



**Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Fédération des sociétés de minéralogie du centre du Canada**

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**CCFMS Awards Program / Programme de prix FSMCC**

*English version*

**Nancy & Walter  
Marchl**





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**On behalf of the members of the KW club I, we are honoured with the privilege to nominate an outstanding rockhound spousal team of Nancy and Walter Marchl for the Outstanding Display Award – Lapidary Senior Category**

1- Bio Summary

**Walter is currently 84yrs old who despite severe arthritis can be seen scaling rock faces and old mine dump sites hunting for a mineral sample. Born in Austria and trained as a Tool and Die Maker, after his compulsory military training, he immigrated to Canada in 1963. Married Nancy in 1971 and living outside Goderich they raised 2 sons and have 6 grandchildren. He created the Goderich Tool and Die Ltd and retired in 2005. In his work he consulted for and repaired equipment in the Goderich Salt mines. Due to this exposure he was able to deliver a photographically amazing presentation of the myriad of mining roads under Lake Huron. Interested in continuing education and minerology the couple first joined the London Rock, Mineral and Fossil Club in 2003. They joined the KW club, Sarnia club and the Nipissing clubs thereafter.**



**Nancy is currently 74yrs old. Born in Goderich she is a retired nurse of 35yrs having worked at the Victoria Hospital in London and the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich. Her love of nature and exploration took her many places and this interest dove tailed with Walters. As a Team they traveled across Canada and the USA visiting museums and collecting on the way. They attended innumerable club meetings, and field trips. Selflessly, they assisted others, young and old in their quest of knowledge and mineral collecting, even giving away free samples at club shows. Rebuked by a club member at a club show for giving free samples to children they remained stead fast in their altruistic beliefs being modest, humble, supportive of other members and always inclusive and never exclusionary. Embracing diversity, they remained active members supporting auctions, fund raising events and organizing field**



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**trips. Advocates of transparency Nancy would share her find locations as well as her contacts and her knowledge.**



**2-Club field trip organization-**

- For the London and KW clubs trips to Herkimer NY, Ace of Diamonds Mine
- KW club –River Valley Garnet Mine
- Nipissing Club- Hungry Hollow Arkona Fossils

3-Monthly Club Newsletter- London Club Archivist and Monthly Chippings Newsletter

4-KW club yearly gem and mineral competition- Separately Nancy and Walter have won in many many categories for a multitude of years

5-Club membership- London Gem Mineral and Fossil Society

- Kitchener Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club
- Sarnia Rock and Fossil Club
- Nipissing Rock and Mineral Club

6-Areas of Rockhound Collection- Road cuts over Canada and the USA, Thunderbay, Bancroft, Dundas, Beamsville, Cobalt, Elk Lake, Kirkland Lake, Herkimer, Yukon, Lyme Regis England, Austria, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, British Columbia, Various areas in Ontario, Bruce mines, Alberta etc etc

7- Presentations- Goderich Salt Mine and the Stone Forest in China to the London, Sarnia and Kitchener Waterloo rock Clubs

8- Assisting Miners- Ace of Diamonds Herkermer mine New York assisting Ted Smith with mining machinery repair, maintenance etc- Blue Points Amethyst Mine Thunder Bay assisting Lyndon Swanson with drilling, blasting and rock splitting as well as manufacture of steel rock splitting wedges





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9-Running monthly club raffle –London Club

10- Safety First- Ventilation (scavenging), masks and gloves when working with potentially toxic minerals

11- Lapidary equipment manufacture- Rock Saws, Grinders, and a Sphere machine

12- Children and New Members- Assisting in understanding and giving away free specimens

13-Club Newsletter- Nancy was the Archivist and contributor to the monthly Chippings London Club Newsletter

14- Monthly raffle- London Club

15- Lapidary Machinery Creation- Rock Saw, grinders, sphere machine

16- etc etc

Formal letter of Nomination-

An amazing Lapidary display starts with great Lapidary creations. Nancy and Walter have spent decades searching and acquiring the perfect rough so that they can add their transformative touch. Large rough is hard to find.



Once found they had to break it free ( 20lb sledge hammer, and home made steel wedges).



