



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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President's Message

Our workshop chairman Jean-Guy Bradette is retiring from the role effective this April. He reluctantly volunteered at the old Brookfield workshop and has helped the club create two workshops since then. He and a small group of helpers built the tables in the capping room and Silversmithing areas and ran most of the wiring at our Billings workshop. He will be hanging around as a supervisor but is scaling back his duties. Don Alp has volunteered to fill his shoes. We all thank Jean-Guy for his enormous service to the club.

It was a nasty winter and the workshop was closed for a few days. Everything should be getting back to normal now.

A geology consulting contractor paid the club \$1,000 for cutting and polishing. We don't normally do such things, but we do help people out. Rock cutting and polishing services in the Ottawa area are scarce.

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

New Silversmith Stations

The silversmith area in the workshop is undergoing some major changes. Workshop Chair Donovan Alp has been spent a lot of time on this project.

Don praised the efforts of former chair Jean-Guy Bradette to get the workshop set up in 2025, and providing a large workbench for the silversmiths.

The number of people crowding in to attend the weekly silversmith meetings created a demand for a new arrangement.

“The space we have is long and narrow and when the original bench was pulled out to accommodate two people on each side, it restricted access to the soldering station,” Don said. “I made a scale model of the room and the furniture to show it would be possible to rearrange things easily and make better use of the space we have.”



The plan was approved by the Executive Committee. At the same time, Don found some “made in Canada” solid wood countertops for sale at Costco. The drawer units came from Ikea.



The bench is at the standard height for jewelry work and there are trays at each station for catching filings and somewhere to put tools.

The rolling mill, shears, Freedom machines and the ring sizer will be mounted directly on the bench.

Annual General Meeting in April



The OLMC will hold the annual general meeting sometime in April. This is the time for all members to vote on a new Executive Committee. All positions are open, and nominees for each position are always welcome.

Plus, this general meeting is an opportunity for the members of the Executive Committee to report on activities and decisions from 2025, and plans for 2026. 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.

Usually, there is a rock swap after, so be prepared. It will be hosted on Zoom for people who cannot attend in person. More details will be provided in an e-mail to club members.

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

Current Executive Committee

Past President: vacant

President: Kerry Day

Vice-President: Matthew Poirier

Treasurer: Catherine Garrett

Secretary: Janet Borzecki



Current Appointed Chairs

Member Chair: Judy Courteau

Workshop Chair: Donovan Alp

Show Chair: Stéphane Jetté

Newsletter: Eric Clara

Need Equipment?

Check out [Facebook marketplace](#). This month, there was listed a 10-inch Covington Trim saw, two faceting machines and a Genie Diamond cabbing machine. Most of the sellers are in the Toronto area, so you would need to arrange pick-up or delivery.



Pictures of this year's Tucson Gem & Mineral Show have been posted on Facebook by [Sudbury Rock and Lapidary Society](#) member Joe D'Oliveira. Click [here](#) to view some of the images.

The show ran from January 24 to February 15. It is a multi-venue event spread across the city, mostly public and with free parking.

“Spring Cleaning” Auction starts March 21

The next OLMC auction will be **Saturday, March 21**, 6:00 PM to **April 4**, 6:00 PM. The deadline for submissions is March 14.

All club members may contribute up to 10 items (5 Auction lots and 5 “Buy it now” items) -- rock, mineral, fossil, gemstones, jewellery, equipment, books and/or supplies.

Please send photos and forms to Kerry Day at kaygeedeerocks@gmail.com or fill out the forms at the workshop by Saturday, March 7. Forms are available at <https://olmc.ca>, and at the workshop counter. Kerry will help photograph items.

Items can be dropped off to the workshop any time that it is open. All items will be stored in a locked cabinet. Oversized items and dangerous items should be kept at your place.



Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club presents... 

Spring On-Line Auction

March 21 – April 4, 2026

<https://32auctions.com/olmcmarch2026>

Featuring:

- Unique & beautiful jewellery and cabochons
- Selected minerals, rough stone and slabs

Local pick-up is free
\$20 delivery charge for shipping

*Anyone can bid
- or -
“buy it now”*

More details at <https://olmc.ca>

Cotterite

In the Carboniferous Limestone in Rockforest, County Cork, Ireland, is an incredibly rare variety of quartz called cotterite. It is the only known location where geological conditions of temperature, pressure and minerals allowed this crystal to form.

