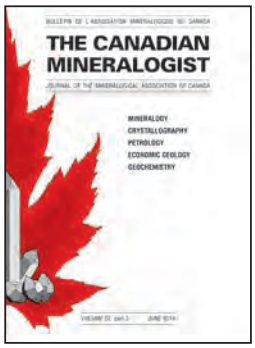
Mineralogical Association of Canada

www.mineralogicalassociation.ca

THE CANADIAN MINERALOGIST

Dear loyal patrons and contributors to *The Canadian Mineralogist*,

There have been concerns regarding the situation currently facing our flagship journal and where it is headed. As President of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), I would like to take this opportunity to formally and completely dispel these concerns and to reassure our valued readership and faithful contributors that the state of our journal is one that is both positive and bright. It is true that *The Canadian Mineralogist* has faced a series of unfortunate, challenging, hurdles recently, culminating in unprecedented flooding in India where our journal was being laid out and typeset. This tragic event led not only to the complete destruction of the facility but also to the loss of a great number of finished, typeset articles, a combination of which, thus, led to major publication delays. Owing to this, the MAC Executive Council made the difficult decision to rectify the situation by changing to a new typesetter (Allen press), one that is both closer to home and has a demonstrable record of capability in this area. The relationship with Allen Press has surpassed our expectations and stabilized the cloudy situation that had been previously facing our journal. During this very challenging period, our editorial team of Dr. Lee Groat and Ms. Mackenzie Parker have worked diligently to clean up the backlog of submissions and to position *The Canadian Mineralogist* for future growth. I have complete confidence in them, and it will be positive news to our membership to hear that we are on track to have caught up by the middle of 2017, after which, new initiatives will be forthcoming. Paraphrasing Mark Twain, that great American humourist: rumors of our demise have been greatly exaggerated. We have turned the corner. On behalf of MAC, we sincerely thank you for your patience, understanding and support. We encourage you not only to continue to read, reference and support our highly valued journal but also to submit your manuscripts to *The Canadian Mineralogist*. The future is very bright, and we want you to be part of the journey in moving forward.



Sincerely yours,

Andy M. McDonald
President, Mineralogical Association of Canada

Upcoming Issues of the Canadian Mineralogist

Upcoming issues include:

- A thematic issue in honor of Frank Hawthorne (January 2016).
- A thematic issue covering the 12th International Platinum Symposium. Guest Editors are Federica Zaccarini and Tatiana Evstigneeva (March 2016).
- A thematic issue on pegmatites, based on presentations made at the PEGS 2015 conference (Ksiaz, Poland) (July 2016).

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS 2015–2016

MAC undergraduate student awards are given annually to undergraduate students (2nd year of study or higher) at a recognized Canadian university or institute of higher education for excellence in one of the specialties supported by the Mineralogical Association of Canada (mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, petrology, mineral deposits). The recipients receive a one-year MAC membership (including electronic access to *The Canadian Mineralogist*, a subscription to *Elements*, a 20% discount on MAC publications, and a discounted registration fee at our annual meeting) and a $100 gift certificate redeemable on any MAC publication. Congratulations to the following students, all of whom are in Canadian universities), who received this award in 2015–2016:

Carlee J. Akam (University of Victoria)
Daniel M. Baker (University of Alberta)
Allan A. Bieber (University of Manitoba)
Inayat Dhaliwal (University of Calgary)
Caleb Grant (St. Francis Xavier University)
Tong Hong (University of Waterloo)
Rilea Kynock (University of New Brunswick)
Marika Labbé (Université Laval)
Jackson Daniel Malone (Acadia University)
Reid James Merrill (University of British Columbia at Okanagan)
Mallory Metcalf (Queen's University)
Hoang Anh Tu Lavie Nguyen (University of Saskatchewan)
Stacey Nicole Parmenter (Memorial University)
Justin T Pentesco (Brock University)
Forest R. Pimm (University of Victoria)
Jamie Schmidt (University of Regina)
Claudia M. Selles (McGill University)
Aamna Asad Sirohey (Western University)
Jessie Villeneuve (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi)
Elliot Wehrle (Laurentian University)

UPCOMING GAC–MAC JOINT MEETING

14–18 May 2017
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
www.kingstongacmac.ca

The 2017 annual meeting of the GAC–MAC in Kingston will coincide with the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) in Kingston. The GSC, Canada's oldest scientific agency, was established by the legislature of the Province of Canada in 1842, in Kingston, Canada West.

The Department of Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering at Queen's University (in Kingston) and the GSC will be hosting this celebratory event at Queen's University.

