



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

In this month's Newsletter:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| President's Message | p. 1 |
| Club News: AGM | p. 2 |
| Czechia Bohemian Paradise Geopark | p. 4 |
| Moldavite | p. 5 |
| OVMC: The Grenville Province | p. 5 |
| Is gluing stones bad? | p. 6 |
| Recoating Diamond Sanding Wheels | p. 7 |
| Workshop Schedule | p. 9 |
| Membership form | p. 10 |

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President's Message

The executive has decided to buy a new cabbing machine and a new ten-inch trim saw. It has been a long time since the lapidary people bought new equipment.

The silversmithing group now has a new air filter machine to suck the fumes out of the air.

The big saws should be up and running sometime in May.

We thank Dan MacLellan for a generous donation of 4 milk crates of rock including one crate of some fine cutting material which we will have to slab up. We still need more freebie material.

Our librarian Judy Courteau has put up sign out sheets for those who wish to sign out books from our library. We also have an extensive rock library few know about.

Cabbing classes are continuing 2-3 people at a time.

Kerry Day

OLMC President

Workshop Supervisors!

It is IMPORTANT that the daily log sheet is included in the end-of-day envelope so that the treasurer can verify the account, know what the payments are for, and to give money to members who sell items. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Workshop Chair Jean-Guy Bradette

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

Notes from the Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Sunday, April 13, Seventeen people attended at the workshop, and five people attended online.

President Kerry Day opened the meeting by talking about the year-long effort to find a new workshop and get it ready for Spring. At the end of 2024, after nearly a year of searching, Treasurer Cathy Garrett chanced upon a rental on Facebook marketplace: a central location at the same price as the old Collonade location, with a five-year lease, no penalties for early exit, plus bus and train service. Bonus: the landlord is friendly and approachable. The club still has a small Dymon storage unit for the show stuff.

There are 140 members as of April 1, compared to 149 at the end of August 31. 54 people joined at the show. There is a new CCFMS insurance policy that covers members injuries. Kerry will find out if there is an age limit for eligibility.

The Executive is trying to expand the revenue streams of the club, instead of relying on the annual gem show. There is a new fee schedule for the workshop. Prices are mostly the same. Some machine usage fees are higher. The online auctions help a lot. There are several display cabinets at the workshop for club and member sales.

Upcoming regular activities include cabbing, faceting, and maybe carving. There is a sign-up sheet for courses. Repairs of the large saws have stalled, because the repairman is unavailable at the moment.

The club will rely on the new Ottawa Valley Mineral Club to plan field trips and speakers. Only OVMC club members can attend (sign-up is \$25/year).

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

Judy Courteau re-organized the library, and she is in once a month to work on it. There are good sections for mineral ID, localities, magazines, and mineral collections. The library needs new books related to silversmithing and metalwork.

Silversmiths Report: Janet Borzecki

The silversmith group is up and running. There are Sunday workshops to entice new members. Nine people showed up the last Sunday. The setup is great. Most equipment is running. There is a high-quality polisher and a new fume extractor. They have started to sell supplies, and there is a plan to expand and save people from shopping. The group needs a couple of adjustable stools or armless adjustable chairs.

There will be some basic silversmith courses. Someone from the Kingston club will teach enameling. Although the club lost Karl Schutt last year, Don Alp has arrived to teach some courses. There is a real need for these types of classes. Plus, there is some side interest in lapidary.

Workshop Report: Jean-Guy Bradette

Thank you to the people who provided a lot of help putting together the benches, machines, and other things. Thanks to Fred Brisco for help moving the lockers. Lapidary started very slow, but more people are started to get back into the habit of coming to the workshop. Colin Geitzler and Stephane Jette are giving courses. Robert Vogel opens on Tuesday 10:00-2:00. Faceting courses will start in May. There is no wire wrapping course and wire supplies yet.

Show Chair: Stephane Jette

The Show Committee needs a new Dealer Chair now to handle vendor contracts and vendor communications. The Sportsplex is already rented, and logistics planning has started. Advertising needs to start soon, and advertising generally. The committee can use all the help people can offer. (new members Susan Gauthier volunteers)

Treasurer Report: Catherine Garrett

There is \$91,000 in the bank, eight months out from the gem show. Workshop rental costs \$3,000/month. The air conditioner is a huge heat loss in winter, with a related bill, so that must be dealt with.

As a for-profit Ontario corporation, there must be a financial audit. Karen Sheridan was hired again to do this. She prepares the club's tax statements, too. Officially, the five rotating Executive Committee members each have a lot of 100 shares in the corporation. Changing to a non-profit is a huge mess, and makes less sense now since there are fewer perks.

