FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow mineralogists:
As you are reading this, the 2016 joint Geological Association of Canada–Mineralogical Association of Canada (GAC–MAC) meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon (the first time ever!), is now a distant memory. In the same vein, changes in the MAC Executive are also upon us: the baton has been passed from Ron Peterson to me as president, and we have a new face on the executive in the form of Dr. Paula Piilonen as vice-president. It is very refreshing not only to have a new face but, in a few years from now, the MAC will have its first female president: a positive sign of how our association is changing. Many will not think heavily of new faces at the top of the MAC, but new faces hopefully translate into new ideas, new ventures and ways in which the association plans to move ahead. In these days of blogs and so many new methods of communication, it can be a challenge to not only stay on top of how the MAC provides information on what we do for our membership, but also to think far enough ahead so that there is a plan for the future. As president, I have no illusions as to the limitations we are facing and, while I transition into the position with significant trepidation, I also take a great deal of solace in knowing that we have a vibrant association that has been around for more than 50 years – there is something we are doing right! While we certainly stand on the shoulders of the great ones before us, I can only hope that, over the next 50 years, there will be others that will be saying something similar.

Anytime one embarks on a new path, it is reasonable to set tangible goals that one hopes will be achievable. In this respect, I am hoping that by the end of my tenure the MAC will be moving in a direction that offers more Berry Summer Schools, facilitates more advancement in public awareness and media-based perspectives and initiates new directives in regards to outreach. I have ideas, sure; but I will be depending to a great extent on members of the MAC Council to provide their energy, experience and ideas. We have two outstanding new members in Profs. Sytle Antao (University of Calgary, Canada) and Antonio Simonetti (University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA), and I look forward to working with them and the council as a whole. It certainly is a Brave New World around us, but knowing that the MAC has excellent volunteers that make up its executive and council, combined with a drive to propel the association forward, well, that’s good enough to take the fears out of me.

Andrew M. McDonald
Laurentian University

MAC FACEBOOK PAGE
Check our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MineralogicalAssociationCanada), we now have 380 followers.

If you have a Facebook account, be sure to “like” MAC. You will get notified as soon as we post news.

If your institution has a Facebook page, make sure you like MAC, so that the MAC logo appears on your page. Let us know the address of your Facebook page, and we will do likewise.

MAC TWITTER ACCOUNT
MAC just set-up a twitter account. If you have a twitter account, please follow us @MineralAssocCan.

NEWS FROM OUR 2015 MAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Peter Crockford
The generous support from the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) has been invaluable during the past year of my graduate studies. Due to the MAC’s support I was able to conduct field-work on both Baffin Island (Canada) and in South Australia. These field campaigns allowed me to gather samples of evaporites in order to track changes in both atmospheric and ocean chemistry across the Proterozoic. Not only were these experiences highlights of my PhD, but the results from the various isotope analyses are very exciting and will form a major portion of my thesis. The MAC’s support also allowed me to attend conferences and to conduct laboratory work: through these avenues, I am hoping that lifelong collaborations have been fostered. In the upcoming year, I will be doing an internship at the Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan), finishing my PhD, and looking forward to seeking out a post-doc. In sum, it has been a great year. I can’t thank the Mineralogical Association of Canada enough for making it all possible.

Philippe Belley
I am very grateful to have received the MAC Foundation scholarship in 2015. I have been conducting field work and research in my spare time for a number of years, in addition to my studies. My extracurricular work has led to several articles in Rocks & Minerals magazine, several papers in progress (to be submitted to the Canadian Mineralogist), and, more recently, to the discovery of a new mineral species (in the advanced stages of research). The MAC Scholarship is enabling me to continue my mineralogical research, both in the lab and in the field, and is allowing me to pursue exciting new leads in gem deposit geology, to take on new collaborative projects and to accrue additional field experience with different types of gem deposits.

2017 MAC AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Pinch Medal
The Pinch Medal has been awarded every other year since 2001 to recognize major and sustained contributions to the advancement of mineralogy by members of the collector–dealer community. This medal is named after William Wallace Pinch of Rochester (New York, USA) in recognition of his enormous and selfless contributions to mineralogy through the identification of ideal specimens for study and through his generosity in making them available to the academic community. Nominations for the 2017 medal should be submitted to Ron C. Peterson (Department of Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering, Queen’s University, 99 University Avenue, Kingston ON K7L 3N6, Canada; e-mail: peterson@queensu.ca).

Please submit your nominations by 30 November 2016. Check our website, www.mineralogicalassociation.ca, for additional details.
Submit your session proposal to: RFG2018.org