



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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President's Message

Our gem show attendance this year was down from previous years, but thanks to lower costs and increased revenue from other sources we made just as much profit this year as last year. We will need it because according to our lease our rent jumps from \$2429 to \$2490 on December 1 (utilities not included). Once we add utilities, we are paying ~\$36,000/year for our little workshop. No, renting in Ottawa is not cheap!

We are having a lot of trouble attracting users to the workshop. Other than supervisors and long-time members few show up. Jean-Guy will maintain Wednesday evenings until the end of November.

Faceting night is very popular. If we can get more faceting supervisors, then we can make it available for a second night/week.

After a seven-year absence, I have returned to Facebook. When I come across lapidary or silversmithing machines and/or supplies for sale I post them. If you don't wish to be bothered by "OLMC news" just send me an e-mail requesting that your address be removed from my e-mail blast list.

The club has all but given up on trying to buy a new 8-inch cabbng machine. If we find a good used one, then we will snap it up.

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

Workshop News

The 24-inch slab saw has been operational since early October. Fees for saw cuts are posted at the front desk.

Faceting night had an overflow crowd. More faceting night supervisors are needed to share the load. Please contact Workshop Chair Jean-Guy Bradette if you are available to supervise. New polishing laps will be purchased, too.

Christmas Party

The Christmas party will be December 13, 4:00 – 9:00 pm, at 380 Springfield Road in the Rockcliffe area. It is potluck, so bring your favourite food to share.

Looking for Machines?

Try Facebook Marketplace! Here are some items that were for sale in October, and may be available still.

[Ottawa](#): Kiln for metal clay

[Ottawa](#): Shaft Grinder 780W Rotary Tool

[Chelsea](#): Durston Agile C130 Combo Rolling Mill

[Renfrew](#): Foredom SR plus extras

[Toronto](#): Gem Faceting Machine Jewelry Polisher

[Laval](#): Gem Master II Faceting Machine

[Brossard](#): 3KG Gold Melting Furnace 1400W

[Ste-Martine](#): Jewellery Kit



November On-Line Auction

Our November online auction will run the last two weeks of the month – November 16-30. The last day for club members to provide lots for bid or “buy it now” is November 1. Members may contribute up to 10 items (5 auction lots and 5 “buy it now” sale lots). Lots can be anything related to rocks or jewellery. Members get 80% of the sale price. Items must be submitted to Kerry Day at the workshop or at his home.

For each item to be posted on the auction web site, please provide information and photos of each lot. One form per item. Information forms are available at the workshop. Please fill out the forms for each item, and either e-mail a scanned copy to pres@olmc.ca with photographs, or drop off the completed form and items either at the workshop or at 101 Promenade Avenue, Nepean. One form per item please.

- [Guidelines for Online Auction Submissions](#)
- [Auction Member Consignment Form](#) (MS Word)
- [Auction Member Consignment Form](#) (MS Word print out only)
- [Account Setup Guide for 32Auctions](#)

Member Chair Nathalie Bourget Steps Down

Nathalie Bourget has stepped down from the Member Chair position for personal reasons. She had been doing this work with gusto since 2010. The role involves maintaining the membership list, distributing membership cards, and related membership activities. If any club member is available to support the club and take on these tasks, please contact Club President Kerry Day at pres@olmc.ca. Treasurer Catherine Garrett will take over those responsibilities until a successor can be found. The Executive appoints all chair positions after the Annual General Meeting in the Spring.

Merriment at Volunteer Appreciation Night

OLMC Show Chair Stéphane Jetté hosted a Gem Show Volunteer Appreciation Night at the 3 Brewers restaurant on Sparks Street on October 22. This night was a chance for the show committee to say “thank you” as well as a time to gather feedback about the show.



Left to right:

*Volunteer Hotaru Z
(usher/door stop)*

*Member chair Nathalie
Bourget*

Treasurer Cathy Garrett

*Volunteer Erin Batty
(general help)*

Show Chair Stéphane Jetté

Volunteer Melanie Lukach

*Workshop chair Jean-Guy
Bradette*

What people say...

Hotaru Z: It was quite enjoyable.

