



Mineralogical Association of Canada

www.mineralogicalassociation.ca

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Role of MAC in the Mineralogical Sciences Today



Peter C. Burns

Upon becoming president of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) in May, I reflected on the history of our Association, seeking an informed approach to shaping its future. MAC was incorporated on August 5, 1955, by letters patent under the Canadian Corporations Act for the purpose of advancing knowledge in crystallography, geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology, mineral deposits, and allied sciences.

I am happy to report that MAC remains committed to the vision of the founding members and to affirm that this mission remains vital to the future of the mineralogical sciences. MAC has advanced knowledge in many ways, some highly visible to our membership, others less apparent. The most visible of MAC activities is publication of *The Canadian Mineralogist*, one of the premier mineral sciences journals in the world today. The journal has certainly evolved over the past 50 years, and now publishes six times a year papers with a broad international authorship and a similarly broad international readership. Over all these years, the journal has remained consistent with the original mission of MAC: publishing papers over the entire breadth of crystallography, geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology, mineral deposits, and allied sciences. Many of our members will also be aware that MAC was a founding organization in the highly successful publication *Elements*, which is enhancing recognition of important research by mineralogists (broadly defined). Another highly visible activity is our cosponsorship of the annual GAC-MAC meeting.

Less visible activities of MAC are also having an impact. Every year MAC sponsors one or more **short courses** and publishes corresponding volumes, thus providing professionals and students with an opportunity to broaden their scientific horizons. MAC sponsors **Berry Schools**, again providing unique opportunities for the continued intellectual growth of our membership (and others). In a similar vein, MAC sponsors special sessions at scientific meetings, both in Canada and abroad, which stimulate learning and debate in some of the most important areas of our science. MAC's highly successful **Special Publications** series—the envy of other mineralogical societies—includes spectacular volumes such as the recent ones concerning pegmatites and migmatites.

MAC also invests significantly in **people**. Each year the Association provides a scholarship to a deserving graduate student in mineralogy who is either working in Canada or is a Canadian citizen working anywhere in the world. Outstanding undergraduates are encouraged, through our annual undergraduate awards and travel grants, to attend scientific meetings. MAC recognizes scholarship of professionals with the **Young Scientist Award** and the **Peacock** and **Hawley** medals, which are highly regarded in academic circles.

Finally, MAC is actively engaged with other mineralogical societies and associations internationally. These collaborations result in informed policy, better meetings, and a sense of common goals.

I hope you agree that MAC continues to be consistent with the mission defined more than 50 years ago, and that this mission is still timely and important. The support of our membership is essential to achieving our goals. MAC has a modest business office in Quebec City, with fantastic employees who keep the day-to-day operations running smoothly. Nothing would be possible without the tremendous time invested by our volunteers, including members of the Executive (the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, past president); editors of the journal, special publications, and short course volumes; members of

Council; organizers and speakers at short courses and special sessions; reviewers of papers in our journal; organizers of our annual meetings; and the many others who contribute.

Peter C. Burns, University of Notre Dame, USA
President, Mineralogical Association of Canada

2007-2008 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AWARDS

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 one-year subscriptions to *Elements* and to the online version of *The Canadian Mineralogist*. We congratulate the 2007-2008 awardees.

Donnelly B. Archibald,
St. Francis Xavier
University

Eleanor J. Berryman,
McGill University

Natasha L. Bumstead,
The University of
Western Ontario

Ania Danigier,
University of Windsor

David Dirisio,
Brock University

Chelcy J. Fougere,
Acadia University

Sean P. Funk,
University of Alberta

Devon C. Griffiths,
University of Calgary

Monika Haring,
Laurentian University

Kayla M. Helt, Queen's
University

Luke J. Hilchie,
Dalhousie University

**Maude Lévesque
Michaud**, Université
Laval

Kevin J. MacKenzie,
UBC Okanagan

Seamus J. Magnus,
Lakehead University

Laura Malone,
University of New
Brunswick

Shawn O'Connor,
Carleton University

Christopher R. Rawluk,
University of Manitoba

Ryan Ruthart,
University of Waterloo

Eric E.S. Street,
Simon Fraser University

Jolene Styan,
University of Victoria

Ryan Szilagyi,
University of Regina

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 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. He or she 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.

PEACOCK MEDAL

The Peacock Medal (formerly known as 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, including leadership and 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 for 25 years of *The Canadian Mineralogist* and its predecessor, and first winner of MAC's Past-Presidents' Medal.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS BY DECEMBER 31, 2008.

Check our website for additional details.

WWW.MINERALOGICALASSOCIATION.CA

MAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP TO ERNESTO PECOITS

The Mineralogical Association of Canada awarded its 2008-2009 Foundation Scholarship to Ernesto Pecoits, a PhD student at the University of Alberta. Starting next year, two scholarships will be awarded, one to a PhD student and one to an MSc student.

