The Explorationist Newsletter is brought to you as a 'member service' of the Ontario Prospectors Association. Its purpose is to share news and information amongst its members and also to act as the association’s ‘Political Voice’.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Prospectors Association, including all of its members and Directors. The writer’s accept full ownership of their contributions.

What happened to the old “Explorationist”…editor

The “Explorationist” was, is and will continue to be the traditional ‘Political’ voice of the OPA. It will continue to hit hard where necessary and will also add some good old fashioned (also traditional) ‘bullshit’ where and when it might.

We have been without this ‘voice’ for far too long. The Issues keep coming at us faster and hotter all the time and dealing with them in the ‘media’ domain can (is) a very effective means of ‘lobbying’.

I have agreed to tackle the job of soliciting, gathering and formatting the content. How effective it will be, and how long and well it works will depend entirely on a ‘team’ effort. The word is being spread and we are hopeful that having been ‘without’ for so long, might provide the impetus to make and keep it working this time. Time will tell!

My vision is to have a respected and well read rag that gets the attention of the powers that ‘might’ be in any given situation, and will also serve to provide the much needed internal communications required by a ‘provincial-scale’ association. We’ll try to keep it interesting, informative and have some fun at the same time. Finding the right mix will be an on-going effort I’m sure, but with quality written contributions from across the province and some added ‘colour’ things will work.

Anyone interested in being part of the team is encouraged to get in touch with me at your earliest convenience. We appreciate everyone’s efforts in these regards.

This Issue (rightfully called the Panic Explorationist) is being produced in a however-the-hell-I-can-get-it-done-in-time-for-the-PDAC, style and format.

We will probably experiment for a short time but it is expected that things will settle down to a standard format soon. One of the questions that we face at the moment is whether or not to spend time learning how to use the old format or use the opportunity to learn some new tricks. Maybe we’ll find a pleasant mix in the process.

Wish us luck and please do ‘contribute’ in whatever way/light you see fit.

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The future for the NewOPA is bright. The past year has brought both pain and gain for the association in general. An 8 month restructuring process resulted in a ‘Strategic Plan’ and that plan is now in the process of ‘implementation’. With some consensus-based principles and guidelines and a common vision for where it wants to be 3-5 years down the road, the OPA will now take the time it needs to consider, fine tune and implement it’s Strategic Plan.

Some Pain/Some gain…………….the Board of directors agonized long and hard on both the issues of Executive Director, and the make up of the new Board. Based on the general consensus on both issues that was reached at the Feb. 21/22 Board meeting, the process will now be able to move forward.

On the issue of the ED, it was realized that it was still premature for the OPA to become an ‘employer’ and that more time was required in order to properly and adequately define the ‘job’ of Executive Director, etc. At the same time, it recognized the real need to have a full time person acting on it’s behalf. The decision was made to formalize and extend the present interim ED contract for a period of up to one year. The purpose being to allow the Board to adequately and fully address the long term goals/expectations that go with the position. It is envisioned that this can be settled within 9 months, thus allowing for a ‘smooth’ transition to the ‘right’ way.

A Memorandum of Agreement (Contract for Services) is in the process of being drafted. Subject to formal legal advice, the Contract will be offered to Garry Clark, the person who led us through the restructuring process, is totally familiar with the ‘vision’ the ‘issues’ and the ‘problems’ related to same, and is willing to help work through the transition.

Today versus Yesterday………..the (very pertinent) question, “What has the OPA got today that it didn’t have yesterday ?” was raised recently. Keeping the question/answer in context with the ‘Strategic Plan’ and where we are today versus a year ago (prior to the restructuring effort), I would answer as follows: For a number of years the OPA suffered through a process of trying to represent the interests of the then five, regional prospectors associations at a provincial level. The many successes that it experienced happened in spite of the fact that the organization was perpetually strapped for cash and entirely dependant upon the availability of a few volunteers of the day.

The cancellation of the provincial prospecting Grant program was the pull on the trigger for the restructuring process that followed. What we asked government (Hudak) for when they cancelled the much cherished and needed OPAP, was help to enable the exploration community to help itself.

The regional associations knew that they needed a strong collective voice at the provincial level. Because of the fact that most of the ‘regional’ issues are in fact provincial in scope, there was a need to correlate these things and also to ‘lobby’ governments and others on a provincial scale.

This lobbying for ‘help’ resulted in government providing us with the opportunity to tap into the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for sufficient ‘start up’ dollars to enable the provincial association to become an effective lobby voice and also for it to bring about a self-sustaining grass roots prospecting incentive fund (son of OPAP).

Today we have………..access to $4M from the NOHFC to do exactly what was mentioned above ! We have a ‘Strategic Plan’, complete with long term Vision and ‘Implementation Plan’ !

