



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

Over the last six weeks the OLMC has received three donations of silversmithing and lapidary related machinery, books and supplies. A big donation came in from the estate of an old club member Liette Gauthier. Liette had her basement converted into a lapidary/silversmithing workshop. Her niece was given the responsibility of emptying and selling her house. The niece gave the club everything except a small supply of Silver which we bought at a discounted price. Our silversmithing section is now well endowed with tools, supplies and metals of various kinds. The club workshop doesn't have room for all of the donated machinery, so we are currently auctioning off most of it.

The club welcomes mineral collector Michel Mirota as our new VP and Silversmithing expert Don Alp as our new workshop chairman. A big thankyou goes out to our retired workshop chairman Jean-Guy Bradette who built our Brookfield, Colonnade and Billings workshops. Another "thank you" goes out to our retired VP Matthew Poirier who introduced the club to online auctions back in 2021. Club finances were looking pretty bleak during the pandemic.

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

Results of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the workshop on Sunday, April 12. There is a recording of the Zoom broadcast which can be viewed at [this URL](#) (passcode: 8 . 2NWC#S). Fifteen people attended in person, and six people attended on-line.

Kerry sent out several requests for nominees, but Michel Mirota for vice-president and Don Alp for Workshop Chair were the only nominees. By unanimous decision, the Executive Positions are:

- President: Kerry Day
- Secretary: Janet Borzecki
- Vice-President: Michel Mirota
- Workshop Chair: Don Alp
- Treasurer: Catherine Garrett

For the Chair positions, Judy Courteau has volunteered to be Membership Chair, Stéphane Jetté is Show Chair, and Eric Clara is Newsletter Chair.

Jean-Guy Bradette, the former Workshop Chair, received praise for helping the club for about ten years, including getting the workshop ready each of the three times it was re-located (Colonnade, Brookfield, and Billings).

Stéphane reported on the gem show activities so far. Allison Jonassen has offered to help publicize the show (publicity@olmc.ca). Suggestions are very welcome. Many volunteers are needed to help at the show, too. All donations of stone for tumbling are also appreciated. We are currently training volunteers to take on the role of Dealer Chair. Our current Dealer Chair has kindly agreed to remain in the position for the coming year to ensure continuity while other volunteers acquire the relevant skills for the Chair position.

There are around 165 active club members. The club has \$99,000 in the bank, with average expenses of \$36,000 per year. A number of large expenses for 2026 have already been paid.

Kerry clarified shop fees and the terms to use in the log book. There have been no problems with the workshop other than a roof leak that was fixed. The 18-inch oil saw is still down. The furniture must be re-organized to make space.

The club received a huge donation including silversmith machines, silversmith supplies, metal, slabs (African), and valuable stones (chrysoprase, opals). Don summarized what was received. Some of the supplies will be sold to club members. There will be an auction soon for the machinery and books. Don also spoke of the good attendance at faceting group, and there are six faceting machines. There have been requests for a carving group and a wire-wrapping/beading group.

The OLMC is not planning any field trips, but the Ottawa Valley Mineral Club is planning many trips. People are encouraged to [join the OVMC](#) for \$25/\$40 (single/family) to take part in these trips.

Everyone is encouraged to contribute articles to the newsletter. The web site is being re-designed – it still needs tweaks to look good on mobile phones.

Joy McDonell led a round of applause for Don for his work to create new silversmith workstations.

The meeting adjourned after almost 50 minutes.

Generous Donation

Last month, Phanlert Panaram donated some tools to the silversmiths. He donated a few more this month. Thank you, Phanlert!



Field Trips hosted by the OVMC

A reminder that the Ottawa Valley Mineral Club already has several mineral collecting trips planned. On May 9, they will head to Quadeville, and on May 30, they will travel to Yates Mine. Get more information about these trips at [their website](#). While you're there, join the club for just \$25/year and get e-mails and invites to monthly meetings.



Going Once! The club had a very successful Spring auction which took in \$3,923 for the club and the contributors. There were 157 lots, and only 26 items remained unsold. But there's more!

Over the last six weeks the OLMC has received three donations of silversmithing and lapidary related machinery, books and supplies. Some has been set aside for use in the workshop. Everything else must go.

SPECIAL AUCTION

Saturday April 25 at 6 PM, to Saturday, May 02 at 6 PM

<https://www.32auctions.com/olmc2026machineauction>

This auction is open to all! All machines work but many need to be rewired, grounded and switched (the former owner was living dangerously!). The motors are disconnected for ease of transport. Colin Geitzler has volunteered to help people rewire equipment, if needed.


