



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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President's Message

The Executive Committee is studying the possibility of a half sized, late summer Gem Show. We will be checking out a promising venue in February. We will also be contacting our former dealers to see how many would be interested in such a show.

Covid protocols will probably dictate that vendors be 6-8 ft apart. That will limit the number of vendors that we can have.

A reminder that the club phone number is now my phone number, and I am being besieged by scammers. To reach me by phone you have to call multiple times from the same number. The best way to contact the club is by e-mail (please refer to the list on the club web site: <https://olmc.ca/contact.html>).

Kerry Day
OLMC President

In Memorium: Tracy Finnigan

Long time club member Tracy Finnigan passed away on January 23. She and Colin Geitzler were regulars at our monthly meetings. She had a talent for beautiful wire wrapping, and was a great help at our Gem Shows. A Celebration of Life will be held in the summer.

<https://ottawa.citynews.ca/obituaries/finnigan-tracy-margaret-5003269>

Rainbow Minerals is offering a space for Club Members to sell their creations and their stones for a day. They will provide one 30" X 96" table with a tablecloth and lamps at each end, and a small stand that can be used to hold a cash box or something of similar size. They will announce your booth on their website.

There is no charge and no commission. The OLMC workshop chairperson has been there twice already, and will be there again selling cabochons and jewellery on February 19, 10 AM to 4 PM, promoting of OLMC Members Creations.

Contact Ash at Rainbow Minerals to coordinate a time.

MIG ONLINE Meeting

Date: February 28 at 7:00 pm.

Guest speaker: Beth McLarty Halfkenny

Topic: Geoheritage of the National Capital Region

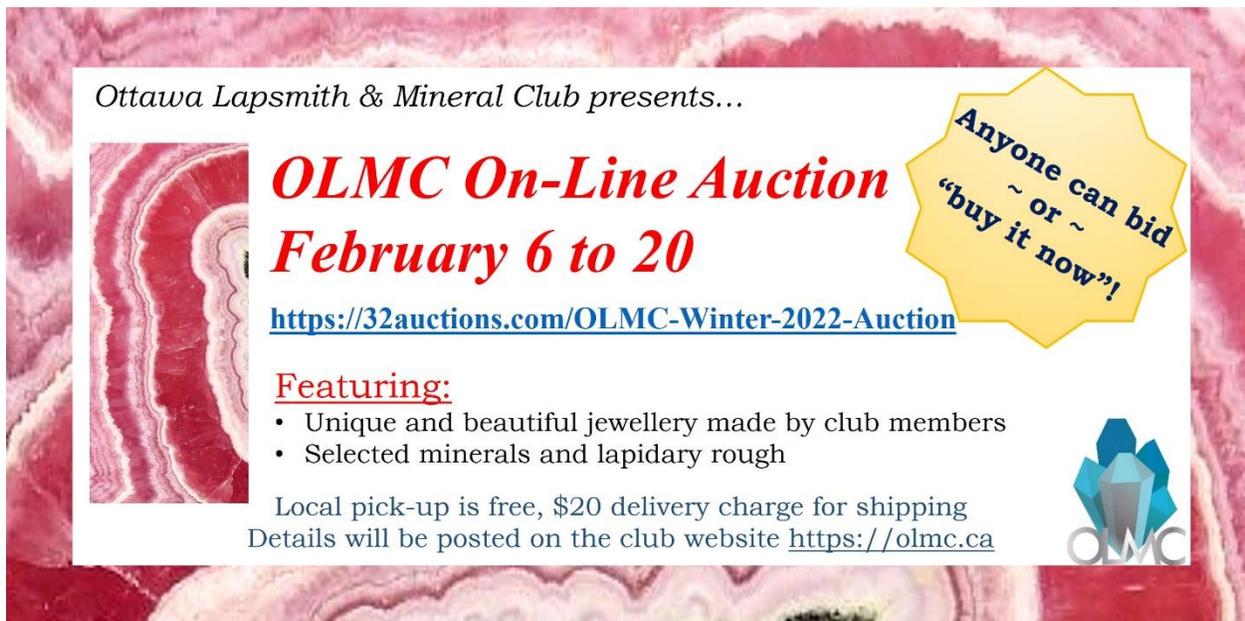
Beth McLarty Halfkenny is the Curator and Outreach Coordinator for the Dept. of Earth Sciences at Carleton University, and is a member of the Ottawa-Gatineau Geoheritage Project (OGGP).

Any OLMC member can join the Mineral Interest Group and receive invites to the meetings. Contact John Montgomery montgomeryjr50@gmail.com

Donations and Sales

The club has a **GoFundMe** page, if anyone wants to donate to on-going storage costs and for the future workshop rent. We very much appreciate donations.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-ottawa-lapsmith-and-mineral-club>



Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club presents...