Motion: The club can afford new equipment. Kerry recommends getting rid of the combo units, and acquiring a new ten-inch slab saw and a new six-inch diamond wheel grinding machine (from Terra Rock). Jean-Guy still has the club's old ten-inch saw in a big chassis, but there is no room for it in the new space. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rock Supplies: Darcy Paquet still has the tumblers. The club is waiting for the slab saw repair to happen, because the tumblers will go in that room. Jean-Guy will ask her to start tumbling at home for the show "Fish Pond" supplies. Also, Matthew has buckets of stone to donate.

Parking: The lot gets full sometimes, even with two rows. There is free street parking on Billings Avenue starting about 100 meters from the workshop, and also on Pleasant Park. Jean-Guy will look into better night lighting around the door.

Executive Committee Election

| Position | Nominees | Elected/Appointed |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Kerry Day | Kerry Day (acclaimed) |
| Vice-President | Matthew Poirier | Matthew Poirier (acclaimed) |
| Treasurer | Catherine Garrett | Catherine Garrett (acclaimed) |
| Secretary | Tanya Chandra, Janet Borzecki | Janet Borzecki |
| Workshop Chair | Jean-Guy Bradette, Don Alp | Jean-Guy Bradette * |
| Membership Chair | Nathalie Bourget, Catherine Garrett | Catherine Garrett ** |
| Show Chair | Stephane Jette | Stephane Jette (acclaimed) |
| Newsletter | Eric Clara | Eric Clara (acclaimed) |

* Don Alp will be the workshop chair in 2026

** Nathalie Bourget will still handle membership activities at the gem show

Czechia Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark

The [Bohemian Paradise](#) UNESCO Global Geopark about an hour drive northeast of Prague, Czech Republic. It was declared a geopark in 2015, but it has been known for centuries as a picturesque area and protected home to weird rock formations and historic stone castles.



The park holds a variety of rocks, formations, minerals, and fossils. Muscovite metagranites and metadiorities are the oldest rocks dating from the Late Precambrian. Chlorite-muscovite phyllites contain trace fossils and mineralized body parts and molds of fossils from the Late Proterozoic age. Crystalline metamorphic dolomites have been folded into these phyllites. There is a good example near the village of Bozkov in the southwest of the park. Water erosion against softer parts of the rock have created cavernous spaces with accumulated mineral deposits (speleothems).

To the east-northeast, the geopark is covered with rocks of the Krkonoše Basin -- crystalline schists from Proterozoic to early Paleozoic age; altered mica schists, phyllites, and gneiss. During the Upper Carboniferous to the Lower Triassic age, this area was under the Cretaceous Sea, leaving sediments, fine-grained claystones, and siltstones, that became slates, sandstones, and conglomerates. The slate near the town of Nová Paka, contains a quantity of petrified plant stems called Araucaria. The Lusatian fault separates the northeastern and southeastern areas of the park.



More deposits of the Cretaceous Basin are in the southwest, which holds sandstone, siltstone and conglomerate layers several hundred meters thick, and containing fossils of bivalves among others. The sandstone has since eroded into curious formations.



Just 17–4.5 million years ago, there was some intense volcanic activity, where some monogenetic volcanoes made columnar jointing, volcanic tubes, lakes and veins containing quartz, agates and jaspers. The double peak at Castle Trosky is a remnant of that time.



Photos (top to bottom): Taken from [VisitCzechia](#); View of the Central Bohemian Uplands; One of the sandstone formations in the geopark; Ruins of Trosky Castle

Speaking of Czechia: Moldavite

The geological origin and formation of Moldavite is related to a meteorite impact about 15 million years ago, forming the Ries impact structure in southern Germany. The material solidified into glassy tektites shaped like teardrops, discs, or amorphous pieces, with characteristic grooves, wrinkles, and pitting. Erosion and weathering scattered Moldavite fragments across southern Germany and Czech Republic.

Moldavite is mostly silicon dioxide (SiO₂), with traces of aluminum and iron, magnesium, and a small amount of potassium. The colour from the iron can range from pale green to vibrant forest green. It can be transparent or translucent. It may have inclusions. Like glass, it has a hardness of 5.5 on the Mohs scale, but it has a slightly lower refractive index and slightly lower specific gravity.

Moldavite is renowned for its intense electromagnetic field. Consequently, the material has become associated with spiritualism, resulting in high demand and an incentive to create imitations.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moldavite>



Photo of moldavite by Onohej zlatove, Moldavite Association team 2017 www.starstones.com, www.moldavitassociation.com

Ottawa Valley Mineral Club: The Grenville Province

May 8 at 6:00 pm (5:30 for Mineral ID) at the Canadian Museum of Nature

Join the club at: <https://www.ovmineralclub.ca/>

Speaker Michael Bainbridge, Assistant Curator of Mineralogy, Canadian Museum of Nature, will discuss the Grenville geological province.

