



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our Christmas auction netted ~\$3200 for the club. It took three weeks to get rid of everything over the holidays, but it is now all wrapped up. A big thanks goes out to all organizers and contributors.

I have no information on our next auction except that there will be one.

With the pandemic raging once again, I am delighted that we shut down the workshop when we did. There are no plans for re-opening a workshop any time soon.

A summer 2022 show is a possibility. The executive will discuss it.

Membership renewals are due by February 1. E Transfers can be made to treasurer@olmc.ca or payment can be sent by mail to the club post office box.

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

MIG ONLINE Meeting

Date: January 17 at 7:00 pm.

Guest speaker: TBD

Talk: TBD

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>

The Richelieu Sapphires

These cushion-shaped sapphires weigh 26.66 and 20.88 carats respectively. They are suspended from a star surmount set with a cushion- and pear-shaped diamonds, post and hinged back fittings.

The sapphires in these earrings were given to Odile de La Chapelle de Jumilhac de Richelieu as a wedding gift on the occasion of her marriage to Count Gabriel de la Rochefoucauld, Prince de La Rochefoucauld, in 1905. They sold at auction in 2013 for almost \$8.5 million.

From the Swiss Gemmological Institute appendix letter, dated 3 July 2013: "The two



The Richelieu Sapphires set in classic diamond flower drop earrings. Photo credit: Sotheby's.

gemstones form a perfectly matching pair in size and shape, combined with an attractive velvety blue colour and a fine purity.

The inclusions found by microscopic inspection represent the hallmarks of sapphires from the reputed historic deposit in Kashmir, located in a remote part of the Himalayan Mountains in India. The velvety blue of these sapphires is due to very fine and subtle inclusions and a combination of well-balanced trace elements in these gemstones, typical and characteristic for the finest sapphires of Kashmir. In addition to these qualities, these sapphires have been spared exposure to heat treatment and their clarity and colour are thus all natural. A matching pair of natural sapphires from Kashmir of this size and quality is very rare and exceptional."

From the library...

IN TIME EACH COLLECTOR REALIZES THE NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO GUARD HIMSELF AGAINST FAKES, IMITATIONS, AND THE MULTITUDE OF SPECIMENS OF INDIFFERENT QUALITY WHICH MAY BE FOUND IN EVERY CORNER OF THE MINERAL COLLECTING FIELD. TRULY FINE SPECIMENS ARE NEVER EASY TO OBTAIN EVEN FOR THE WELL-TO-DO, FOR THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT ONLY THE BEST WILL BE OFFERED NOR EVEN THAT THE BEST ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME A COLLECTOR IS WILLING TO BUY THEM.

John Sinkankas, *Mineralogy*, 1964



Ancient Iberian Sword Recovered in Spain

A pre-Roman double-edged, curved sword used by ancient Iberians as recovered.

The falcata dated from the fifth and first centuries BC along with 202 other archaeological pieces including arrow heads, jewellery and ceramic fragments, were

seized by police after it appeared on “a well known social media site”.

Falcatas were personal weapons. They tended to be buried with their owners, and their blades were deliberately bent and beaten to put them beyond the use of others. This sword, though, has an intact blade, so it is very rare and valuable.



<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/25/spanish-police-recover-rare-2000-year-old-iberian-sword>

Climber Keeps Half of Found Gem Trove

A climber who found a trove of emeralds and sapphires on Mont Blanc was given half of the treasure (appraised at \$168,700) after French authorities could not find the original owner.

The other half will be on display at the Chamonix Crystal Museum, which was set to re-open on December 19.

The precious stones were being transported on board an Air India Boeing 707, the "Kanchenjunga," which crashed on Mont Blanc in 1966, killing 117 people. Another Air India plane, the "Malabar Princess," crashed in the same area in 1950, killing all 48 people on board.

Debris from the wrecks routinely emerges from the bottom of the glacier, including metal, wire and even a piece of landing gear that was discovered in 1986.

