open display cases, then grabbing the gold and diamonds. One of these heists was a daytime robbery caught on camera at Place D'Orleans Mall on April 8.

[[Read more from CTV...](#)]

Still no word on any arrests in the Ottawa jewellery heist that happened around midnight on February 4, 2023, when thieves took \$500,000 in valuables from the Towngate Shopping Plaza.

The seemingly professional job involved blacking out mall security cameras, breaking into the store next door, and then cutting through wood, drywall, metal studs, and plumbing to access the jewellery shop. The only apparent clues: a greasy footprint left on a chair, and a chance photograph of someone who may have been casing the place.

The jewellery store never recovered.

[[Read more from CBC...](#)]

Movie Night

- [THE ASPHALT JUNGLE \(1950\)](#)
- [TO CATCH A THIEF \(1955\)](#)
- [RIFIFI \(1955\)](#)
- [THE PINK PANTHER \(1963\)](#)
- [GRAND SLAM \(1967\)](#)
- [BLACK LIZARD \(1968\)](#)
- [THE SICILIAN CLAN \(1969\)](#)
- [LE CERCLE ROUGE \(1970\)](#)
- [THE BURGLARS \(1971\)](#)
- [THIEF \(1981\)](#)
- [THE GREAT MUPPET CAPER \(1981\)](#)
- [A FISH CALLED WANDA \(1988\)](#)
- [HEIST \(2001\)](#)
- [OCEAN'S 8 \(2018\)](#)
- [THE SCORE \(2001\)](#)

“Dive in and do it!” Recycling your scraps

Silversmiths 2022-09-20

Recycling your scrap metal can be a time-consuming chore. First, you must gather enough metal to make it worth a trip to a refinery. It might be possible to ship, but delivery costs can be expensive. So, why not use those scraps to experiment with new design ideas and techniques?

Recommended: Scrap silver/gold at
Ottawa Gold in Westgate Mall
<https://ottawagold.ca/>

Little mirror and brush sets found at yard sales or second hand shops often are damaged and cannot be repaired, so they are a good source for scrap metal. Use pieces that are stamped sterling silver with a makers mark. You can also use acid testing kits to test purity. "Magic acid" only tells if it is silver, and does not indicate the quality of purity.

Make a Collage of Things



Examples of collages shown during the meeting. On the left is a pendant of fused scraps made by Joy McDonnel. On the right is a cuff bracelet made by Tanya McCormick. Below is a pendant made with granulation technique by Tanya McCormick.

Go through your scrap and find off-cuts and plates that are interesting to you. With these odd shapes as a base, you will often end up with asymmetrical designs and unique pieces.

Both Joy McDonnel and Tanya McCormick displayed pieces made of fused scraps of metal sheet and bits of wire. Tanya had another piece using granules made from melted wire off cuts.



Silver Casting is Easy & Fun

There are many instructional videos on the internet for these techniques. Melt your silver at home (safety first!). Drip it onto the bristles of an old broom, or let the drops fall into a container of water. Or, pour it into a prepared cuttlefish bone mould or a patterned depression

made in a pail of sand. Sand casting moulds are particularly easy to make: use little branches from a forest, or a patterned object from around the house, and turn the results into a pendant or brooch or whatever you like. Another idea is to make sand-casted balls and flatten them to make a funky pendant or earrings or parts to solder onto a larger piece.

Say you do not have a crucible, or an ingot mould, or a rolling mill. Then take a charcoal block and make wiry grooves in it, or roughly geometric shapes. Use a torch to melt your metal on the block and into the carvings. The only limit is how much metal you have.

Janet Borzecki declared her favourite technique for pendants is reticulation. She saves all of her sawing filings (no steel contamination) for this work. Many people use fine silver and fusion technique to add texture to pieces, but she prefers to use up what she has.

All That Glitters

British show "[All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star](#)" has the same format as "The Great British Bake Off". It had two six-episode seasons, and often shows some brilliant techniques, according to one club member. You might need to buy a subscription for a mobile app (e.g. "UK Player" or "UKTV Play") or use a VPN to watch it.

