



The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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Website: <https://olmc.ca/>

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

President's Message

Our September Gem and Mineral show is now only a few weeks away. All volunteers should contact the show chair directly at showchair@olmc.ca. Club members who wish to volunteer or contribute their hand-crafted items at the Club Creations booth must contact vicki_jasperse@rogers.com no later than September 8.

Show planning is progressing. Everything is booked and ready to go for the weekend of Sept 16-17. **We still need lots of volunteers for all jobs.** Please contact Stephane Jette at showchair@olmc.ca if you can help out in any way.

There is a show advertising poster on the last page of this newsletter. Please feel free to print it and post it somewhere.

We have hundreds of 5x7 inch show postcards to distribute. If anyone would like a pile, please contact me (Ottawa) or Stephane (Gatineau). We can mail them to you if necessary.

The possibility of a new workshop before June 2024 is weak. Very few places are willing to rent to us and few want a client with an existing lease. Jean-Guy is seriously considering changing the club to an Ontario nonprofit corporation come May.

The long weekend field trip to Temagami and Cobalt has been cancelled. We will try again next year. In its place Matthew and I will try to arrange a field trip to one of the Apatite-mica mines in the St.-Pierre-de-Wakefield area

We have a new treasurer Catherine Garrett at treasurer@olmc.ca. Please do not send any further financial matters to Rita Hudec.

Kerry Day

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

Mineral Interest Group

At present, the Mineral Interest Group has no chairperson or leader. There are no more meetings scheduled. This small group met monthly to view presentations and casually chat. Perhaps you, dear reader, would be interested in taking this lead role. If so, please contact pres@olmc.ca.

Happy Field Trip to Quadville and Craigmont

On a lovely August 19, over a dozen people took part in a day trip to Quadville for beryl, quartz, feldspar, and other minerals. Then they continued on to Craigmont to search for bronze corundum.

OLMC Field Trips in Autumn

Kerry Day and Matthew Poirier have a tentative field trip schedule for 2023. There is no information on any MIG plans. Feedback from club membership is valuable and appreciated. Are these good locales to visit? Are people interested in other sites? Who wants to go to these sites on these dates? Please send your feedback to pres@olmc.ca or news@olmc.ca.

- Labour Day weekend Sept 02-04: **Cancelled**. The new owners could not be reached to get permission. A long trip to Temagami, Ontario for Banded Iron Formation and Cobalt, Ontario for Silver.
- Sept 30/Oct 01: Bancroft region. Tory Hill and other localities. We would stay overnight at a motel/cabin/campground as people see fit.
- October 21: Highway 50 road cuts for massive, fluorescent Scapolite. This would be a late afternoon/evening field trip for the Scapolite fluoresces yellow under LW UV.

Call for Volunteers!

Please consider helping the club by volunteering for some aspect of the show. Having enough or, even better, a surplus of volunteers allows the show committee to hold demonstrations, support the vendors and academic partners, and provide a safe and welcoming environment for shoppers and hobbyists alike.

Contact showchair@olmc.ca. Just two hours of your time is all we ask.

The volunteer chart is updated when there is new information: <http://olmc.ca/gs2023-volunteers.html>. Especially, the Admissions tables need 22 people over the weekend. There is also a need for ushers.

Our Gem Show supplement includes photos and information about the various club booths. You can download it at <http://www.olmc.ca/news/gemshow-supp.pdf>



Minerals Used by the Human Body

Medical professionals describe “minerals” as inorganic elements that are essential for normal human health and development. The four major elements found in most organic compounds are excluded: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. There are at least fifteen elements that are essential for human health, and nine more "potentially important" elements.

Maybe the "possible" essential elements were critical for a distant genetic ancestor, and the biological processes for handling these elements have been preserved even though the critical function is no longer used. Or maybe the body can efficiently handle these elements because they are chemically similar to other elements the body regularly uses.

Reference: [Alberta Health](#), [NIH](#), and many thanks to the [Google](#) search engine

