



# Mineralogical Association of Canada

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



The annual Geological Association of Canada/Mineralogical Association of Canada meeting took place on May 27–29 in beautiful St. John's, Newfoundland. Attendance was 856 and the local organizing committee (chaired by Alana Hinchey and Steve Piercy) did a tremendous job. At the MAC Luncheon, the Peacock Medal was awarded to Dante Canil (University of Victoria), the Hawley Medal to Susan Göb (Universität Tübingen), and the Young Scientist Award to Sytle Antao (University of Calgary) – see *Elements* 8: 308.

The meeting was preceded by the MAC Short Course 42, entitled Quantitative Mineralogy and Microanalysis of Sediments and Sedimentary Rocks (see *Elements* 8: 392), and by the MAC Council meeting, at which Iain Samson became past president, Lee Groat took over as president, André Lalonde became vice president, and Neil Banerjee and Mostafa Fayek became councillors.

At the Council meeting, Robert Martin reported on MAC special publications. The book *Mineralogy for Gemologists* by Revell Phillips and Jim Shigley will soon be published, and *Atlas of Silicate Minerals in Thin Section*, a sequel to SP-7, is in the planning stages. Bob also reported on *Canadian Mineralogist* and the editor/managing editor transition (to Lee Groat and Mackenzie Parker). Bob Martin and Vicki Loschiavo handled the thematic issues in 2012, and Lee and Mackenzie looked after the regular journal issues.

In September André Lalonde stepped down as vice president for health reasons. We thank André for his service to the Association and wish him all the best. Ron Peterson is replacing André as vice president.

2013 will see the introduction of an online manuscript submission and tracking system (Editorial Manager) for *Canadian Mineralogist*, and of course Winnipeg 2013 (see <http://gac-macwinnipeg2013.ca>) is shaping up to be a landmark meeting. The meeting will be held at the Winnipeg Conference Centre and will be preceded by MAC Short Course 43, Uranium: Cradle to Grave. See *Elements* 8: 233 for a list of field trips, special sessions, and symposia. I encourage all our members to attend, and I look forward to seeing you there!

**Lee Groat**, University of British Columbia  
MAC President

## NEW COUNCILLORS FOR 2012–2015



**Neil R. Banerjee** obtained his BSc in geology and environmental science from the University of Toronto in 1993. He then went on to Dalhousie for his MSc in 1996 and completed his PhD at the University of Victoria

in 2001. He held postdoctoral positions at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in the USA, the Université Louis Pasteur in France, the University of Bergen in Norway, and the University of Alberta. Banerjee joined the faculty in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Western Ontario in 2006. He has recently pioneered research on the biogeochemical effects of water–rock–microbe interactions using a multidisciplinary approach to detect microbial biosignatures and constrain environmental conditions in rocks. Part of his work focuses on hydrothermal systems in impact craters and the search for habitable zones on other worlds, including Mars. Throughout his career, Banerjee has worked in mineral exploration, particularly in Archean greenstone belts, and continues to develop partnerships with industry.



**Mostafa Fayek** graduated from Carleton University in 1989 with an honors bachelor's degree in geology and chemistry. He worked for nearly two years as an exploration geologist for Granges Inc., prior to pursuing a graduate

degree in geochemistry at the University of Saskatchewan. He obtained his PhD in 1996 and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA. He held a joint faculty appointment (2000–2006) at the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and joined the University of Manitoba in 2006 as a Tier II Canada Research Chair in isotope and environmental geochemistry. He is currently a full professor and in 2010–2011 served as associate dean of research. Fayek's research focuses on understanding the origin, evolution, and timing of fluid–rock interactions in crustal and near-surface environments. In 2009, Fayek organized a MAC short course and edited a book on the application of SIMS in the Earth sciences.



## Uranium: Cradle to Grave Mineralogical Association of Canada Short Course Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada May 20–21, 2013

ORGANIZERS: Peter C. Burns and Ginger E. Sigmom,  
University of Notre Dame

The focus of this short course, which will immediately precede the GAC-MAC meeting, will be the many aspects of uranium, an element that changed the course of the world like no other. Content will span the mineralogy, geochemistry, and ore deposits of uranium, and will include nuclear waste challenges and solutions, weapons proliferation, and nuclear forensics for attribution and nuclear security. The short course will bring together a panel of international experts focused on educating graduate students, early-career scientists, and researchers seeking a deeper involvement in the field. We invite you to join us and enjoy topics central to this fascinating element's history, complexity, environmental impact, and importance in global security. Topics and confirmed speakers/authors include:

**History of Uranium** – Jessica Beard,  
University of Notre Dame

**Mineralogy and Crystallography** – Sergey Krivovichev, Saint Petersburg State University

**Ore Deposits and Economic Geology** – Mostafa Fayek, University of Manitoba

**Thermochemistry of Uranium Minerals and Compounds** – Alexandra Navrotsky, University of California–Davis

**Aqueous Geochemistry of Uranium** – Jeremy Fein, University of Notre Dame

**Materials at the Nanoscale** – Peter Burns, University of Notre Dame

**Redox, Dissolution, and Precipitation Processes at the Mineral–Water Interface** – Michael Schindler, Laurentian University

**Ceramic Waste Forms for Actinides** – William Weber, University of Tennessee, and Rodney Ewing, University of Michigan

**Subsurface Uranium Mobility** – John Zachara, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

**Spent Nuclear Fuel** – David Shoesmith, University of Western Ontario

**Actinide Borate Waste Forms for Actinides** – Thomas Albrecht-Schmitt, University of Notre Dame

**Pre-Detonation Nuclear Forensics** – Ian Hutcheon, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

**Post-Detonation Nuclear Forensics** – Antonio Simonetti, University of Notre Dame