OLMC On-Line Auction
February 6 to 20

<https://32auctions.com/OLMC-Winter-2022-Auction>

Featuring:

- Unique and 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"!



Membership Has Benefits

Memberships from 2021 expire on January 31. It is time to think about renewing your membership. The OLMC has been offering 2022 memberships since last October. In 2021 we finished the year with 129 members, and 22 new members.

Please fill out the renewal form at the end of the newsletter, and can also be downloaded from the club web site at <https://olmc.ca/pdf/membershipform.pdf>, and send it and any fees to the club post office box. You can also send it by e-mail to memberchair@olmc.ca, and fees by e-transfer to treasurer@olmc.ca.

The pandemic forced the Club to close the workshop, but the OLMC Club is still alive. By renewing your membership, you fuel the executive committee to support all of our activities and eventually re-open the workshop. This is my wish for 2022. Thank you and have a great year.

Nathalie Bourget, OLMC Membership Chair

News Around the World

Lack of Mattresses, Socks Forced People to Bury Roman Money

A trove of Roman coins was discovered close a badger's den near Grado, Spain. People think the animal found them while scrounging for food, and left some on the surface.

The 209 pieces were then found by two archaeologists when they went to visit the cave of La Cuesta with a local resident. The rough coins date from between the 3rd and 5th Centuries AD, according to a researcher.

Caches of Roman coins have been found around Grado before. In the 1930s, 14 gold coins were found dating to 306 to 337 AD.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-59937510>



What a Roman coin may look like, photo courtesy of WikiMedia

The Diamond Out of Space

Auction house Sotheby's Dubai will auction a 555.55-carat black diamond with 55 facets in February.

A company representative claims that the carbonado -- labeled "The Enigma" -- came from outer space, though there is no proof. Usually, they are found in Brazil and Central Africa, are pea-sized and porous.

The representative said the shape of the diamond is based on the Middle-Eastern open hand symbol of the Khamsa, which represents strength, protection and the number five (fingers).



"The Enigma", courtesy of Sotheby's Dubai

<https://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory/world-55555-carat-black-diamond-lands-dubai-82309764>



The recently fallen Chondrite meteor.
Photo courtesy of CBC News

Researchers Study Bed-Crashing Chondrite Meteor

A small Chondrite meteorite that fell through a roof and landed on a bed close to a B.C. woman's head on October 3, is being analysed to determine its original orbit.

The woman lent the stone to Western University's physics and astronomy department in London, Ontario. Researchers are trying to map its orbital journey around the sun.

So far, they have determined the meteorite is an L chondrite, a common type, and is about 470 million years old. They are looking at decaying radioactive isotopes in the stone, plus dash cam and surveillance footage, and information from local photographers who captured the fireball event, attempting to reconstruct the rock's flight path.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/western-scientists-study-meteorite-made-famous-after-crashing-into-b-c-woman-s-bedroom-1.6316212>

Tonga Swamped and Covered in Ash

An eruption of an underwater volcano near Tonga on January 15, may be the biggest recorded in more than 30 years

The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano sits underwater between two small islands about 30 kilometers southeast of Tonga's Fonuafo'ou island.

Satellite images recorded the eruption in real time, as a giant plume of ash, gas and steam was sent up to 20 kilometers into the sky. The eruption was heard and sent tsunami waves across the South Pacific.



*Underwater volcano eruption near Tonga
Photo courtesy of Tonga Geological Service*

Waves 1.2 meters high inundated Tonga's capital, Nuku'alofa. A thick foam of volcanic dust covered Nuku'alofa. The sky above was filled with a heavy dark ash cloud which drifted westward. By Monday it had reached Australia.

Several people were killed by the tsunami in Pacific countries, including Tonga. The eruption also interrupted fresh water supplies, power and telecommunications to Tonga.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/17/asia/tonga-volcanic-eruption-tsunami-explainer-intl-hnk/index.html>

Gold Coin of Henry III Sold for £540k



Two sides of the gold coin. Photo courtesy of Spink and Sons auctioneers.

A gold coin he found in a field in Devon, U.K. last September was sold at auction for £540k (CDN \$921.5k) on January 23.

The coin is one of eight known to exist, and most are on display in museums. One side of the coin shows the bearded king on the throne and the other features a long cross and roses. About 52,000 of the coins were minted and would have been worth the equivalent of £60 (CDN \$102.39) in today's money.

Michael Leigh-Mallory found the Henry III gold coin, thought to have been made in 1257, and will receive a portion of the sale proceeds.