Essential Minerals	Possibly Essential Minerals
<p>Calcium: bone health, muscle contraction and relaxation, blood clotting, blood pressure</p> <p>Chlorine: digestion (stomach acid)</p> <p>Cobalt: part of vitamin B12 (essential vitamin) which helps the production of red blood cells</p> <p>Copper: found in many enzymes, helps metabolize iron</p> <p>Iodine: part of thyroid hormone, regulates growth, development, and metabolism</p> <p>Iron: hemoglobin and myoglobin to transport oxygen</p> <p>Magnesium: making protein; muscle contraction; nerve transmission; immune system health</p> <p>Manganese: found in many enzymes</p> <p>Molybdenum: found in many enzymes</p> <p>Phosphorus: found in every cell; bone health, helps maintain acid-base balance</p> <p>Potassium: nerve transmission, muscle contraction, fluid balance inside of cells</p> <p>Selenium: used in selenoproteins (antioxidant) to make DNA and protect against cell damage and infections; reproduction and the metabolism of thyroid hormones</p> <p>Sodium: nerve transmission, muscle contraction, fluid balance outside of cells</p> <p>Sulfur: used in protein molecules</p> <p>Zinc: used in many enzymes, and for making protein and genetic material; blood coagulation; taste perception</p>	<p>Boron: maybe a wide range of uses (NIH) or maybe it is just in a lot of food we eat (NIH)</p> <p>Bromine: maybe used to make collagen (Vanderbilt University) or maybe it is corrosive and replaces iodine and chlorine (UK Health Security Agency)</p> <p>Chromium: used with insulin to regulate blood sugar, but no consensus on other benefits (Mount Sinai)</p> <p>Lithium: mood stabilizer (helps release serotonin) but can have many bad side effects (Australia Health)</p> <p>Fluorine: bone formation, but mainly used to prevent tooth cavities; too much can cause hair loss (NIH)</p> <p>Nickel: may help with absorbing iron, glucose and adrenaline or maybe it is just found in plant food and micro-organisms (NIH)</p> <p>Silicon: found in collagen; strengthens nails, hair, and skin; not enough data to declare it "essential" (NIH)</p> <p>Strontium: similar to calcium but heavier and not as good (American Bone Health)</p> <p>Vanadium: maybe works with insulin (enhances or inhibits enzymes), but still not considered essential (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)</p>

A Visit to an Historic Stone Quarry

By Bill Hendrick

I came across this website which documents a quarry which supplied some of the stone for rebuilding of the Parliamentary Buildings after they were destroyed by fire in 1916.

[The Deserted Stone Quarry Of Canada's Parliament Buildings | OTTAWA REWIND](#)

I decided to try and find this quarry for myself. I found the bike path the website author talks about. I entered the bike path off of Timm road, and followed it north to where it approaches the 417. I started to see piles of rocks in the surrounding woods.

At the point where this path starts to turn east, there is another path that heads west. Taking this path, it soon turns south to run parallel with the original path. This is where the author took many of his photos as I recognized many of the places.



Rock face in power line clearing; Photo by Bill Hendrick

I found an old bottle here. This path seems to follow the rock face where the rock was cut. Possibly back in the day these two paths were used by the quarry workers. Eventually I came to a clearing where power lines ran through. Here the rock face was about 5 feet high in places. Just south of the clearing the rock face jumps to the west side of the path. There are many rock piles in this area. The area has quite few mosquitoes.

Recommendations to anyone wishing to visit the quarry:

1. Enter the path from Timm Road
2. Follow the path north 600-700m until you come to a clearing with power lines running through it
3. Take a small path on your immediately left for approximately 100m which will link up with the other path.
4. At this location you are on top of the rock face and can climb down to see the rock face
5. If you go south you will be able to see the rock face on the west side



Rock face off of path just south of power line clearing; Photo by Bill Hendrick

The author mentions all the building rock came from this quarry, but it is hard to picture exactly where from this quarry this rock came from. The rock face is pretty long, but I think they might have been much higher and the rock has been quarried.



Rock face off of path just south of power line clearing; Photo by Bill Hendrick



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Saw Like an Expert

**From the Silversmiths
Meeting 2022-02-16**

Regarding Blades

One side is smooth, one side has teeth. Teeth have a flat bottom and are angled up. It is important to put the teeth in the correct direction. Run your fingernail along the blade. If your finger goes smoothly down the blade, that is the wrong direction. If your finger catches, then that is the side that goes down, to cut in the downward direction. When you put it in your saw, that part goes on the down side.

There must be tension in the blade. There is a nut on the top side of the saw frame. Push that nut against a surface, pushing the arms of the saw slightly closer together, and then tighten the screw that holds the blade in place. If you flick the blade with your finger tip, it should make a ping noise. It is not tight enough if you hear a dull thump noise.

Re-check that the saw teeth are going the right way.

Get Ready to Cut

When getting ready to saw metal, use a marker or pen to draw the cutting line on the piece. It is very hard to cut a straight line just by eye.

Coat the saw blade side lightly in beeswax or "burlife". It will help the blade to run smoothly, and prevent catching. Do not run the blade teeth in the coating.

Slow and With Purpose

Place the piece on the wooden bench pin with a "V" cut in it, and hold it firmly with your fingers or a clamp. Slowly draw the saw blade down a few times to start the cut, and create a small channel that will help prevent the blade from bouncing around.

