

# The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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## Mailing Address:

PO Box 57012, Ottawa RPO  
Gladstone, Ottawa, ON, K1R 1A1  
Phone: 613-850-5486

## Website:

<https://olmc.ca/>

## Facebook:

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

## Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/olmcnews/>

## Show Chair's Message

Dear OLMC members,

Our September Gem and Mineral show is now only a few weeks away. All volunteers should contact me directly at [showchair@olmc.ca](mailto:showchair@olmc.ca). Everything is ready to go for the weekend of September 20-21.

The Gem Show is our main way of collecting funds to support a workshop. To make it successful and to showcase all that the club can offer, we need lots of volunteers.

I ask all members if they can to volunteer for one 2-hour block or more in a certain area of the show. **All volunteers get free access to the premises on the day of their volunteering 2-hour block.**

We have eight 2-hour timeslots: four slots on Saturday from 10h am to 6h pm, and another four slots on Sunday from 10h am to 5h pm. Contact by e-mail the Team Leader to offer your time based on the task you would like to fill. The list of stations and contacts is on **page 2** of this newsletter.

If you are available without a task preference, provide this information to the Show Chair, who will find a place where your help is most needed.

The Gem Show is always an amazing experience. I look forward to seeing you there.

Stéphane Jetté  
OLMC Show Chair

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](mailto:news@olmc.ca)

## Call for Volunteers!

Please consider helping out 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](mailto:showchair@olmc.ca). Just two hours of your time is all we ask.

OC Transpo bus routes 74 and 75 have a stop in front of the main entrance to the Sportsplex at 1701 Woodroffe Avenue. For ParaTranspo users, Entrance 4 on the opposite side is the closest entrance.



### Show Area Team Leads

Friday Setup: Calvin Jones  
 Admissions: Catherine Garrett  
 Ushers: Stéphane Jetté  
 Membership: Nathalie Bourget  
 Door Prizes: Jean-Guy Bradette  
 Makers Market: Vicki Jasperse  
 Demonstrations: Stéphane Jetté  
 Flat Lap/Fish Pond: Stéphane Jetté  
 Sunday Takedown: Calvin Jones

See you there!



Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale

Salon annuel des pierres, minéraux et bijoux

Sept. 20-21, 2025



## Makers' Market

Let's show off what our talented members do!

For those who are bringing items for sale, please ensure that all items are clearly labelled or tagged with your name or initials, an inventory number and price. This information must then be recorded on an inventory sheet, along with a clear description of the piece and pricing. Send your sheet to [vickijasperse@gmail.com](mailto:vickijasperse@gmail.com) no later than Sunday, September 14, 2025.

If you want to sell your creations or other lapidary or jewellery-making items, and you missed the July 31 deadline, kindly confirm with Vicki Jasperse at [vickijasperse@gmail.com](mailto:vickijasperse@gmail.com). All submissions - gemstones, cabochons, finished jewellery are welcome.

Each seller is allocated a space of roughly 12" by 20" or more if space allows. As a seller, you will keep 80% of your item sale proceeds, with the remaining 20% retained by the OLMC to support our club operations.

## Silversmith Course Offerings at the Workshop

Look for info on what's happening with the silversmith group including special demos and upcoming classes on our [OLMC Silversmiths](#) and [OLMC](#) Facebook pages.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the workshop for the cabbing courses.



June was a busy month in the silversmith workshop. Karla Fox, a member of both Kingston Lapidary and Mineral clubs and the OLMC, offered two enamelling courses: "Intro to Enamelling" and "Cloisonné". Both filled quickly and all participants left with beautiful enamel pieces, and a love for the technique. Karla will offer more courses starting in August.

She will also start an Enamelling Open Workshop on some Thursday nights in the Fall. Intro to enamelling or demonstrated enamelling experience is a prerequisite for this open workshop. Participants must wear N95 masks at all times when enamelling powders are in use due to the danger to the lungs.

Don Alp offered two popular beginner silversmith classes: "Make a Simple Ring", and "Make a Bezel Pendant". All participants went home with a beautiful, finished project.

Contact Don Alp at [donovanalp@gmail.com](mailto:donovanalp@gmail.com) if you have any questions about these courses or wish to register.

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### August 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-3pm Basic Bezel Setting

Participants can bring a stone to set and make into a pendant, or add to a ring. Silver for a setting up to 25 x 15 mm will be supplied, and the class will cover making the bezel, soldering the bezel to the base and adding a jump ring and bail.

