



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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President's Message

The Executive Committee decided to forego changing the Corporation's status to non-profit. As such, we will be looking for a new workshop with a May 1 start. Ideally, we are looking for ~1000 ft², ground level, natural lighting, water, abundant parking for \$2,000/month. I have decided to go through a commercial real estate broker this time around. I have no details as of yet. The membership is free to offer suggestions or places of their own.

I will try to have an April field trip schedule ready for mid-March.

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

Membership Update

Our membership director is asking that everyone who renewed their 2024 OLMC membership online to please submit the membership form to memberchair@olmc.ca. The online membership form can be found at <https://olmc.ca/pdf/membershipform.pdf>. You can also mail a paper copy to:

Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club
PO Box 36042
Wellington, RPO
Ottawa, ON
K1Y-4V3

Upcoming Field Trips

The club Executive Committee has tentative plans for field trips. Do any of these interest you, or would you like to go somewhere else? The committee would love to hear from you. Send your comments to club president Kerry Day at pres@olmc.ca.

mid-April: Need a volunteer to take people Long Lake zinc mine.

end-April: Cobalt trip led by Matthew - Colonial mine, museum.

mid-June: The Brampton club wants to go to Perth quarry for peristerite.

One-Time Ad Space Offered for Club Member Sales

The Westendorp collection featured in the Feb newsletter sold very quickly for an undisclosed amount. If you have rock or jewelry related items for sale, we will give you a one-time free listing in this newsletter as a service to the membership. Send your request to news@olmc.ca.



Search for a New Studio Location

The Executive Committee will look for a new place starting May 1. By that time, the legal obligations of the last lease will have ended. Club members are already volunteering to offer their time to prepare the space for members.

President Kerry Day expressed his intention to set up the new studio with everything the club had before - all the machinery, rocks, and library.

Workshop Chair Jean-Guy Bradette has been looking for places. It will be a challenge to find a large enough place that is also affordable. The top three candidate locations so far have various limitations -- unfinished, or lacking parking on site. Everything else is expensive at \$3,000/month. Plus, there will be additional costs to get the new place ready. Electrical work is expected to cost \$5,000.

The Executive discussed the pros and cons of forming a non-profit club, but decided not to go this route yet. If the club changes to non-profit status, then it cannot have debt unless it has enough liquid assets to cover it. The legal paperwork takes time and is expected to cost from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

The committee has no information yet on what subsidies are available to non-profits. There are some tax advantages.

Non-profit co-operatives have space for a potential lapidary studio, but they have requirements. For example, one organization wants its members to do a certain amount of community work.

In Memorium

Pierre Morel

Pierre passed away here in Ottawa, peacefully, on Friday - February 9, 2024, at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife Marina and their three children. A reception was planned for noon on Friday 16/2/2024 at their restaurant at 1500 Bank Street (Blue Heron Mall). The funeral service took place at 1:00 pm on Saturday , February 17.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/ottawa-on/pierre-morel-11662519>

John Urban

John Urban died at home in Low, Quebec, on Saturday, July 1, 2023. He was 78 years old. John was a member and an accomplished jeweller, well known in the area, especially for his Celtic designs.

<https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/john-urban-1088526197>

Annual General Meeting in April

The OLMC will hold the annual general meeting on Sunday, April 14. There will be a rock swap after the meeting. It will be hosted on Zoom for people who cannot attend in person in Rockcliffe at 380 Springfield Ed. from 2-6 pm.

This general meeting is an opportunity for the members of the Executive Committee to report on activities and decisions from 2023, and plans for 2024. Members are also encouraged to vote on who will be the new Executive Committee for the year. The new committee will then appoint voluntary members to certain club functions. Nominations for any position are always very welcome.

