



# The Cutting Edge

Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

## Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club Newsletter

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February 2011  
Workshop: 217 Bell Street North, Ottawa, ON  
Tel: 613-237-ROCK (7625)

## Thursday, February 10th, 2011 meeting is about...

### Basic Stone Identification

**Kerry Day will be giving a slideshow on how to identify those rocks we collect on rock hounding trips. The doors will be open at 7PM and the meeting will start at 7:30PM. There will be coffee and tea and some goodies to share. See you at the club!**

## NOTICES

Sell your stuff!! Any club member that would like to sell items in the Club display case can bring them in to the workshop. The club takes 20% of sales. The workshop is open Mondays (carving night), Tuesdays (Metal smithing night), Wednesdays (regular shop hours) and Saturdays (regular shop hours).

**For hours call: 613-237-7625.** We are also thinking about opening Friday evenings on occasion so we will keep you posted!

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME TO SEE IF THE SHOP IS OPEN. THERE WILL BE A MESSAGE ABOUT SHOP HOURS!**

L'atelier est ouvert lundi, mardi,  
le mercredi et le samedi.  
Pour les heures; téléphoner au **613-237-7625.**

**The OLMC elections are coming in April. Do you know anyone that would like to volunteer for a spot on the Executive committee? The Nomination Chair is Dirk Seelemann, give Dirk a call at 613 -733-6910. Stay tuned!**

## Funnies

### **Should children witness childbirth? Good question.**

Here's your answer.

Due to a power outage, only one paramedic responded to the call. The house was very dark so the paramedic asked Kathleen, a 3-yr old girl to hold a flashlight high over her mommy so he could see while he helped deliver the baby...

Very diligently, Kathleen did as she was asked. Heidi pushed and pushed and after a little while, Connor was born. The paramedic lifted him by his little feet and spanked him on his bottom. Connor began to cry. The paramedic then thanked Kathleen for her help and asked the wide-eyed 3-yr old what she thought about what she had just witnessed.

Kathleen quickly responded, 'He shouldn't have crawled in there in the first place.....smack his bum again!'

## A Publishing by our own president!!

A Book to Commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Mines Branch/CANMET

A few years ago, when I was a Principal Scientist in the Mining and Mineral Sciences laboratories of the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology, our management began to discuss what we might do to commemorate the forthcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization. With its original roots in the Department of the Interior the mining staff had been transferred into the newly created Department of Mines in 1907. It was a time when the minerals industries were expanding rapidly and the industry had urged the creation of a new department which would be relevant to its needs.

In 1982, a senior executive, Alexis Ignatieff, had completed a book to commemorate the organization's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This book had become the standard reference, but, 25 years after its completion, it was lacking in its coverage of more recent developments. I was encouraged to devote a part of my energies to writing the present book.

Through the cooperation of the Library staff I was able to gain access to all of the reports and articles which had been written since the founding of the branch. The result of my research was a book that is replete with references to the original sources which were found in the library archives. These will be found at the end of each chapter.

Also included are many photographs, in both black-and-white and colour, and organization charts. These document the changes which occurred as the original *Department of Mines* (1907-1936) evolved into the *Department of Mines and Resources* (1936-1950), the *Department of Mines and Technical Surveys* (1950-1966), the *Department of Energy, Mines and Resources* (1966-1995), and the *Department of Natural Resources Canada* (1995- ), which exists today.

During the century an enormous amount of work has been completed by the department and the original Mines Branch, which is now known as CANMET, the acronym for the Canada Centre of Mineral and Energy Technology. It is impossible to list all of these achievements in this short introduction, but all of these can be found in my new book "*A Century of Service: The Hundred-Year History of the Canadian Mines Branch/CANMET, 1907-2007*".

Some that will be of interest to the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club (OLMC) will be the lists of New Minerals, Redefined Minerals, and Discredited Minerals, which will be found on pages 382 to 384. Over a period of many years the organizations which have evolved into the Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories of today (CANMET-MMSL) have specialized in mineral processing, process metallurgy, and mineral characterization. During their studies, a long list of newly-discovered minerals, have been identified. Many of these have been named after the scientists who made the discoveries.

The first printing of the book has been *published with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, courtesy of Natural Resources Canada, 2010* (see title page).

Just before my retirement, in late 2010, I was granted permission to publish the first printing and to sell copies on a cost-recovery basis. I am very grateful for this, to the staff of Natural Resources Canada, and express my thanks.



## More of: A Publishing by our own president!!

The book bears ISBN 978-0-9867086-0-2 while the searchable CD which is mounted on the inside of the front cover bears ISBN 978-09867086-1-9. Both have been registered with the National Library of Canada.

In organizing the publication of the book a decision was made to print the paper copy in black and white since the inclusion of the colour photographs (from about 1940 on) would have made the printing very costly. All of the colour photographs, however, may be found on the searchable CD. The book is, beyond doubt, the most important of my contributions to science and technology during a fifty-year career. I am delighted that I was able to do it.

Copies, at a cost of \$60 each, can be purchased from me, by appointment, at my home at 89 Ridgfield Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 6T1 (telephone 613-820-2262). I am also able to make deliveries at a reasonable distance and also by appointment.

John Udd



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### Wire Wrapping / Wire Knitting Lessons 2011 Class Schedule

Every Saturday, except, long weekends and Church functions.

Wire wrapping classes are \$65 + HST, which, includes sterling silver wire, a cabochon and the use of my tools; subsequent classes are \$10 +HST. Wire knitting classes are \$65 + HST, which includes 1 ounce of sterling silver wire, spool, crochet hook, draw plate, findings and instructions; subsequent classes are \$10 +HST.

Classes are offered on a continuous uptake cycle, beginners are always welcome, there is no set teaching schedule.

