November 2026

The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/olmcnews/

President's Message

We had a good but not spectacular 2026 Gem show. Adult attendance was up only a little over 100 from last year. We are in need of someone to do Social Media on behalf of the club all year around. Our bulletin editor Eric Clara is currently doing it and he doesn't have the time. Interested parties should contact Eric at news@olmc.ca .

The workshop is humming along. The big news is the expanded Silversmithing hours and Silversmithing courses. Please see the calendar at the end.

Most of the workshop parking lot is available for temporary parking but please stay away from the two spaces by the picnic table. They are privately owned.

We have a volunteer for teaching wire wrapping in the spring. A carving course is a possibility if enough people express interest.

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*

Steady Attendance at Gem Show

Attendance at our 2026 show was ~2100 adults and ~300 children under 12. The grand total was slightly higher than at our 2025 show. Both days showed higher attendance than last year, and as usual, two thirds of the crowd attended on Saturday.

The club received 38 new single and/or family memberships at the Membership table. Club Creations revenue dropped 30% from last year. There were a few more Fish Pond enthusiasts.

The club has already booked the venue for the next show September 18-19, 2027.

All OLMC members are invited to a post-Gem Show celebration at the 3 Brewers, at the corner of Bank and Sparks, on Thursday, November 5, starting at 17h30. It will an occasion to discuss among us how the Gem Show went and to list the next steps in preparation of our 59th Gem Show, 2027! Please RSVP at showchair@olmc.ca to confirm that you can join us. 😊

Smart Mine Pays Off for VP

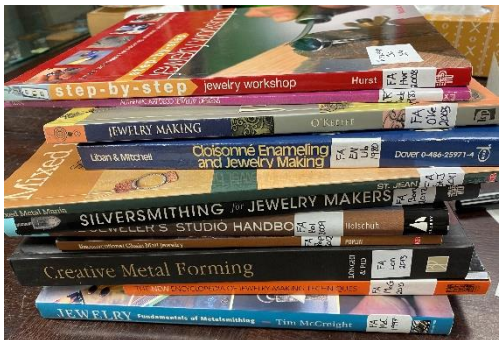
Congratulations to our Vice President Michel Mirota for his finding of a 17 cm titanite at the Smart Mine. He also donated a bin of apatite to the club's "Fish Pond" at the "Parent & Child Expo" held at the Sportsplex October 17-18.

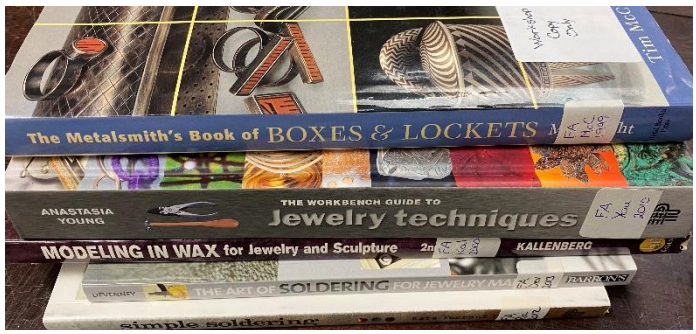
Left: OLMC Vice President Michel Mirota

Right: his donation of apatite

The Gift of Knowledge

Amanda Paterson donated books once owned by her mother Debra Paterson to the club library. Plus, Joy McDonell donated four of her jewellery-making books to the club. Thank you both for these generous gifts.





Micro Mineral Workshop Nov. 14

The Canadian Micro Mineral Association will host its first **Micro Mineral Workshop** in the Ottawa - Montreal area on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Advance registration is requested. Cost is $25 and includes morning coffee and lunch. To register or for further information, check out the CMMA web page.

Spend the day working on their micro mineral collection. Show off prized favorites or new acquisitions, or seeking help to identify unknowns. Plus **buy, sell, trade, and more**! Join in the silent auction and browse the giveaway table, and take part in a special presentation (speaker and topic will be announced later). It is a full day of micro mineral fun!

The venue is east of Ottawa, at the Maple Hall, 2552 Old Montreal Road, Cumberland, Ontario, K4C 1A4.

On-Line Auction November 15-29

Every year the OLMC holds online auctions of minerals, slabs, gems, jewelry, machinery, tools and other rock related items. Our Autumn auction will begin Sunday, November 15n at 6 PM and will end Sunday, November 29, at 6 PM.

