



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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Workshop Address:
 190-1C Colonnade road
 Ottawa, ON K2E 7J5
 Phone: 613-700-GEMS (4367)

Website:
<http://www.olmc.ca>

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

President's Message

There is little new to report this month. Our search for a rental continues. There isn't much on the market for most everyone wants a lease. If anyone stumbles across a suitable rental, please forward the information to me.

Our AGM on May 11 is an opportunity for members to volunteer not only for executive positions but also directorships - Workshop chair, Membership chair, Silversmithing chair, Field trip director, Show chair, Bulletin editor etc. We have the same core group doing most of the work. Many of us would love to retire and hand over the reins to someone else. The AGM is also an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions, so please ask away.

The AGM is also an opportunity to volunteer for our 2023 show at the Nepean Sportsplex Sept 15-17 (the 15th is the set up day).

Kerry Day
 OLMC President

Bancroft Area Rockhounding Trips

Starting May 6, Geologist Chris Fouts in co-operation with Lakeside Gems will host Geologist-led Mineral Collecting Field Trips in the Bancroft area.

2023 Schedule: May 6, June 10 & 24, July 1, 8, 19 & 27, August 9, 12, 24 & 26, September 9, 16 & 30, October 7
 Adults: \$45, Children: \$25

Tickets are available at the web site:

<https://lakesidegems.com/collections/mineral-collecting-field-trips/products/geologist-led-mineral-collecting-field-trip>

MIG Meeting

Date: May 15, 7:00 p.m.
Presenter: Inna Lykova & Michael Bainbridge
Topic: Minerals of the Yukon and British Columbia
OLMC members can join the Mineral Interest Group to get invites to meetings. Contact montgomeryjr50@gmail.com

OLMC Club Creations

The OLMC Gem, Mineral & Jewellery show is fast approaching, and club members have an excellent opportunity to sell their hand-made lapidary crafts and jewellery in a risk-free environment. Contact Vicki Jasperse (vicki_jasperse@rogers.com) or Stephane Jette (showchair@olmc.ca) for info.

Annual General Meeting May 11

The OLMC will hold its Annual General Meeting in person and Zoom.

Time: Thursday, May 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Place: Richelieu-Vanier Community Centre, Workshop Room 5
300 Des Pères-Blancs Avenue, Ottawa

The room can accommodate 45 persons. Please wear a mask if you have COVID concerns. Definitely wear a mask if you have a cough. Refrain from attending if you have a fever.

Club financial documents will be distributed at the meeting, and by e-mail to club members who request a copy (news@olmc.ca). The AGM is also the time for present members to vote for a new Executive Committee and to ask questions and chat. Be ready to swap rocks.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85430879243?pwd=VGl1WkZkRXBVV2lUQ2lJbmVMaEk3QT09>
Meeting ID: 854 3087 9243 Passcode: 907601



“Spring Cleaning” Auction May 20-27

See the instructions and forms at <https://olmc.ca>. Contact auctions@olmc.ca or mpoir116@uottawa.ca to answer questions.



Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club presents...

OLMC On-Line Auction
May 20-27 Spring Cleaning
<https://32auctions.com/olmcmay2023>

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”!





Call for Volunteers!

Please consider helping out the club and volunteering for some aspect of the show. Having enough or, even better, a surplus of volunteers allows the show committee set up

tables for the show, to hold various crafting demonstrations on lapidary and silversmithing, to support the vendors and academic partners at their booths, and to provide a safe and welcoming environment for shoppers and hobbyists alike. Just two hours of your time is all we ask, though more would be super.

Contact Stephane Jette at showchair@olmc.ca to enrol.

Information for Volunteers

Upon arriving at the show venue ...

- Volunteers get free entrance to the show for that day.
- If you have any questions or have any trouble, talk to the team leader for the area, or the Show Chair who is probably walking around.
- Please be courteous and ethical.
 - Do not harass a vendor. Do not tell people to avoid a vendor.
 - Do not abuse your position as a volunteer to sell your personal crafts.
 - Please be helpful to others and answer their questions if you can.
- When your time is over, feel free to wander around the show and/or volunteer for more time or another area.