Nathalie Bourget: I think we should have more related meetings with people to have them feeling that they are part of the club. For me, I have steady people who are always coming to work at my booth, so it's nice for me.

Erin Batty: I think it was great as a new member to meet other members of the club and get to know some people, to get a sense of what is involved in the club, and learn the process. It was an interesting learning experience for me.

Stéphane Jetté: We can always do better. I think we did well enough. I would invite everybody to join us. We just need more people.



Smith Falls Jewellery Business for Sale

The owner of Ascend Jewelry is liquidating the business. She hopes to find someone who will either buy all of the business assets or just pieces. There are gently used tumblers, polishers, beehive, tools (lots of tools), stones (cabs), beading supplies, some faceted stones, settings, workbench, compounds, and more. There is also a cache between 1600-2000 grams of metals, mostly 93.5 silver. And, there is a Shopify website: <https://ascendjewelry.ca/>. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Veronica by e-mail or by phone: ascendjewelry11@gmail.com , 613-807-8446.



Make me an offer!

Our Treasurer Catherine Garrett has been selling off the remainder of her lapidary workshop. The last thing left is a Brand New Peptools Full Size Dust Collector Cabinet (NO MOTOR) for \$400. Interested? Contact her at cath.garrett77@gmail.com



Sunday Silversmithing classes

Don Alp will teach three basic silversmithing classes in November. The cost for club members is \$70 per person, not including the cost of a material kit and the \$5 workshop fee. Sign up by contacting Don at donovanalp@gmail.com

Nov. 2, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: basic ring
Nov. 16, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: bezel setting
Nov. 30, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: spinner ring

The Original London Gem & Mineral Show

Friday, Nov. 21: 12:00 – 8:00 pm
Saturday, Nov. 22: 10:00 – 6:00 pm
Sunday, Nov. 23: 10:00 – 5:00 pm

Centennial Hall
550 Wellington Street London, ON

<https://www.facebook.com/LondonGemShow>



News from the World

Stolen 3,000-year-old bracelet was melted down for scrap

Thieves melted down a 3,000-year-old gold bracelet belonging to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. In September, a restoration specialist took the bracelet from a safe at the museum, then contacted a silver jeweller that she knew. That jeweller then sold the bracelet to a gold jeweller for \$3,735, who then sold it for \$4,025 to a gold foundry worker, who then had melted it down with other jewellery. All four individuals confessed to their crimes after being arrested, and the money was seized. ([link](#))

Louvre jewellery caper

The Louvre Museum in Paris was closed after a theft of France's crown jewels. Four suspects (two apprehended since then) struck just after the museum opened in the morning, using power tools and a mechanical lift to break in via a balcony near the River Seine, before escaping on two scooters. The stolen items, all from the 19th century, were a tiara and brooch belonging to Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III, an emerald necklace and a pair of emerald earrings from Empress Marie Louise, a tiara, necklace and single earring from the sapphire set that belonged to Queen Marie-Amelie and Queen Hortense, and a brooch known as the "reliquary brooch". Empress Eugénie's crown was found damaged on the escape route. These pieces are adorned with thousands of diamonds and other gemstones. ([link](#))

Need to move your precious cargo fast? Get the [Bocker Agilo!](#)

Scientific Proof of North Sea Asteroid Impact

Scientists now have proof that the Silverpit Crater at the bottom of the North Sea was caused by a 160m wide asteroid more than 43 million years ago. When the crater was discovered in 2002, some geologists postulated that it was caused by the movement of salt rock or the collapse of the seabed due to volcanic activity. The discovery of recovered rare "shocked" quartz samples and new seismic data were key to the conclusion. ([link](#))



Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club presents...