"The coin was 4in (10cm) deep in a ploughed field and I put the trowel in and found this glinting piece of gold. He said "90% of my finds are trash, from ring pulls to miscellaneous pieces of iron and other rubbish".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-60095685>

Jump Ring Chains: The Variations

From the Silversmith Meeting 2021-04-13

Handmade chains made of jump rings are simple to make, but different. They are not a standard chain. They can add interest to a piece, especially used as part of a bracelet or a pendant. You can use any size and number of rings. One important skill to have before trying this sort of project is a mastery of pick soldering.

Quite often you will loop the rings together and solder them. It's "nice", but the problem is the chain does not sit flat. For a flat look, alternate large rings with small rings. A sequence of one, two, or three small rings between two large rings creates a pleasing pattern.

Tools

- two pairs of needle-nose pliers
- one pair of locking tweezers
- soldering station (solder, flux, torch, etc.)



Jump Ring Sources

Use knitting needles or a mandrel. Use a saw to cut the silver, which will provide a cleaner cut than clippers.

Use a jump ring maker, but this machine is expensive.

Buy pre-made rings from distributors

Basic Jump Ring Chain



Solder half of the rings closed. This step provides greater stability when putting the chain together. One suggestion is to dip all of the rings in flux before pick soldering them. Medium solder was used in the demonstration, but hard solder can be used.

Open a jump ring, and place it on one of the soldered rings. Then close it with pliers. Repeat this step with a jump ring on the other side of the soldered ring.

Solder the two unsoldered rings. A recommendation is to use locking tweezers to suspend the links in space (i.e. the tweezers are resting on an elevated surface), with the open joint up and slightly to the side. Flux the joint ever so slightly, and pick solder the joint. Repeat this step for the other unsoldered loop.

Optional additional steps.

- Use pliers to stretch the rings make oval loops.
- Hammer the rings flat or use a ball peen hammer to create a faceted look.

Spaced Loops Joined by a Jump Ring

This is a good chain to make if you need to conserve wire, because most of the chain is straight wire rather than loops.



Make the links using lengths of wire and a pair of round-nosed pliers. For each piece, grab one end in the pliers and rotate it around the pliers to create a loop. The end of the loop must touch the wire so that it can be soldered. Do the same for the other end, twisting in the same direction as the first loop. The solder the loops shut in the same manner as the basic chain.

You can use pliers to manipulate the end rings so that they are centred along the line of the wire, which will allow the chain to lie flatter.

Take a jump ring loop it through the ends of two links, and then solder the loop shut. Many patterns are possible using jump rings of various sizes and numbers in this step.

Recommended Reading

Silver Soldering Simplified by Scott David Plumlee

Chains Chains Chains by Nathalie Mornu and Joanna Gollberg

25 Creative Jump Ring Jewelry Designs <https://craftminute.com/25-creative-jump-ring-jewelry-designs/>

Video from Online Jewelry Academy (go to 10:00 mark)
<https://www.onlinejewelryacademy.com/loop-in-loop-chain-video.html>

Hammered Wire With a Jump Ring

This is a fun chain that lays flat. It is great for bracelets, assuming the parts are short enough to make a curve around the wrist.

Use a length of wire, and flatten it with a hammer as much as desired. Annealing is recommended. Optionally use a ball peen hammer to flatten the ends into paddles. File the edges of the ends so they are round.

Drill a hole through each of these ends using a drill or a burr or a hand punch (but the punch will leave a divot on the other side).

Loop jump rings through the holes and solder them closed.

Loop-in-Loop (aka Sailor Chain)

This one is blast to make. It can be finicky, but it is a beautiful, substantial chain with great movement. It is easier to work with large rings. Thicker wire (e.g. 1.3 mm) is a challenge to manipulate.

A formula is apparent for length. Wire of gauge 0.6 mm makes an 8 mm interior diameter jump ring. For 1.3 mm wire, it makes a 17 mm interior diameter jump ring, and 13 of these make a 10 cm chain.

First step is to stretch some annealed rings into ovals. One hint to get consistent ovals is to lay the jump ring on a flat surface, then use the ends of the pliers to stretch the metal.

It may be helpful to ensure the soldered end is not at the loop ends or in the middle, because subsequent stretching and bending can overwork the joint. Annealing the stretched loops before the next step may also be helpful in preventing the soldered joint from breaking.

Use round-nosed pliers to grab one stretched loop in the middle. Squeeze the middle together to form a figure "8". Use round-nosed pliers again (maybe ones with larger tines) to grab the loop in the middle, and push the loops up so that they meet.

These links fit together such that a link middle part of a loop fits into the open ends of the previous loop. Then pinch the loops of the previous link closed.

Once the chain is done, the finishing touch is to use an awl on each link and open the loops up a bit in both directions. This makes the chain looser for more movement, and allows you to adjust the loop sizes.