Six proposed themed sessions will run concurrently, as follows:

Session 1: "Environmental Issues"
Session 2: "Quaternary Systems"
Session 3: "Geochemical Systems"
Session 4: "Tectonics"
Session 5: "Earth Surface Systems Past and Present"
Session 6: "Geological Engineering"
Special Lectures: "Past, Present and Future Status of the GSC"

MAC Sponsored Short Courses

Novel Applications of Isotope Geochemistry—organized by Kurt Kyser (Queen's University)

Isotope geochemistry is an integral part of the Earth sciences, particularly in revealing the fourth dimension of our science (time). Isotopic data can reveal the processes involved in natural systems and trace the flux of elements between the geosphere and biosphere. As such, isotope geochemistry is built on a platform of pure and theoretical science, but is primarily an applied science that adds value to mineral exploration, environmental stewardship, whole earth ecology, timing and causes of evolution, palaeoclimates and even food authentication. As an applied science, isotope geochemistry has expanded from traditional light stable isotopes and long-lived decay systems studied by a few experts into studies involving most elements in the periodic table, additional geochronometers and enhanced integration with other aspects of Earth science by a broad range of users. This course addresses the recent applications of isotope geochemistry in the Earth sciences and how integration with other disciplines represents a paradigm shift in our understanding of the processes that operate in natural systems. Those involved in the course include the top isotope geochemists in Canada. The course will last for two days and will start two days prior to the GAC–MAC 2017 meeting.

Geometallurgy—organized by Gema R. Olivo (Queen's University)

Environmental and socio-economic demands in the exploitation of future mineral resources require a comprehensive collection and evaluation of a given ore bodies' mineralogical, geochemical, lithological, physical and metallurgical attributes and variability. The evaluation process must start during the exploration phase and continue into the ore processing phase and the later remediation of mine waste phase because the information accumulated has a direct impact on all aspects of mine development. Geometallurgy is the scientific discipline that integrates all of the mineralogical, geological, mining and processing data into an accurate ore-body model, one that can form the basis for optimizing production and environmental management during the entire life of the project. Geometallurgy reduces operational risks, optimizes recovery efficiency, and minimizes environmental impact within the framework of a sound financial model. The relationship between geometallurgical input variables and their processing responses is usually complex. This course will address: (1) The principles of geometallurgy and critical evaluation of sampling, mineralogical and geochemical methods; (2) Case studies of geometallurgy applications involving: innovative evaluation of mineral deposits; mineral exploration; resource estimation; applications and implementation of quantitative mineralogical and geochemical data; mining and ore processing; energy use; treatment of tailings and waste rock and their remediation; implementing geometallurgical models in mining and plant operations. The course will last for two days and will start two days prior to the GAC–MAC 2017 meeting.

NOW AVAILABLE

Understanding the Gem Minerals: A Practical Guide
Special Publication 12
of *The Canadian Mineralogist*

Gemstones have fascinated people for thousands of years because of their beauty, rarity, and monetary value. However, a true understanding of gemstones and their properties has only come about in the past two centuries resulting from the developing science of geology and mineralogy and an increasing need to distinguish natural gemstones from those that are treated or grown in the laboratory. Numerous books describe minerals, and a number of them report on the distinctive properties of gemstones, but there are almost no books that present a more detailed mineralogical description of the gem minerals, along with a clear explanation of basic concepts of interest from both mineralogy and geology. Written by William Revell Phillips and James Shigley, *Understanding the Gem Minerals: A Practical Guide* bridge this gap.

Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

SFMC GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

The SFMC's annual general assembly was held in Rimini (Italy) during the 2nd European Mineralogical Conference (emc2016, held 11–15 September 2016). Bertrand Devouard, SFMC president, welcomed the members; Marc Blanchard, SFMC secretary, then summarised two significant one-day meetings, with lectures and discussions, that the SFMC had organised. The first of these meetings was held 25 June 2015 in Strasbourg (France) and focused on the issues of access to energy and raw materials, particularly industrial glasses, shale gas and geothermal exploitation. The second meeting was held 30 September 2015 in Paris (France) and was jointly organized with the Geological Society of France on the theme of natural hydrogen, its geological context and how it can be produced on an industrial scale. In addition, Marc gave a summary of the society's input into conferences and workshops, such as the 11th Rayons X & Matière [X-rays and Materials], and the society's contributions to the *European Journal of Mineralogy* and *Elements*. Finally, Christian Chopin, SFMC treasurer, presented the 2015 budget, which was approved.

Boris Chauviré (LEFT) and Julien Amalberti (RIGHT) receiving the 2016 Haüy–Lacroix award from Bertrand Devouard (President of the SFMC).

After the SFMC's general assembly, Boris Chauviré, a PhD student from Nantes University (supervised by N. Mangold and B. Rondeau), received one of two 2016 Haüy–Lacroix awards for his work on the genesis of supergene silica and its implications for Mars. The second Haüy–Lacroix laureate, Julien Amalberti, a PhD student from Lorraine University (supervised by D. Laporte and the late P. Burnard), could not attend emc2016 and received his award three weeks later in Paris for his experimental study of volcanic degassing.

The Rimini meeting was also an opportunity to meet the six students from different French laboratories who enjoyed the emc2016conference thanks to grants from the SFMC.

SFMC President B. Devouard and the students who attended emc2016 thanks to SFMC grants: Ahmed Abd Elmola, Diane Bonnemains, Maxime Clément, Camille Crouzet (missing from the photo), Carlotta Ferrando, and Jules Goethals.