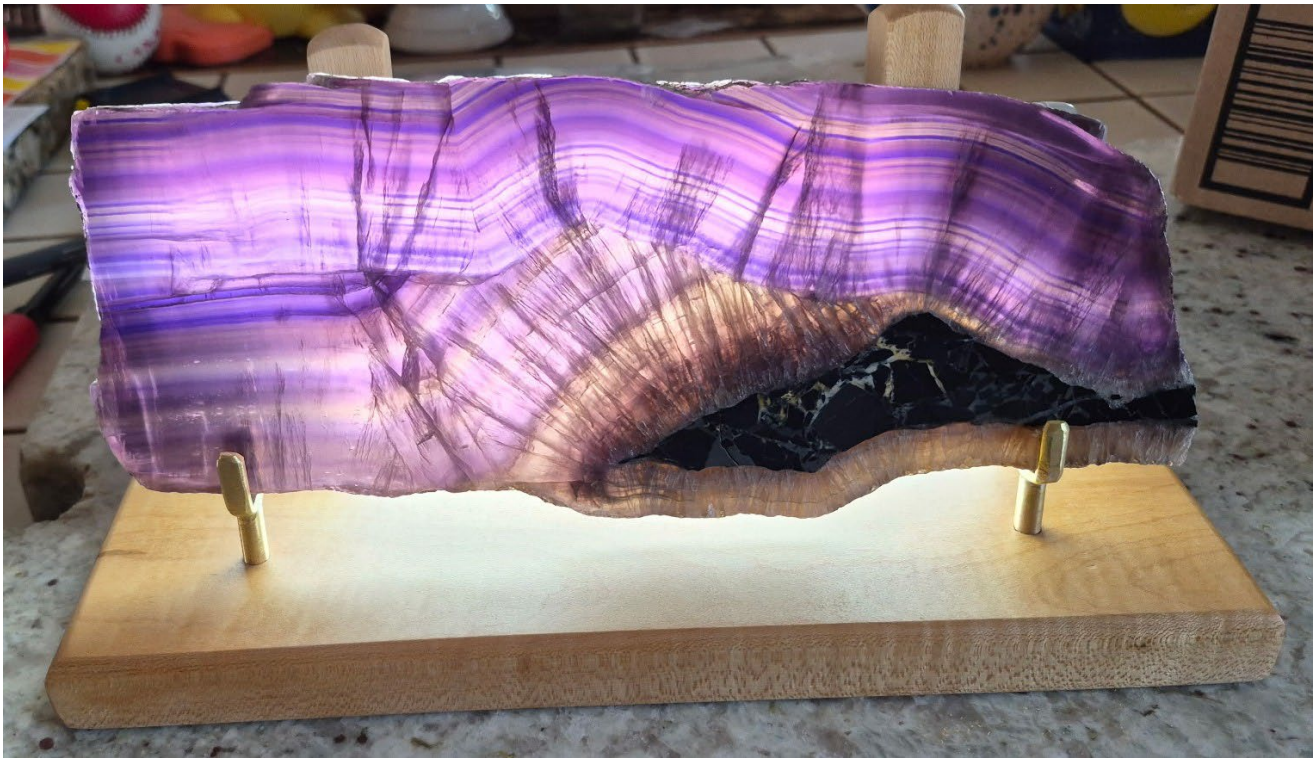
Tumblewood Tales

ELC News, Volume 27, Issue 6, September 2026



This large slab of fluorite on display stand is one of the raffle prizes to be drawn on September 27 at the Edmonton Lapidary Club Fall Auction.

