



The Cutting Edge

Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club Newsletter

P. O. Box 112, Merrickville,
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September 2008
Workshop: 217 Bell Street North, Ottawa, ON
Tel: 613-237-ROCK (7625)

Calling all Volunteers! Appel au Volontaires!

NEXT MEETING / PROCHAINE ASSEMBLÉE:

Gem Show Preparation and New Member Orientation Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the clubhouse (217 Bell Street North).

Without you the Gem show would not happen.
Volunteers can sign up at the meeting or email your preferred positions and times.

**There are numerous positions to fill at the show as everyone knows.
The volunteer positions are in two-hour spots.
Let us know when and what day you are available.**

- υ Set-up and Tear down (Friday September 26 at 11AM and Sunday the 28th after 5PM)
 - υ Fishpond υ Club Sales Table υ Hospitality υ Security
- Contact Stephen Souliere at 819-459-1482 or fireheron@yahoo.ca
- Or Karen Lochhead at 819-827-3071 or karen.lochhead@videotron.ca.
- υ Ticket Sales (Contact Susan Wiggin 613-269-2258 treasurer@olmc.ca)
- υ Membership Table (Contact Jo Stinson: (613) 747-1598)
- υ Demonstration Table (Contact Anna Greal workshop@olmc.ca 613 355-2783)

Thank You

The Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club would like to thank in advance all of you volunteers who make this happen. Big thank you to Jennifer Latham and Karen Lochhead for organizing the show.

We are all looking forward to it! Thank you!!

Articles for sale

Rough for sale

Sid Jelly is selling off his remaining rough to club members. There is Unikite, Agate, Petrified Wood, Green Aventurine, Picture Jasper, Geodes (cut in half and polished). Most of the rough has one side that is polished.

You can call Sid at 613-828-8450.

Faceting Equipment for sale!

1 Fac-ETTE Gem Master 2, this machine new, including a complete dop set, for \$3800. U.S. approx. 3/4 of the original price, negotiable. Omni machine, bought in 2005 around \$1000, negotiable price.

Ray Tech Deluxe bought in 2000 from "Kingsley North Inc." in Norway, Michigan, along with an additional faceter handpiece W/110VN and a faceter head with 1/10, purchased in 2003. Around \$1000. I am prepared to travel to Toronto and show it there, or possibly bring back to the Ottawa area, if any interest comes from this.

Sincerely, Peg Robertson in Renfrew area, at 1 613 432 6969 (my brother also has 25 or so Laps, which I have recorded, 6" and 8" from Crystalite Corp. of Westerville, Ohio, as well as RayTech, from Middlefield, Conn. I can provide further details regarding these, if you are interested

Sterling Silver & Gold Filled Wire

SAVINGS ON WIRE PURCHASES

One of our members, Jenny McBride, has most wire for sale at an unbeatable price. Sterling Silver is \$34. /oz and Gold Filled is \$52. /oz. Visa, Master Card and American Express accepted. You can reach Jenny at 613-253-7432 or by e-mail at JenPref@aol.com

Coming Events

The Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough presents Wonders of the Earth
September 13th & 14th, 2008
Sat. 10 am-6 pm and Sun. 11 am - 5 pm
Located at: Don Montgomery Community Centre (formerly Mid Scarborough Centre)
2467 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, Ont. (Eastern Terminus of the Subway)

Workshop

Tentatively, the next workshop committee meeting will be on September 6th, 2008 at 12:00 pm.

To be confirmed...

The workshop is open Wednesdays and Saturdays. For hours call: **613-237-7625**

Wire Cabochon Kits are "Wrap a Cab"; which consists of 3ft of 20g wire. Wrap 3 Cabs 9ft of 20g Square Wire 1ft of 1/2 for \$5.00 or 3ft of 1/2 for \$15.00

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.