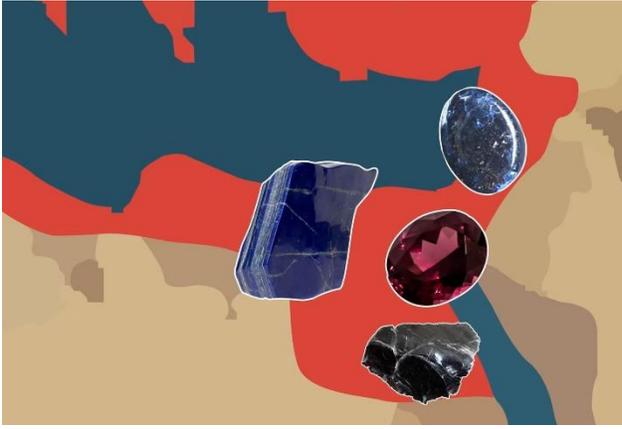
<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/mont-blanc-jewels-climber-scli-intl/index.html>



Photo of the found gem trove, courtesy of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc council.

Brief History of Roman Empire's Mineral Wealth

YouTube channel "JTV" features hosts describing gemmology and gem history. In this light-hearted five-minute video, a Graduate Gemologist and Applied Jewelry Professional named Natalie quickly describes mineral wealth of the Roman Empire, including materials taken from Spain, Britain, and Egypt.



<https://youtu.be/ZGXvX2XHRuA>

Galena Ore Made into Silver Ring

YouTube Channel "Ghost Town Living" has a 32-minute video that shows how galena ore from an abandoned mine (Cerro Gordo, California) was processed. The video describes the history of the mine, the mining and processing work, creating sterling silver, and using the lost-wax casting method..



<https://youtu.be/vfC-wAJqksU>

Ice Age Mammoths Found in Cotswolds, U.K.



Archeologists study a mammoth tusk. Photo courtesy of DigVentures

of insects and plants, and tools and weapons used by Neanderthals, who would have lived there too and hunted the animals.

<https://www.wiltshirelive.co.uk/news/wiltshire-news/ice-age-mammoths-discovered-cotswolds-6373843>

Five nearly pristine woolly mammoth skeletons were discovered in the Cotswold Water Park - a flat, gravelly plain from which the infant River Thames emerges.

The site has been excavated by archaeologists for the past five years or more.

The remains include two adults, two juveniles and an infant mammoth that roamed the Cotswolds around 200,000 years ago. Archeologists also found bones of giant elks, tiny fossils

Walking Along Thunder Bay's Cascades



The Cascades Conservation Area in Thunder Bay, Ontario, is known for some spectacular rapids along the Current River. While enjoying the Cascades, get a view of the wide variety of geological formations on the Current River. There are several walking trails through the forest.

<https://lakeheadca.com/conservation/conservation-areas/cascades>

Fun Fact: In and around the city, there is still evidence of the massive meteorite impact from 1.85 billion years ago near present-day Sudbury.

<https://lakeheadca.com/events-education/geology/meteorite-impact>





Chain Stitch for Days

From the OLMC Silversmith Meeting 2021-04-06



This project is for a simple, multi-stranded chain, but it is also a great project to use up random left-over beads. The chain creates a "full look" without being heavy. You can use beads throughout the chain or just in the centre part with plain ends.



Above: A completed chain stitch necklace

Materials & Tools

- 28-gauge or 26-gauge wire (thicker wire is too stiff)
- 35 stones or beads (optional) Using more beads will create a denser piece. Beads of 3-4 mm diameter are expected. Larger or smaller beads will affect the final length of the piece.
- cone ends and 20-gauge wire (optional) for a fancy finish
- a crochet hook (5 mm, but it is up to you. 8 mm might be too big, though)
- wire cutters