Monthly Meeting: September 17th, 2026

Callingwood/Lymburn Community League

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

18740 72 Avenue NW

MEMBERSHIP INFO

The Edmonton Lapidary Club is a registered non-profit society dedicated to promoting the lapidary hobby in Edmonton and surrounding areas.
The meetings are every third Thursday of the month from September to May.
Club activities include educational and social events, field trips, and classes offered by members featuring various lapidary and jewelry design skills.
The club provides a fully equipped lapidary workshop for members' use. Members wishing to use the shop must be certified by the shop foreman after taking the introductory cabochon making course ($60). Current membership is required to access the shop.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

ELC Annual Membership is from January 1st to December 31st:
Family $75.00
Single $50.00
Please submit membership forms and e-transfer funds to etlctreasurer@gmail.com

CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Michelle Morin
ETLCgeneral.inquiry@gmail.com
Vice President: Bruce Smith
Goldbug99@shaw.ca
Treasurer: Clint Morin
etlctreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary: Fiona Jakielaszek
fossilgirl57@gmail.com
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npekas@gmail.com
Library & Social: Terry Routledge
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Programs: VACANT
Field Trips: VACANT

AFRC DELEGATES:

Michelle Morin, Dean Chesterman, Jim Routledge

ELC SHOP

Coordinator: Bruce Smith
Cell Phone: 780-908-4699
Goldbug99@shaw.ca
Shop Supervisors:
Jim Routledge 780-446-7187
Jake Jakielaszek 780-298-9797
Renata Ruch 780-000-0000
Nikola Pekas 780-221-7021

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees include the following:

- Cost of affiliation in the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs (AFRC) and the Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC)
- Liability insurance for members on organized field trips or club events.
- Subscription to our monthly newsletter - Tumblewood Tales
- The AFRC Newsletter
- Access to the ELC Lapidary shop, library, exclusive auctions and member sales

SHOP USAGE FEES

Hourly Rate $10.00
Slab saws $5.00/hr

SHOP DAYS AND LOCATION

Thursdays 11am-4pm
Fridays 6pm-10pm
2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
1pm-5pm
Edmonton Research Park
9403 20 Avenue NW, Unit 112

President's Message for September 2026

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and had a chance to enjoy some sunshine, rockhounding, travelling or simply a little time to relax.

September marks the beginning of another busy fall season at the Edmonton Lapidary Club. Our monthly meetings are returning, classes and workshops are getting underway, and the lapidary shop is ready to welcome members back. We also have a very busy month ahead with our Fall Auction, raffle, 2027 calendar fundraiser and other Club activities.

As always, none of this happens without our volunteers. Whether you can help for a few hours at an event, sell some raffle tickets or calendars, lend a hand in the shop or simply come out and participate, every contribution helps keep our Club active and growing.

There is lots to catch up on in this issue. Welcome back, and I look forward to another great season of rocks, minerals, lapidary and learning!

See you out there!

Thank- You

Michelle Morin, President ELC

EDMONTON
LAPIDARY CLUB
Explore. Create. Share.

RAFFLE

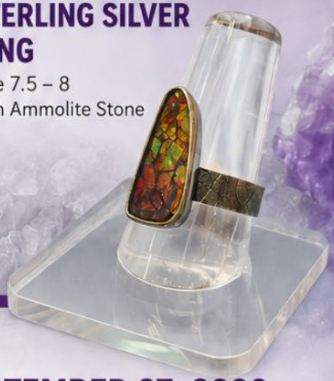
AMAZING PRIZES • SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!

Stunning specimens and handmade jewelry
donated to support the Edmonton Lapidary Club.

1ST PRIZE **10" FLUORITE SLAB**
on display stand

2ND PRIZE **237 g BC OCEAN PICTURE AGATE**

3RD PRIZE **STERLING SILVER RING**
Size 7.5 – 8
with Ammolite Stone



TICKETS $5 EACH

DRAW DATE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
AT THE ELC FALL AUCTION
Athlone Community Hall, Edmonton

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE EDMONTON LAPIDARY CLUB!

AGLC LICENSE 789060

All proceeds support the Edmonton Lapidary Club programs, classes and shop.

Learn more about our Club!
Scan to visit
www.edmontonlapidary.ca

Upcoming Events

Club Meeting

September 17, 7 pm - 9 pm.

Location: Lymburn/Callingwood community Hall. 18740 72 Ave NW, Edmonton

Show & Share theme: *Dealer's Choice*! Bring a favourite rock, mineral specimen, fossil, lapidary project or mystery find. Choose something because it is beautiful, unusual, has a great story, was a surprise find—or simply because you like it.

