



Mineralogical Association of Canada

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MAC COUNCIL UPDATE

The 2008 council meeting was held in May during the Quebec 2008 GAC-MAC meeting in Quebec City. This was the first council meeting for Peter Burns as president and for new councillors Dave Pattison and Danielle Fortin. President Burns presented highlights of the past year, which included online publication of *The Canadian Mineralogist* on HighWire Press and GeoscienceWorld, and the release of two special publications. The MAC's move to Quebec City has been very successful and has helped streamline all aspects of our Association and has lowered our overall operating costs. For this and many other reasons, the president was pleased to report that the Association remains strong financially, allowing us to continue to award a significant number of travel grants and occasional research grants and to sponsor a number of interesting sessions at GAC-MAC in 2009.

Change is on the horizon for both our Quebec office and our flagship publication. Council has voted to support the editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist* by appointing a co-editor. Andrew Locock, University of Alberta, will work with long-time editor Robert F. Martin over the coming years, and will be responsible initially for papers dealing with crystallography and mineralogy. Andrew has been technical editor of *American Mineralogist* for several years, and he received the MAC's Young Scientist Medal in May 2008.

If this wasn't enough change for one meeting, council also voted to move day-to-day operations of the business office from a contractor model to an employee-based system. Although change is sometimes difficult, we are seeking to maintain the long-term stability of our Association and we hope you agree that we are headed in the right direction. See you all at the Joint Assembly meeting in Toronto.

David Fowle
Secretary

ICC 2009 – CANADIAN STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

Students are invited to apply for a travel grant to attend the 14th International Clay Conference "Micro et Nano: Scientiae Mare Magnum," June 14–20, 2009, at the Calané Conference Centre, Nova Yardinia near Castellaneta Marina, Italy (www.14icc.org).

The 11th International Clay Conference (ICC) organizing committee (Ottawa 1997, Canada) has donated funds to the Mineralogical Association of Canada Foundation for a travel grant to enable graduate students (in Canada or a Canadian studying abroad) to attend ICC meetings. A grant of \$1200 will allow a student to present his or her research at the 14th ICC meeting, in either an oral or a poster presentation. See the Mineralogical Association of Canada website (www.mineralogicalassociation.ca) for application details. **The deadline is March 1, 2009.**

The International Clay Conference is organized under the auspices of the Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles (AIPEA). The 14th ICC will be hosted and organized by the Associazione Italiana per lo Studio delle Argille. The theme "Micro et Nano" will provide a unique opportunity for mineralogists, soil scientists, physicists, geochemists, engineers, chemists, and other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the boundless world of micro- and nanoparticles. Several symposia and general sessions will examine all facets of clay minerals research. Two field excursions are planned, one to the Aeolian Islands (preconference) and the other to Sardinia (post-conference). The meeting also boasts a very pleasing social program, including tourist excursions.

AUGC

The 58th annual Atlantic Universities Geological Conference (AUGC) took place October 23–25, 2008, at the University of New Brunswick. The AUGC was cochaired by undergraduate students Kim Klausen and Megan Trites, and they mustered over 115 attendees from across Atlantic Canada. The purpose of the AUGC is to give undergraduate students studying geology in Atlantic Canada the opportunity to network and attend presentations that give insight into their peers' work.

At this year's conference, four field trips gave students the opportunity to see various aspects of New Brunswick geology. A field trip to the Late Devonian Mount Pleasant Caldera in southwestern New Brunswick was led by Dr. David Lentz (UNB) and David Shinkle (Adex Mining). Drs. David Keighley (UNB) and Adrian Park (UNB) ran a trip to the McCully gas field in Sussex. A trip focused on the geology, history, and geotourism of the Saint John area was led by Drs. Randy Miller and Tina Kieffer of the NB Museum. The fourth trip, run by Michele Coleman (NB Coal) and Dr. Bruce Broster and by Dr. Nick Susak (UNB), was to the Minto coal mine in Minto-Chipman.

The students benefited from an array of presentations given by their peers, each pertaining to their undergraduate thesis research topic. Awards were given to several of the presenters. The winners were April Coombs (Memorial University of Newfoundland), recipient of the Frank Shea Memorial Award; Darren Lefort (Saint Mary's University), who was granted the CSPG Award; Nicole M. Peters (Dalhousie University), recipient of the CSEG Award; Morgan Quinn (Dalhousie University), winner of the Imperial Oil Poster Award; and Luke Hilchie (Dalhousie University), who won the NSERC-APICS Award.



Left to right: cochairs Kim Klausen and Megan Trites and guest speaker Robert Quartermain

The cochairs would like to thank all of the sponsors, including the Mineralogical Association of Canada, for their generous contributions. This conference would not have been possible without their donations. Thank you to guest speakers Dr. David Mosher (GSC Atlantic and president of the Atlantic Geoscience Society) and Robert Quartermain (CEO of Silver Standard Resources) for their wonderful presentations.



Participants on the Mount Pleasant Caldera field trip

QUÉBEC 2008: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

2008 marked the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City, and Quebec geologists took advantage of this exceptional context to host the joint annual meeting of the Geological Association of Canada and the Mineralogical Association of Canada on May 25–28, 2008. The 400th anniversary celebrations also inspired the general theme of the meeting: “400 Years of Discoveries.”

The technical program consisted of 164 oral presentations and 53 posters under the theme “Resources and Energy,” 74 talks and 16 posters under “Sustainable Development,” and 221 oral presentations and 94 posters under “Earth Evolution.” The short courses and field trips were remarkably successful. All field trips that were offered had enough participants to run. Two of them were especially popular: the field trip entitled “Geology of the Voisey’s Bay Ni-Cu-PGE Deposit,” organized by Lightfoot et al., and the trip “Stratigraphy and Volcanology of Supracrustal Assemblages Hosting Base Metal and Gold Mineralization in the Abitibi Greenstone Belt, Timmins, Ontario,” led by Houlié et al. Short course participation exceeded expectations, particularly the uranium short course (Cuney and Kyser), with close to 100 participants, and the short course on migmatites (Sawyer and Brown), with 45.

Among the social events, the ice breaker, the business luncheons, and the evening at the museum were all well attended. The evening at the Musée de la Civilisation featured the exceptional exhibition “Gold in the Americas.” Eight activities pertained to the public awareness of science. Among them was a successful symposium on geological heritage. André E. Lalonde’s public lecture, “A Golden Story: From Prospection to High Technology,” raised the interest of many a citizen.

With nearly 1000 participants and a high participation rate in all activities, the local organizing committee met its objectives. The meeting was also financially successful, generating a healthy surplus for the participating associations. Such success is the result of the implication of all partners in geoscience in the Quebec City area. Universities played their customary key role. Compared to the meeting in 1998, Québec 2008 benefited from greater involvement by the Canadian and Quebec governments and industry.



Travel grant recipients at the MAC Luncheon. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mallory Drisdale, Hannah Grant, and Gabriela Budelan (Queen’s University), Tania Martins (University of Porto, Portugal), Kara-Lynn Scallion (Acadia University), Chris Coueslan (University of Calgary)

Last, I want to thank my colleagues on the local organizing committee. Such an event would not have happened without the implication of these key persons: Georges Beaudoin, Marlène Bergeron, Andrée Bolduc, Luc Charbonneau, Pascale Côté, André Gaumont, Donna Kirkwood, Richard Laverdière, Léopold Nadeau, Pierrette Tremblay, Yoan Vallières, and Pierre Verpaelt.

Alain Simard

President of the Local Organizing Committee

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

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