\$70 + \$5 shop fee and some cabochons will be available at a nominal extra cost.

4 spaces

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### Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 12-3pm Make a Prong Setting

Learn to make a basic 4 prong setting for a pendant with a pear shape or oval stone. Could be modified for either a faceted stone or a cab.

\$70 + \$5 shop fee and some cabochons will be available at a nominal extra cost.

4 spaces

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### October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12-3pm Spinner rings

Learn to make a basic spinner ring, also known as a meditation or "fidget ring. All supplies provided.

\$70 + \$5 shop fee

4 spaces

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*Check out [metalsmithsociety](#) on Instagram for great jeweller tips and tricks: making tight-fitting bezels, setting stones, fixing mistakes.*

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## Jewellery display cases for sale

**Great display cases for home or shows.** There are 2 available of the case on the left. Dimensions closed are 22x12x3:5 in. \$15 each. There are 3 available of the case on the right, which can be used flat or standing. Dimensions are 16.5x13.5x3 in. \$10 each.

Contact Joy at 613-203-7306.



## 12,000 years ago... in E-stone-ia

Part of the [Viimsi Shopping Centre](#) in Haabneeme, Estonia, was built around a 10,000-12,000 year old [glacial erratic boulder](#). It is a common sight in the country littered with these large stones, often more than 30 meters around.



## Bangkok's Jewelry Trade Center

The [JTC](#) is a 59-story mixed-use skyscraper in Bangkok, Thailand. It is now the eighth-tallest building in Thailand, and it is among the largest centers for selling, sourcing and distributing jewelry in Asia. The building houses the gem-testing laboratory operated by the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences (AIGS) and their gemological school, the Bangkok Fashion Mall, and suppliers of loose gemstones, rough stones and jewelry from around the world. Don't skip the 320-seat food terrace, either.

## Gracious Donations to the Club

[Rainbow Minerals](#), a longtime supporter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club, donated a high-end ring resizer to the silversmiths in June. This generosity is greatly appreciated by the club and the silversmiths.



Thank you very much, Ash and Rainbow Minerals.

A big thank you to Joy McDonnell and Rain Kazymierchuk for the following additions to our library:

Rain has given us three big boxes of jewelry magazines. With this we've managed to fill some long-time holes in our Lapidary Journal collection along with about 10 years worth entirely missing from the collection, and in addition several years of Art Jewelry.

Joy had last month donated her extensive collection of Art Jewelry magazines.

The club will be selling doubles at the workshop, possibly at auction, and gifting some doubles in the collection at the next gem show.

Club member Judy Courteau visited the lapidary workshop at the [Dogwood Senior Centre](#) in Coquitlam, British Columbia, in June.

The club president Robin Thodeson graciously donated an egg of dallasite jasper to our club, which he had formed on a Genie. He also gave a slab of local serpentinite that he had collected himself from the Coquinhalla River. Both items are in the display cabinet in the hallway of our workshop.

Dallasite is a breccia jasper made of shards of pillow basalt. Often the material is partly altered to chlorite, epidote, quartz and carbonate, which gives it a beautiful, dramatic patterning that takes a nice polish. It is named after the Vancouver Island road where it was found.



The club would like to thank Maureen Cunningham and Marie-Sue Haliburton for their generous donation of their parents' rocks and tools. The club would also like to thank visiting Texan David Dudich for the box of nice slabs he has donated to the club.