Have something you can't identify? Bring that too! Someone in the room may be able to help solve the mystery. No special theme this month—your choice, for whatever reason!

Meeting location: Lymburn/Callingwood community Hall at 18740 72 Ave NW, Edmonton.

Fall Rock and Lapidary Auction

September 25–27

Location: Athlone Community Hall 13010 – 129 Street NW, Edmonton

Our Fall Auction is almost here! With several estates and consignments included, expect a wide variety of lapidary equipment, saws, motors, arbors, tumbling equipment, rough rock, slabs, specimens, crystals, cabochons, books, silversmithing tools and more.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: SILENT AUCTION 6:00–9:00 pm

The silent auction is going to feature specimen crystals, gemstones, small items, books and some small tools.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26–27: LIVE AUCTION

Join us for two full days of live auction action. Viewing begins at 8:00 am, with auction sales from 9:00 am–5:00 pm each day.

***LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT** – will be auctioned between 3:00 and 5:00 pm SATURDAY AFTERNOON.*

AUCTION Volunteers Needed!

With several estates and consignments to move, we need extra hands before and throughout auction weekend. There are jobs for all abilities, even a few hours helps!

Thursday, September 24 — Auction Pick-Up & Transportation We are hiring a truck to collect auction material from several locations around Edmonton and need volunteers to help load and move equipment and material. Details will be provided once the route is finalized.

Friday, September 25, 11:00 am–4:00 pm — Unloading & Set-Up Help is needed at Athlone Community Hall to unload, organize lots and prepare the hall for the Silent and Live Auctions. You do not need to do heavy lifting! There are plenty of sorting, organizing and lighter-duty jobs.

Saturday & Sunday, September 26–27 — Auction Operations Volunteers will also be needed throughout both auction days to help keep things running smoothly. Assistance is needed with the welcome desk, runners, data entry, cash desk, concession and general auction support.

Whether you can help for a full day or just a few hours, we would really appreciate the extra hands. No previous auction experience is necessary—we'll help you get started.

Fundraising Update

September is a big fundraising month for the Club! Funds raised through these activities help support our lapidary shop, equipment, programs and other Club activities, and we could use everyone's help to make them successful.

Club Raffle — Draw September 27

Our raffle is underway, with the winning tickets being drawn on Sunday, September 27 at the Fall Auction.

Tickets are $5 each, with three great prizes:

1st Prize: 10" Fluorite Slab on Display Stand
2nd Prize: 237 g BC Ocean Picture Agate
3rd Prize: Sterling Silver & Ammolite Ring — Size 7.5–8

We still have a lot of tickets to sell before draw day, and we need some volunteer ticket boosters! If you can take 10–20 tickets and sell them to friends, family or coworkers, it would be a tremendous help.

Members and the public can also contact the Club to purchase tickets directly. Payment can be made by e-transfer, and arrangements can be made for ticket pickup or mailing.

AGLC Raffle Licence #789060

2027 Club Calendars — $20

Our 2027 Edmonton Lapidary Club calendars are here, featuring 17 unique photographs of beautiful mineral and lapidary specimens.

We have a limited number available and are also looking for members willing to take a few calendars to sell to friends, family or coworkers.

Calendars can be purchased directly from the Club, with arrangements for shop pickup, local drop-off or mailing.

Edmonton Lapidary Club was represented at *Community Days Fort Edmonton Park* in July 2026, and at *West Edmonton Mall Rock & Gem Show* in August 2026. Big kudos to all our volunteers who helped make it happen!

Fall Classes and Workshops

Classes are back for fall! Whether you're new to lapidary, building your skills, or ready to try something different, watch for new workshops throughout the season.

Gemstone Prospecting, Saturday, September 19 | 1:00–4:30 pm **CURRENTLY FULL**

Instructor: Lori Walton | $30 Members / $40 Non-Members

Learn the basics of gemstone prospecting and what to look for when searching for gem and lapidary material in the field.

Interested? Let us know! If there is enough interest, we will look at offering another session.