Club members may contribute up to five "buy it now" items and five "auction" lots. In all cases the club takes 20% of the sale price. Previous auctions typically featured 150-200 lots with an average price of $20/lot.

The deadline for physical or e-mail form submissions is November 4

Submission forms are available. Please list one item per form and add one or more photographs of each item. President Kerry Day can help with the photos if needed. Deliver the items to the workshop with the forms, or send the forms and photos by e-mail.

Download the item form at the club web site: [fillable] and [unfillable].

Alkali Pegmatites

Mont Saint-Hilaire got a mention in the November issue of the "Cape Town Gem & Mineral Club Website Newsletter".

In his article "The Genesis of Mineral Deposits" Peter Rosewarne list some of the minerals that can result from alkali intrusions in igneous rock, and that "... some of the most prolific mineral specimen producing environments in the world, with the Mont Saint-Hilaire intrusion(s) near Montreal, for example, yielding 434 species including 66 type species."

Mont Saint-Hilaire seen from Beloeil; photo by unknown author, Wikipedia.

Eudyalite is one of the rare minerals found i in alkaline igneous rocks like nepheline syenites.; photo by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0

Minerals and Tumbled Rock Popular at Parent and Child Expo

The OLMC hosted two tables at the Parent & Child Expo held October 17-18. The expo focuses on affordable products, services, and entertainment for families. Judy Courteau, Allison Jonassen, Tanya Chandra, Charlotte Lyon, and Zaina-Sophie Salibi volunteered their time to host a Fish Pond for people to win bubbles of tumbled stone. Nearly 100 bubbles were fished. Thank you all for your time.

The club was also lucky to have a donation of apatite from Club Vice-President Michel Mirota, and bags of Ontario and Quebec minerals from member and gem show vendor Stephen Souliere. There was great interest from the crowd in these minerals.

The organizers invited our club to consider attending the Spring expo.

Left: Zaina-Sophie Salibi and Allisson Jonassen manage the Fish Pond
Right: Membership Chair Judy Courteau showcases club activities

Club Orientation and Drop-in

New members were encouraged to visit the workshop the morning of Saturday, October 24, to meet the club executive and members experienced in mineralogy, lapidary, and jewellery making. Membership chair Judy Courteau organized the event.

Several people also brought food and beverages, which were appreciated. Cathy Garrett brought pop. Colin Geitzler brought gluten-free brownies. Donovan Alp brought a French press for coffee and cookies. Judy Courteau brought tea, milk, cream and more cookies.

There were guided tours of the entire workshop, followed by casual discussions of boulders and slabs that people had brought, and demonstrations of sawing and cabbing.

Foreground: Sara Ilkmen and Judy Courteau; Background: Linda Bougoffa and Stephane Jetté look at slabs.

Facebook Reels of Faceting Skills

Time for Eye Candy

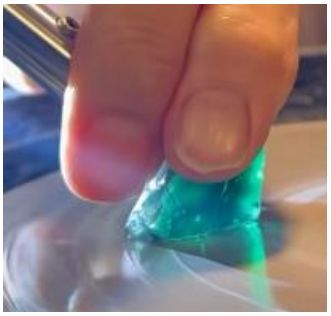
(30 seconds)

With neither prongs nor surface metal, jeweller Jacob Arabo sets 552 hand-grooved sapphires and diamonds onto gold rails to form a watch dial.

Faceted fluorite with colour-change

(2 min 17 sec)

Moriarty facets a green fluorite that appears bright blue in daylight The first 100 seconds is a montage of the two-day process to facet the stone. The rest shows the finished stone under different light.



Mineral Dealers on Instagram

On Instagram, the club account gets many, many messages from gem and mineral suppliers from around the world. If you are looking for some supplies close to the source, it wouldn't hurt to take a glance at some of these vendors.

Irfan Minerals	Zairish Global	Crystal Kingdom
Tsugiquni Moon Crystals	Royal Gemstone	Sharuk Zeolites Store

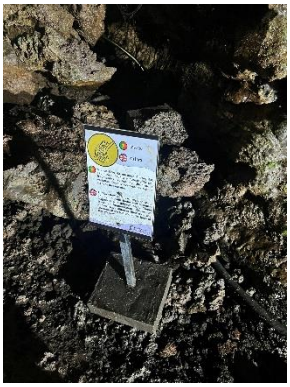
Christmas Pot Luck Pick a Venue

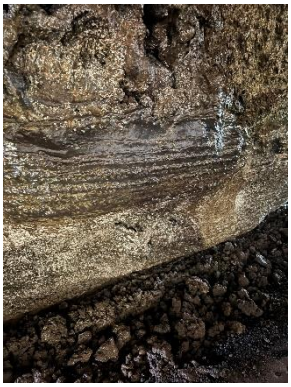
Christmas Pot Luck plans are underway, but the organizers need help finding a central and affordable venue that can server 20-30 people. If any member knows of a such a hall or meeting place, please send your ideas to Member Chair Judy Courteau at memberchair@olmc.ca.

