



Canadian Mineral Analysts / Analystes canadiens des minéraux

*Communicate analytical technologies in the Canadian mining industry
Communiquer les technologies analytiques dans l'industrie minière Canadienne*

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NEWSLETTER

July 2017

49th Annual Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA) Conference and Exhibition

September 10 - 14, 2017

Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre

Kamloops, British Columbia

Website: www.2017cma.com

The 2017 CMA Conference and Exhibition is being held in Kamloops, BC, on September 10 – 14, 2017 at the Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre. The Conference Committee is made up of analysts from New Gold, ALS Metallurgy and HVC (Teck), and has been working hard to plan a great Conference for everyone this year!

Registration forms are available on line at <http://www.2017cma.com/registration.html> for delegates and at <http://www.2017cma.com/exhibition.html> for exhibitors.

Workshops include the topics of traceability and method validation. Workshops are always popular and we anticipate this year to be no exception.

The agenda for the conference includes tours of local laboratories and our host, New Gold, is offering a tour of the New Afton Mine. This is a great opportunity to take a tour of an underground mine!

Social events include a tour of local breweries as well as an afternoon social at the Secwepemc (Shuswap) First Nations Museum and Pow-Wow grounds.

If you are interested in supporting the CMA Conference through sponsorship, you can do so at <http://www.2017cma.com/sponsorship.html>.

Register now, and plan to attend! We look forward to seeing everyone in Kamloops!



Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre



New Gold Inc. exhibitor booth



New Afton Mine at dawn



Thompson Rivers University



Kamloops (center) in the distance

John Gregorchuk Retires as CMA Managing Secretary



Photo of John taken before going underground at a recent Sudbury CMA Conference

After serving as the Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA) Managing Secretary for 17 years, John Gregorchuk decided to retire from the position at the end of 2016. John was kind enough to provide a history of his career, his involvement in the CMA, some information about his family and his current interests. Read to the end of John's story to find out if he ever found the 45-gallon drum of pure silver.

Birth: I was born in Manchester, England over half a century ago.

Education: In my pre-high school days I always enjoyed science, having been introduced to the scientific world by means of a *Handy Andy Chemistry* set which I used to create the most vile sulphurous smells in the basement. This interest carried over into high school and beyond. It was about the same time I began collecting rocks and minerals but particularly minerals. This hobby was particularly appealing because it was really hands on and you had to use your senses, i.e., sight and feel.

Employment: Along the way I developed a real interest in organic chemistry and thought it would be great to get employment in this field. While living in Halifax I attended Dalhousie University and soon found that I really didn't like organic chemistry but I was really keen on inorganic chemistry particularly analytical chemistry. I graduated in 1967 with a B.Sc. in chemistry.

I was never able to land a summer position in a laboratory but I did get employment for two summers at Keltic Lodge, first as a dish washer and in my second year there I was a bar waiter initially, and later in the summer, assistant pastry chef. Yes, I did burn some of the dinner rolls but my understanding boss showed me how to scrape the black off so the customers couldn't tell. My parents had moved to Manitoba during my final two years at Dalhousie so I returned to Manitoba for the summer to look for work. My very first job interview when I arrived in Manitoba was with Manitoba Energy and Mines for the position of summer field assistant. They usually hired geology students but someone had quit to go work on a mine site and they were leaving for the field in a week and they needed someone right away. The duties of the job were explained to me and I was asked if I could cook. I said "NO". The interviewer told me not to worry as they buy good quality steaks and it is hard to ruin a good steak. I was hired and thus began my career in the geological field.

After graduation in 1967 I returned to Manitoba and after my first interview I was hired by the University of Manitoba, Department of Soil Science as a lab technician to do soil analysis. I worked there about a year and then decided to travel so I returned to the Department of Mines and worked a summer out of Lynn Lake as an expeditor for their field parties. As I was getting ready to leave the department my boss told me they just had an opening in the lab and would I be interested. I said I would and we cut a deal where I could run off for a few months and then return to the lab. I started as a lab technician in 1969 in the Mines Analytical Lab and worked my way up to chemist responsible for producing silicate rock analysis and base metal assays. Later I headed the geochemistry section that was set up and eventually became Chief Chemist responsible for the operation of the analytical and geochemistry sections. I was there until the lab closed in 1997. I was with the Mines Branch for 28 years.

