

The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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<http://www.facebook.com/OttawaLapsmithMineralClub>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/olmcnews/>

Show Chair's Message

Dear OLMC members,

Our annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show and Sale is now only a few weeks away. Everything is ready to go for the weekend of **September 19-20** and we need to do as much promotion as we can!

Please invite all your friends and colleagues
to the Gem Show to encourage us!

We have business cards, postcards, and posters available at the workshop, or you can download some at the [OLMC.ca](https://olmc.ca). Distribute these invitations as much as you can!

This show is our main way of collecting funds to support the workshop. To make it successful and to showcase all that the club can offer, we still need volunteers. We ask all members if they can to volunteer for one 2-hour block or more in a certain area of the show. All volunteers get free access to the premises on the day of their volunteering 2-hour block.

We have eight 2-hour timeslots: four slots on Saturday from 10h am to 6h pm, and another four slots on Sunday from 10h am to 5h pm. Contact by e-mail the Team Leader to offer your time based on the task you would like to fill. **The list of stations and contacts is on page 2 of this newsletter.** If you are available without a task preference, provide this information to the Show Chair, who will find a place where your help is most needed.

The Gem Show is always an amazing experience. I look forward to seeing you there.

See you Sunday,

Stéphane Jetté

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



Call for Volunteers!

Please consider helping the club by volunteering for some aspect of the show. Having enough or, even better, a surplus of volunteers allows the show committee to hold demonstrations, support the vendors and academic partners, and provide a safe and welcoming environment for shoppers and hobbyists alike. Contact

showchair@olmc.ca. Just two hours of your time is all we ask.

OC Transpo bus routes 74 and 75 have a stop in front of the main entrance to the Sportsplex at 1701 Woodroffe Avenue. For ParaTranspo users, Entrance 4 on the opposite side is the closest entrance.



Club Demonstrations

Demonstrations are a major contributor to new people joining our club. Curious shoppers can see most aspects of lapidary - cabochon making, faceting, carving, flat lapping, and whatever else people are willing to do. There have been small silversmithing and filigree demos.

For club members, volunteering at the demos allows time to do a little work on a personal project and to talk about techniques.

Show Area Team Leads

Friday Setup: Calvin Jones
Admissions: Catherine Garrett
Ushers: Stéphane Jetté
Membership: Judy Courteau
Door Prizes: Jean-Guy Bradette
Makers Market: Janet Borzecki
Demonstrations: Eric Clara
Flat Lap/Fish Pond: Stéphane Jetté
Sunday Takedown: Calvin Jones



Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale

Salon annuel des pierres, minéraux et bijoux

Sept. 19-20, 2026



Advertising cards are at the workshop, business cards and post cards. Please share them with friends and family.

The Club Creations Table



The Club Creation Table at the OLMC Gem Show is looking for your creations and volunteers! Anyone who is a paid member can display your jewelry, gems or stones at the Club Creation table, we only ask that it is something you created or self-collected. Jewelry, cabochons, faceted stones, slabs or rough...all is welcome. Each seller will be allotted a 12"x20" area to display their creations. The seller is responsible for their display material. Sellers keep 80% of item sale proceeds, with the rest going to support club operations.

The deadline for submissions is looming, and all inventory lists must be submitted by September 13th to be included in the master sheet. This advanced effort on your part is necessary to ensure any sales of your work are properly recorded in both the master sales and inventory list -this is how you will be compensated after the show. You can contact Janet with your expression of interest at secretary@OLMC.ca. She will send you an inventory sheet with directions on how to fill it out correctly. Please read [all instructions](#) carefully.

Drop-off of items before the show is **Friday September 18 between 1-5pm or Saturday, September 19th at the show before 9:30 am.** All Items must be tagged or labelled with inventory number and price.

If you can't make it at this time, and your items aren't too heavy or bulky, you can drop off your items in advance on Tuesday, September 15th from 6:30-9:00pm at the OLMC workshop.

Calling all volunteers! Many, many thanks to all who have stepped forward to assist. There are some gaps yet to be filled, so please let Janet Borzecki know if you can help and the time slot you would prefer. Shifts are two hours, and then you can shop to your heart's desire!

Lastly, only paid-up members of the OLMC can participate in our Club Creations sales.

So, if you need to renew your dues, then please do get in touch.