Cotterite crystals formed within a single horizontal vein of calcite, quartz, and iron-rich mud. They are extremely thin layers (about 10 microns thick) that develop very fine cracks as they grow, which create a distinctive frosty, silvery, pearlescent finish when by scattered light.

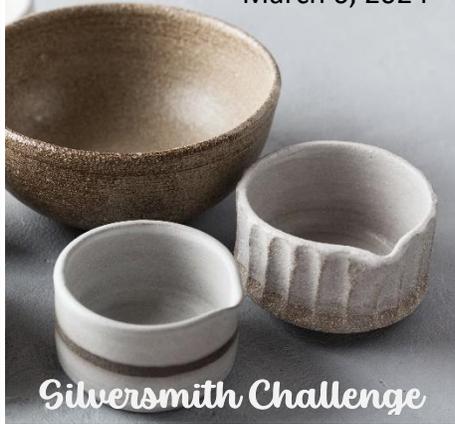
It was discovered in 1874 by Grace Elizabeth Cotter of Mallow. Only about 30 specimens had ever been found until 2024, when [a boy found a piece of cotterite](#) in a newly ploughed field in Rockforest. This was the first time a specimen of cotterite that had been found in 150 years.



Cotterite; photo by [National Museum of Ireland](#) -, [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Bowl Me Over

March 6, 2024



Silversmith Challenge

It's the "Bowl Me Over"

Silversmith Challenge from March 2024!

The Challenge: Create a bowl from metal. It does not have to be watertight, but it must be bowl shaped and able to hold something. The bowl can be any size, made from any type of metal. You can adorn your bowl or let it sing on its own.

Janet Borzecki

Crocheted coloured wire and beads. It's a few inches across.



Joy McDonell (above and below)

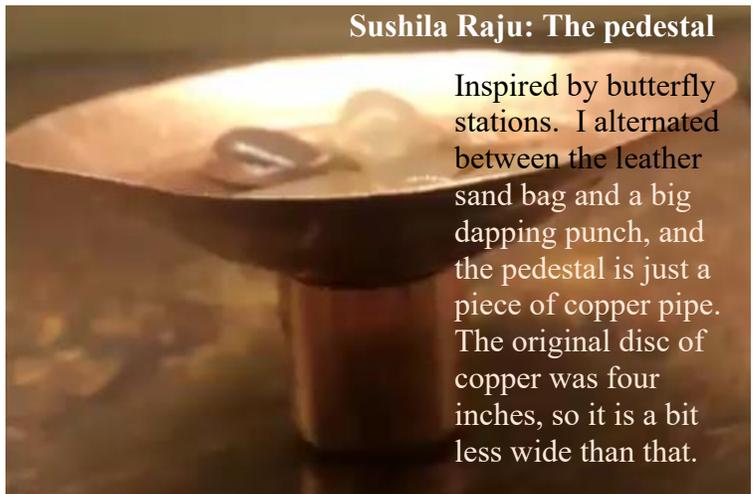
It's more of a dish made of copper. I made this several years ago after one of my forming courses in Tennessee. I think used a mushroom stake.



I came up with these golden bowl earrings. I had a little walk outside, and I saw this piece of ice with this lacey pattern at the edge, and I thought "it might be fun", so I made a bunch of random holes in the edge, I formed them, and then I did keum boo in the centre.

Sushila Raju: The pedestal

Inspired by butterfly stations. I alternated between the leather sand bag and a big dapping punch, and the pedestal is just a piece of copper pipe. The original disc of copper was four inches, so it is a bit less wide than that.





Mary Laurenzio (left)

I like the idea of putting together pieces of something. The spirals are 1.5 inches in diameter, and I textured them, and then soldered them together. The spiral of the base is sitting on a plain piece of copper.



