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Mineralogical Association of Canada

What a 50th Birthday Party!

It was an honor, on behalf of past and present members of the Executive and Council of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), to host MAC's 50th birthday celebrations, held at the 2005 GAC-MAC meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. To highlight MAC's birthday, all registrants were provided with a glossy booklet summarizing the history of the Association, and presenting the abstracts of our 50th anniversary symposium and a colorful preview of one of our upcoming special publications, *Atlas of Minerals in Thin Section*. A selection of prized specimens from the Pinch Collection of the Canadian Museum of Nature was prominently displayed in the registration area, open to the public for the duration of the conference.

A special two-day MAC 50th anniversary symposium was convened by Frank Hawthorne (a full list of presentations is available on the meeting website). The 40-minute talks covered many aspects of mineralogy, igneous and metamorphic petrology, stable isotopes, mineral deposit geology, etc. This symposium was a reflection of what is published in *The Canadian Mineralogist* and what is important to members. Presenters included many former members of the Executive who have contributed so much to the Association. Watch for the December issue of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, in which many of these papers will be published.

Monday evening was the 50th birthday party. The president and vice president of MAC, the past president of GAC, and representatives from IMA and the German Mineralogical Society (GMS) were ushered to the stage by a Nova Scotian piper. Vice president Norm Halden read well wishes from two of the 14 mineralogists who founded the Association, E.W. Nuffield and H.R. Steacy. Then we proudly raised our glasses of wine in a toast to the MAC's founders. The president also reminded the audience of the strong bonds and the successful partnership with GAC since joint meetings started in the 1960s. Kind remarks from GAC past president Sandra Barr followed those from Ian Parsons, president of the IMA, and Leander Franz, councillor of the GMS. A birthday would not be complete without a loud rendition of "Happy birthday to you" followed by cutting of the birthday cake!



President Dan Kontak accepts a beautiful commemorative plaque from the hands of Sandra Barr, GAC Past President.



Several current and past members of the Executive gathered around for the cake-cutting ceremony.

On Tuesday, Ian Parsons presented a plenary address entitled "Minerals are not just chemical compounds." This exceptional talk illustrated the importance and relevance of mineral science to a very broad range of issues, from high-temperature petrology, through diagenesis and environmental concerns, to microbial life! This was followed by the MAC awards luncheon with nearly 130 people in attendance. It was a most pleasant and joyful event, especially with so many past members of MAC Executive in attendance. In particular, "Digger" Gorman at the head table represented the contribution of all former members of the Executive.

On Tuesday evening, councillor and lecturer extraordinaire André Lalonde entertained a full house at the Nova Scotia museum with his talk "Close encounters with minerals." André's enthusiasm and clarity of presentation won over the entire audience, which included many accomplished geoscientists! The talk demonstrated the relevance of minerals to society—from Kellogg's Rice Krispies, to cars, Coke and, best of all, Oreo cookies!

Thanks to the Halifax 2005 local organizing committee for helping to make this GAC-MAC meeting one to remember!

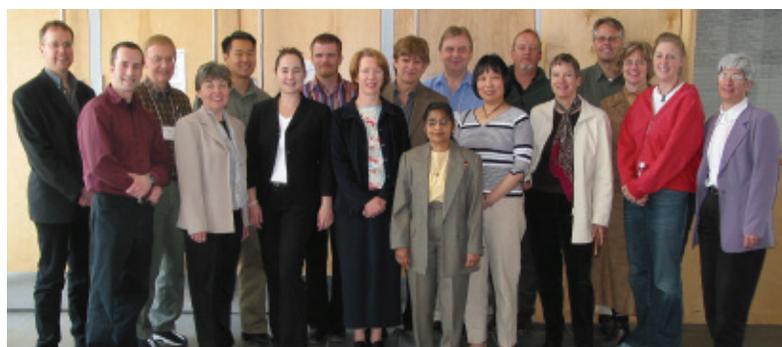
Daniel J. Kontak
President

SHORT COURSE – "MERCURY: SOURCES, MEASUREMENTS, CYCLES, AND EFFECTS"

To assist researchers, students, environmental managers, and policy makers in keeping abreast of new developments, the Mineralogical Association of Canada convened a short course entitled "Mercury: Sources, Measurements, Cycles, and Effects" in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 14–15, 2005, as part of the joint meeting of the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineralogical Association of

Canada, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, and the Canadian Society of Soil Sciences. The short course was co-organized by Michael Parsons and Jeanne Percival, both from Natural Resources Canada.