The complex metamorphic rocks of the Grenville geological province host many of the famous mineral localities of SE Ontario and western Quebec, including the Otter Lake apatite mine, the Miller property titanite-apatite, the numerous occurrences at Bancroft and Madoc, and hundreds more. We are planning a brief review of the geology of the Grenville followed by hands-on demonstrations of the sometimes confusing rocks and minerals found in this terrane. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to improve our skill in identifying and understanding Grenville rocks and minerals.

The popular **Rock Doctor** feature returns! From 5:30 until the lecture begins at 6:00 pm, club members are invited to bring in a reasonable number of samples or specimens to be identified by the expert mineralogists in the club.

There is a new **Kids' Corner** feature before the meeting, as well. A table will be set aside for children to learn the basics of mineral identification and other related activities.

Is glueing stones...



Silversmiths Meeting 2023-03-08, where the group discuss their opinions and experiences using glue

Angele Aubin: I've only done it a few times where I've put a little bit of glue inside the bezel. For the added security? Otherwise, I don't like glue at all. It's taking a short cut, and there is part of me that is paranoid about over time the glue drying out or something happening and it'll give. It probably wouldn't, but, in my mind, that's what I think might happen.

Joy McDonell: I don't really like it, but I can't say I have never done it and will never do it again. I tend to do it if my bezel ends up being a little bit loose, and I think it's going to maybe move around or rattle in there, I'll give it a little help with a bit of glue. It depends. In 99.9 percent of the cases, there's not going to be a reason to glue that stone. Unless you're going to enlarge a ring or something like that. If it's a bracelet or a pendant, it's not going to happen really. It's not usually gold that most of us are working with, it's silver. If something happens or people lose the stone, it's not a big loss.

The other time I use it is... working with really tiny bezel set stones. I have those little bezel cups 3 mm. When I use one of those and I have the exact stone that fits in, when you're going to set that, it is very tiny, the bezel cup is very thin, you don't want to start manipulating and pushing that bezel too hard against the stone because it looks bad and uneven. To help it along and not have to push it too much, I'll usually use a dot of glue on those tiny stones.

Vicki Jasperse: Sometimes you may buy a stone that says its calibrated as a 3, 4, 5, 6 mm. Sometimes it just doesn't fit snugly inside the bezel cup.

Tanya McCormick: I use glue in some of my designs because I do a lot of bezels that don't entirely cover the surface of the stone, like floating bezels. I do a lot where it's just a half a bezel, so just the sides of the stone are being caressed. It still holds and I'm pushing it in on the stone, but just for added security I use a jeweller's epoxy.

I've taken apart some pieces that I've epoxied because I put too much epoxy and it went over the silver or it went on top of the stone, and I would just take apart the entire setting and just melt it down, take my pliers and just pry it off and it would not damage the stone. The glue would stay on the stone so it was garbage which kind of sucks. That was in my early days of epoxy, but now I just use a little dab here and there, and painter's tape on the silver to protect it, just in case.

Janet Borzecki: The only thing I glue is pearls.

Csilla Ekes: How do you take it apart when you have to take it apart? That's where the frustration comes in. I have done it, like everybody did it. You have to size it in when you

Glue is used quite a bit in lapidary: when making a doublet or triplet, for inlay, intarsia, making stone boxes or pictures, some stone repairs. A little glue can create a good flat bearing to hold an opal in place, for example.



have to repair something, then how do you take it apart, how do you take it off your glue? (soaking in de-natured alcohol, may work, and it might hurt certain stones)

You have to be able to open up your bezel. In terms of sizing, you never know if your favourite customer is going to bring it back in five or ten years or fifteen years from now. You have to be able to take out the stone. When you have glue underneath you don't know when the stone is going to fall out. It's such a weird feeling. There are certain stones like amber that is always glued in because it's so soft. It's never set in a bezel. There's absolutely no way to dig out the amber without breaking the stone. That is so frustrating.

Normally what you would do with the epoxy, you would heat it up with your torch. You heat it up just enough so your stone doesn't get hurt, but the epoxy softens up. So, you destroy the bond in the epoxy and then you can take it apart. It's smelly, so you have to be careful not to inhale it. That's how you take off a pearl from a ring. But if it's amber, there's no softening the glue because it's softening the stone as well.

Recoating Diamond Sanding Wheels

From an article by Neal Immega of the [Houston Gem and Mineral Society](#)

The HGMS web site has years of back issues of their gazette with articles of workshop advice and other activities. This procedure will coat one 8-inch diameter 2-inch wide wheel.