This auction is pickup only either at 136F Billings or 101 Promenade. Terms are cash and Interac E transfer payable to treasurer@olmc.ca.

The Atelier Experience- Stones to Setting

May 2, 2026, 11am-4pm, at [Rainbow Minerals](#)
2253 Unit A Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa, ON

[La Boîte Secrete](#) and [Tanya McCormick Jewelry](#) are coming together to bring you an experience **never seen before**. Browse a stunning collection of freestyle, hand-polished cabochons by our club's own Jean-Guy Bradette.

Then step into a personalized design session with Tanya McCormick, where you will get a behind-the-scenes look at how designers translate concepts and sketches into tangible pieces. If you would like to bring your vision to life there will be options available to take a class or have your piece commissioned.

Choose your stone 

Collaborate on your design

 See the design process come to life

This is not mere "shopping" — it is *an interactive creative experience* where you become part of the design journey that is completely your own.

The Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club's 12th Annual

Norwood Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, 2026
10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day

In the Coliseum, Norwood Fairgrounds, 56 Alma Street,
Norwood, Ontario. 50 plus vendors and collectors from
Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Everyone is welcome. Admission is free.

*For table reservations and on-site
camping reservations contact*

Mark Stanley:

✉ fulgurite@bellnet.ca

☎ 705 749 8610

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



THE KWGMC PRESENTS OUR 48th ANNUAL
GEM & MINERAL SHOW

- ROCKS | MINERALS | FOSSILS | METEORITES •
- GEMSTONES | JEWELRY | BEADS •
- FLUORESCENT SPECIMENS •
- ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN •
- LOCAL VENDORS •

SATURDAY, MAY 9. 10AM-4PM
 THE KITCHENER MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
 400 EAST AVE, KITCHENER N2H 0B8

\$2 ADMISSION
 FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

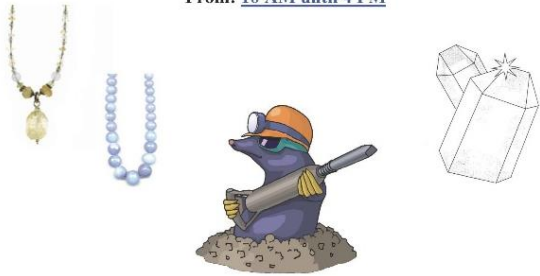
 **KWGMC.COM**
 (519) 571-1418

Gem & Mineral Show

The Haileybury School of Mines, Northern College
 Gangue-sters Rock & Mineral Club will be hosting their 40th annual
 Gem & Mineral Show

Saturday May 2, 2026

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 12 or under are free)

3.9 quake hit Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec

On April 14, a magnitude 3.9 earthquake hit with an epicentre northeast of Shawville, Quebec. For about 20 seconds, tremors strong enough to cause vibrations in buildings were felt all over the region. There were also some reports from Toronto, North Bay, and Montreal. No damage was reported.

Prehistoric bones found under Medieval castle

Researchers found early humans and animal bones in Wogan Cavern, located under the 11th century [Pembroke Castle](#) in Wales. The finds are considered "extremely rare", including the remains of a hippopotamus from 120,000 years ago. They found bones of early Homo sapiens and perhaps Neanderthals.

This April, the University of Aberdeen announced that now it will expand the dig to a five-year exploration of the whole site.

Wogan Cavern, which may have been used as a fortified boathouse, is accessed from the castle via a 13th century spiral staircase. It is 23 meters long, and up to 10 meters high. It was thought that to have been emptied out during the Victorian period, and that there was little of archeological interest. Now the cave is quickly becoming one of the most important prehistoric archives in Britain.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8ejjw7377jo>



Courses for New Members

Introduction to Basic Cabbing

The goal of the course is to ensure that the members have the required basic knowledge to use the workshop equipment safely, within the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club’s guidelines and regulations.

This is a mandatory course for making cabochons (cabs) offered to club members, as well as the general public, who wish to use the workshop and lack knowledge or experience in lapidary. This course is conducted and offered as long as there is a sufficient number of participants, and that a workshop supervisor is available. If you already have experience in lapidary or have taken relevant courses elsewhere, and wish to use the workshop, then please contact one of our workshop supervisors in person during workshop operating hours, or e-mail workshop@olmc.ca or showchair@olmc.ca. Supervisors will always be present during normal workshop operating hours.