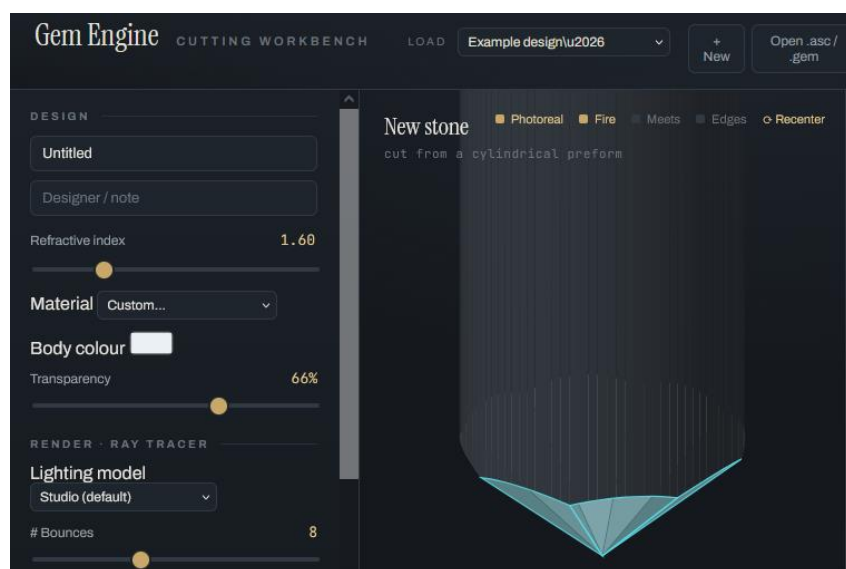
What Happened Over the Summer

In early June, the workshop hallway was re-organized. All of the faceting machines were moved to one of the cabinets in the cabbing room. The cabinets were pulled back a bit to give the more room for a Titan operator to sit. Plus, a large number of tumblers and assorted items were marked as surplus and earmarked for the next on-line auction.

Don Alp mounted a foredom at each of the new Silversmithing stations.

A supply of fluoro-richterite crystals from the [Graphite Mine](#) at Wilberforce was brought to the workshop, and made available for \$1 each. There is also a box of perthite.

In mid-July, Eric Clara went to the Panorama Mine in Thunder Bay, and returned with 94 lbs of amethyst of various sizes and qualities. It was placed in the sale bins for \$3 per pound.



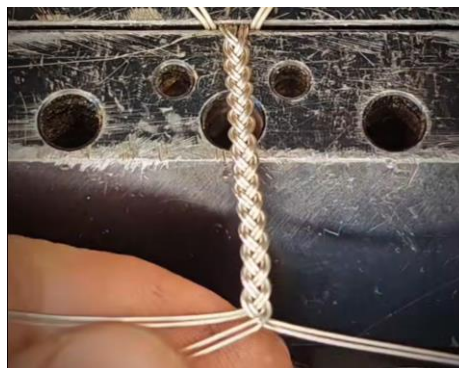
Philippe Crete wrote a stand-alone JavaScript application called “Gem Engine” to create or modify a faceting diagram. The program can be opened in any modern web browser running on a PC, but not a mobile device. Philippe said it is free to distribute, and he welcomes feedback from users. Download the user manual from our website [[link](#)] and use the application [[link](#)].

Facebook Reels of Traditional Skills

Facebook user Shan Bai has a Facebook reel showing the manufacture of hand-made Go game stones. Every step is shown: making the clay pots to hold the materials, selecting and crushing the stones, making the glass pieces in a kiln, hand polishing, and quality control. [[Facebook](#)]

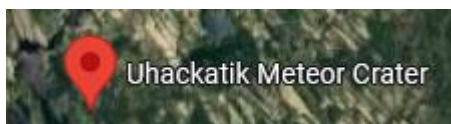


Facebook user Surturs Schmiede shows the complete hand-made construction of a woven braid to bead for a Byzantine style bracelet/chain using soldering and laser welding techniques. [[Facebook](#)]



Another French museum hit by thieves

On July 5, it was [reported](#) that jewels worth millions of dollars were stolen from the Lalique museum near Strasbourg. As alarms sounded, they broke into six display cases and took 20 pieces of jewellery before fleeing.



Confirmed 390-million-years-old meteorite impact crater

In 2023, with the help of Google Maps, amateur astronomer [Joël Lapointe](#) remnant of a meteorite impact 100 kilometers north of Magpie, Quebec. Eventually, he found a French scientist who was willing to travel to the area and make a study. The discovery was confirmed, and the science team planned to announce it to the Meteoritical Society in Germany in this summer

From the Library

The MacDonald mine, located on lots 18 and 19, concession VII, Monteaule township, produced 35,048 tons of feldspar from 1919 to 1935. Feldspar mining continued intermittently in the area until the early 1950's, but no mines are now active. These feldspar pegmatites carry an interesting assemblage of rare elements and radioactive minerals.