Spirit of de Grisogono Diamond

The stone was discovered in the Central African Republic, one of two countries in the world where black alluvial diamonds are commonly found. The rough stone had a weight of 587 carats. The resulting mogul-cut diamond weighs 312.24 carats (62.448 g) and is set in a white gold ring with 702 smaller white diamonds totaling 36.69 carats (7.338 g).



The Spirit of de Grisogono Diamond fits delicately on the finger. Photo courtesy of diamondmuseum.com

The Mogul cut is well-suited for black diamonds for which symmetry and brilliance are less important than for colorless and fancy colored diamonds.

Being a polycrystalline carbonado, it may not be appropriate to list this diamond with other conventional diamonds. Yet, when it so listed with other extraordinarily large rough diamonds, discovered in diamond producing countries of the world, such as India, Brazil, South Africa etc. the Spirit of de Grisogono rough diamond, becomes the 18th largest rough diamond discovered in the world so far.

This rare and unique black diamond gets its name from de Grisogono, a famous Swiss company specializing in high-end jewelry, time pieces and accessories. Fawaz Gruosi, a Lebanese-Italian black diamond specialist, launched the “de Grisogono” brand name in 1996, by opening the first de Grisogono boutique on rue du Rhone, Geneva. It could be that the diamond was given the name "Spirit of de Grisogono" as a marketing ploy to mark the launching of the brand name and the opening of the first boutique in Geneva.

According to Wikipedia, in 2012, Gruosi had to give-up the majority in De Grisogono. The majority was taken over by investors around the richest woman in Africa, the kleptocrat's daughter Isabel dos Santos from Angola. Dos Santos had quietly routed millions of dollars through shell companies in Malta and the British Virgin Islands. Using the De Gisogono company, she funneled Angola's diamonds out of the country.

In January 2020, De Grisogono was named in the "Luanda Leaks" investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists as being part of the business empire of Angola's Isabel dos Santos. On January 29, 2020, de Grisogono filed for bankruptcy.

Fawaz Gruosi is still around and has a new company. See his site to see some of the wonderful, colourful jewellery designs. <https://fawazgruosi.com/>

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TOPAZ



Topaz is a rare silicate mineral with a chemical composition of $Al_2SiO_4(F,OH)_2$. The fluorine in its composition is a limiting factor on its formation because gas in concentrations high enough to form minerals occurs only in a few geologic environments.

Topaz is the hardest silicate mineral with a Mohs hardness of 8. It forms orthorhombic crystals, often with striations that parallel the long axis of the crystal. It also has a distinct basal cleavage that breaks to form vitreous fracture surfaces perpendicular to the long axis of the crystal. This cleavage makes topaz a fragile gemstone.

Natural topaz colours include rare and valuable yellow, orange, pink, red, purple, and blue, but the most common natural colours of topaz are colourless ("white topaz"), pale yellow, and brown. Colourless topaz can be heated, irradiated, and coated with thin layers of metallic oxides to alter its colour, often done to stones sold in most department stores.

OLMC Meeting Schedule

February 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4	5
6	7	8 Silversmith video call 19:00	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15 	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22 Silversmith video call 19:00	23	24	25 	26
27	28 MIG video call time 19:00					

OLMC Classified Ads

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1572 Seelyville (Main Street)



Karen Osborne
karen@crystalmedicine.ca

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Niagara Peninsula Geological Society

All CCFMS club members throughout Manitoba, Ontario, and Québec, are welcome on all NPGS field trips. You must bring proof of current club membership.

<http://www.ccfms.ca/clubs/NPGS/trips.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1392693367698780/>

OLMC Membership Application

New Membership <input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>
Individual – \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	Family (2+ persons in the same residence) – \$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other Services:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual workshop access fee: \$90 per year (replace workshop usage fee of \$3/visit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter advertisement: \$25 per year for members
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ten quarter pages per year over ten newsletters, which can be combined for fewer, larger ads. Businesses wishing to advertise in the newsletter pay \$55 (family membership + advertising fee)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Locker Fee: \$25 per year (depends on locker availability)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabochon Course: \$60 – required for all members who want to use the lapidary machinery. More information can be found at http://www.olmc.ca
Names(s): _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	Province: _____
Postal Code: _____	Telephone: _____
Please specify how you would like to receive OLMC’s newsletter:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	By e-mail _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	By mail _____
Do you require a receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	

Payments are payable **by cash or cheque only** to **Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club**.

Please mail your membership form and fees to:

Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 59028 Alta Vista
Ottawa, ON K1G 5T7

Please note that all membership information is used only for administrative purposes.

Administration use only:

Card provided: Yes Supervisor signed: Yes Date: _____

Questions? Please contact us by phone 613 700-4637 or email workshop@olmc.ca

You can also go on our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/OttawaLapsmithMineralClub>