Current Executive Committee

Past President: vacant

President: Kerry Day, who may stay on one more year to re-establish the studio

Vice-President: Matthew Poirier

Treasurer: Catherine Garrett

Secretary: Bob Boisvert, who is leaving the role and needs a replacement

Current Appointed Chairs

Member Chair: Nathalie Bourget

Workshop Chair: Jean-Guy Bradette

Presentation Chair: vacant

Show Chair: Stéphane Jetté

Newsletter: Eric Clara



The Executive Committee, which includes the Chairs, usually meets once a month for an hour. They talk about news affecting the club, plan general events and services, report on finances, and related topics. The Chairs may have their own meetings using different schedules based on their needs.

Essential Hammers

Presented by Janet Borzecki
Silversmiths Meeting 2022-10-18

A small **ball-peen hammer** is a versatile tool for beginners. It will do most things. There are several sizes, so get one that fits you. It has a flat head on one end and a round head on another. If the surfaces get a bit rough over time, use some wet/dry sand paper to polish it up. It is best to have a small one and a big one because they make different indentations.



Hammers: Presented by Janet Borzecki at the Silversmiths Meeting 2022-10-18

A **chasing hammer** is like a ball-peen but with a chasing handle. The flat surface is slightly curved, but the main feature is the handle which helps with chasing and repoussé. It can be used for other things. It has a nice rebound from striking, and it is easier to strike continuously. The head is large because it is intended to hit a tool and give you a better chance of hitting it.

The **cross peen hammer** has a flat end at one side and a wedge-shaped peen at the other end. Variations are the riveting hammer and the goldsmith hammer. The tapered end is for spreading rivets once they are through, and the wedge end is for finishing it off. It is also good for texturing, like birch bark or linear texture.

A **rawhide mallet** is made with layers of shellacked rawhide. It is soft, so it does not mar or stretch the surface of the piece. The handle weighs more than the head. Often it is used to round out rings on a mandrel, to flatten sheets, anytime you don't want to mar the surface. The best ones are made with buffalo hide. A **rubber or nylon mallet** does a similar job as a rawhide mallet, but the tool is much cheaper. It has two rubberized ends.

A **brass mallet** has a barrel-shaped end. Depending on the supplier, it can be expensive. They are heavy, starting at one pound, but they can get as weighty as five pounds. The heavier versions also have longer handles that make it difficult to control the swing movement. The upside is the hammer surface is larger, so you are more likely to hit what you are aiming for. It is

Favourite Hammers

Karl Schutt was a big proponent of Princess Auto supplies.

There is an **Owden brand stamping hammer** on Amazon that comes with three interchangeable heads -- steel, brass, nylon.

Synclastic and anticlastic hammers are great for forming curved outer and inner surfaces such as for bracelets.

A **forging hammer** is heavy duty. It has a short handle and a big head and works well on large objects.

The **watchmaker's hammer** comes with six interchangeable heads.

Hack the Hammer

If you ever lack a hammer, you could use a rock.

You could glue a brass surface to the end of a steel hammer instead of buying a brass hammer.

People have sanded down handles to make them easier to hold.

Sand down rawhide mallet heads to make them more curved.

Pounding chainmail is bad for the hands. Wear padded gloves.



needed for stamping, disc cutting, anywhere where you hit a piece of steel or steel tool because the mallet will not damage the steel. Conversely,

the steel will mar the brass surface easily.

NOTE: you can use a **steel hammer** for disc cutters if the disc cutter is made of a harder alloy; the danger of using steel-on-steel is that the top of the disc will start to flare out or "mushroom", so that it will not fit through the cutter anymore. The same problem can happen with stamps. Also, the act of striking with steel can harden the steel, making it more brittle over time.



Hard plastic hammers come in various shapes. They are really good for shaping and stretching metal without marring it.

Embossing hammers have tiny round ends at both ends. They can move and shape metal nicely, but they are also used for texturing and repoussé. If you do a lot of embossing, you might want a group of these tools with different sizes of heads.

A **planishing hammer** (flattening) has curved ends for stretching metal as well as removing dents from metal. Auto body shops use this tool to fix dents and scratches in cars.