Ottawa Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale
Salon des pierres, des minéraux et des bijoux à Ottawa

Sept. 16, 10:00 – 18:00	Nepean Sportsplex Curling Rink
Sept. 17, 10:00 – 17:00	1701 Woodroffe Avenue

Tickets: \$8 Billets: \$8
children under 13 years: free les enfants moins de 13 ans: gratuit
door prizes, free parking prix de présence, parking gratuit

Presented By Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club
Présenté par Club Lapidaire et Minéralogique d'Ottawa
olmc.ca 613-850-5586

Gem Show Partners

Academic organizations or other volunteer organizations related to geology, mineralogy, lapidary and jewellery-making are welcome partners at the show. It is our pleasure to make a certain amount of space available for free for these groups.

Partners can use this space to make educational presentations, demonstrations, or to provide a service related to geology and mineralogy.

Such organizations that would like to have a space at the show should contact Stephane Jette at showchair@olmc.ca

Vendor Waiting List

All spaces for 2023 are booked, but we are always looking for new vendors. Get on the waiting list by sending your information to dealerchair@olmc.ca.

- Your contact / business info (i.e. name, phone number, address, email etc.)
- The products you sell. Please provide pictures or an URL where we can review your products e.g. website, Facebook page
- The number of sales tables and back-up tables you prefer

KW Gem and Mineral Club presents...

Gem and Mineral Show
May 13, 2023, 10:00 am - 4:00 p.m.
Kitchener Auditorium
400 East Avenue, Kitchener, ON

- free admission
- hands-on activities for children
- rocks, minerals and fossils
- beads and jewellery
- gem dig
- local dealers
- displays

Norwood Rock Swap

May 27-28, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Coliseum, Norwood Fairgrounds
56 Alma Street, Norwood, ON

- free admission
- rocks, minerals, fossils, crystals, meteorites
- mining memorabilia
- and so much more!
- more than 40 vendors from Ontario and Quebec

36e Salon des pierres, minéraux et fossiles de Montréal

June 2, 13:00-20:00
June 3, 10:00-19:00
June 4, 10:00-17:00
Aréna Chénier, 8200 av. Chénier, Montréal, QC

- Admission \$10
- Gratuit/Free admission 12 years and under when accompanied by an adult
- Stationnement gratuit/Free parking

Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club presents...

Spring Metal Rocks Show & Sale
May 4, 17:00 - 21:00
May 5, 10:00 - 18:00
May 6, 10:00 - 17:00
May 7, 10:00 - 15:00
Rehearsal Room 203 Tett Centre
Tett Centre, 370 King St W,
Kingston, ON

- Free admission!
- features our member's unique jewellery creations, minerals and gemstones

Rockhound Crystal Hunting Adventure Tours

Malinda Prudhomme of Malinda's Minerals is offering a number of guided rockhounding tours in the Hastings Highlands around Bancroft in May and June.

The Facebook page includes descriptions of the various tours, the schedules and prices. These are "Adult Tours" for mature young adults 12+ only. The cost of permits or other private property access fees are included. Transportation and accommodations and site fees for the rocks you take are not included in the tour fees.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/MalindasRockhoundingCrystalTours/?ref=share_group_link

Interesting Finds: Florida

By Bob Boisvert, OLMC Secretary



*15 myo osters with chalcedony bubbles;
photo: Bob Boisvert*

This find checks a number of boxes: fossils, minerals and possibly jewellery!

On our last trip to Florida, we joined our friends to go looking for fossils. The destination was a small river outside of Gainesville. The plan was to collect shark teeth, and our guides Cris, Kyle and Bri told us we could find 15 million years old oysters.

We saw oysters everywhere. The fun part is that they were all covered in small (1-3 mm) mineral bubble. Every shovelful dug up dozens of these, each prettier than the next.

My friend Yves Bignon helped me get a mineral identification. The mineralization was identified either as chalcedony or opal, with opal the likeliest. The mineralization is modestly reactive to all UV wavelengths.

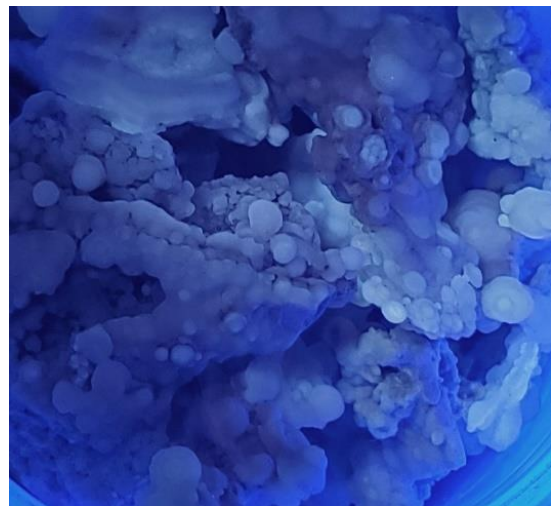
Some of the smaller pieces are just collections of these bubbles, and must have formed on sand, instead of shells. They would make for pretty, unique pendants or earrings.