OLMC On-Line Auction November 16-30

<https://32auctions.com/olmcnov2025>

Featuring:

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

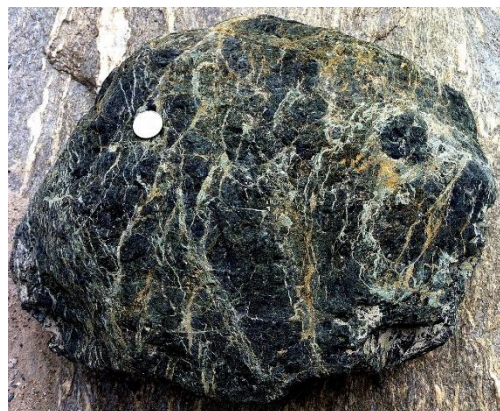
Local pick-up is free, \$20 delivery charge for shipping
Details will be posted on the club website <https://olmc.ca>

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



Serpentinite

These rocks, which were first described in detail by Cairnes (1929), are best developed in the Coquihalla serpentinite belt south of Spider Peak and are particularly well exposed in the area between the Carlin mine and Serpentine Lake. Fresh rocks vary from light green to black in colour, but weathered surfaces are light grey, yellow or brown. Texturally they vary from massive to intensely schistose and sheared. Some outcrops comprise a densely packed mass of shear polyhedrons (Chidester et al., 1951) comprising irregular, spheroidal, pillow-like masses up to 2 meters in diameter, that are separated from one another by thin layers of intensely sheared serpentinite. The shear polyhedrons have highly polished surfaces that locally show irregular slickensiding.



Serpentinite from the Maurienne valley, Savoie, French Alps; By Gabriel HM, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

Most serpentinites in the Coquihalla belt are massive, but locally they contain either wholly altered phenocrystic pseudomorphs after olivine and pyroxen, or are speckled with light-coloured carbonate clots up to 4 millimetres in diameter; textures suggest that most of these rocks were derived from ultramafic cumulates. Thin, irregular veinlets of chrysotile and talc cut some outcrops, particularly toward the sheared eastern and western margins of the belt.

In thin section the serpentinite is seen to consist largely of lamellar antigorite, bastite and massive lizardite with only trace amounts of chrysotile. Antigorite generally comprises between 50 and 95 per cent of the rock, forming pseudomorphs after olivine up to 3 millimetres in length. Many of the pseudomorphs are rimmed with fine trails of magnetite and chromite which produce a reticulate network outlining the original olivine crystals. Some sections contain rounded clots of dark brown, pleochroic carbonate which overgrow the antigorite crystal boundaries. Many bastite pseudomorphs after enstatite contain abundant elongate clusters of opaque minerals arranged parallel to the original pyroxene cleavages. Other trace or accessory minerals include tremolite-actinolite, hornblende, epidote, chlorite, hematite and some skeletal ilmenite. Traces of relict enstatite are seen occasionally, but unaltered olivine remnants are extremely rare.



By James St. John - Chromitic serpentinite (Kraubath Complex; Sommergraben, Murz River Valley area, Styria Province, Austria), [CC BY 2.0](#)

In the Carolin mine-Coquihalla River area the serpentinites are locally cut by very pale green to yellow-coloured, strongly altered dykes up to 2 metres wide; these massive and fine-grained dykes are commonly deformed and broken up into pods within the serpentinite. In thin section, remnant ophitic textures are visible, but the original feldspar laths are completely replaced by fine-grained carbonate and minor sericite, and the mafic minerals are altered to carbonate, chlorite, epidote, clinozoisite and minor opaque minerals. It is not known whether these rare, pale dykes within the serpentinite are related to the gabbroic rocks (Unit Ug) found elsewhere in the Coquihalla serpentinite belt.

Jewellery of the Minoan Culture (5000-1100 BC)

presented by Janet Borzecki to the Silversmiths 2023-06-06. Photos by Janet Borzecki.

The Minoans were a Bronze Age civilization located primarily on the island of Crete, but also a part of the Greek Peninsula. It is not certain why they suddenly disappeared at 1100 BC. It may have been a massive volcanic eruption that happened around that time which is known to have thrown a lot of ash and pumice into the air, caused some Mediterranean islands to disappear, and pushed some new ones out of the water, and created a tsunami. Yet, no human bones have been found in Minoan ruins. Another theory is that the more militaristic Mycenaean civilization from the north conquered the Minoans.