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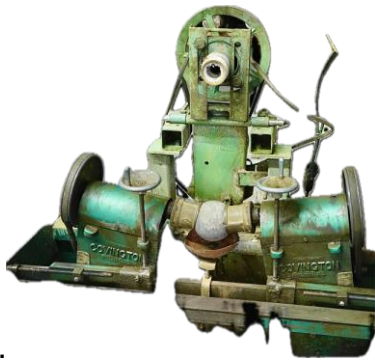
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Then they have to extract it from the site and get it into the vehicle (dolly, one/two person lift, or even tying a rope around it and have Nancy pull and Walter push from behind). Once transported to their home base they then needed the power tools to cut and shape the lapidary (Walter manufactured and retooled other equipment from the instructions they found in their research).



You then need the scientific knowledge to judge uniformity of hardness to cut a perfect sphere and the skill set to know how to maintain integrity of the specimen ( keep the Herkimer in the matrix, keep amethyst from breaking apart )







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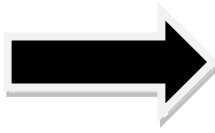
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Their lapidary artisan portfolio just starts with the creation of spheres. Their skills are diverse including faceting (rose quartz), and lathe turning of core samples into cups and goblets.



From slabs to half spheres their list of artistic creations is extensive.

The team of Nancy and Walter is a shared love affair rooted in the appreciation of the physical sciences and fine art. Theirs is a bond promoting and teaching creativity. A life long commitment to continuing education creates a progression into new future endeavours. Similar to recycling core samples into goblets, new possible ventures include recycling slabs into laminating mineral spheres. The pursuit of the creation of artistic masterpieces (spheres, chalices, faceting) and the physical labour of the hunt for raw materials transcends the mental and physical limitations of the teams physical aging. In fact it is this focused drive and interest in the hobby that keeps this couple young at heart, mind and body. Always upbeat and enthusiastic Nancy and Walter Marchl unquestionably exemplify well over half a century of what could be considered the top tier of rockhounding, lapidary machine creation and fine art creations; living the adage of 'one team one dream'.

As with all artistic creations presentation is everything. From the perspective of the KW club completion a pre and post 'presentation' is all that is needed,





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However, for the general public lapidary art needs to be displayed in a format so that the collector can envision its presentation in their home. Nancy and Walters personal home is such an example: a museum of lapidary art. During one of the recent KW club monthly meeting the collection was moved to the monthly venue. The display generating enthusiasm in Lapidary art as members expressed comments such as 'Amazing, Wow... ' as well as questions on how it was made. It sparked an interest in all age groups (pictures enclosed).

In conclusion I recommend the team of Nancy and Walter Marchl for the award **Outstanding Display Award – Lapidary Senior Category** without question or reservation.

Yours,

Peter Wozniak DVM,MD,CCFP,FCFP,Assistant Professor University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine (retired) K-W Club Member

Display Photos







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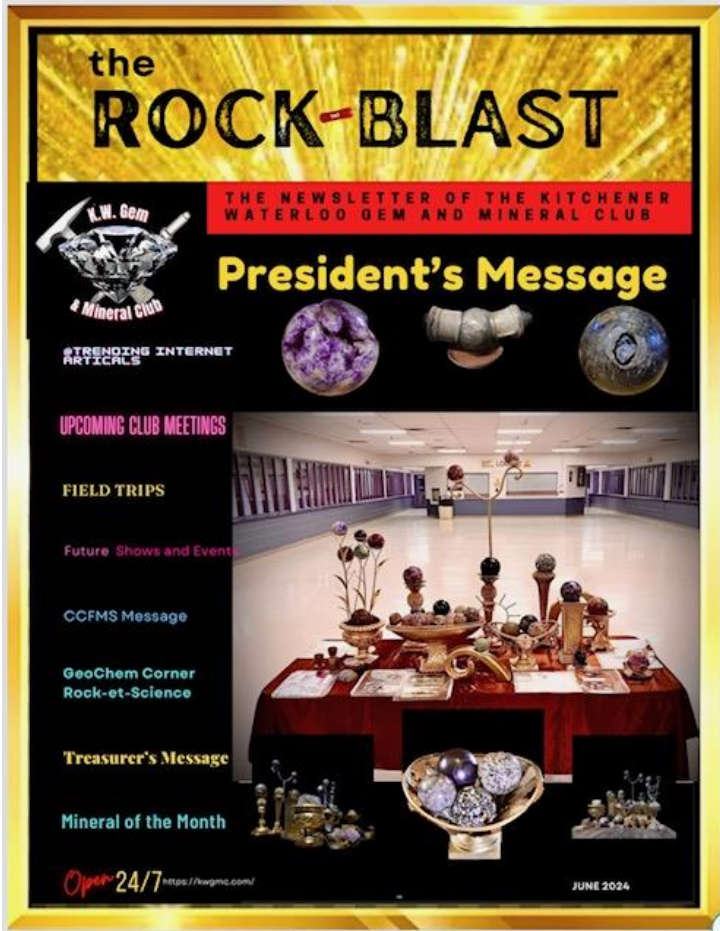
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### FRONT COVER:

A lifetime of Rockhounding and Lapidary work was on display for the May meeting. The team of Walter and Nancy are well known to the KW club as they support our club and several other clubs. Their commitment extends beyond field trips, spending weeks on end assisting miners and mineral collectors. From Faceting, to Slab cutting, to Sphere creation their yearly club winning skills do not end with the creation of a geologic product. The building of lapidary machines from scratch, 'rounds' out their skill set. Nominated for Central Canadian Federation of Mineralogical Societies award this dynamic team is nothing less than INSPIRATIONAL



EXPLORATION, IDENTIFICATION AND CURATION OF GEMOLOGICAL, MINERAL & FOSSIL ANTIQUITIES



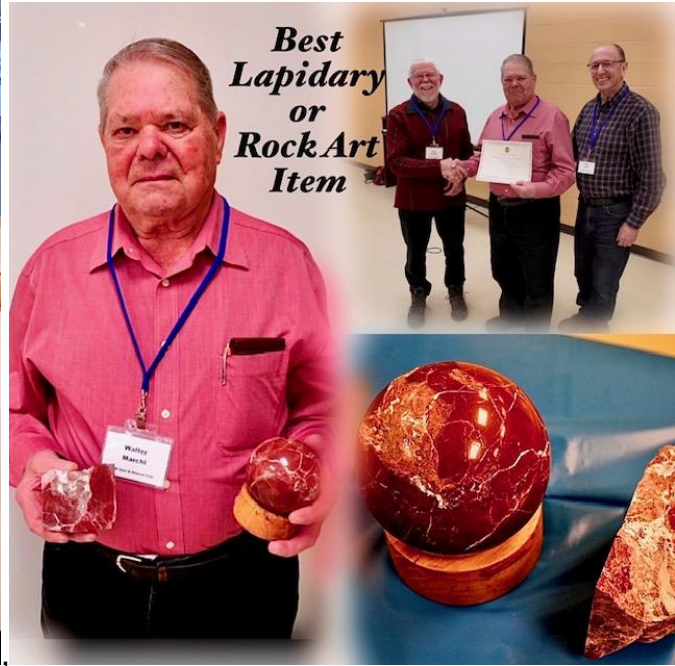
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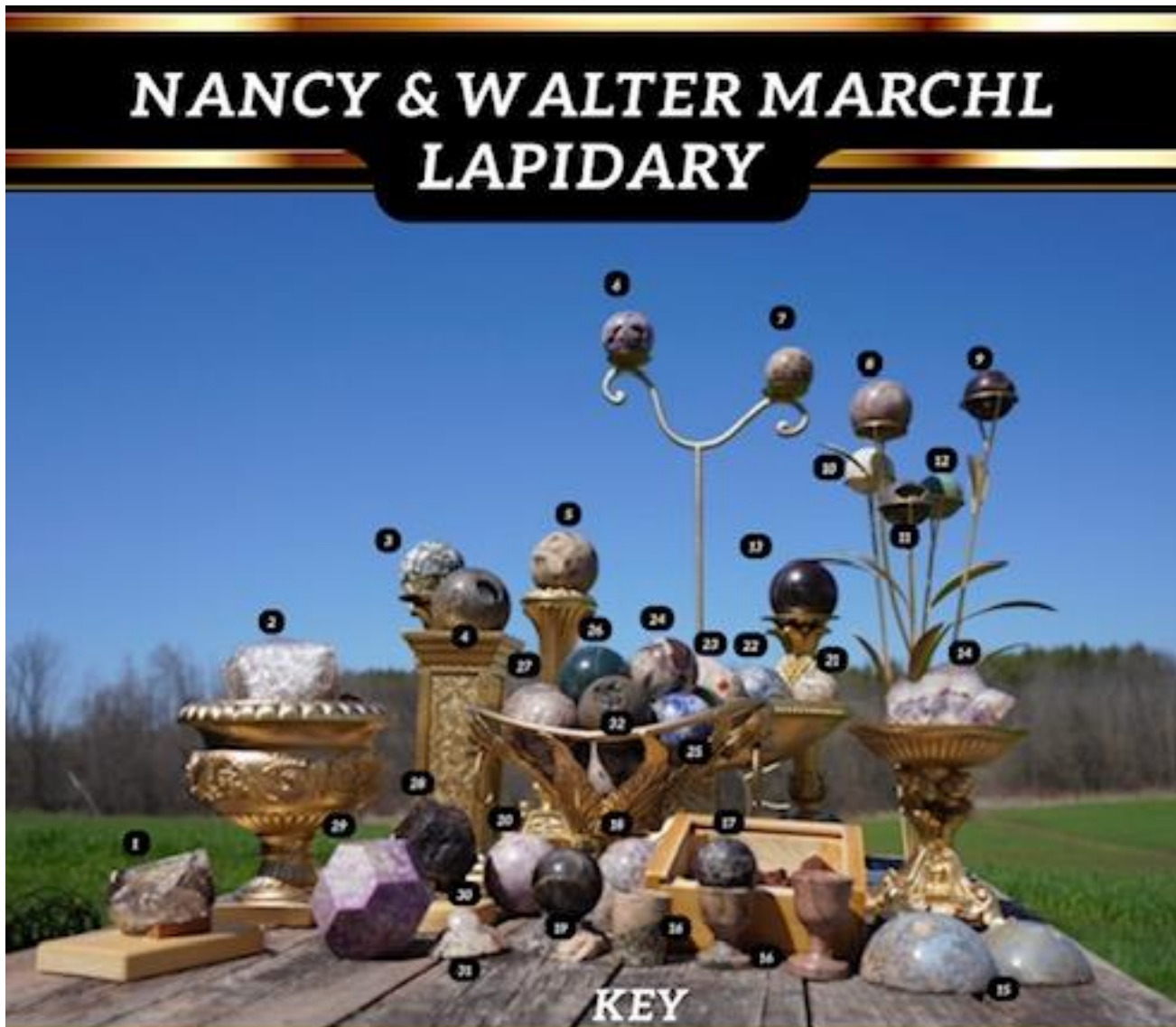
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1-SKELETAL HERKIMER DIAMOND

2-HERKIMER DIAMOND

3-BANNOCKBURN PORPHGRY

4-HERKIMER DIAMOND

5-AMETHYST

6-AMETHYST

7-PUDDING STONE

8-MARBLE

9-BANDED IRON

10-AMETHYST

11-HERKIMER DIAMOND

12-GREEN ADVENTURINE

13-BANDED IRON

14-AMETHYST

15-AGATE

16-SHOT GLASSES FROM CORE CUTTINGS

17-GARNET

18-AMETHYST

19-SMOKEY QUARTZ

20-PINITE

21-AGATE

22-SODALITE

23-PUDDING STONE

24-AGATE

25-SODALITE

26-AGATE

27-GREEN QUARTZITE

28-GARNET

29-PINITE

30-FACETED ROSE QUARTZ

31-PUDDING STONE

32-HERKIMER





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Testimonials;

Testimonial from Stan Jones, Co-President K-W Gem and Mineral Club

I have known Walter for many years, as a member of the K-W Gem and Mineral club. He, and his wife Nancy, have been instrumental in various aspects of the club over the years. They have shared their knowledge and have inspired many in the club to participate in field excursions to several collecting areas in Ontario. Walter enjoyed collecting unusual specimens of rocks and minerals and bringing them back to cab. His specialty, or course, is to make spheres from these specimens. Over the years, he has made one of the best and most unusual collections in the Province. These are especially significant because he formed these himself. He has been most willing to display these a number of times for the rest of the membership to enjoy. He is a most worthy candidate for this recognition as a result.