Courses

Wire Wrapping courses

Instructor: Jo Stinson

Jo teaches a wire wrapping course at her home in the east end of the city. The 12 hour course is split over 3 consecutive Saturdays and is limited to 4 students. Jo supplies all the material and tools. COST: \$90 for club members (paid up members! Ed.). \$180 for non club members. Deposit required. Call Jo at 613 -747-1598 for course calendar

Silver Art Clay Classes

Certified Instructor: Susan Wiggins

Beginners to Advanced. Learn to make jewelry, etc. from clay that becomes 99.9% pure silver after firing. For class schedule and costs, contact Susan at Wiggins' Treasures 613 791-6636 or e-mail wigginstreasures@ripnet.com. Gift certificates are available.

Cabbing courses

The course is 12 hours total (2 six hour sessions), the cost is 50\$. If you have questions or would like to be on the list, call 819-459-1482 or fireheron@yahoo.ca
Or there is a sign-up sheet at the club

More Courses

Wire Wrapping Lessons

2008 Class Schedule

Each 3rd and 4th Saturday of the month

Wire wrapping classes are \$50, which includes sterling silver wire, a cabochon and the use of my tools, subsequent classes are \$10 each. Classes are offered on a continuous uptake cycle, beginners are always welcome, there is no set teaching schedule, and we discuss what we would like to create at each class.

Where: Britannia United Church

In the Nursery 985 Pinecrest Avenue

(North of the Queensway) Private Lessons:

Initial Private lesson 1 to 1

\$60 each (includes use of tools, SS wire, pattern and a cabochon)

Initial Private lesson 2-3

\$30 each (includes use of tools, SS wire, pattern and a cabochon)

Please contact us Jenny & Ken McBride at

jenpref@xplornet.com **www.thewirelady.com**

By phone at 613-253-7432 to arrange for lessons.

Words from the Editor

In the beginning the OLMC was first and for most the getting together of people with a similar passion, hobby, interest or lively hood. It was people who had fun getting together to share stories, rocks and knowledge.

A **fun** social setting, including the most kooky, interesting and very divers members you could mix in a group. We all have something to input and something to learn. The club has been fun and successful in the past years, maybe we could all take a lesson from the past. This is, after all, a hobby. **We do this to make our live more beautiful and fun.** Lets all relax and have some fun, enjoy the stones, respect each other and get ready for the new season coming.

We are all volunteers!!!

So, lets play nice and have some fun!!

Natasha Poirier

olmc.editor@yahoo.com

Your Executive Board Members

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kaygeedee@travel-net.com

WORKSHOP CHAIR: Anna Greal

REAL QUESTIONS ASKED IN SCIENCE CLASSES

Are the rivers flowing up the mountain or down the mountain?

How can the river be flowing north? That's uphill!

How do I get water into this beaker?

REAL ANSWERS FROM EARTH SCIENCE EXAMS

The main problem associated with limestone aquifers is Lyme disease.

Pennsylvania has no volcanoes because it's too cold there.

The rear end of a trilobite is called a trilobitt.

Application for 2008 Membership

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

Advertising \$ 25.00 _____ (additional fee for ads in The Cutting Edge)

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Please specify how you would like to receive the newsletter:

☐ By email: _____ ☐ By post mail.

Please mail your membership and fees to: **Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club**
P. O. Box 112, Merrickville, ON, CANADA K0G 1N0

Annual Gem & Mineral Show:

Always held the last-week-end in September, the Annual Show is the highlight of our year and the fundraiser which keeps the workshop functioning. The Nepean Sportsplex Curling Rink on Woodroffe Avenue is filled to capacity with dealers, customers and onlookers. Where else can one shop for some of the best gemstones and minerals in the world offered at very reasonable prices.

In addition to dealers, the show features demonstrations, displays, seminars and informal gemstone evaluations. This year will mark the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club 42nd Anniversary Gem, Mineral & Jewellery Show & Sale.