Minoan gold jewellery in a museum display case

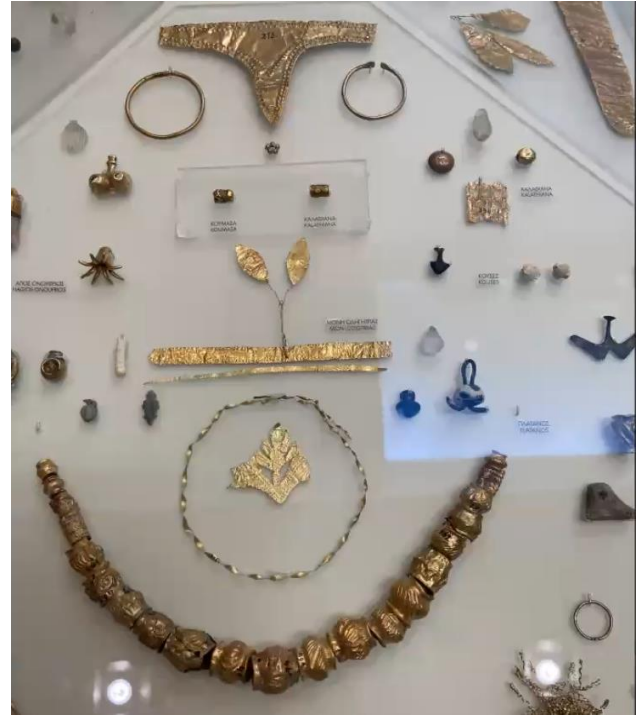


Characteristic patterns and faux granulation of Minoan jewellery



Chains and leaf shapes. Some of these items are from 2000 BC

Minoans also did lost wax casting to make seals and beads, which is considered advanced for that time. The photos show a lot of gold and glass. They also used copper and silver, but unfortunately, those metals did not survive. Crete does not hold these metals naturally; they were all imported using extensive trade routes.



Textured beads and more complicated jewellery from later Minoan civilization. Marine life is a common motif.



This piece (above) represents the kind of jewellery that the Minoans became known for, and a design that is still used today. It depicts two bees with drops of honey, topped by a cage holding a gold ball. 1800 BC.



Minoan pottery showing the octopus motif that is often seen in Minoan art



A gold ring (left) that was used as a seal. This item shows the use of chasing and repoussé techniques.

Take a trip to Crete, Greece, and the [Heraklion Archeological Museum](#) to see more artifacts from the Minoan civilization.

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We'd love to hear from you!

As mentioned on page one of every newsletter, all club members are welcome to submit articles, proposals, and thoughts that could be included in the newsletters. Very few people have done so.

- Describe all of the work you are doing for a lapidary or silversmith project: inspiration, design, selecting the materials, putting it to
- Link to a magazine article or video that piqued your interest. It can be about mining techniques, smelting ore, jewellery production, volcanoes...
- List an event that you think would interest other club members
- Suggest a field trip location for rockhounding (even help to organize it)
- A one-time ad in the newsletter for machinery or crafts you want to sell
- Design changes to the club web site <https://olmc.ca>



Send your inspiration to news@olmc.ca

Workshop Schedule						
November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (JM, EC)
2 Cabbings Course Silver Course 10-1 pm Basic ring	3	4 Lapidary 10-2 pm (RV) Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm (DA)	5 Lapidary 5-9 pm (CG)	6 Faceting 6:30-9 pm (RB)	7	8 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (CG, KD)
9	10	11 Lapidary Cabbings Course Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm (JB)	12 Lapidary 5-9 pm (JGB)	13 Faceting 6:30-9 pm (DA)	14	15 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (SJ, JC)
16 Silver Course 10-1 pm bezel setting	17	18 Lapidary 10-2 pm (RV) Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm (KF)	19 Lapidary 5-9 pm (DP)	20 Faceting 6:30-9 pm (DA)	21 London Gem Show Day 1	22 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (DF, NB)
23/30 Nov. 30 Silver Course 10-1 pm spinner ring	24	25 Lapidary 10-2 pm (CG) Silversmiths 6:30-9 pm (DA)	26 Lapidary 5-9 pm (JGB)	27 Faceting 6:30-9 pm (RB)	28	29 Lapidary 10 am-4 pm (JL, JC)

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: _____