1. Clean the wheel with acetone (note precautions on the can) to provide active sites for the epoxy to bond to. Start the recoat within five minutes of cleaning.
2. Make the diamond paste by mixing the following in a little pot:
 - 10 grams of epoxy. The choice of epoxy used should take 30 minutes or more to set. An industrial epoxy product like "Loctite 9430" is recommended. You are trying for an ideal mix
 - Some drops of candle colouring agent or other dye that is not too oily. Oil will interfere with the bond. The colour will help you track your progress.
 - 15 carats of diamond
 - Add fumed silica (silicosis hazard) to the mix to make it as thick, with the consistency of peanut butter. This will prevent the epoxy from dripping off the wheel
3. Smear the mixture on the outside of the wheel. Dab it on around the wheel and then smear it smooth with a plastic putty knife. A thin layer is recommended to avoid creating uneven surfaces and to keep the wheel round.
4. Re-apply the paste in successive coats. Waiting an hour between coats to allow the epoxy to fully set will allow the fresh layer to stick well to the previous layer.

Some Handy Tips

It is very convenient to do the recoat process while the wheels are still mounted on the machine.

If the wheel is not already well-worn, try wearing it down with a grinding stone.

Do not try to mix up more than two wheels worth of epoxy, so that it does not set before you apply it

From the Library:

The world of fluorescence is a world of beautiful color. In the darkness all the ordinary colors of our daylight world disappear. Only the intensely glowing hues of fluorescent substances touched by the ultraviolet beam shine out with striking clarity. It is this selective ability to awaken new radiance in certain materials that makes the ultraviolet lamp so useful to the mineral hunter.

Sterling Gleason
Ultraviolet Guide to Minerals

Gem & Mineral Show

The Haileybury School of Mines, Northern College
Gangue-sters Rock & Mineral Club will be hosting their 39th annual
Gem & Mineral Show

Saturday May 3, 2025

The show will be held in the Gymnasium at Northern College
640 Latchford St, Haileybury
From: 10 AM until 4 PM



- Gems and Minerals
- Jewellery
- Kid's Mine & Colouring Table
- Silent Auctions
- Fossils
- Door Prizes
- Free coffee and snacks

Admission: \$ 3.00 at the door (Children under 12 are free)

The Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club's 10th Annual

Norwood Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25, 2025
10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day

In the Coliseum, Norwood Fairgrounds, 56 Alma Street,
Norwood, Ontario. 40 plus vendors and collectors from
Ontario and Quebec.

*On-site camping available.
Everyone is welcome. Admission is free.*

For table reservations and on-site
camping reservations contact

Mark Stanley:

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Follow us on Facebook:
Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club - KRFC

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CCFMS Beamsville Quarry Trip May 10, 2025

The quarry contains minerals and some Silurian fossils. Walker Club member Don Lapham will lead on this field trip. All CCFMS club members are welcome as there is no limit on this site.

Critical info and directions on the CCFMS site ([link](#)). No one under 16 years old or without appropriate PPE will be allowed in. Meet inside the gate at 5362 Yonge St., Beamsville, at 8:30 am. Send questions to Don Lapham at xtaldon@gmail.com or 716-438-3794.

**Kitchener–Waterloo
Gem & Mineral Show**
Saturday, May 10, 10am–4pm

Kitchener Memorial Auditorium,
400 East Ave., Kitchener, ON.
Adults \$2.00; Children enter free
For info call 519-571-1418
[Facebook page](#)

**Kingston Lapidary & Mineral
Club Spring Metal Rocks**
Thursday May 1 to Sunday May 4

Third Floor, Malting Tower
Tett Centre, 370 King St. West,
Kingston, ON.
Free admission!
More info on [Facebook](#)

| Workshop Schedule | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|----------------------------------|----------|--------|--|
| May 2025 | | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Lapidary 10:00-4pm EC, JM |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Lapidary (RV) 10am-2pm Library 2-6:30 Silversmiths DA 6:30-9pm | 7 Lapidary (JGB) 5:00-9pm | 8 | 9 | 10 Lapidary 10:00-4pm CG, KD |
| 11 Silversmiths 12:30-3pm JB | 12 | 13 Lapidary (RV) 10am-2pm Silversmiths JB 6:30-9pm | 14 Lapidary (JGB) 5:00-9pm | 15 | 16 | 17 Lapidary 10:00-4pm RB, KD |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Lapidary (RV) 10am-2pm Silversmiths KF 6:30-9pm | 21 Lapidary (CG) 5:00-9pm | 22 | 23 | 24 Lapidary 10:00-4pm JGB, NB |
| 25 Silversmiths 12:30-3pm DA | 26 | 27 Lapidary (RV) 10am-2pm Silversmiths JB 6:30-9pm | 28 Lapidary (JGB) 5:00-9pm | 29 | 30 | 31 Lapidary 10:00-4pm DA, 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 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: _____