

PARTING WAYS

Pierrette Tremblay and Tom Clark, who have been an integral part of *Elements* over the past 10 years, were invited to write this issue's Parting Shots. I hope you enjoy reading their parting words as they embark on their next adventure, retirement.

Jodi Rosso

As I write this, I am in the second week of my "official" retirement. I am discovering the art of slowing down... taking my time to enjoy my coffee in the morning, doing the crossword puzzle, picking up my knitting for a few minutes, etc.

BEFORE ELEMENTS (1974–2004)

Tom Clark and I met while in graduate school at Queen's University, Kingston. We married in January 1974 and moved to Québec City in the fall of 1975 to take jobs with the Quebec government. Ironically, my first job was as editor of geological reports, and I hated it. I longed to do field work, and one year later, I got an opportunity to work as a mineral deposits geologist with the government. In 1979, our son David was born. I was lucky to have a one-year maternity leave, but when the year was up, I could not tear myself away from this beautiful toddler and I quit my secure job to be at home. Both Tom and I believe that our greatest life accomplishment has been the raising of our three children, now grown up. We derive so much pleasure from watching them chart their own lives.

In 1998, I took over the editorship of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) Newsletter and I enlisted Tom's help to edit the texts. Issue 58, the first issue under my editorship, had 12 pages; by October 2004, the Newsletter had grown to 24 pages and 3 issues a year, and I had introduced some color. I enjoyed planning the layout, encouraging people to write for it, and of course, getting feedback from members saying how much they enjoyed reading it. I was very proud of it, and only something as exciting as *Elements* could induce me to leave it.

THE ELEMENTS DECADE (2004–2014)

Elements has become a big beast: from 320 pages in 2005, it has grown to 480 pages. One day, when the first issue was being planned, Tom told me, "You will need a copy editor; I could do it." Oops! There was no line item for a copy editor in the budget. So Tom copyedited *Elements* as a volunteer for seven years.

Over the past ten years, working with more than 100 guest editors, I pride myself in the fact that it has been a positive experience for



Future *Elements* executive editor Pierrette Tremblay and copy editor Tom Clark at work in the Labrador Trough (Quebec) in 1976

all of them, and in fact, many have written to say how much they appreciated the care taken in handling their manuscripts. Even though our lineup is firmed up years in advance and we have no backup plans if an issue goes awry, somehow, almost magically, just about everyone has come through.



Pierrette and Tom in Monaco, 2012

Even though we understand that most academics are under great stress to perform, we were sometimes baffled by the lack of polish shown by some manuscripts. We then had the impression we were handling a first draft rather than a peer-reviewed manuscript. So it was a real joy when a well-written manuscript composed with a wide audience in mind landed on our desk! If I had to choose my favorite *Elements* manuscript of all time—and there are

Cont'd on page 80

Since copyediting is a rather solitary endeavor that does not lend itself to interesting photographs, I've included a field photo of me in my other life, that of a (now part-time, "retired") geologist for Quebec's department of energy and natural resources. A few weeks before the photo was taken in 2011, it had dawned on me that the layered "ultramafic" rocks in the field area, like those in the picture, were actually banded silicate iron formation metamorphosed to granulite facies. Sharp-eyed readers will notice in the photo a bilaterally symmetrical pattern in the banding and some very tight fold hinges in the white metachert layers. Interpreting this isoclinally folded outcrop was, for me, a thrilling moment, one that I wanted to share.



The photo exemplifies why I like field geology—it's fun, and every new outcrop holds promise of an exciting discovery. A similar feeling of excitement for their subject is surely why, for ten years now, some of geology's best scientists have been sharing their stories and discoveries with readers of *Elements*. It's been a joy for me to read their articles, and I trust they will continue to inform and inspire us in the magazine for many years to come.

Tom Clark

Tom beside an isoclinal fold in meta-iron formation in the Grenville province, Quebec, in 2011.