We (will shortly) have a constitution and by-laws that can be built upon to accommodate growing needs ! We have provision for provincial scale representation on the Board of Directors, including room to include representation of First Nations and other groups ! We have a mix of new and old blood on the 2001 Board as recommended by OPARC ! We have 6 regional associations who all have ‘Worker Bees’ representing their interests on the Board, and we have a commitment from each to divvy up the work to come. We have a full time Executive Director who has a ‘defined’ role that will be flexible with changing needs ! We have made the Symposia scene complete by adding the Toronto event (highly successful) and supporting/guiding the NW & NE regional symposia ! A ‘Member Benefit’ package is currently being developed with several ‘benefits’ already in place. Not to suggest that this list is complete, I would stop here and leave it with the BEST one by far……..

We now have the opportunity and the bucks to help ourselves ! (Continued on page 3)
More good stuff……., one of the requirements of the restructuring process was to transform the OPA from an umbrella group for the (then) 5 regional associations into a true Provincial association that would represent the interests of all Ontario explorationists.

The OPARC and later the OPA Board took this challenge seriously and have come up with what is hoped to be a good ‘starting point’. Some of the regional associations are very strong and have worked exceptionally hard at making things work smoothly in their respective areas. Some of the contemplated changes will require both give and take on the parts of the regional associations. As it stands with the make up of the new Board, other OPA members, those who are not ‘affiliated’ with a particular regional association, will also have a ‘voice’. That voice will grow and the Board make up will evolve in relation to overall participation.

Surprising to some but not to others, it was realized that once again the majority of stakeholders, in this case explorationists, who operate on what used to be considered an almost entirely ‘northern’ landbase, actually live (and are based) in the ‘south’. A truly ‘provincial’ association must include those constituents along with the ‘locals’.

The NewOPA recognizes the above and in so doing also recognizes that it has a job to do in getting the messages out. The real challenge in those regards lies in the association’s ability to put a face to itself in the south. The ‘at large’, for lack of a better term, constituency needs to be able see the face of the OPA as one that is willing and able to represent it’s (special) interests along with the rest. It wants to do that.

The 2001 OPA Nominating Committee is now actively seeking nominations for the 2001 (April) Board of Directors which will include 2 reps appointed from each (6) reg. Assoc.s., 1 each from PDAC, OMA & APGO, plus 3 ‘at large’ reps. The ‘at large’ component is intended to provide the input from the south.

For more information re nominations and/or the nominating process please contact: Bob MacGregor, Wayne Reid or Dave Comba.

In closing I would add the following (Bill McGuinty approved I’m sure) wisdom from Peter F. Drucker:

“No organization can depend on genius; the supply is always scarce and unreliable. It is the test of an organization to make ordinary human beings perform better than they seem capable of, to bring out whatever strength there is in it’s members and to use each person’s strength to help all others perform.

The purpose of an organization is to enable common men to do uncommon things.”

Remember Dr. Ed Pye, OGS Geologist?

……...editor comments, idea passed on by Mark Smyk (Thanks Mark)

Although Dr. Pye’s ‘era’ (heyday) was a few years ago, (he’s even older than Phil Thurston !), he is highly remembered as one of OGS’s best mappers/writers.

Personally I remember Ed as a Rocknocker that my Dad worked with while he was a Claims Inspector and also as the uncle of a beautiful young girl who was also one of my favorites. I am also not ashamed to mention the fact that I remember his chief assistant of many years, Jim Bailey, because of Jim’s daughter (yep she was also on Poppa’s old trapline). I would hasten to add that my mother approved highly of both.

Ed has been retired for a while now but continues to share his ‘experiences’ in his (shoulda been copyrighted) style. For a real interesting (and funny) read go to URL > http://www.canadianrockhound.com/2001/01/cr0105103_samples.html some of you just might be in there!
Stuff for the Office Box at Camp this Summer (by Bill McGuinty)

The Mines and Minerals Information Centre (MMIC) gets a lot of questions from callers searching for information about many different industry related items and would as a rule like short answers to short questions. That isn’t always possible, the answers can be long and are usually others can have better answers. As spring is in the air and the field season is on the way, MMIC would like to pass on some of the references we suggest regularly to our clients. MMIC is located in Toronto and can be reached by calling 416 314 3800 or by e-mailing bill.mcguinty@ndm.gov.on.ca.

Some of these are new regulations with implications for people operating field projects, some are safety issues to be shared with colleagues and co-workers and some are stuff. These references are internet based. If you don’t have your own access, your OPA affiliate may already have copies or your local library can put you on-line. Les sites suivantes sont aussi disponibles en français.

