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Mineralogical Association of Canada

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL MEETING

Changing of the Guard

The annual council meeting of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) was, as usual, held just prior to the GAC-MAC conference, this being the fiftieth such meeting of the two organizations. Incoming president Kurt Kyser opened the council meeting by noting some of the highlights, past and present: the highly successful MAC 50th anniversary celebrations; MAC's visibility at the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference; another highly successful short course (#36) in Montreal; planning for the upcoming (July 2007) Frontiers meeting in Cambridge, England, co-organized with MinSoc and MSA; continued sponsorship of students via scholarships and grants to help them attend meetings such as GAC-MAC; and the recent appointment of a short course coordinator, Rob Raeside. However, the association has some notable and immediate challenges to be dealt with, including a significant budgetary deficit for the first time in several years.

The make-up of council at the annual meeting was notably different for the first time in many years: new councilors Marc Constantin, Jim Mungall, James Scoates, and Paula Piilonen joined the new appointees Martine Savard and David Fowle in the positions of treasurer and secretary, respectively. Mati Raudsepp and Andy MacDonald stepped down from the latter positions after years of distinguished service, and their contributions were acknowledged and noted – thanks again to you both. Also obvious was the absence, at times deafening, of the always flavorful Scottish brogue provided for so many years by MAC supporter extraordinaire Norm Halden. We wish Norm well as he deals with other issues in the nearby forests, lakes, and streams.

Some of the important issues dealt with over the two days of meetings are summarized below.

Past Presidents' Medal

In response to a proposal by Ed Nuffield (founding president of MAC) and Bob Ferguson to rename the Past Presidents' Medal, past winners were canvassed out of respect for their concerns. The

near-unanimous support of past winners for this idea moved Council to vote on renaming the medal in honor of the significant contributions of an outstanding Canadian mineralogist or crystallographer to the mineralogical sciences in Canada. A committee has been struck to deal with this name change, the first step being to invite nominations from members. Thus, we are now open to suggestions for renaming this medal and invite all members to submit their ideas in writing or electronically:

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GeoscienceWorld (GSW): The Electronic Age

The continued challenge of dealing with electronic formatting and journal aggregation prompted council, after three years of discussion about GSW, to jump on board. After due consideration, MAC council voted to join GSW because it appears to be a successful venture and will benefit MAC and *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

However, we realize that time will be the final judge. Thus, the journal will become part of a scientific journal aggregate, available to those who subscribe—check with your institution to see if it subscribes to GSW.

Publications News

The Canadian Mineralogist reached 2100 pages last year—a reflection of the popularity of the journal indeed. Editor Bob Martin reported that having three thematic issues in one year, although good in some respects, created delays in publishing regular papers. As no full thematic issues are planned for 2006, it will be easier to return to a regular publishing schedule. Because of the financial impact of so many published pages, council restricted the number of pages to 1600 for 2006, and a color fee per page will be introduced in 2007. Several years ago, MAC was innovative and successful by offering free color to authors, but the financial consequence of this is now apparent. Thus council has moved to recover some of these costs by applying a nominal fee for color, unless there is financial reason to waive the charge.

Projects that are nearing completion and, therefore, heading to the printer in the near future include *Atlas of Migmatites*, by Ed Sawyer (Special Publication 9). Expected to follow in 2007 and 2008 will be the *Atlas of Non-Silicate Minerals in Thin Section* and a book entitled *Pegmatites*, by world authority David London.

Finally, another high-quality short course volume edited by James D. Webster and series editor Rob Raeside was produced in time for the GAC-MAC conference. The volume entitled *Melt Inclusions in Plutonic Rocks* is sure to be a good seller. The list of accomplished contributors was put together by renowned petrologist Jim Webster of the Museum of Natural History in New York. Our thanks to Jim and to the many contributors for all their fine efforts.

MAC Office is Moving!

The decision to consolidate the business offices of MAC was discussed at length, being motivated by several issues affecting the present and near future. Our office in Ottawa has served MAC, its members, and the public well for many years,

and council applauds the extraordinary effort and dedication of Fran and Bob Pinard while running the Ottawa office since 1990. Unfortunately, the issues of conversion to electronic publishing, electronic bookstores, centralized mailing, etc. combined with impending financial difficulties required immediate action in order for MAC to function in the best interests of the Association and its membership. The new Quebec location for the business office allows for more efficient running of many MAC functions. All the publishing, ordering, mailing, and coordination activities now reside in one place, which is also proximal to the new treasurer, Martine Savard.

Please note that our offices moved on July 1 to Quebec City. Our new address is:

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Next Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be in Cambridge, England, during the Frontiers meeting in July 2007. This will be the first time council has ventured from traditional meeting grounds—the site of the annual GAC-MAC conference. However, we emphasize that MAC remains fully supportive of the long and very successful collaboration in the running of the annual GAC-MAC meetings and will be helping out at the very unique venue of Yellowknife. As in the past, MAC will be assisting the Yellowknife organizing committee in whatever way it can, providing funding for sessions, sponsoring a short course ("Geology of Gems," by Lee Groat of UBC), and assisting with student participation. The departure from the normal procedure is merely a reflection of MAC maturing and interacting with other societies, while at the same time retaining its traditional ways.