By the end of the course, each participant will complete at least one cabochon and is expected to have the basic understanding and knowledge to use the workshop. Supervisors will always be present during normal workshop operating hours.

The Club and the Workshop

About the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

Sign in procedures

Other elements of the “Sign-in Sheet”

Library / Resources

Workshop Schedule

Basic Mineralogy and Safety

MOHS Hardness

Grit and Grinding Wheels

Toxicity of stones

Workshop Security

Introduction to the Equipment

Basic Lapidary Techniques

Selecting rough / cabbing material

Marking the stone

Sawing and trimming

Forming

Applying dop wax

Grinding

Polishing

Dop stick and wax removal

Flat lapping and polishing the back of your cabochon

This course is usually held on Sundays, 10am – 4pm. There is no fixed date as the course operates on demand basis. No more than three participants for each course; we usually aim to get an optimal class size of two participants. The course takes place at the workshop.

Participants are welcome to bring their own materials (rocks) to work with. If these are not suitable for this beginner course (stones that are too expensive, i.e., high market value, too hard, too soft, in bad shape, toxic, or materials that are not for lapidary), we may ask you to purchase a small and inexpensive sample from the club; the price range would be about \$1 to \$5.

Members: \$65.00 (\$60.00 course fee, plus \$5.00 workshop fee)

Non-members: \$85.00/\$95.00 (\$60.00 course fee + single/family club membership)

Basic Cabbing Course continued...

Dress code:

Participants will come in contact with a lot of water / moisture / mist, polishing compounds, sanding and grinding materials. Comfortable clothing, short sleeves shirt, with nothing dangling is highly recommended.

Shoes should be comfortable, non-slip, and offer protection in case of any tool or rock dropping on the toes. Note that long nails may impede some of your work and can also be damaged.

Protective gear:

Full-length aprons, eye protection gears and dust masks are provided at the workshop. Participants are welcome to bring their own protective gear if they prefer.



It's banded! It glitters! It's Gneiss!

Gneiss (pronounced "nace") is a common metamorphic rock formed when either igneous or sedimentary stones are subjected to high-temperature over 300 °C and high-pressure from 2 to 15 kbar. This stone is recognized by visible coarse grains of alternating darker and lighter colored bands (gneissic banding), but the cleavage does not happen along these bands.

Gneisses made from metamorphosed igneous rocks (orthogneiss) are called granite gneisses, diorite gneisses, etc., and they may be named after a characteristic component like "garnet gneiss", "biotite gneiss", etc. Paragneiss is made from a sedimentary rock.

The lighter-coloured bands contain relatively more felsic minerals (mostly feldspar or quartz, plus lighter elements, such as aluminium, sodium, and potassium). The darker bands have relatively more mafic minerals (magnesium and iron).



Banded gneiss; Photo from Wikipedia, no known author, [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)



One of the most ancient intact crustal fragments on Earth that metamorphosed 3.58 to 4.031 billion years ago is the Acasta Gneiss on an island about 300 kilometers north of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (maybe 100 km north of Wekweëti). It is composed of felsic to ultramafic Archean basement rocks. Mostly hidden under a thin cover of Quaternary glacial sediments.

Dark diabase dike and light migmatitic paragneiss in the Koster Islands, Sweden; Photo by Thomas Eliasson of Geological Survey of Sweden SGU - Flickr: Ytre Ursholmen Kontakt Kosterdiabas i Nebulitisk-migmatitisk sedimentgnejs, [CC BY 2.0](#)

From the Library

Rings most often are designed to be displayed on the hand and engage the finger. The hand is a dynamic extremity that is seldom static. Along with the mouth and eyes, the hand is an articulate body part that can be said to actually "talk".

Marthe Le Van
1000 Rings

OLMC Web Site Re-Designed

The [club web site](#) re-design was announced at the Annual General Meeting on April 12. Since then, the site administrator has modified the text and graphics so that it looks almost the same on mobile device screens as it does on desktop PC monitors.

The old site, which had been active since 2014, has been backed up in a couple of places in case it is ever needed again.

Visit the Museum of Nature

Earth Gallery: Featuring more than a thousand colourful minerals and rocks from the museum's world-class collection, this exhibition offers a tonne of eye candy!