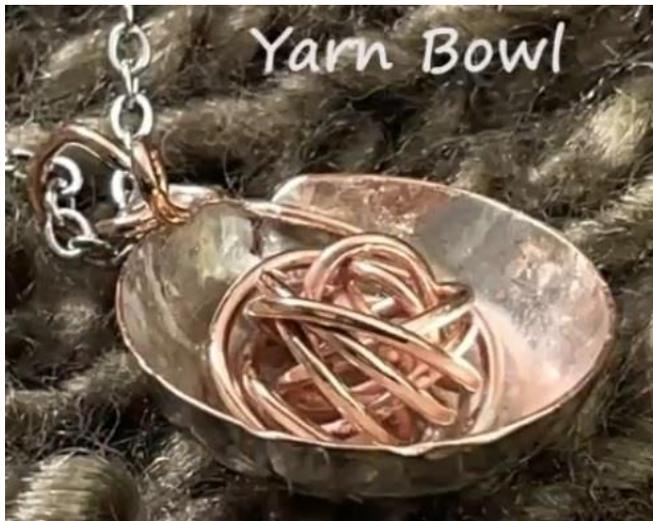
Pat Moore (above)

A very tiny copper dish.



Csila Ekes (above)

I had a left over piece from another project where I had to make perfect spheres, and this was one of my attempts using a larger doming punch and then a smaller one, so I had some pieces with this rim. It's less than 1/4 inch high, and it is watertight, and it's cute!



Vera Rehill (above and left)

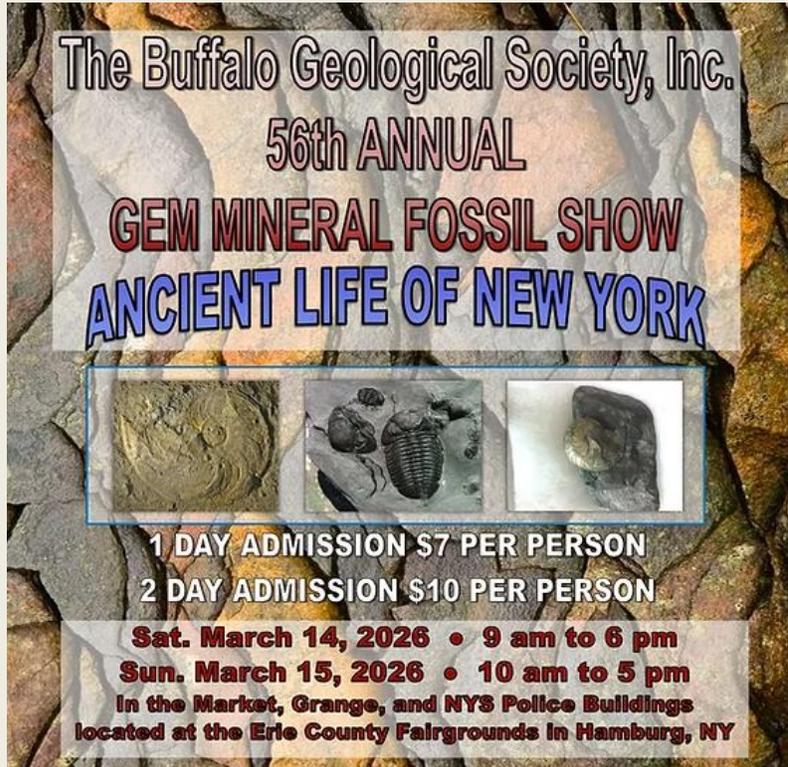
I do a lot of knitting rings, and a friend sent to me a yarn bowl. I liked the shape and the design, so I've been making these little necklaces with "yarn balls" inside them. Silver plated copper from a tray, and copper wire is soldered into the bowl.

Buffalo Geological Society 56th Annual Gem-Mineral Fossil Show

The [Buffalo Geological Society](#) will host its Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, New York.

This show is in three buildings and has something for everyone. Over 33 dealers will be selling gems, beads, minerals, fossils, and jewellery from around the world, plus a food vendor and hourly door prizes.

- Saturday, March 14, 2026, 9 am to 6 pm
- Sunday March 15, 2026, 10 am to 5 pm
- Admission is \$7 and children 12 and under and scouts in uniform are FREE, and a two-day admission for \$10 each



The Mini-mine and sluice simulation allows “young scientists” to search for minerals and fossils in a bag of sand that they wash. Professional Geologists will be available to discuss what geologists do and what types of jobs are present in the area for geologists.