First off, to make sure you get to exactly where you want to go and are 'spatially bilingual' when you get there http://www.geolab.emr.ca/geomag/e_cgrf.html will provide you with a calculator for magnetic declination and http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca:80/products/html-public/GSDapps/English/gsrug.html will get you a software download for lat/long and UTM conversions. Most of your GPS’ speak both, but many of your maps may not.

Once you get underway to those work sites and you’re looking at the faces of those that fate or an employer has selected as your co-workers this year, you should be talking about safety. Talking early can prevent explaining or regretting. Hopefully one of you has an up-to-date first aid/CPR certificate. If not, http://www.sja.ca/english/content/new.html will bring you to the St. John’s Ambulance web page for information about general or industry specific courses, as well as ideas about First aid kits.

Vehicle safety, in particular boating rules, have received some changes over the last year or so and publications available at many public outlets last summer described these, you can access this information for all watercraft at http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/obs-bsn/sbg-gsn/main.htm if you’re planning on sending crews or yourself out on the lake.

Drinking water quality has been in the papers every day for a long time now. Drinking water guidelines have been under review in several Ontario government ministries, in particular the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Labour. Some members of the exploration sector such as drillers represented by the Canadian Drillers Association have already moved to meet anticipated changes to water supply quality guidelines in their field operations.

Water guidelines continue to be developed. The most current regulation around drinking water quality is O.Reg. 459 http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/waterreg/Reg-final.pdf, which links Ontario Drinking Water Standards to the operation of water treatment or distribution systems. Although this regulation appears to exempt operations like a small exploration camp it does not seem to cover the situation of a camp set up by an employer for employees. Other rules, like O. 601/91 for Camps in Unorganized Territory http://192.75.156.68:81/ISYSquery/IRL1763.tmp/1/doc could apply, as could Ministry of Labour regulations that consider exploration camps to be mining operations. Be sure to check with the MOL and MOE if you are planning on supplying your people from surface waters near your camp. If all else fails read the Ontario Water Resources Act http://192.75.156.68:81/ISYSquery/IRL17CF.tmp/1/doc.

If you like bugs, the following site carries the official line on "beaver fever". (No, this is not a sexually transmitted disease) http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/ehd/catalogue/general/iyh/giardia.htm. You may have noticed all your juvenile relatives reaching grade 7 in Ontario are getting Hepatitis A vaccines at school, Why not check up on this for yourselves.

People working in remote areas should also be aware of the responsibilities that come with having firearms available for camp safety. There are provisions in the new Firearms Act for remote site gun storage and access in case
of incursions by bears, etc. Still, camp organizers should check with camp inhabitants as to the licensing of their personal weapons and define access rules for the "bear gun". The Firearms Act can be found at http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca/legal/pdf/act-en.pdf and the regulations at http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca/legal/pdf/regulations.pdf. Direct advice from the Chief Firearms Officer for Ontario (OPP) can be obtained by calling 1 800 731 4000 and is encouraged by that office.

As to other things that go bang, the OPA will be offering explosives/blasting workshops at the regional symposia in April this year. This is a federally regulated activity. If blowing up rocks is in your near future, you or one of your field colleagues should visit http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/explosifs/ for information and sign up for a certification course. Check with your contractors too!

MNDM has also made some springtime changes. Amendments were made to the Ontario Mining Act R.S.O.1990 that fundamentally change how mining claims are re-opened for staking. These amendments took effect December 26, 2000 and can affect the legal opening day of an expired claim. If you plan on staking or re-staking expiring claims as part of your field programme make sure you can communicate with your local Mining Lands Consultant from the field if internet access is unavailable to you. These changes can be seen at http://www.gov.on.ca/MNDM/MINES/LANDS/bulbrd/infbl2e.htm. The MNDM has also placed recent changes to advanced exploration status on the internet. These can be seen at http://www.gov.on.ca/MNDM/MINES/MG/ADVEX/advdef.htm. Those planning large areas of stripping or stripping work near water should review this site.


What this rule really says is "make sure you can answer questions people ask you about what you've been doing with more than just a blank expression". For those at the early exploration stages more people, particularly consultants, will be asking questions. Being informed can mean basic knowledge such as a walk through the assay lab with your sample to remember how it works, getting advice on the size your sample should be when your sampler(s) take it, making sure you can describe how you converted core length to true width, etc.

These may sound pretty basic to most people but so are most items people take for granted. The information chain increasingly puts a piece of exploration information into more and more specialized hands. Being able to qualify your information at each step will be increasingly important. That goes not only for a person's responsibilities regarding the quality of the work they do for a project but for the professionalism in their personal relationships with co-workers with regard to safety.