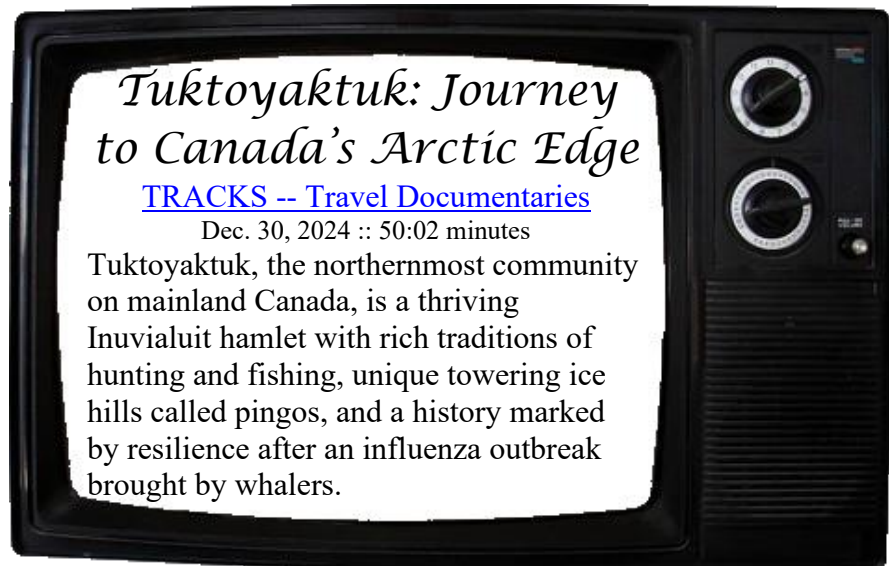
Fossil Gallery: Journey back in time to explore the dramatic events that led to the extinction of dinosaurs and the rise of mammals.

Museum Hours: 9:30 am – 4 pm every day except Tuesday (closed) and Thursday 9:30 - 8:00 pm

Tickets: <https://nature.ca/en/visit-us/plan-your-visit/admission-fees/>

Silversmith Design Tips

Use a dremel tool with a diamond ball bit to scratch through a silver-plated brass surface to mimic the chaotic lines of [kintsugi](#), and then oxidize the piece.



Contact:

President
Kerry Day
pres@olmc.ca

Vice-President
Michel Mirota
vicepres@olmc.ca

Secretary
Janet Borzecki
sec@olmc.ca

Treasurer
Catherine Garrett
treasurer@olmc.ca

Workshop Chair
Donovan Alp
workshop@olmc.ca

Membership Chair
Judy Courteau
memberchair@olmc.ca



Show Chair
Stéphane Jetté
showchair@olmc.ca

Newsletter Editor
Eric Clara
news@olmc.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 57012, Ottawa
RPO Gladstone,
Ottawa, ON, K1R 1A1
Phone: 613-850-5486



Please mention and advertise our Gem Show to everyone you know. We have cards to distribute at the workshop! And the show committee would love to hear your advertising ideas. E-mail to publicity@olmc.ca. Thanks! 😊

Workshop Schedule						
May 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (EC, JM)
3	4	5 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (JB)	6 Lapidary 5-9 pm (JGB)	7 Faceting 6pm-9pm (DA)	8	9 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (CG, KD)
10 	11	12 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (DA)	13 Lapidary 5-9 pm (JGB)	14 Faceting 6pm-9pm (DA)	15	16 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (JC, JM)
17	18 	19 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (JB)	20 Lapidary 5-9 pm (DP)	21 Faceting 6pm-9pm (DA)	22	23 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (EC, NB)
24/31	25	26 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (DA)	27 Lapidary 5-9 pm (CG)	28 Faceting 6pm-9pm (JL)	29	30 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (DF, SJ)



OTTAWA LAPSMITH AND MINERAL CLUB

www.olmc.ca

Membership Application

Membership Type:

- New Membership
- Membership Renewal

Number of Members:

- Individual **\$20**
- Family (2+ persons in the same residence) **\$30**

Benefits:

- Use of supervised workshop
- Monthly newsletter
- OLMC online auctions
- Access to free and paid courses
- Newsletter advertising: \$25/yr for members, \$55/yr for businesses (*ten quarter-page ads across ten issues*)
- Participate in *Club Creations* tables at annual gem show
- Membership in *Central Canadian Federation of Mineral Societies (CCFMS)*
- Opportunity to get involved in club leadership
- Access to club library

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email for newsletter: _____

Do you require a receipt? Yes

Three ways to join the OLMC:

- **In-person** at our annual gem show or at the workshop (**cash or e-transfer**)
- **Email** your form to treasurer@olmc.ca (**e-transfer** to same email)
- **By mail** with **cash or cheque** to Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 57012 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: _____