September 27 & 28, 2008, Nepean Sportsplex (Curling Arena),
1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa

Door Prizes, Free Parking

Sat. 10 am - 6 pm, Sun. 10 am - 5 pm

Adults.....\$5.00

65+.....\$3.00

13 - 17.....\$1.00

12yrs & under, Free

60 dealers and exhibitors

Gemstones, minerals, fossils

Jewellery, crystals, beads, equipment, carvings and more

Displays, demonstrations, activities

Mineral and Gem identification

For Laughs

You Might Be a Geologist / Rockhound If...

You have part of your rock collection under black lights.

You still think pet rocks are a pretty neat idea.

Your employer has asked you not to bring any more rocks to the office.

Why did the rockhound take his girlfriend to the quarry? He wanted to get a little boulder.

AUGUST BIRTHSTONE: Peridot

Peridot (pronounced pair-a-doe) is the gem variety of olivine. Olivine, which is actually not an official mineral, is composed of two minerals: fayalite and forsterite. Fayalite is the iron rich member and forsterite is the magnesium rich member. Olivine's formula is written as $(\text{Mg, Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$ to show the substitution of the magnesium and iron. Peridot is usually closer to forsterite than fayalite in composition although iron is the coloring agent for peridot. The best colored peridot has an iron percentage of less than 15% and includes nickel and chromium as trace elements that may also contribute to the best peridot color.

Olivine is also found in many iron-nickel meteorites. Not just as small grains but as significantly sized crystals sometimes occupying over 50% of the meteorites volume. Thinly cut slices of these meteorites are extremely attractive with the polished steel gray of the iron and the embedded grains of gemmy green olivine. The effect produces the closest mineral equivalent to stained glass artwork.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Color is a light near emerald green to the more common pale yellowish green; also found colorless, greenish brown to black. A near colorless specimen is likely nearly pure forsterite, while a greenish-brown to black specimen may approach pure fayalite in composition. Anything in-between is olivine.

Chemistry: $(\text{Mg, Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$, Magnesium Iron Silicate. / Class: Silicates

Luster is vitreous. / Transparency: Crystals are transparent to translucent.

Crystal System is orthorhombic; 2/m 2/m 2/m.

Crystal Habits include flatten tabular to box shaped crystals, but good crystals are rare. More commonly found as grains in alluvial gravels and as granular xenoliths in magnesium rich volcanic rock. Also massive. Twinning is rare, but has produced star shaped trillings.

Cleavage is poor in two directions at 90 degrees, is more distinct in fayalite.

Fracture is conchoidal. / Hardness is 6.5 - 7. / Specific Gravity is approximately 3.2 for forsterite - 4.3 for fayalite (above average for non-metallic minerals). / Streak is white.

Other Characteristics: Index of refraction is 1.64 - 1.70 and has double refraction

. Uses: As gemstones, industrial uses as refractory sands and abrasives, an ore of magnesium and as mineral specimens.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE : Sapphire

The September birthstone, Sapphire, is chemically and structurally the same as Ruby - both are varieties of the mineral corundum. Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color except shades of red or pink (since those are called rubies).

The blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire but orange-pink, golden, white, and even black have generated much interest in the gem trade. Tennis bracelets are available that contain a complete rainbow of sapphire gemstones. Oriented rutile crystal inclusions cause a six-pointed-star light effect (called asterism) to form the popular Star Sapphire.

Sapphires are extremely durable (only diamond and moissanite are harder). Artificial sapphire crystals are used as the crystal face in genuine Rolex watches, and they are extremely scratch resistant.

Chemistry: $(\text{Na, Ca})_8\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}(\text{S, SO}_4)$, Sodium Calcium Aluminum Silicate Sulfur Sulfate.

Class: Silicates / Subclass: Tectosilicates / Group: Both the Sodalite and feldspathoid groups.

Uses: mineral specimens and ornamental stones

From the site: <http://www.galleries.com/minerals/gemstone/ruby/birthjul.htm>