The course brought together some of the world's leading experts on Hg, and included 14 presentations designed to communicate up-to-



Speakers at the short course. Back row (left to right): Neil Burgess, Jim Rytuba, Chris Kim, Brian Branfireun, Rob Mason, Jozef Pacyna, Peter Outridge, David Krabbenhoft, Pat Rasmussen. Front row: Michael Parsons, Cathy Banic, Tonya Bender, Grace Howland, Shalini Gupta, Julia Lu, Gwendy Hall, Sandy Steffen, Jeanne Percival.

date information from various fields of Hg research and to highlight important gaps in our existing knowledge of this pervasive environmental pollutant. Approximately 30 professionals and students attended the course and were treated to a full weekend of high-quality presentations and interesting discussions on a wide range of Hg issues. The short course was complemented by a one-day special session on mercury in the environment. Abstracts from this session can be accessed through the conference website (www.halifax2005.ca). Further details on the short course topics are provided in MAC Short Course Volume 34, available for purchase from the MAC (see review on p. 222).

Michael B. Parsons
and Jeanne B. Percival
Geological Survey of Canada,
Natural Resources Canada

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS 2004–2005

The MAC Undergraduate Awards are given annually to undergraduate students for excellence in one of the fields covered by MAC (mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, geochemistry, and economic geology). The award consists of one free publication and a one-year subscription to *The Canadian Mineralogist*. Congratulations to the following students:

Malcolm Alexander, Lakehead Univ.
Megan M. Blamire, Queen's Univ.
Susan A. Brodie, University of New Brunswick
Jared P. Butler, Dalhousie University
Jonathon Cirelli, Laurentian University
Tim Cross, Acadia University
Christopher M. Doughty, Simon Fraser University
Kimberley A. Ells, St. Francis Xavier University
Ian Foster, University of Western Ontario
Benjamin Hudson, Univ. of Victoria
Brittan M. Jones, Brandon University
Adrian Karolko, Mount Royal College
Diana Kuiper, University of Ottawa
Francis Lefebvre, Université du Québec à Montréal
Jeannette M. Marcotte, Univ. of Regina
Ryan C.D. Martin, University of Manitoba
Jean-François Montreuil, Univ. Laval
Mylaine Pilote, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
Kyle Charles Rebryna, Univ. of Calgary
Sandra Reynen, University of Windsor
Kamalpreet Sihra, Brock University
Ahmad Saleem, Carleton University
Ashley Smyth, University of Waterloo

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2006 MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA AWARDS

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

This award is given to a young scientist who has made a significant international research contribution in a promising start to a scientific career.

- The scientist must be 40 or younger at the time of the award.
- The scientist must be a Canadian working anywhere in the world or a scientist of any nationality working in Canada.
- The research areas include mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, geochemistry, mineral deposits, and related fields of study.

PAST-PRESIDENTS' MEDAL

The Past-Presidents' Medal is awarded to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences in Canada. There is no restriction regarding nationality or residency. The medal is intended to recognize the breadth and

universality of these contributions in mineralogy, applied mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, geochemistry, or the study of mineral deposits, rather than in a narrow area of expertise.

BERRY MEDAL

The Leonard G. Berry Medal is awarded annually for distinguished service to the Association. The award recognizes significant service in one or more areas that may include leadership or long-term service in an elected or appointed office. The medal is named after Leonard G. Berry (1914–1982), a founding member of MAC, editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist* and its predecessor for 25 years and first winner of the MAC Past-Presidents' medal.

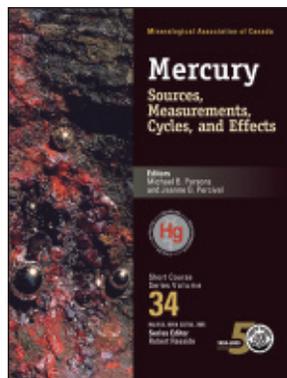
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31

Check our website for additional details
www.mineralogicalassociation.ca



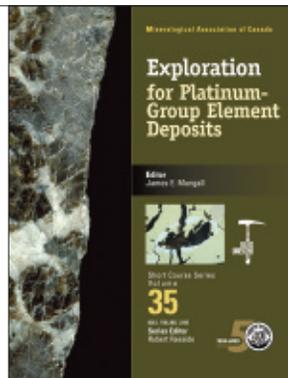
Traditional photograph of the 2005 award winners at the MAC luncheon. From left to right, Anthony Williams-Jones (Past-Presidents' Medal), Anton Chakhmouradian (Young Scientist Award), Rob Raeside (Berry Medal), Pierrette Tremblay (Berry Medal), Leander Franz (Hawley Medal), Daniel J. Kontak (MAC

president), Murray Allan (MAC Foundation Scholarship), Axel Renno (Hawley Medal), and Ian Parsons (president of IMA and plenary lecturer). You can read citations and responses for each of these awards on MAC's website as well as in a future issue of *The Canadian Mineralogist*.



Mercury: Sources, Measurements, Cycles, and Effects

Editors:
Michael B. Parsons
and Jeanne B. Percival



Exploration for Platinum-Group Element Deposits

Editor:
James E. Mungall

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