Stan Jones

Co-President K-W Gem and Mineral Club

Testimonial from Kandyd Naylor, K-W Club.

"Walter Marchl explained to me in detail how he makes his gorgeous spheres. The process requires precision, patience, and imagination! I made 4 spheres following Walter's method using the original sphere-making machine that Walter designed and constructed himself. Despite my best efforts, two spheres were decidedly lopsided! But two turned out beautifully. It is a testament to Walter's amazing capability that he could create an entire collection of interesting, colourful, perfect spheres."

Kandyd

Testimonial from Mr. John Sholdice

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write in support of nominating Nancy and Walter Marchi for the Rockhound and Lapidary of the year award for the CCFMS.

Many elements contribute to the success of a rock, mineral, and fossil collecting club. Not only collecting sites, interesting local geology, readily available books and information, but club members have to be present to help create a successful club.

The London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Nipissing area clubs have been blessed with members Nancy and Walter Marchi, whose contributions have made these clubs not only work, but work well. They



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are well known for a wide range of service contributions to the rock collecting community. As part of the London Gem and Mineral Society, Nancy and Walter have consistently gone out in the public to organize and conduct kids' programs, set up annual picnics, and arrange talks at club meetings and contribute newsletter articles about rocks and their trips to find specimens, going out of their way to aid new members to become knowledgeable about different materials. Their attendance at club events in London is also notable for the distance they drive to be in attendance and the heavy storms and bad roads which they must face on the way. Collecting rock specimens is not for the faint of heart, and the Marchls have proved this by going everywhere from limestone quarries in New York State, amethyst pits on the shore of Lake Superior, and the Jurassic fossil cliffs at Lyme Regis England just to name a few of the sites where they have searched for specimens.

Through it all, Nancy and Walter Marchl have been consistently helpful to fellow collectors, both new and old. There is no doubt that the London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Nipissing clubs have benefited from the active membership of Nancy and Walter, helping to build stronger organizations through their excellent leadership and participation.

Regards,

John Sholdice

Former Newsletter Editor, London Gem and Mineral Society

Testimonial from Gary Winkler

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2012 Nancy and Walter joined the Kitchener Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club, I was a co-president at the time. Our club benefited! They brought with them their great mineral experiences and knowledge. They are also members of the London and North Bay mineral and gem clubs.

At our club, Walter won 'The Best Self Collected' specimen in 2012 and 2023. Nancy has won 'The Best Self Collected' specimen in 2013, 2016, and 2018. She has also won the 'Silver Pik' award in 2019 (Best Acquired specimen). Together they won 29 certificates from various categories.

Every September at our first meeting of the year we had 'Show & Tell' where members got to share their 'finds' from the summer. Nancy and Walter brought specimens to this plus brought some to share with others. Also, they would come early to help set up for the meeting, chairs, tables, whatever was needed. This also was how they contributed at Rock Shows, Club Auctions, and silent auctions. For the many club members who visited the Marchls at their country home near Goderich, they got to witness the beautiful minerals in their home, around their gardens, around their home, garage and workshop. Their passion for their hobby is evident.

Nancy and Walter have a separate building which is their workshop. In this building they have many minerals of every kind. All kinds of machinery for their hobby. A faceting machine, sphere making device, lapidary equipment and a special box with which they can view fluorescent minerals with both short and long waves.

Their absolute passion is 'spheres' and this is evident from their amazing collection of spheres. The





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patience, time, and selection of specimen is apparent.

I am writing this letter as I highly recommend that Nancy and Walter Marchl deserve to be recognized by the CCFMS for Rockhound and Lapidary of the year.

Gary Winkler

Past Co-President K/W Gem and Mineral Club