Smaller mineralizations (~ 8-12 mm each); photo: Bob Boisvert

I will try soaking them in muriatic acid when the nice weather returns to see if it will remove the darker staining. *NOTE: This procedure should always be done outside as the acid emits dangerous fumes. Wear eye and skin protection.*

Bob Boisvert



*Mineral bubble under long UV light;
photo: Bob Boisvert*

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Spoon Rings

“How to Make Spoon Rings” was presented by Vera Rehill at the bi-weekly OLMC Silversmith meeting 2022-03-22

So-called spoon rings are made using old food utensils - spoons and forks and serving tools. These rings sell well at shows (in-person), but not so well on Internet sites. Thousands of people make them. Typically, they sell for \$30 or more.



You will need...

- Spoon or fork
- Jewelers saw or other cutting tool
- File
- Ring mandrel
- Nylon or rawhide mallet
- Torch
- Pickle pot
- Ring bending pliers
- (optional) Wooden block or "swag" to help with bending

The material can be found at flea markets and second-hand stores. They might be sterling silver or silver plate on brass or some other base metal. Very likely they have a pattern stamped into the metal. People flatten them out, weld pieces together, stain them with colours, engraving, and sawing the scoops in half to make earrings or using a scoop as a pendant, and other actions.

Some utensils can be thicker, making them more difficult to bend and to work with. Similarly, sections can be too thin and will break when bent. The metal cannot be annealed because the electroplate will melt off, and there may be no telling what the base metal is.

Parts of the utensil might already be bent, but in the wrong direction. Often that part is already hardened and may crack or break when re-shaped. These parts might be better used as pendants.



Example of a smaller spoon with the bowl flattened and marked for cutting; screen shot OLMC Silversmiths 2022-03-22

The ring is a length of metal wrapped around itself, so it is easy to re-size as needed. A length of metal of 10 cm will make a size 6 ring that can be enlarged to a size 8 or more with a mandrel.

Cut off the bowl and file down the end to make it rounder and thinner. That end will be the inside of the ring.

Little spoons purchased at some tourist shops might have handles that are too short and narrow. Use a wooden mallet to flatten them out. Draw a point on the bowl section for additional length and saw that out to give more room for sizing.

Little demi-tasse spoons can be used entirely for the ring. Flatten out the bowl and then make the ring on a mandrel. The bowl goes under the band, and because it is usually thin already it does not require much filing.



A tiny spoon can be used entirely; screen shot OLMC Silversmiths 2022-03-22



Gently hammer the metal strip into a swag to shape the ring; screen shot OLMC Silversmiths 2022-03-22

Shape the ring using a mandrel and a swag block. The swag block is a wooden block with holes of varying sizes drilled out of it. Gently hammer on the mandrel to push the metal into the appropriately sized hole. Hammering the mandrel instead of the metal band will help to avoid making flat areas.

Once done, if you want a smaller ring, move the band to a narrow part of the mandrel, and repeat the process using a small hole in the swag block. Then, make sure the metal is clean and toss it in the tumbler to polish it up.

You can buy a ring bending tool (e.g. search on Etsy) for the shaping process. The tool comes with several moulds to shape the metal with round and angled bends.

The problem with adding a bezel is that the silver plate will melt very easily under a torch, so the plate must be sanded away to expose the base metal. An alternative is riveting with a cold connection the pre-made bezel into a hole in the band.



SilviaFindings has been a manufacturer of sterling silver and gold settings since 2004. We have a large variety of settings in various designs, shapes, and sizes for earrings, pendants, rings, and bracelets.

After you buy a gemstone, you may want to have your stone set to create a unique piece of jewellery. We have the expertise to provide suggestions on which setting is the right setting for your stone.

We also offer affordable custom-made jewellery services for stones that have unique shapes and dimensions, with no minimum purchase requirement and for a guaranteed unbeatable low price!

