

THIS ISSUE

The idea for this thematic issue originated from an “Urban Geochemistry” session at the 2010 Goldschmidt Conference. The session was small, but all talks had societal relevance. What interested me most was a fascinating presentation by Deborah Morrison, in which she reported on a study of lead in children. I learned, among other things, about the potential link between low-level lead poisoning and attention deficit disorder in children. I approached Berry Lyons, the session convener, and suggested he consider proposing an issue devoted to urban geochemistry. In short order, he and Russell Harmon, his cochair of the newly formed Urban Geochemistry Working Group of the International Association of GeoChemistry, put together a proposal.

Multidisciplinarity takes on a whole new dimension when applied to tackling problems in urban geochemistry: Earth scientists work alongside public health officers, urban planners, medical doctors, etc. As I pore over reference lists, I am always impressed by the broad range of journals and sources cited in *Elements* articles: take a minute to read some of the reference lists and see how many journals are totally new to you. Here is an example of a reference cited in one article of this issue and published by the Healthy Building Network, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “transform the market for building materials to advance the best environmental, health and social practices”: Toxic chemicals in building materials—An overview for health care organizations (www.healthybuilding.net/healthcare/Toxic%20Chemicals%20in%20Building%20Materials.pdf).

2013 PREVIEW

With this issue, *Elements* closes its eighth year of publication. We have now covered 47 topics in the Earth sciences, our lineup is complete till the end of 2014, and we have many proposals on hand. Please check the preview on the next two pages to get a taste of the exciting topics we are going to cover in 2013.

THANKS

We thank the guest editors and authors of the six issues in volume 8, who made a special effort to bring their science to the nonspecialist audience of *Elements*. We also acknowledge the contribution of reviewers, copy editors, and proofreaders, who toil in the background.

Finally, and not least, we thank our advertisers for their support: Actlabs, AHF Analysentechnik, The Arkenstone, Australian Scientific Instruments, Bruker AXS, Bruker Nano GmbH, Cambridge University Press, CAMECA, CrystalMaker, Excalibur Minerals Corporation, FEI, Geochemical Transactions, The Geochemist’s Workbench, IAGeO, International Center for Diffraction Data, IsoPrime, JdL Centre, Leonard Himes Fine Minerals, McCrone Microscopes and Accessories, Nikon Metrology, Pala International, Pan Stanford Publishing, Rigaku, Savillex, SPECTRO, and Thermo Scientific. A special mention goes to **The Geochemist’s Workbench, CAMECA, Savillex, SPECTRO, FEI, Rigaku, Bruker, and Excalibur Minerals Corporation**, who advertised in each issue.

Best wishes to everyone for the coming year!

Pierrette Tremblay, Managing Editor
on behalf of the editorial team



This thematic issue is a contribution
of the IAGC Urban Geochemistry
Working Group

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An executive committee made up of seventeen members is quite unusual, but then, so is *Elements*! The *Elements* executive committee (EC) consists of a representative from each of the participating societies in our “family.” Beginning with a mere five societies, *Elements* now has 17 societies, ranging from small to large. Representatives are the critical link for ensuring the flow of information between their society and *Elements*.

The primary function of the EC is to provide financial oversight for *Elements*, a task facilitated by our ever-vigilant managing editor, who is constantly on the lookout for ways to reduce our costs and improve our revenues. Each year, the EC also has the duties of reviewing and approving the yearly budget, setting the member dues, safeguarding finances through oversight of investments and spending, and nominating and approving the principal editors. In addition, there are a host of issues that arise, either organically within the EC, such as strategic initiatives, or those imposed from the outside. In the last few years, our strategic initiatives have included developing course packets using *Elements* articles, approving funding to support a mobile media application, establishing a presence in social media (“like” *Elements* on Facebook), considering new features for the magazine, discussing topics for



issues, and charting its future course. The EC has also contended with the changing global financial market, be it financial transaction fees, reserves, and/or investments.

All of these items are dealt with during two conference calls, in the spring and fall, and a once-a-year in-person meeting, usually held in conjunction with the Goldschmidt Conference. Our meetings are typically characterized by lively debate, thoughtful opinions, and consensus-building to promote *Elements*. Whatever the task, all members undertake their responsibility with the humor and seriousness needed to keep *Elements* functioning at its highest level. And, above all, we are efficient!

The Executive Committee meeting in Montreal was well attended – although some members escaped before being photographed. Shown here (left to right) are: Bernardo Cesare (SIMP), Jon Davidson (MSGBI), Dan Frost (for Liane Benning, EAG), Friedhelm von Blanckenburg (DMG), Iain Samson (MAC), Tom Bullen (IAGC), Edwin Schauble (GS), Jacinta Enzweiler (for Michael Wiedenbeck, IAG), Crawford Elliott (CMS). Not in the photo are: Takashi Murakami (JAMS), Marek Michalik (Min Soc. Poland), Carlos Ayora (SEM), and Barb Dutrow (MSA) who took the photo.

If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact your representative.

Barbara Dutrow, Chair
Elements Executive Committee