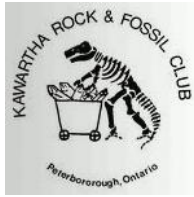
The only purpose for a **raising hammer** is for moving metal. The tool has a more rounded and rectangular head. It is very good for getting into small spaces. A different **shaping hammer** comes with interchangeable nylon heads. It is intended to be used with a stake to shape metal with either a concave or convex surface.

Use a **bordering hammer** only to do a linear texture, but it is also handy for form folding.

A **watchmaker's hammer** comes with a brass head and a steel head, a six interchangeable nylon heads. **Texturing hammers** have textured heads with lines or dots or other patterns. Some come with interchangeable heads. It is also possible to get interesting textures from banged-up carpentry hammers, and you can also make your own textures in them.



Gem, Jewellery and Mineral Shows March and April



Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club Annual Show

March 2, 10:00 – 17:00
March 3, 10:00 – 17:00

Healthy Planet Arena
911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough
Adults \$5.00, Children under 12: Free
http://kawartharockandfossilclub.com/?page_id=25



Toronto Gem Expo 2024

March 8, 11:30 – 20:00
March 9, 10:00 – 18:00
March 10, 10:00 – 17:00

Hyatt Regency on King Street, Toronto
Gemstones, Minerals, Beads
Gems & Jewellery
<https://thegemexpo.com/>

Notes on these Shows...

The Niagara Club Show will be at the Canadian Legion Branch 138 in St Catharines, Ontario.

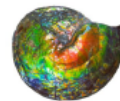
The Brantford Club show is in Paris, Ontario, from April 6-7. A link will for this coupon will be posted on Facebook in mid-March, but special for CCFMS members (that's us!), some coupons are provided at the back of this newsletter to print off.



NEWS FLASH
NPGS
Niagara Peninsula Geological Society
Mini Rock & Mineral Show
Something For Everyone!
\$2 Admission
Children under 12 Free
Sunday March 24th, 2024
10am-5pm
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 138
2 Chesnut Street E

50th PARIS GEM & MINERAL SHOW

APRIL 6 & 7, 2024 - 10 AM TO 5 PM
PARIS FAIRGROUNDS, 139 SILVER ST., PARIS, ON



Admission: \$7/daily or \$8/weekend pass
Kids (12 and under) FREE!

crystals, jewellery, minerals, fossils, kids table,
bead and jewellery suppliers, silent auction
Daily door prize featuring Ammolite *(not as shown)*

New this year:
Free Gem ID and Mining Matters



SCAN FOR SHOW COUPONS,
VENDOR LISTING AND DIRECTIONS
OR
VISIT thebrantfordlapandmin.com

Hosted by the Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society



Nipissing Rock & Mineral Club

Sale and Auction

April 13, 2024

9 am-5:00 pm

Callander
Community Centre

rocks, minerals, gems,
jewelry, activities for kids

Admission one loonie

The Freeman Topaz

The Freeman Uncut Topaz (left) weighs 50.35 kg (111 lbs). It is one of three large topazes in the Smithsonian Museum's collection. The other two are the similar looking but smaller Lindsay Uncut Topaz, weighing 31.75 kg (70 lbs), and the huge faceted American Golden Topaz weighing 22,892.50 carats (almost 4.6 kg), the largest cut yellow topaz in the world.

All three stones come from the Minas Gerais region in Brazil. The bubbly appearance comes from the imprints of albite crystals that pressed against the back sides of the topaz. They would have been sliced up for use in scientific instruments, but better material was found. At the time of discovery, this pale colour of the stone was considered unattractive for gemstones, so they were sent to museums. If they had been found later, most likely they would have been treated with radiation exposure to turn them a more popular blue colour.

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/explore/collections/geogallery/10002803>



The Freeman Topaz; photo from Chip Clark; Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

M'GOUN UNESCO Global Geopark

Just 100 km west from Marrakech, is the M'Goun Geopark in Morocco. The park was designated a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015.