Depletion gilding is an alternative heating technique. Heat, pickle, and brass brush a sheet of metal, then flux it with scrap pieces. Heat from underneath to fuse the scraps, maybe even including bits of leftover chain. There may be pieces that do not fuse, so just brush them off; they may leave behind an indentation. Then you can put the whole piece through a rolling mill, if you want.



A simple pendant from fused sheet metal, a ring band made with reticulated scrap pieces, and a sand casted pendant made by Janet Borzecki.

Csilla Ekes is the Queen of Scrap (follow her on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/csillaekes/>). She made a toast rack from a series of apple rings made from 127 grams of scrap metal. "It's fun!"

But if you still want to sell your scrap metal, the [Kitco web site](#) is recommended for up-to-the-minute prices. The chart is updated every 15 minutes. If you have a couple of kilos, then bring it to [Umicore](#) in Markham. They can refine it for you, but there is a charge for each assay for each job (\$40-60), so do not send little lots. They take a sample, figure out how much silver is in the lot, and then quote a price.

But, it is much better to use it up.

56^{th/e}

Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale

Salon annuel des pierres, minéraux et bijoux



SEPT 21-22, 2024



Sept. 21, 10:00–18:00
Sept. 22, 10:00–17:00

**NEPEAN SPORTSPLEX
CURLING RINK
1701 WOODROFFE AVENUE
OTTAWA**

Tickets: \$8

Children aged 12 and under, free
Parking is free at the Sportsplex
Door prizes

Billets: \$8

Les enfants de 12 ans et moins, gratuit
Parking gratuit
Prix de présence



Instagram:
@olmcnews



Website:
www.olmc.ca



FaceBook:
<https://www.facebook.com/OttawaLapsmithMineralClub>



In 2022, Canada produced over 60 minerals and metals worth \$75 billion. Metals represented half of the total production, led by gold, which accounted for 18%. The minerals sector, which includes mining, primary processing, and metal product manufacturing, directly employed 420,000 individuals in 2022.

Source: [Natural Resources Canada](#)

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Show Chair
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Newsletter Editor
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Auction Team
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KW Gem & Mineral Club Show

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Admission: \$2.00, Free for kids under 12
Fun for the Whole Family!
<https://kwgmc.com/our-club-show/>

The AUD, 400 East Avenue, Kitchener
rocks, minerals, fossils, meteorites
gem dig, uncover a fossil fish
local dealers, displays, beads, jewelry

**9th Annual Norwood
Rock Swap**

May 25-26, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Free Admission
The Coliseum, Norwood
Fairgrounds
56 Alma St., Norwood

Hosted by the
[Kawartha Rock and Fossil Club](#)

Toronto Jewellery, Gem & Mineral Show

May 3-5, Civitan Arena, 1030 Don Mills Rd, North York
<https://www.facebook.com/TorontoGemShow/>

This is a commercial show featuring many gem, mineral and fossil dealers, as well as custom-designed jewellery. Local gem and mineral clubs demonstrate jewellery-making, faceting and the lapidary arts, and the CGA offers complimentary gem identification.

May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Toronto Gem Show	4 Toronto Gem Show
5 Toronto Gem Show	6	7	8	9	10	11 KW Gem & Mineral Show
12 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22			25 Norwood Rock Swap
26 Norwood Rock Swap	27	28	29	30	31	



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).

Silversmith online meeting 2/month

Mineral Interest Group online monthly meeting

OLMC online auctions

OLMC field trips

*More information can be found at <http://www.olmc.ca>
You can also go on our Facebook page: [OttawaLapsmithandMineralClub](https://www.facebook.com/OttawaLapsmithandMineralClub)*

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

Please mail your membership form and fees to:
Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
PO Box 36042 Wellington, Ottawa, ON, K1Y 4V3

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

Administration use only

Card provided: Yes No

Supervisor signed: Yes No

Date: _____