D.F. Hewitt
Geology and Scenery



By James St. John - Chromitite band in chromitic serpentinite (early Neoproterozoic; North Star Mine, near eroded edge of Hellroaring Plateau, Red Lodge Chromite District, Beartooth Mountains, southern Montana, USA), [CC BY 2.0](#)

Chromite

Iron-black chromite [$(\text{Fe}, \text{Mg})\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_4$] is a member of the spinel group, made primarily of iron(II) oxide and chromium(III) oxide compounds. Magnesium can take the place of iron in any amount, ultimately creating magnesiochromite (MgCr_2O_4). Aluminum can also substitute for the iron, creating hercynite (FeAl_2O_4).

Chromite has a Mohs scale hardness of 5.5. It is brittle, with uneven fractures, and no cleavage planes. Usually it has a metallic luster, but it might also be described as resinous, greasy, or dull. It streaks brown. It is weakly magnetic.

Today chromite is mined to extract the chromium that is used in metallurgy,

electroplating, paints, tanning, and paper production. It is used especially to make stainless steel by the production of the alloy ferrochrome (FeCr).

Chromite grains are commonly found in large magnesium-rich (mafic) igneous intrusions such as the Bushveld in South Africa and India, forming layers that are hundreds of kilometers long and several meters thick. It can also be found in meteorites.

Chromite forms early in the crystallization process, after which it resists alteration for high temperatures and pressures. Other minerals with a lower resistance to that environment tend to change into other minerals like serpentine, biotite and garnet.

Dear Workshop: Advice on Drilling Holes

One of the workshop supervisors provided this answer to a question on drilling holes in small stones. Here is what she said.

I have been drilling holes for a few years. The techniques that work best for me are:

1. Use a small round diamond burr to start the hole, this does not have to be sintered a normal diamond will work. Use lots of water.
2. Use small 1mm diamond burrs for drilling holes. Buy ten for less than \$5 on eBay or Amazon or Temu. These will only last for around ten holes per burr depending on the stone hardness.
3. Drill from both sides to join the hole. Again, use lots of water.
4. Expand the hole with a tapered bit to the size desired.

Never use sintered diamond burrs for holes, unless you are carving jade.



In Memorium:

Glen Simpson was a former club member who used to visit the Colonnade workshop. Glen loved goldpanning and lapidary work. He was member of the Cranbrook Lapidary Club. His machines and rocks will be donated to the club in his honour.

Please visit his [obituary](#).



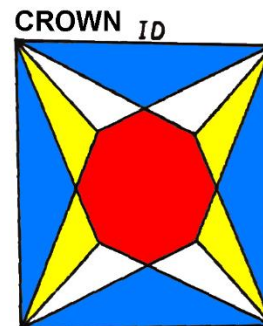
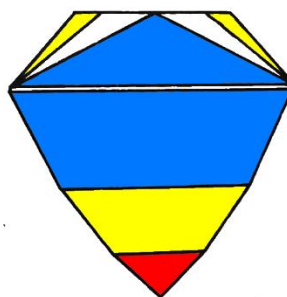
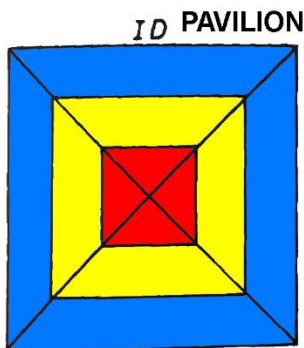
Faceting Design: Double French Star

From: Diagrams for Faceting Volume 1, by Glenn and Martha Vargas

The double French star is superior to the French star, with only four more facets. The addition of the split corner main crown facets makes a noticeable difference in the scintillation of light returned. The cut will intensify the colour of medium coloured material. It is best used with low refractive index (under RI 1.6) gem materials, such as beryl, quartz, fluorite, calcite, glass, and others.

The preform for this cut is identical to that of the French star, a perfect square with a deep curved pavilion.

The crown of this cut is commonly known as the cardinal cut. This is typical for mixed cuts, because it can be adapted to almost any outline that is produced by a step cut pavilion.