1. Take 35 stones (for a 20-inch necklace) or 10 stones (for a bracelet), and thread them on the wire still on the spool. Leave about 5-inches spare wire before the beads. Keep the wire on the spool because you don't know ultimately how much you will need.
2. Wrap the wire end around the hook and then pull it through to make your first stitch.
3. Use the crochet hook to catch the wire, twist it by turning the hook, and then pull it through the stitch to make a loop. It should be loose and lacy. Repeat this two more times to create three loops.
4. Bring one bead down and crochet a loop on the other side of it. Then do a stitch without a bead. Repeat this step, so you have a bead for every second loop, so you will make 70 stitches.
 - a. The stitch makes an airy look and reduces the weight of the piece, but you can leave it out.
 - b. Stitches should be loose, not tight.
 - c. Big beads will need bigger loops. Heavy beads will need a heavier wire.



Above: Beginning the first loop of the chain



5. Finally, make three stitches to finish the strand. Pull about 5 inches of wire off the spool. Then cut it.
6. Make two more strands by repeating steps 1 to 5, though you could also make more for your piece.
7. Take the 5-inch end wires of the strands and twist them together tightly along the entire length.
8. Run the strands through your hand to line them up. Very likely, they are all different lengths. Gather the ends together so that they all meet, and grab the end with the twisted wire, and gently pull so that the wire loops stretch and the strands are all the same length.
9. Secure the twisted end under a paper weight or in a clamp or vise.
10. Now braid the strands together to the ends, loose enough that you can still manipulate the individual strands. The pattern is a little different depending on how many strands you have.

11. Take the loose 5-inch wires of the other ends and twist them together along their length.

Top Left: One chain in progress

12. At this point, you have an option to "fluff" the strands, and make sure beads are where you want them.

Below: The completed chain stitch necklace made of three knitted strings from the demonstration

Two Ways to Finish

1. **No caps!** Use round needle-nose pliers to make a loop in the twisted wire near where the strands join. Thread a finding clasp into the loop. Then wrap the wire around the top of the loop to lock in the clasp. Clip off the remaining wire.

2. **Put your caps on!**

a. Take a 3-inch piece of 20-gauge wire. Use round-nosed pliers to make a double loop at one end. Thread one of the twisted wires through the double loop, and then use this wire to wrap around the top of the double loop. Clip off the remainder of the twisted wire.

b. Use a cap. Thread the 20-gauge wire through the large cap end to cover the first double loop. Leave a little gap at the top of the cap, and create another loop. Thread a finding clasp through the loop, and then wrap the wire over the top of the loop until you get to the top of the cone. Clip the remaining wire. If there is a little bit of wire sticking out, use pliers to tuck it into the top of the cap. The cap should not move very much.



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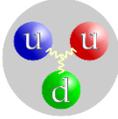


Fluorite

Pure fluorite is colourless, so colour comes from impurities in the crystal lattice. Some crystals have bands of colour. A deep purple hue comes from fluoride ions permanently forced out of their lattice positions by irradiation or heating, leaving one electron in the gap.

Fluorite is used in the chemical and ceramic industries as a source of fluorine, hydrofluoric acid and fluoride. It is used in specialty glasses, enamels and glazes.

OLMC Meeting Schedule

January 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	8
9 	10	11 Silversmith video call 19:00	12 	13	14	15 
16	17 MIG video call time 19:00	18 	19 	20	21 	22
23 	24 	25 Silversmith video call 19:00	26 	27 	28	29 
30	31 					

OLMC Classified Ads

Can't find the right piece of jewellery?
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Butterfly Collection for Sale

John Urban is selling his "rather large" framed collection of butterflies and moths.

If you are interested, please contact him at jurban@jurbanrings.com.

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

Membership Renewal

Individual – \$20

Family (2+ persons in the same residence) – \$30

Other Services:

Annual workshop access fee: \$90 per year (replace workshop usage fee of \$3/visit)

Newsletter advertisement: \$25 per year for members

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)

Locker Fee: \$25 per year (depends on locker availability)

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:

By e-mail _____

By mail _____

Do you require a receipt? 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>