To learn more about *Elements*:

Ewing R (2008) The future of *Elements*? *Elements* 4: 8

Ewing RC (2014) Presentation of the Distinguished Public Service Award for 2013 of the Mineralogical Society of America to Pierrette Tremblay. *American Mineralogist* 99: 1185

Ewing R, Hochella M, Parsons I, Tremblay P (2005) *Elements*: Building a new bridge. *Elements* 1: 3

Parsons I (2005) *Elements*: Getting into the swing. *Elements* 1: 59

Parsons I (2009) Five years on. *Elements* 5: 408

Sorensen S (2006) Congratulations from the common reader. *Elements* 2: 133

Tremblay P (2014) Acceptance of the Distinguished Public Service Award for 2013 of the Mineralogical Society of America. *American Mineralogist* 99: 1186-1187

Cont'd from page 79

many excellent ones to choose from—it would be Mike Hochella's manuscript on nanoparticles (volume 1, number 4, pages 199–203). After reading it, I was so excited: I understood it all! I am also a big fan of Peter Heaney's writing—I loved reading his intricately woven stories in his Triple Point articles—and of Ian Parsons' marvelously entertaining and personal Parting Shots.

What gives grey hairs to an editor/copy editor? Capitals, commas, and typos. No matter how careful you are, typos can be introduced at all stages of working with a manuscript. My biggest worry has been a typo in a title. Well, it happened in my final issue: the Travelogue has a typo in the title. All proofs were fine; the graphic artist thinks he introduced the typo when making the final pdfs. *Telle est la vie d'un éditeur!*

The joys have been many, and far outweighed the frustrations: joys such as the times someone wrote to say thank you or say that they enjoyed reading *Elements*, the times interacting with advertisers, the positive interactions with the larger community, watching *Elements'* impact factor grow, etc.

AFTER ELEMENTS

My plans for the coming year include: learning traditional Nova Scotia rug hooking, getting my weaving loom in working order (it has been abandoned since 1979), brushing up on my Italian, learning Spanish, and spending more time with my lovely granddaughter. Tom and I are looking forward to traveling: our next adventure is an upcoming one-month holiday on our favorite Caribbean island, Barbados.

Tom and I enjoy many of the same activities: spending time at our summer home in Nova Scotia, traveling, going to the movies, trying out the fine restaurants in Québec City, and cross-country skiing. Between our shared interests and individual hobbies (I enjoy cooking and knitting; Tom likes drawing, pastels, and biking), there should be enough to keep us busy in the years to come.

Thanks for all the memories and the support over these 10 years! It has been great. And good luck Jodi!

Pierrette Tremblay

AHF

Essential for Geochemistry
PFA labware, ICP accessories and more ...

Benefit from
In-depth consulting
Tailor-made solutions.
30 years of experience

Order your
labware today
+49 (0)7071-
9709010

AHF analysentechnik AG :: Germany info@ahf.de :: www.ahf.de

THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ANALYSIS OF GEOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS

GEOANALYSIS LEOBEN 2015

9-14 AUGUST 2015

MONTANUNIVERSITÄT LEOBEN AUSTRIA

WWW.GEOANALYSIS.INFO

asi Australian Scientific Instruments

Instruments for leading-edge chemical and isotopic microanalysis of materials

SHRIMP | RESolution | Alphachron™ RESOchron

www.asi-pl.com

ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| AHF Analysentechnik | 80 |
| Australian Scientific Instruments (ASI) | 80 |
| Bruker Daltonik | 74 |
| Bruker Nano | 77 |
| Cambridge University Press | 77 |
| Cameca | 5 |
| Excalibur Mineral Corporation | 77 |
| FEI | 9 |
| Geochemist's Workbench | Back cover |
| International Center for Diffraction Data | 6 |
| JEOL | 77 |
| National Electrostatics Corporation (NEC) | 76 |
| Olympus | 18 |
| Periodico di Mineralogia | 77 |
| Rigaku | Inside front cover |
| Savillex | Inside back cover |
| Tescan Orsay Holdings | 57 |
| Zeiss | 17 |