Hold the saw loosely in your hand. A tight grip will hinder cutting in a straight line. Use your arm to move the saw in long smooth motions. Do not use the wrist. Use the whole length of the blade, so that it wears evenly.

Steady and Patient

Inevitably, the blade will get stuck at some point. Do not force it through the cut. Instead, push it back up a slightly until the teeth release, and then continue.

Try to keep the saw vertical. It is okay if it tilts forward a bit, but it should not tilt to the right or left.

Ease off a bit as you get to the end. One recommendation for a clean end is to move the piece so the last part is supported by the bench pin, and saw into the wood.





If your sawing gets interrupted, leave the saw and the piece on the bench pin, or undo the blade from the saw frame. Do not try to back the blade out of the piece.

You can also cut curves with the saw, though it is trickier. Start the same as with a straight line, using a few slow cuts to create a channel. Rotate the piece as you cut along the line. Do not force the blade. Be patient.

And practice,

practice,

practice.

Tremolite

Tremolite is a silicate mineral of the amphibole group ($\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg}_{5.0-4.5}\text{Fe}_{2+0.0-0.5})\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$). It has a hardness on Mohs scale of 5 to 6.

It forms through metamorphism of sediments with high dolomite and quartz content. At very high temperatures, tremolite will change into diopside.

Pure magnesium tremolite is white, but increasing iron content results in more dark green colour.

Nephrite is a green variety of tremolite.

The fibrous form of tremolite is one of the six recognised types of asbestos. Sometimes it is found contaminating specimens of vermiculite, chrysotile, and talc

Johann Georg Albrecht Höpfner named this mineral in 1789, after the Tremola Valley in Switzerland, but later investigations proved the real location was Campolungo.



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.

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L'équipe SilviaFindings



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Ontario Mineral Collecting Policy politique de collecte des minéraux de l'Ontario

The new Ontario Mineral Collecting Policy has been posted. It's not 100% what both the CCFMS and, you, our CCFMS-affiliated clubs have asked for – but it's close. The link to download the new policy is <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6692#decision-details>.

There were 60 comments received from individuals and clubs. They are worth reading. (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6692/comments>).

We will be looking at the new policy more in-depth – hopefully, with plans to see if we can get the 100% asked for. For our Québec and Manitoba clubs, do your provinces also have a collecting policy for rockhounders?

Ashley Pollock, President CCFMS

CCFMS general email executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com , phone 905-687-6503

CCFMS Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Special costume jewellery and findings sale

Earlier this summer the club received a large donation from the estate of Doug Benson. He and his wife were running a small costume jewellery business. They both passed away, and the OLMC inherited their inventory of 25 shopping bags of costume jewellery and/or findings. These lots are available to club members at \$100/lot, first come, first serve. Leftover lots will be offered to our dealers at the show. The metal ruler is 12 inches long. Sorry, no closeup photos are available. All lots are available for viewing at 101 Promenade, Nepean, by appointment. Contact Kerry Day at pres@olmc.ca.

See photos of all 25 lots at: <https://olmc.ca/benson-estate.html>.



Benson Estate Lot 1



Benson Estate Lot 2



Benson Estate Lot 3



Benson Estate Lot 4



Benson Estate Lot 5



Benson Estate Lot 6



Benson Estate Lot 7



Benson Estate Lot 8



Benson Estate Lot 9

The Black Star of Queensland

This star sapphire that became known as the Black Star of Queensland was found on a hill in Queensland, Australia, in 1938, by 12-year-old Roy Spencer, who brought it home to his family's shack. His father Harry, a miner, considered this half-pound black stone as an unremarkable crystal, so it was used as a doorstep for almost a decade.

Then the brothers Kazanjian, jewellers from Los Angeles (who still have a shop in Beverly Hills), visited the area as part of the world travels to source gemstones for their business. They visited the Spencers and showed an interest in some of the local small black stones that they sensed were star sapphires. That's when the Spencers brought forth the doorstep for appraisal. Harry Spencer sold the stone to Harry Kazanjian for \$18,000 (about \$246,746 today). Kazanjian spent two months studying the 1,156-carat, fist-sized sapphire with copper inclusions, then cut and polished it into a 733 carat black cabochon with a six-pointed star.

The finished stone was valued at \$1 million (almost \$14 million today), but the Kazanjians declared it would not be sold.

Instead, the gemstone went on tour. The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History borrowed it in 1969. In 1971, Cher wore it as a pendant for some brief televised fame. But since then, the sapphire has been displayed only rarely. It continued to be loaned to museums and the occasional Hollywood celebrity.