**Where:** Britannia United Church, lower level 985 Pinecrest Avenue (North of the Queensway)  
Please contact us, Jenny & Ken McBride [wireworking@aol.com](mailto:wireworking@aol.com) or by phone at 613-253-7432.

**NOTE:** All prices are subject to change due to market fluctuations.

### Sterling Silver & Gold Filled Wire

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**NOTE:** All prices are subject to change, due to market fluctuations.

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613 695-4405

**Membership Application For The Year: 2011**

Single Membership \$15.00\_\_\_\_\_ - Family Membership \$ 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

New member  Membership renewal  Do you require a receipt?  Yes  No

Advertising \$ 25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (additional fee for ads in The Cutting Edge, \*\*\* this does not include membership fees.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please specify how you would like to receive the newsletter:*

By email: \_\_\_\_\_  by post mail.

Please mail your membership form and fees to:

**Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club**  
**P.O box 39054 R.P.O Billings, Ottawa K1H 1A1**

★ Please be advised that all membership information is used only for administrative and workshop use. ★

## MICROMOUNT - What is it?

Micromount is a term used by mineral collectors and rockhounds to describe mineral specimens that are best appreciated using optical aid, commonly a hand-lens or better, a binocular microscope. The magnification employed ranges from 10 to 40 times. A micromount is permanently mounted in some kind of box and labelled with the name of the mineral and the location from which it came. Proper mounting both preserves delicate crystals, and facilitates their handling.

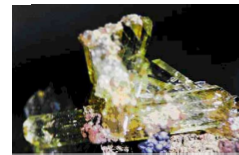


Wulfenite

Micromount specimen collecting has a number of advantages over collecting



larger specimens. Micromount specimens take up less space and cost less than larger specimens. Small crystals are usually more perfect than larger ones. Micromount material can often be readily collected at locations that rarely if ever yield specimens with large crystals. Crystals of many rare species are only found in microscopic sizes.



Micromounting is a craft, as much as it is a collecting activity. Two English language books on micromounting have been published, one by Milton Speckels[1] in 1965, and the other by Quintin Wight[2] in 1993. (Editors Note: Quinton is a longstanding OLMC member along with his wife Willow)

## Funnies

In a convent in Ireland, the 98-year-old Mother Superior lay dying.

The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her last journey comfortable.

They tried giving her warm milk to drink but she refused it.

One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen.

Then, remembering a bottle of Irish Whiskey that had been received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Back at Mother Superior's bed, they held the glass to her lips.

The frail nun drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had finished the whole glass down to the last drop.

As her eyes brightened, the nuns thought it would be a good opportunity to have one last talk with their spiritual leader.

"Mother," the nuns asked earnestly, "Please, give us some of your wisdom before you leave us."

She raised herself up in bed on one elbow, looked at them and said: "Don't sell that cow!"

## COURSES

**Basic Cabbing course** (Required to have this course in order to use workshop machines)  
Learn how to shape and polish stone: There is a sign-up sheet at the club

**Available courses:**

Basic Silver Jewellery  
Silver Jewellery  
Focus on Stone Setting  
Silver Jewellery  
Gem Identification

Rings with Stones  
Things in Sterling Silver  
Simple Silver  
Casting  
Surface treatments  
Metal Art Clay  
Identification of Beads

*For more information on these courses*

**Call:** Karl Schutt at 613-445-2142 or  
[karl.schutt@sympatico.ca](mailto:karl.schutt@sympatico.ca)

Second place winner of Wakefield snow carving contest: Natasha for Khewa Boutique



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613.798.2828 [www.ascensionhealing.ca](http://www.ascensionhealing.ca)

## Rock of the month: Wulfenite



### Lead Molybdate

Wulfenite is a mineral which is very popular among mineral collectors around the world. The strong color, nice luster and its one-of-a-kind crystal habits have made it so popular. It has been named after an Austrian mineralogist, Franz Xavier Wulfen (1728-1805).

Wulfenite is most commonly found as thin tabular crystals having bright orange-red to yellow-orange color. Sometimes it is also found in brown color. The yellow form of Wulfenite is sometimes called "yellow lead ore."

Wulfenite is mostly found in the various localities which are associated with lead ores.

### Physical Properties of Wulfenite

[http://www.realgems.org/list\\_of\\_gemstones/wulfenite.html](http://www.realgems.org/list_of_gemstones/wulfenite.html)

Formula:  $PbMoO_4$

Mineral class: molybdates

Crystal system: tetragonal

Mohs scale: 2.75 - 3.0

Density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>): 6.5 - 7.5

Refractive index: 2.280 - 2.402

Cleavage: different

Colors: colorless, white, grey, yellow, orange, red, brown, green, blue, black

Transparency: transparent - opaque

Luster: adamantine - resinous

Fluorescence: only if previously heated to glow

Pleochroism: yellow - orange

Largest crystal: 61 cm?

Deposits: worldwide

Discovery: 1772?

1st Description: 1845 as Wulfenite (Haidinger)

### Associated Minerals of Wulfenite

Mimetite

Limonite

Smithsonite

Vanadinite

Galena

### Uses of Wulfenite

As a minor ore of molybdenum

As a mineral specimen

### Occurrences of Wulfenite

Morocco

Tsumeb, Namibia

Mexico, Arizona and New Mexico in the USA

<http://www.mineralszone.com/minerals/wulfenite.html> <http://www.topminerals.info/>

<http://www.mineral-forum.com/message-board/viewtopic.php?t=888&sid=d704ec82fc851467bca0b3a8afd3b205>

<http://es.treknature.com/gallery/photo10166.htm>



Photo: [www.irocks.com](http://www.irocks.com)