Ernesto Pecoits was born in Montevideo, Uruguay. He graduated in geology (BSc Hons) from the Universidad de la República in 2003. While studying he became the curator of the mineral collection of the Institute of Geology and Paleontology and a teaching assistant in mineralogy, geotectonics, structural geology, paleontology, sedimentology, and economic geology. After graduating, he served as staff geologist in the Department of Geology and acted as secretary of the Commission on Precambrian Stratigraphy of Uruguay. He has conducted numerous field studies on the geology of Uruguay, including studies on late Proterozoic tectonomagmatic events, the (bio)stratigraphy and geochemistry of Ediacaran successions, and the paleomagnetism and sedimentology of Paleozoic-Mesozoic rocks. As a principal investigator for a research project on the correlation between Proterozoic volcanosedimentary successions of Uruguay and similar units in South America and South Africa, and as an active participant in three IGCP projects, he had the opportunity to expand his field research to other countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, and Canada. He has presented more than 30 research communications, including abstracts, field trip guides, book chapters, and research papers, and he was an invited guest coeditor for a special issue on the Precambrian geology of Uruguay.

Ernesto began his PhD studies at the University of Alberta in the fall of 2006 under the supervision of Prof. Kurt O. Konhauser and Dr. Murray K. Gingras. His PhD thesis research focuses on the Ediacaran banded iron formation (BIF) and carbonates of Uruguay and their paleo-oceanographic, paleoclimatic, and paleobiologic implications. This research project is based on the good preservation of well-exposed and poorly known Ediacaran units in Uruguay, including glacial deposits, BIF, thick chert successions, pre- and post-glacial carbonates, and black shales, and on the presence of organic-walled microfossils and shelly fauna, stromatolites, ichnofossils, etc. These rocks offer an ideal opportunity for determining the paleoenvironmental conditions in the Ediacaran oceans. The initial stages of this multifaceted work required strong field-based research, including mapping, construction of detailed cross-sections, and collection of samples. Of particular importance are BIF and carbonates, which are well-preserved chemical sediments nearly devoid of detrital input. Thus, these rocks provide a unique opportunity to assess the distribution of elements between the original iron oxide and carbonate precipitates and ancient seawater.

Despite the broad implications of this project, the main goal is to provide a better understanding of the partitioning of various trace elements in BIF and carbonates by performing microscale geochemical analyses, coupled with high-resolution petrography. Over the last two years, a new research direction focusing on rare earth element (REE) and yttrium (Y) data has been developed in order to test, first, the compatibility of a marine-precipitate origin for BIF and carbonates and, second, the involvement of microbes in iron oxide and dolomite precipitation. Accordingly, the identification of genuine marine chemical sediments through insight gained from REE+Y patterns combined with



mineralogical, trace element and isotope attributes will permit more robust interpretations about the origin and conditions surrounding these deposits and will lead to a better understanding of the origin and significance of BIFs and dolomite formation.

Mineralogical Association of Canada

STUDENT TRAVEL/RESEARCH GRANTS

The Mineralogical Association of Canada awards travel and research grants to assist honors undergraduate and graduate students in the mineral sciences to:

- Present their research at a conference
- Attend a short course or a field trip relevant to their field of study
- Visit a facility, laboratory, or field area to gather data for their research
- Pay for analyses or equipment for their research

The maximum grant value is CDN\$1200 per student. Grants will fund up to 50% of costs incurred for registration, travel, and subsistence, and up to 100% of other research costs (e.g. equipment, analyses). Quotations and receipts may be requested for any equipment purchased.

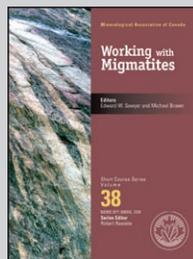
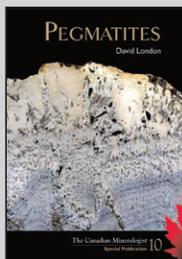
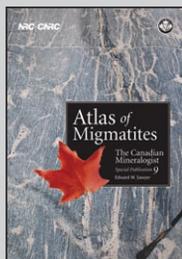
Eligibility

- Graduate students and honors students at the undergraduate level in one of the fields covered in *The Canadian Mineralogist* (mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, economic geology, geochemistry)
- Grant recipients must submit a report on their travel or research for possible publication by MAC.

For more information, see www.mineralogicalassociation.ca

Deadline to apply: January 15, 2009

WE HAVE NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR YOU!



- SP 9 Atlas of Migmatites – EDWARD W. SAWYER (2008)
ISBN 978-0-66019-787-6, 386 pp
- SP 10 Pegmatites – DAVID LONDON (2008)
ISBN 978-0-921294-47-4, 368 pp
- SC 38 Working with Migmatites
– EDITORS: EDWARD W. SAWYER AND MICHAEL BROWN (2008)
ISBN 978-0-92129-446-7, 168 pp
- SC 40 Laser Ablation ICP-MS in the Earth Sciences
– EDITOR: PAUL SYLVESTER (2008)
ISBN 978-0-921294-49-8, 348 pages

Order online at www.mineralogicalassociation.ca