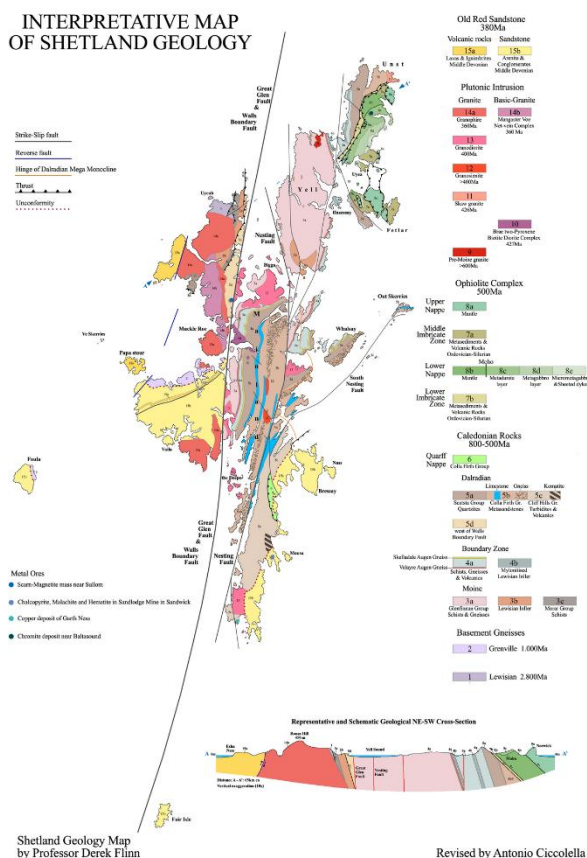
Wonders of the Earth Gem and Mineral Show

Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough

September 12-13
Highland Hall, U. of T., Scarborough



INTERPRETATIVE MAP OF SHETLAND GEOLOGY



Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark

Ages of geo-history is on display in the Shetland Islands north of Scotland and west of Norway. Over the last 750 million years, the land of present day Shetland went from the South Pole region on a zig zag journey to its present location at the 60-degree north latitude.

The area is also the northern-most remnants of the Caledonian orogeny, a mountain-building cycle from 490–390 million years ago that encompassed the present-day British Isles, the Scandinavian Caledonides, Svalbard, eastern Greenland and parts of north-central Europe.

Most of the islands are uninhabited. Lerwick is the capital and largest human settlement. The highest point is Ronas Hill at 450 meters high. There are 110 sea stacks -- prominent pillars of stone -- around the coasts of Shetland.

There are numerous faults and folds. Stone outcrops of Lewisian gneiss, Dalradian sandstone and Moine metamorphic rocks are similar to what is found in Scotland, plus “Old Red Sandstone” deposits (Devonian) and

Interpretive Map of Shetland Geology; By Derek Flinn - Own work, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), from [Wikipedia](#)

granite intrusions. And there is ophiolite, a remnant of the bottom of the Iapetus Ocean made of peridotite and gabbro. Today, Shetland’s economy is driven by oil deposits in the surrounding ocean.

The Devonian period 416 to 359 million years ago, though Shetlands rocks date from 394-384 million years ago, was a time of erosion of the new mountains into boulders, pebbles, sand and mud. There were also significant changes in aquatic and terrestrial life that sometimes became trapped in the sediments.

During the Pleistocene period, glaciers completely covered the islands. One result of that is a 2000-tonne glacial erratic called the Stanes of Stofast that is sitting on a prominent hilltop in Lunnasting.

There is evidence that around 6100 BC, a 25-meter high tsunami caused by the Storegga Slide hit Shetland and the west coast of Norway. It submerged temporarily much of the land that is inhabited today.

[Shetland UNESCO GeoPark](#) | [Visit Scotland: GeoPark Shetland](#) | [GeoPark Shetland](#)

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**Le Club Lapidaire et
Minéralogique d'Ottawa**

**58^e Salon annuel
des pierres,
minéraux et bijoux**

**Ottawa Lapsmith &
Mineral Club's**

**58th Annual Gem,
Mineral & Jewellery
Show & Sale**

**Nepean Sportsplex
1701 Woodroffe Ave. Ottawa ON
September 19-20, 2026**



Workshop Schedule						
September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Silversmiths 6:30-9:30 pm	2 Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm	3 Faceting 6-9 pm	4	5 Lapidary 10-4:00 pm
6	7	8 Silversmiths 6:30-9:30 pm	9 Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm	10 Faceting 6-9 pm	11	12 Lapidary 10-4:00 pm
13	14	15 Silversmiths 6:30-9:30 pm	16 Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm	17	18 Gem Show Setup All day	19 Gem Show 10 am – 6 pm
20 Gem Show 10 am – 5 pm	21	22 Silversmiths 6:30-9:30 pm	23 Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm	24 Faceting 6-9 pm	25	26 Lapidary 10-4:00 pm
27	28	29 Silversmiths 6:30-9:30 pm	30 Lapidary 5:00-9:00 pm			



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: _____