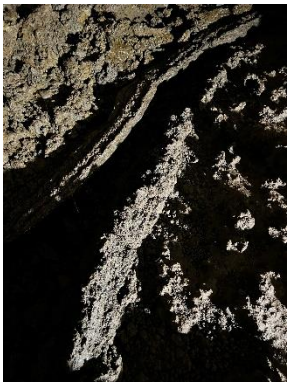
The Azores

Living with volcanoes

Above: the town of Angra do Heroísmo and the fortress of São João Baptista on tuff volcano Monte Brasil on Terciera Island. **Right:** island basalt and mainland limestone used for roads and walkways. **Below:** Ilhéus dos Mosteiros are remnants of a submarine volcanic cone off the coast of São Miguel Island. **Below Right:** Miradouro do Alto da Caldeira, Monte Brazil caldera used as farmland. **Far Below:** the Five Peaks plain near São Sebastião, Terciera

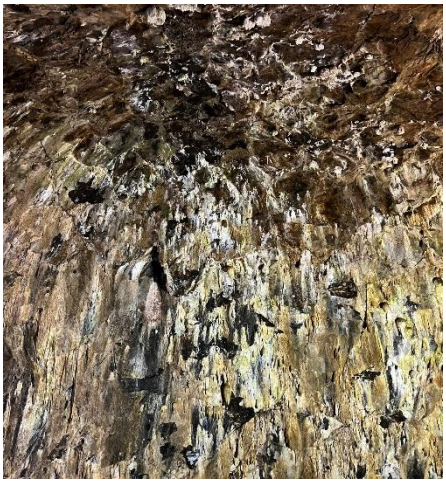






Lava tubes and a dormant volcano

Top left: a lava tube under private farmland. **Above:** Gruta do Natal (Christmas Cave) was probably formed by lavas of nearby fissural eruption of Pico Gaspar 12,000 years ago. It has different types of lava flows, stalifites, and small lateral "counters". **Left and Below l-to-r:** dormant volcano Algar do Carvão result of a gas bubble, mineralization on the walls, the roof of the lava dome, the bottom covered by water and rubble from the dome.



Views of Volcanic Landscapes

Top left and above: a hot spring and mineralization around a steam vent in Furnas, sitting on a dormant volcano; **Top right:** basalt rock walls used to grow grapes in Terciera; **Above right:** rock formations at Piscinas Naturais dos Mosteiros, popular for swimming. **Right and below right:** Sea caves showing mineralization along the north coast near Rabo de Peixe. **Below:** view of the caldera of the stratovolcano Sete Cidades Massif

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Eric Clara
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Actual URL may change. Watch for your e-mail inbox for the announcement.

Workshop Schedule

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Cabbing Silversmith Class 10am-1pm	2	**3** Lapdiary 10-2pm (RV) Silversmiths 3:00-9:00 pm (JB)	**4** Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm (JGB)	**5** Faceting 6-9 pm (RB)	6	**7** Lapidary 10-4:00 pm (SJ, KD)
8 Cabbing	9	**10** Lapdiary 10-2pm (RV) Silversmiths 3:00-9:00 pm (DA)	**11** Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm (JL)	**12** Faceting 6-9 pm (JL)	13	**14** Lapidary 10-4:00 pm (CG,EC)
15 Silversmith Class 10am-1pm	16	**17** Lapdiary 10-2pm (RV) Silversmiths 3:00-9:00 pm (JB)	**18** Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm (CG)	**19** Faceting 6-9 pm (DA)	20	**21** Lapidary 10-4:00 pm (JL,KD)
22	23	**24** Lapdiary 10-2pm (RV) Silversmiths 3:00-9:00 pm (DA)	**25** Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm (JC)	**26** Faceting 6-9 pm (RB)	27	**28** Lapidary 10-4:00 pm (DF, NB)
29 Silversmith Class 10am-1pm	30					

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email for OLMC newsletter: _____

Do you require a receipt? ☐Yes

3 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 a **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: _____