Several special presentations are planned:

- “Ancient Life of New York” hosted by the Buffalo Geological Society both days.
- Sandy Cline, internationally renowned soapstone carver from Burleigh Falls, Ontario, will demonstrate his art of carving wildlife forms.
- SUNY Fredonia Geology Department will have a stream table showing how rivers behave when water flows change.
- Past and Present will display dinosaur models and actual dinosaur bones recently acquired.
- Museum Exhibits: The New York State Museum will bring two exhibits of New York State classic fossils. The Orton Museum from The Ohio State University will have two exhibits from famous paleontologists James Hall and other early paleontologists. The Buffalo Museum of Science will exhibit New York fossils.
- Fluorescent Minerals of Northern New York State, March 14 from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the New York State Police Building
- Back to the Moon: Lunar Geology and the Artemis II Mission, March 15 from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM in the New York State Police Building

Contact Jerry Bastedo, Show Chairman, at jcbastedo@gmail.com for information or questions.

Paris Gem & Mineral Show

March 28-29, 10 am to 5 pm each day

Paris Fairgrounds

139 Silver Street, Paris, Ontario

\$8.00/person at the door

\$12.00/person weekend pass

Kids 12 and under = FREE!

Hosted by

Brantford Lapidary & Mineral Club

<https://www.thebrantfordlapandmin.com>

The Gem Expo

Crystals, Gemstones, and Handcrafted Jewellery

March 13, 11:30 am to 8:00 pm

March 14, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

March 15, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

Hyatt Regency in Toronto, Ontario

Adults \$12/day

Students and Seniors \$8/day

3-day pass for \$22

Get tickets at <https://thegemexpo.com>

Le Club Lapidaire et
Minéralogique d'Ottawa

58^e Salon annuel
des pierres,
minéraux et bijoux

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

Ottawa Lapsmith &
Mineral Club's

58th Annual Gem,
Mineral & Jewellery
Show & Sale

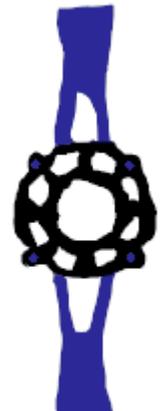


More info at <https://olmc.ca/gemshows.html>

From the Library...

Over the course of his five-year stay in Paris he learned how to plan his creations on paper, in accordance with centuries-old tradition. The acquisition of this skill was essential, for drawing was integral to several aspects of the silversmith's task: it enabled the practitioner to understand and transpose a design from an existing source, to develop a form, to study proportion and to invent a decorative motif or determine how one should be integrated.

**René Villeneuve
Laurent Amiot: Canadian Master Silversmith**



Izu Peninsula Geopark, Japan

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Twenty million years ago, the Izu Peninsula was a volcanic formation deep under the ocean south of Japan. Tectonic plate action pushed it up and northward, until about 600,000 years ago it collided with the mainland and formed the Izu Collision Zone. The on-going collision causes crustal shortening, faulting, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes that make a rugged terrain.

This park was [designated a UNESCO site](#) in 2018. More than half a million people live within the 202,700 hectares of the park.

The 318-kilometre-long coastline alternates between steep cliffs and quiet deep bays, and hot springs. The central mountains include Mt. Banzaburo at 1,405 metres high. Further northeast near Cape Kadowakizaki is the perfectly conical and dormant Omuro Volcano.



Muriwa-do Cave was once a stone quarry where the "Izu stone" (tuffite) was cut out, and was used until the 1930s. Photo from <https://izugeopark.org/>

Workshop Schedule

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Cabbing Class (SJ)	2	3 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (DA)	4 Lapidary 5pm-9pm (CG)	5 Faceting 6pm-9pm (RB)	6	7 Lapidary 10am-4pm (JM/JC)
8 Silversmith Class – Basic Ring 10am-1pm	9	10 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (JB)	11 Lapidary 5pm-9pm (JL)	12 Faceting 6pm-9pm (DA)	13	14 Lapidary 10am-4pm (CG/KD)
15	16	17 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (DA)	18 Lapidary 5pm-9pm (DP)	19 Faceting 6pm-9pm (RB)	20	21 Lapidary 10am-4pm (SJ/JC)
22 Silversmith Class – Hollow Ring 10am- 1pm	23	24 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (JB)	25 Lapidary 5pm-9pm (CG)	26 Faceting 6pm-9pm (JL)	27	28 Lapidary 10am-4pm (DF/NB)
29	30	31 Lapidary 10am-2pm (RV) Silversmith 6:30-9pm (DA)				



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).

OLMC online auctions

OLMC field trips

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

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 with the application form

Please mail your membership form and fees to:

Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
PO Box 57012, Ottawa 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: _____