The park covers an area of 5730 km² in the middle of the High Atlas mountain chain (also called Grand Atlas). This mountain range runs through Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. It separates the Sahara Desert from the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.



Photo of the M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark; from the UNESCO web site.

The park has two climate zones. From the Atlantic Ocean, the north and south sides of the western part experience high rainfall of 600 to 900 mm per year and Mediterranean temperatures between 3°C to 35°C. The southern side of the eastern part gets less rain at 400 to 700 mm per year, and temperatures ranging from 0°C to 30°C. Snowfall is common at altitudes above 1,500 m from November to May.

The geological history starts 250 million years ago in the Triassic period up to the Middle Jurassic with the uplift of a rift basin, while main stages of the current geology took place during the Jurassic

period about 180 million years ago with the convergence and collision of the African and Eurasian Plates, swiftly followed by the separation of the African and North American Plates 20 million years later to make way for the Atlantic Ocean.

The area contains numerous minerals including copper, zinc, iron, basalt, limestone, and dolomitic Triassic red clays. In addition, there are copper sulfide minerals including chalcopyrite, bornite, Covellite, chalcocite, plus malachite and rarely pyrite in matrix of commercially worthless chlorite, barite and orthoclase.

There are numerous fascinating footprints of sauropod and theropod dinosaurs and many bone deposits. Since June, 2023, a resin cast replica of a giant sauropod has been displayed in the park museum in the provincial capital Azilal.

Multi-day tourist treks are available for anyone willing to climb the mountains and circuit around verdant river gorges and isolated Berber villages.



Valley in Atlas mountain, Morocco; photo by Melintir at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0

<https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks/mgoun>

<http://www.jebeltrekking.com/trekking-tours/mgoun/>

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Peridot

Peridot ((Mg, Fe)₂SiO₄, aka chrysolite) is the gemmy light yellowy green to brownish olive-green version of olivine. The colour intensity depends how much iron is present in the chemical structure; more iron means deeper green. Inclusions are common, especially chromium.



Olivine (peridot) with minor pyroxene (brown) on vesicular basalt. San Carlos, Arizona, USA. Photo by Pyrope, Wikimedia Creative Commons.

It can be found as orthorhombic crystals in igneous rock with high quantities of magnesium and iron and low amount of silica (less than 45%), like volcanic basalt and pallasitic meteorites (olivine inclusions in a ferro-nickel matrix).

Peridot forms in the molten upper mantle under Earth's crust. It is highly susceptible to oxidization as it travels to the Earth's surface and on the surface wherever temperatures are greater than 600 °C, breaking down into magnetite and orthopyroxene. So, gem-quality material is rare to find.

Calendar

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Kawartha Club Show
3 Kawartha Club Show	4	5	6	7	8 Toronto Gem Expo	9 Toronto Gem Expo
10 Toronto Gem Expo	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 (24) NPGS Mineral Show	25	26	27	28	29	30



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).

Silversmith online meeting 2/month

Mineral Interest Group online monthly meeting

OLMC online auctions

OLMC field trips

More information can be found at <http://www.olmc.ca>
You can also go on our Facebook page: [OttawaLapsmithandmineralclub](#)

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

Please mail your membership form and fees to:

Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
PO Box 36042 Wellington, Ottawa, ON, K1Y 4V3

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

Administration use only

Card provided: Yes No

Supervisor signed: Yes No

Date: _____

Celebrating our 50th!

PARIS GEM & MINERAL SHOW

APRIL 6 & 7, 2024 (10–5)
PARIS FAIRGROUNDS, PARIS, ON
ADMISSION \$7—KIDS 12 & under are free

Only paper copies will be accepted. Printed coupon must be surrendered at time of entrance.
This coupon has no cash value. Only one coupon per person. CCFMS001

Redeemable for
\$2.00 OFF
Show Admission

Celebrating our 50th!

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