Daniel J. Kontak
Past President

MONTREAL 2006: A SUCCESS

Montreal 2006 was a highly successful meeting in all respects—even the rains could not dampen the enthusiasm that permeated the halls and rooms of the refurbished venue at Université du Québec à Montréal. The sessions were varied and provided interesting information to just about any Earth scientist. MAC contributed financially to several sessions, in particular the session on alkaline igneous systems, organized by D. Lentz, A. Lalonde, S. Salvi, and J. Paquette, which went on for the three days of the meeting. This session was an excellent example of the merging and application of a wide spectrum of disciplines and techniques in the Earth sciences to resolve the nature and origin of alkaline systems and associated hydrothermal processes. Congratulations to the organizers of this and other MAC-sponsored sessions (Advances in Micro- and Nano-Scale Characterization and Analysis of Earth Materials; Metamorphism, Crustal Fluids and Experimental Petrology: G. Skippen Tribute; Kimberlites and Other Diamondiferous Rocks; Earth's Mantle: New Insights from Diamonds and Xenoliths). We will publish a summary of these special sessions in the next issue of *Elements*. Our heartfelt thanks to the local organizing committee chaired by Normand Goulet for all the hard work in planning this meeting.

MAC Awards Luncheon

The MAC awards luncheon was held at the McGill Faculty Club, and Jeanne Paquette of McGill University is to be thanked for helping to arrange this truly inspirational venue, where members dined in elaborate and stylish surroundings. As always, the awardees were delightful and entertained us with the stories of their educational and vocational journeys.

SEEKING PROPOSALS FOR BERRY SUMMER SCHOOLS

You would like to invite a world-leading specialist to run an in-depth workshop on a topic in mineralogy, geochemistry, crystallography, ore deposits geology, or petrology?

**MAC CAN PROVIDE UP TO \$2500
TO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

Berry Summer Schools are typically run in a university setting, with one or two invited instructors.

They can last from two to five days.

They provide a hands-on component, either in the lab or in the field.

They can be run anywhere in the world.

The number of attendees is small (30 to 60).

They are stand-alone events, decoupled from scientific meetings.

They are geared to meet the needs of students, but also attract industry representatives and academics.

You can read reports on the first three Berry Schools in MAC Newsletters 68 (p. 9), 71 (p. 8), and 73 (p. 11) at www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/

INTERESTED?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CHAIR OF THE TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE, PETER BURNS, AT PBURNS@ND.EDU



Traditional photograph of the 2006 award winners at the MAC luncheon. From left to right, Ron Peterson and Alan Grant (Hawley Medal), Joel Grice (Past Presidents' Medal), Michael Schindler (Young Scientist Award), Mati Raudsepp (Berry Medal), Dan Kontak (MAC past president), Jason Mackenzie (Mac Foundation Scholarship), Peter Burns (MAC vice president), and Kurt Kyser (MAC president). You can read citations and responses for the MAC awards on MAC's website as well as in a future issue of *The Canadian Mineralogist*.

The Geology of Gem Deposits

MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA SHORT COURSE

21–22 MAY 2007, YELLOWKNIFE, CANADA

SHORT COURSE ORGANIZER: Lee Groat, University of British Columbia

This two-day short course will look at gemstones from a geological perspective. Gem deposits are rare because in general the conditions that promote their formation are unusual and thus worthy of scientific study. Modern geological and analytical techniques have recently been applied to gem occurrences in Canada and elsewhere, and our models and understanding of their formation is being radically altered. This short course will review our current understanding of diamond, ruby, sapphire, and emerald deposits but will also examine the lesser-known coloured gem deposits.

This short course will precede Yellowknife 2007—the joint annual meeting of the Geological Association of Canada and the Mineralogical Association of Canada, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. It will be a unique opportunity to experience a change of climate and a meeting north of 60°.

1. INTRODUCTION
2. DIAMOND DEPOSITS (THOMAS STACHEL)
3. GEM CORUNDUM (RUBY AND SAPPHIRE) DEPOSITS (GASTON GIULIANI)
4. GEM BERYL (EMERALD, AQUAMARINE, ETC.) DEPOSITS (LEE GROAT ET AL.)
5. OTHER GEMS (TSAVORITE, TANZANITE, TOPAZ, ETC.) (TASHIA DZIKOWSKI ET AL.)
6. GEM-BEARING PEGMATITES (SKIP SIMMONS)
7. EXPLORATION FOR GEM DEPOSITS

For more information, e-mail Lee Groat at lgroat@eos.ubc.ca or visit the conference website at www.nwtgeoscience.ca/Yellowknife2007



CANADA'S NORTH...
ITS CLIMATE, ITS CULTURE,
ITS MINING HERITAGE, AND ITS FUTURE!

LE NORD CANADIEN...
SON CLIMAT, SA CULTURE,
SON HÉRITAGE MINIER ET SON FUTURE!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE - VISITEZ NOTRE SITE INTERNET
www.nwtgeoscience.ca/yellowknife2007