# CCFMS Spring Update

June 3, 2025, from the The CCFMS Board of Directors

- 1) **New CCFMS President** - We are very happy to announce that the new CCFMS president is **Chris Fouts**. Chris is a geologist with many years of experience working with the Ontario Ministry of Mines, in mineral exploration, in recreational tourism development, in the mineral retail business, and on the CCFMS Board of Directors. You have probably seen Chris at many rock and mineral shows at his “Lakeside Gems” tables. Chris is also the Vice-president of the Bancroft Gem and Mineral Club. You can communicate with Chris at [executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com).
- 2) **Liability Insurance Request Forms (LIRFs)** – Member clubs pay dues to the CCFMS for liability insurance coverage. However, insurance coverage is not automatic – a club must submit a LIRF for each different, non-recurring event that describes the details, including the name and address of the site owner, the date(s) of the event etc. More information on LIRFs and how to fill them out can be found on the CCFMS website <https://ccfms.ca/insurance/>. Note especially the Q and A document. Once completed, send your LIRF to [CCFMSinsurance@gmail.com](mailto:CCFMSinsurance@gmail.com). The CCFMS secretary will process your request and send you an insurance certificate that has been completed by the insurer. Please allow at least 2 weeks for processing.
- 3) **The CCFMS Ashley Pollock Student Bursary** – A student bursary that will honour the memory of CCFMS President Ashley Pollock is in the works. The Board of Directors is still working out the details, which will be discussed with the clubs at the Annual General Meeting in January, 2026.
- 4) **French Language Director on the Board of the CCFMS** – CCFMS has made a commitment to ensure that all our key documents are available in both French and English. CCFMS has made a sincere effort in this regard, but it is a big job. A bilingual member of an affiliated club is needed to help in this process. Please canvas your members and invite anyone who is interested in helping the CCFMS and its member clubs in this regard to write a note to the CCFMS executive at [executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com).
- 5) **CCFMS Awards Program** - Awards inspire people and recognize their contributions. Documents that describe the CCFMS awards program and past winners are on the CCFMS website <https://ccfms.ca/awards/>. Awards are available for displays, rockhound of the year, landowners who provided access to collecting sites for your club, and outstanding public education. We hope your club will consider nominating a person, an organization, or a group for one or more of these awards in 2025. Applications can be received by the CCFMS until Nov. 1, 2025. To submit an application or to ask for help, write to the CCFMS at [executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com)
- 6) **Your Ideas for CCFMS** –The CCFMS Board of Directors would be happy to hear your ideas about what we can do for our member clubs. Send a note to the Board at [executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofCCFMS@gmail.com) any time.





## The Stuart Sapphire

The [Stuart Sapphire](#) is an ovoid table cut blue sapphire that forms part of the British Crown Jewels. It weighs 104-carats (21 g) and measures 3.8 cm by 2.5 cm. Probably it came from Asia. Despite having some flaws, the Stuart family deemed it of high value. It is one of several famous gemstones on the crown, including the Black Prince's Ruby, the Cullinan II Diamond, and St. Edward's Sapphire.

The sapphire has been handed down and re-purposed by various members of the British royal family over the years. James VII carried it to France while fleeing the Revolution of 1688, eventually bequeathed to Henry Benedict, Cardinal of York, who wore it in his mitre. He sold the sapphire and other relics in 1799. At some point, someone drilled a hole at one end of the stone, maybe so that it could be worn as a pendant. Eleven years later it was purchased by King George IV, who had it mounted into a clasp of an armlet with 355 diamonds for his mistress at the time.

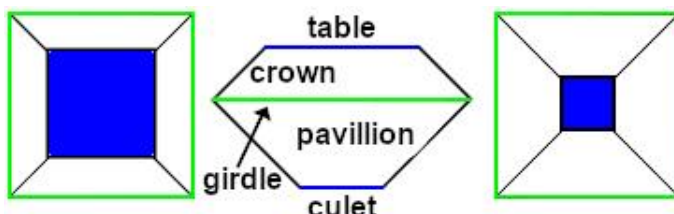
For Queen Victoria's coronation, the stone was placed in the front of her new crown. In 1909, Edward VII had it moved to the back of the crown to make room for the Cullinan II diamond.



*Imperial State Crown of Queen Victoria showing the Stuart Sapphire set in a hexagonal gold mount. Photo by Unknown author in The Art of Heraldry (1904) by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, Public Domain.*

### Gem Cut Design: Table Cut

The table cut is one of the earliest diamond cuts where the top point of the octahedral diamond crystal is removed to create a flat surface known as the 'table'. In some cases, the bottom point is also removed to form a flat rectangular base known as the 'culet'. It first emerged in the 14th century, and was a natural progression from the old style of simply polishing the facets of the natural crystal.



### Cabochon Girdles

When lapidarists make cabochons, they have a choice on how wide to make the girdle. Very small girdles might be more suited for wire wrap, or would require the bezel to cover part of the stone, plus the stone edge may be prone to cracking. Girdles of one or two millimeters high may be better suited to fit in a bezel wall. Some on-line stores sell cabochons with even wider girdles (and low domes or no domes), and they seem to be popular for ornamental work. What is your preference?