SilviaFindings Team
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SilviaFindings fabrique des montures en argent sterling et en or depuis 2004. Nous disposons d'une grande variété de montures de différents modèles, formes et tailles pour boucles d'oreilles, pendentifs, bagues et bracelets.

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Nous offrons également des services abordables de bijouterie sur mesure pour les pierres qui ont une forme et des dimensions uniques, sans obligation d'achat minimum et pour un prix bas garanti imbattable!

L'équipe SilviaFindings



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Tumbler Ridge Geopark

The Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark includes parts of six provincial parks in British Columbia. It was designated in 2015.

The highest point of this mountainous and glaciated area is Bulley Glacier Peak at 2630 m above sea level, and the lowest elevation is measured at 663 m above sea level where Salt Creek enters the Murray River. Rivers flow through the northwest-to-southeast valleys and then through the foothills. There are guided tours to dinosaur footprint sites, educational camps, outdoor programs, and school programs.

The park area spans a geologic time range from 600 to 60 million years ago, starting with sedimentary deposits from a source to the northeast, possibly low hills. In the Middle Cambrian/Middle Jurassic period, the sea rose and warmed, leading to deposits of limestone and dolostone, and shale in deeper water. These layers of sediments then were folded and faulted by tectonic action. The resulting mountains eroded towards the east, creating the Western Canadian Foreland Basin. From two million years ago the last Ice Age, glaciers advanced and retreated many times over the park area. There are large surface deposits of sand, gravel, and till.

There are also Cretaceous dinosaur tracks, a Cretaceous dinosaur bone bed with unusual features, and Triassic fishes and marine reptiles are abundant. At Tumbler Ridge was discovered for the first time multiple sets of Tyrannosaurus tracks, which caused palaeontologists to re-evaluate the behaviour of the species as pack hunters. In rocks 75–73 million years old, hundreds of fossil bones have been removed -- dinosaur teeth, jaws, fish scales, and champsosaur vertebrae. The park is famous for its huge quantity amazingly well-preserved plant and invertebrate fossils -- crustaceans, oysters, inoceramids, starfish, as well as trees and several types of ferns.

<https://www.tumbleridgegeopark.ca/>

Contact:

President
Kerry Day
pres@olmc.ca

Vice-President
Matthew Poirier
vicepres@olmc.ca

Secretary
Bob Boisvert
sec@olmc.ca

Treasurer
Rita Hudec
treasurer@olmc.ca

Workshop Chair
Jean-Guy Bradette
workshop@olmc.ca

Membership Chair
Nathalie Bourget
memberchair@olmc.ca

Show Chair
Stéphane Jetté
showchair@olmc.ca

Newsletter Editor
Eric Clara
news@olmc.ca

Auction Team
auctions@olmc.ca

Cuprite (Cu₂O)

Cuprite, aka ruby copper, is a soft but heavy red oxide material with a Mohs hardness of 3.5 to 4 and specific gravity of 6.1.


It is found as tiny brilliant crystals (cubic, octahedral, or dodecahedral), grains, or earthy-coloured masses with native copper, azurite, chrysocolla, malachite, tenorite and some iron oxide minerals, and is often formed by the weathering of copper sulfide minerals.

There was one unique deposit in Seeis, Namibia, discovered in the 1970s, that produced large gem-quality crystals, but it was mined out.

Cuprite has two unusual varieties. Chalcotrichite, or plush copper ore or from the Greek "hairy copper", is loosely matted aggregates of capillary crystals with a deep red colour and a silky lustre. Tile ore is a soft, earthy variety that is brick-red to brownish red, formed by the alteration of chalcopyrite, and often mixed in with hematite or limonite.



Cuprite from Morenci, Arizona; photo from U.S. "Bureau of Mines", Mineral Specimens C\01786

Workshop Schedule						
May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Silversmith video call 19:00	3	4 Spring Metal Rocks!	5 Spring Metal Rocks!	6 Spring Metal Rocks!
7 Spring Metal Rocks!	8	9	10	11 AGM 19:00	12	13 Kitchener Gem Show
14 	15	16 Silversmith video call 19:00	17 auction item drop- off deadline	18	19	20 OLMC Auction May20-27
21	22 MIG video call 19:00	23	24	25	26	27 Norwood Rock Swap
28	29	30 Silversmith video call 19:00	31			



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](https://www.facebook.com/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
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 No

Supervisor signed: Yes No

Date: _____