In 2002, former model and self-proclaimed artist Jack Armstrong, who had become enamoured with the Black Star since childhood when he saw it at the Smithsonian, was invited to tour the Kazanjian jewellery store, where he saw the stone of his desire. He convinced the Kazanjians to sell it for the purpose of funding a scholarship at the Gemological Institute of America, and they settled on a price of \$50 million. Armstrong's wealthy widowed girlfriend Gabrielle Grohe paid the \$50 million price.

Five years later, that relationship went bad, and a legal fight began over ownership. At the time, the Black Star was on loan to the Royal Ontario Museum. After some shenanigans including a last-minute failed cheque scam by Armstrong to buy out Grohe, Grohe was declared the legal owner. The stone remains in private hands.



Black Star of Queensland Star Sapphire; Photo by greyloch, Wikimedia Commons.

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Scarborough Gem and Mineral Show

Sept 23 10:00 - 18:00

Sept 24 11:00 - 17:00

Don Montgomery Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. E

<https://www.scarbgemclub.ca/category/wonders-of-the-earth>

Ancaster Gem, Mineral, Bead & Jewellery Show

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 10:00 - 17:00

Ancaster Fairgrounds, 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster, ON

<https://ancastergemshow.com>

The Niagara Peninsula Geological Society (NPGS, <https://npgsclub.ca/>) hosts many events and field trips that are open to CCFMS members, which includes the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club.

Workshop Schedule

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Silversmith Meeting 7:00 p.m	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Gem Show Setup	16 OLMC Gem Show
17 OLMC Gem Show	18	19 Silversmith Meeting 7:00 p.m	20	21	22	23
24	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](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
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: _____

55th Annual Ottawa
Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale
55^e Salon annuel d'Ottawa
des pierres, des minéraux et des bijoux

Sept. 16 10:00-18:00

Sept. 17 10:00-17:00



**Nepean Sportsplex Curling Rink
1701 Woodroffe Avenue**

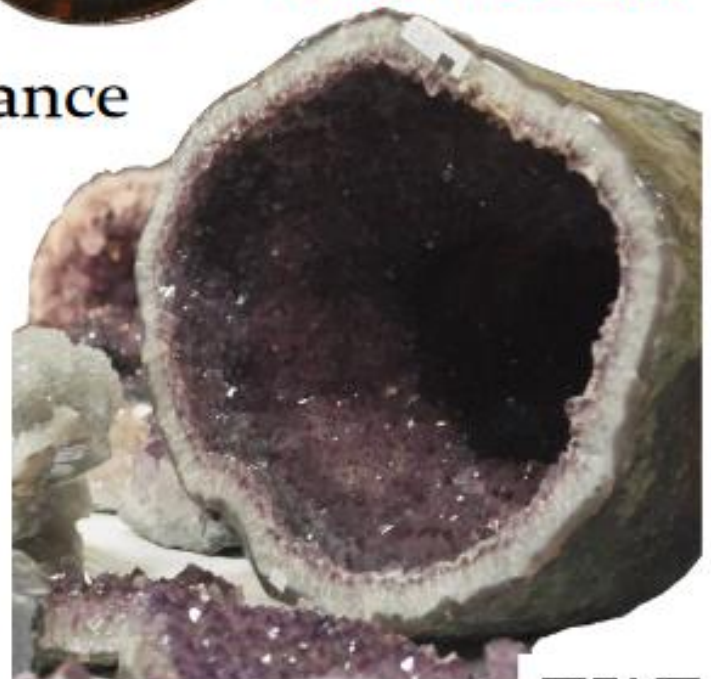
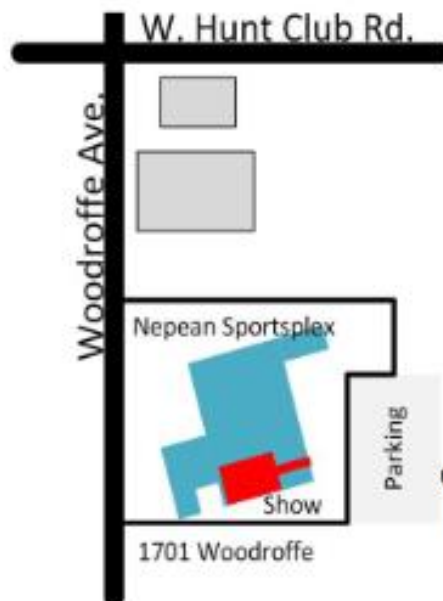
prix de présence
démonstrations
identification minérale
parking gratuit
enfants de moins de
12 ans: entrée gratuite



door prizes
demonstrations
mineral identification
free parking
children under 12: free

Entrée/Entrance

\$ 8



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