Want to Take – or Teach – a Class?

Have a class you would like to take—or a lapidary, jewellery-making, rockhounding or related skill you could share? We are looking for members interested in teaching classes, workshops or demonstrations. You don't need to be a professional instructor; the Club can help with planning and organization. Watch the Club calendar and emails for upcoming opportunities.

Lapidary Shop Update

The shop is open for our fall season! Please note that shop hours will be adjusted during auction week as our volunteers and resources will be focused on the Fall Auction.

September Shop Hours – please note the changes to shop hours during auction week.

- Thursday, September 17 — 11:00 am–4:00 pm
- Friday, September 18 — 6:00–10:00 pm
- Thursday, September 24 — 11:00 am–8:00 pm — Extended Hours
- Friday, September 25 — CLOSED
- Saturday, September 26 — CLOSED

Our volunteers will be working at the Fall Auction on Friday and Saturday.
Shop hours depend on volunteer availability, so please check the Club calendar and emails before heading to the shop.

Shop Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping keep the shop open? We need members willing to assist with shop supervision, equipment care, cleanup and general operations. Training and support are available—talk to us if you are interested in getting involved.

Looking Ahead: November AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up in November, and this year we have some important roles to fill as we plan for 2027.

Executive Members Needed

We are seeking members interested in serving as Secretary and Vice President/Acting Vice President. Having a complete Executive is important to the operation and continuity of the Club. These roles help share the workload, support good decision-making and ensure that responsibility for running the Club does not fall on only a few people.

You don't need to know everything before volunteering. Existing Executive members can help you learn the role and get comfortable with the responsibilities.

Communications & Business Support

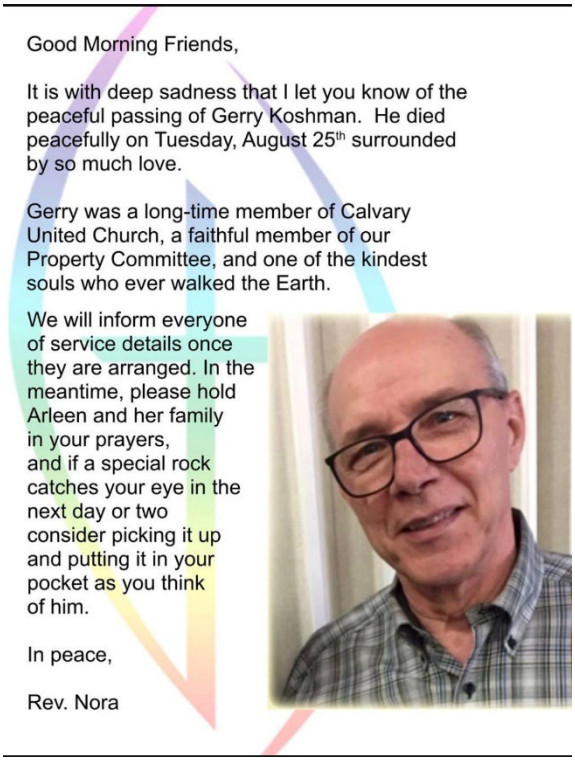
Not ready for an Executive position but have skills you could contribute? We also need members interested in helping with:

Social media • Email and announcements • Advertising and promotion • Communications • General business/administrative support, document updates and management.

These jobs can be shared among several people and don't require a major time commitment. Even taking responsibility for one area can make a significant difference. If you are interested in an Executive position or would like to help behind the scenes, please speak with an Executive member before the November AGM.

A strong club needs more than equipment and a great shop—it needs people willing to help keep it running.

In Memoriam: Gerry Koshman



Gerry had a lifelong connection to the lapidary community. He was a founding member of the lapidary club in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, helping to foster the same love of rocks, minerals and lapidary arts that continues to bring our clubs together today.

Gerry also had an important connection to the Edmonton Lapidary Club through his daughter, who was an active member of our club for many years before returning to Prince Albert to help care for her father.