I think two bosses who impacted my work ethic were our senior bench chemist Don Brown and chief chemist Al Mackay. These individuals were very practical and had learned their trade in the mines during the depression and they learned it well. They were very knowledgeable and kept up to date by consulting current literature but they had a strong work ethic and were bears for ensuring accuracy of analysis and checking before releasing results. They instilled in you the need for accuracy and the consequences to an organization and your reputation if you didn't produce good analysis. I came out of school with a B.Sc. thinking I knew so much but they taught me I really knew very little and I think I would never have finished where I ended up without their mentoring.

CMA: I became Managing Secretary in 1999. Jane Weitzel had been involved with the CMA for some time and mentioned that she was moving on. I felt that this would be a wonderful opportunity to do some networking and learn a few computer skills as I knew very little about computers at the time. Sigrid Fast was my mentor with the CMA and taught me everything about preparing the proceedings. The first conference I attended was in Timmins in 1999. I have been with the CMA 17 years, retiring in 2016 after the Sudbury conference.

Activities: Nothing too exciting. Have been working steadily sorting all the treasures we have collected over the years or things left to us by parents after they had passed on and no one could decide what to do with. This has been very time consuming and are hoping to have it all cleared out so we can do a little renovation in the kitchen and the rec room. This is turning into a full-time job. Also hoping to go back and do more work on my stamp collection which has been neglected for some time.

Family: My wife's name is Lexie and we have been married for 45 years but when asked this question I try to avoid saying almost half a century. She comes from a mining family; her father having been an assayer in Sherridon, Manitoba who had performed the original assays for the Lynn Lake mine drill core.

My daughter Julie was teaching dance with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and was working in their box office. She has a nice little write up on the ballet web site on who we are. Now she has moved on and is the ticket manager for the Manitoba Theater Center and supervises their box office for ticket sales. My son Michael works in the parts department at a local Mitsubishi car dealership.

Interesting Story: It most have been over 25 years ago when I was still in the lab we had an individual come in with a small metal sample. He said he found a 45 gallon drum sitting in a field and the drum was just filled with this material. Yes, it was definitely metallic, and from my observation I would definitely say it was electrolytic in origin. We consented to do some testing on it. I can't remember why but one of the elements we chose to do was silver. It was analyzed by atomic absorption and we did do a fire assay on it. The assay indicated it was well over 99% silver. This shook us up a bit. I phoned him the result and when I further questioned him on this material I found him to be rather evasive. We never heard from him again. I have never forgotten this incident and to this day whenever I pass an open field in the city I always look to see if there is a 45-gallon drum sitting out there.

Epilogue: At the CMA Conference and Exhibition held in Sudbury in September 2016, John was presented with a Lifetime Achievement award and a CMA Lifetime Membership. John's presence at annual CMA Conferences will be missed. On behalf of everyone in the CMA, we wish John a happy retirement, and heartfelt thanks for the great service he provided to the CMA over 17 years as Managing Secretary.



SMA Cancels 2017 Conference – September 19 - 21, 2017

The Society of Mineral Analysts (SMA) has cancelled its 2017 SMA Conference scheduled to be held in Elko, Nevada on September 19 - 21, 2017. The decision to cancel this year's Conference was made due to insufficient delegate registrations, not enough exhibit booths sold, and lack of technical papers submitted. The SMA executive board will be meeting in September to discuss the future of the SMA and will send out an electronic correspondence to its members with an update.

The SMA is the American counterpart of the Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA): website: www.smamining.org and e-mail: smamining@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Rod Hanson, consultant, Nanaimo, BC passed away on April 10, 2017. He enjoyed being a member of the CMA for many years.

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Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA)

The Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA), formed in 1969, is an association comprised of: 1) Canadian earth science, mineral exploration and mining analytical laboratories in government, academic institutions, mining industry, and the private/commercial sector, 2) manufacturers and suppliers of instruments and equipment for analytical laboratories, and 3) suppliers of laboratory consumables.

The annual CMA Conference and Exhibition is held in mid-September in a different Canadian city. The first Conference was held in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec in 1969.

The mission of the CMA is to 'communicate analytical technologies in the Canadian mining industry'.

The CMA is a not-for-profit organization with membership dues and proceeds from the annual CMA Conference and Exhibition used to provide: 1) scholarships for Canadian college and university students studying fire-assaying and/or chemical engineering technology, and 2) equipment grants to qualified fire-assaying and/or chemical engineering technology programs in Canadian colleges and universities.

For individual and corporate membership information in the Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA) contact:

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