# 2025 GEM STORM

54th Annual Gem & Mineral Show



OCT. 17 - FRI. 5pm - 9pm  
OCT. 18 - SAT. 10am - 5pm  
OCT. 19 - SUN. 10am - 5pm

EVENT CENTRE,  
ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE  
100 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, ON

Show & Sale Featuring Riches from  
the Earth & Much More

- Unique Jewellery
- Crystal Treasures
- Minerals, Gemstones
- Children's Mine
- Lapidary & Other Demonstrations
- Exotic Fossils
- Gemstone Carvings
- Jewellery Workshop
- Gemstone Identification
- Hourly Door Prizes

\$5 ADMISSION PER PERSON  
Children Under 12 Free  
with a paying adult

SPONSORED BY THE  
Kingston Lapidary & Mineral Club  
[www.mineralclub.ca](http://www.mineralclub.ca)



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## From the Library

Perhaps one would hardly expect to find minerals in the desert, but a long list of choice minerals comes from the arid regions of the world. The dry lake beds, known as playa, may carry fine crystallized examples of saline and other soluble minerals. Some of the best hydrous sulphate, carbonates, and borates are found at localities of this kind, notably in the playas of California, Nevada, Utah, and Oregon.

The Complete Guide to  
Micromounts  
Milton L. Speckels

## Tatlock Quarry Open House

September 6, 2025 @ 9:30 am

[Omya Canada Inc](http://www.omya.ca), 177 McIlraith Road, Clayton, Ontario K0A 1P0

Owned by OMYA, the Tatlock Quarry is Canada's largest calcium carbonate mine and produces the purest calcium carbonate globally. First 200 food/cash donations to Lanark Highlands Food Pantry receive free maple syrup from quarry-tapped trees.

Guided bus tours of the quarry • Displays & presentations under the big tent  
Mining equipment on show • Free BBQ Hamburgers and hotdogs



Live music by [The Bowes Brothers](http://www.thebowesbrothers.com)





## Contact:

### President

Kerry Day  
[pres@olmc.ca](mailto:pres@olmc.ca)

### Vice-President

Matthew Poirier  
[vicepres@olmc.ca](mailto:vicepres@olmc.ca)

### Secretary

Janet Borzecki  
[sec@olmc.ca](mailto:sec@olmc.ca)

### Treasurer

Catherine Garrett  
[treasurer@olmc.ca](mailto:treasurer@olmc.ca)

### Workshop Chair

Jean-Guy Bradette  
[workshop@olmc.ca](mailto:workshop@olmc.ca)

### Membership Chair

Nathalie Bourget  
[memberchair@olmc.ca](mailto:memberchair@olmc.ca)

### Show Chair

Stéphane Jetté  
[showchair@olmc.ca](mailto:showchair@olmc.ca)

### Newsletter Editor

Eric Clara  
[news@olmc.ca](mailto:news@olmc.ca)

### Auction Team

[auctions@olmc.ca](mailto:auctions@olmc.ca)



## Workshop Schedule

September 2025

| Sunday  | Monday                                      | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                      | Thursday  | Friday                                 | Saturday                                       |
|---|---|--|--|-----------|--|--|
|   | <b>1</b><br>Labour Day                      | <b>2</b><br>Silversmiths<br>6:30-9:30 pm<br>(JB) | <b>3</b><br>Lapidary<br>5:00-9:00 pm<br>(JGB)  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>                               | <b>6</b><br>Lapidary<br>10-4:00 pm<br>(EC/JM)  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                                    | <b>9</b><br>Silversmiths<br>6:30-9:30<br>(DA)    | <b>10</b><br>Lapidary<br>5:00-9:00 pm<br>(CG)  | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b>                              | <b>13</b><br>Lapidary<br>10-4:00 pm<br>(CG/KD) |
| <b>14</b><br>Scarborough<br>Wonders of<br>the Earth<br>Show (day 2) | <b>15</b>                                   | <b>16</b><br>Silversmiths<br>6:30-9:30<br>(JB)   | <b>17</b><br>Lapidary<br>5:00-9:00 pm<br>(JGB) | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>OLMC<br>Gem Show<br>Setup | <b>20</b><br>OLMC Gem<br>Show !!!              |
| <b>21</b><br>OLMC Gem<br>Show !!!                                   | <b>22</b><br>Show<br>storage<br><br>Equinox | <b>23</b><br>Silversmiths<br>6:30-9:30<br>(KF)   | <b>24</b><br>Lapidary<br>5:00-9:00 pm<br>(DP)  | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>                              | <b>27</b><br>Lapidary<br>10-4:00 pm<br>(DF/JL) |
| <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b>                                   | <b>30</b><br>Silversmiths<br>6:30-9:30<br>(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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_