As Gerry's circumstances changed, he made an extraordinarily generous gesture toward our club by making a significant contribution of equipment, lapidary supplies and amazing rough rock to a club auction event.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Gerry's family and friends and especially to his daughter, whose own involvement has been an important part of our club community.

Feature Article: Visual Inspection of Lapidary Materials, Part 2

By Nikola Pekas

"Cut a little, look a lot" is a piece of advice you will often hear from experienced lapidaries. The advice is as good as it is obvious: you cannot put back the material you have removed. While cutting, grinding, and polishing techniques are taught and debated in great depth, various ways of looking and seeing are seldom discussed. In the first part of the series, we discussed some of the techniques for visually evaluating the rough material and slabs; in this second part, we focus on appropriate illumination and techniques for evaluating lapidary creations during and after the creative process.

Like other handicrafts, lapidary work is in some ways like manual industrial processes or, for example, dentistry: it involves fine manual work, hand-eye coordination, and continuous visual evaluation of the progress. Appropriate brightness for these activities is typically in the range of 400-1000 lux. Most modern smart phones have an incident light meter that will let you evaluate the brightness of the light in your work area.

Another important factor is the geometry of the illumination: lighting can be diffuse (arriving to the point of interest from a broad surrounding area, i.e., cloudy sky), or collimated (arriving from one point or a small area as converging, parallel, or diverging rays). In practice, illumination geometry is usually a mix of these two ideal cases.

Optimal illumination for working at the grinding wheel is diffuse, coming from overhead light fixtures. This minimizes shadows and glare. Overall contrast should also be considered – avoid very bright, reflective, of black background in your field of vision. In industrial settings it has been determined that best visual acuity is achieved at the contrast ratio of 10:3:1 – namely, the workpiece is about three times brighter than the immediate background, and about 10 times brighter than the broader surroundings. In hobby-oriented setting, it is sufficient to simply avoid extremes of bright white or pitch black equipment, and to ensure that bright, diffuse light illuminates the work area without casting harsh shadows.

As we progress through various stages of grinding and polishing, the workpiece should be often dried out and inspected for scratches, pitting, chipping, flat spots, and fractures. This inspection will benefit from a directional, unflattering light such as that coming from a desk lamp or a torchlight at a low angle. Magnification with a handheld loupe or a standalone magnifier will make imperfections even more apparent, although we should remember that the final work of art will be usually appreciated without visual aids.

Moving to the final, polishing stage, illumination requirements change once again: the quality of the polished surface can best be judged by carefully observing the reflection of a light source in the polished piece at different angles. Here, the optimal light source is a *structured* source such as a window with partly open blinds, or an overhead fixture with three or more tubes and without the diffuser. Observing the reflection of the high-contrast pattern as we slowly rock the piece will reveal any imperfections in the curvature of the piece, along with hazy or dull spots. Pitting and the “orange peel” can also be detected by observing the surface from an approximately perpendicular direction, while illuminating it with a bright, directional source at a shallow angle.

Observing the reflection of a light source reveals the shape and surface quality of polished stones. Here, a small specimen of a limb cast showing a high, regular dome is compared to a jasper cabochon exhibiting a flat spot and orange-peel surface in its centre.

Meeting agenda for September

7:00-7:10 Introduction & Welcome

- Guest and new member introductions
- Review of previous minutes
- Additions to the Agenda?

7:10-7:30 Club Business

- Review Action Items - Update
- Upcoming Activities
- Auction
- Shop Hours of Operation
- 2027 club calendar, raffle

7:20-7:45 New Business

Strategic planning – Club Future through to Dec 2027

- Shop and meeting hall rental
- Events, classes, community outreach planning
- Volunteer availability and support
- Revenue generation

7:40-8:00 Club Updates

- Reporting Financials
- Social Committee
- Shop
- Big saws
- Library
- Website, Facebook, Instagram

8:00 -8:30 Show and Share: "Dealer's Choice" Bring a favorite rock, mineral specimen, fossil, lapidary project or mystery find. Choose something because it is beautiful, unusual, has a great story, was a surprise find—or simply because you like it. Show off your favorite stones and tell us a little about them.

8:45-9:00 Clean Up