Find out what you need, get your gear and have a great field season.
After months of uncertainty and debate, the members of the Sault and District Prospectors Association voted with an overwhelming majority to become an Affiliated Association of the New OPA. The SDPA members recognized the benefits that would be available to OPA members, including access to prospecting grants, effective lobbying for individual explorationists and industry, and access to provincial symposia, to name a few. Already the Sault has benefited by having the opportunity to have our own website, something we could not have done alone. This will eventually enable our members to advertise properties on the web. Income from membership fees and symposia will certainly benefit us as well. Information and topical news will be provided by the Ontario Prospector magazine and by means of the Explorationist, a publication that will also provide a forum for members to air their views.

The OPA is working to be the organization that represents and defends the mineral exploration industry in Ontario, keeping in mind the needs of the individual prospectors while looking to also represent the needs of the broader based mineral exploration and development industry.

The Sault made a good decision.

Comments from Soo 'Boss Lady' Vivienne Cote

Roger's Thoughts... by: Sudbury group's new Prez Roger Poulin

Another year has gone by and a new executive has been elected in January.

Bob Komarechka, the past president of the (SPDA) Sudbury Prospectors and Developers Association has done a commendable job over the past two years and is still active as a director of the OPA. He resides on several committees which include; the LLC (Local Citizens Advisory Committee) along with Wilfried Meyer, the Heads Up Committee which reviews ongoing achievements and issues at John Gammon’s office along with myself and a Lands Access Group with the assistance of Rod Fielding and Frank Tagliamonte. Bob MacGregor was our representative for the OPARC (Ontario Prospectors Restructuring) committee last year. The representative for the Mining Act Advisory Committee from the Sudbury group is Joe Church.

Presently, the executive of the SPDA are; first vice president Scott Jobin-Bevans, second vice president Mark Hall and secretary/treasurer Ed Debicki. I welcome the new vice presidents and congratulate all the executive and committee members for a job well done!

Our Sudbury group (120+ members) is an active organization with some dynamic workers. As the new president, I will strive to maintain the quality and quantity of involvement with all the pertinent organizations that may affect the business of prospectors, developers and junior mining companies in the Sudbury Region.

Sudbury and area has tremendous economic potential for the discovery of Ni-Cu-PGE, Cu-PGE, Pt-Pd and Diamond deposits. As a result, there are 23,000 active and 11,000 new claim units in the area. The only thing missing at this time is investor capital. The new prospector’s fund to be implemented by the OPA as well as the Provincial and Federal governments flow through initiatives will alleviate some of this shortfall in funding needed for grass roots exploration.

There will be an ongoing commitment of the SPDA to assist the prospector and developer with any problems arising from government red tape which result from such things as unyielding or vague regulations, omission of land base for exploration and restrictions caused by activities from environmental groups.

The deep snow is not helping things right now but I’m certain everyone is more than anxious to get out in the field to complete their mapping, sampling, geophysics and diamond drilling.

I wish the best of luck to everyone out there trying to find the next mine!
PERCEPTION AND IMAGE
AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE FOR THE MINING COMMUNITY

Let the new millennium usher in an era of vision and purpose for the mining industry. Present the industry to its constituency and the public they proudly serve as a progressive, innovative, adaptive national and globally successful group of mineral seeking and mine development professionals. MODERN MINING should be highlighted as the operational standard. Modern Mining includes not only technological competence, but also enshrines ecological, social and environmental codes of conduct wherever operations are carried out on the landscape. It also embodies globally recognized mineral discovery achievements and responsible mine development capabilities.

One giant step toward the goal of universal recognition of the modern mining concept will be to present the industry, not only as scientifically competent and environmentally knowledgeable operators with a proud history of achievement, but do so by using language and terminology in all communiques and publications that honestly and accurately recognize the true nature of the mining business. This endeavour entails rejecting the negative and biased phraseology imposed on the industry and its activities by those who neither understand, care, nor are knowledgeable about the essential contribution that the mining industry provides for modern societies here at home and around the world.

This vision of image enhancement entails rejecting and refusing to use negative or degrading language whether written or spoken. Particularly that contrived brand of vocabulary created by those whose purpose it is to diminish and degrade the mining industry. Replace the use of derogatory and subtly disparaging vocabulary by using terminology from a new descriptive, influential lexicon of the industry’s own creation. IMAGE and PRESENTATION are important factors in public perception. This proposed language revision program will be a start in the long overdue process of mining industry IMAGE ENHANCEMENT.

A few examples of contrasts in effective language usage follow:

COMPARE

The fleecy, fluffy, motherly terminology utilized by scribes in the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to seduce the public with their flowery version of titles to portray the natural landscape in their contrived style such as:

NATURES BEST
PARKS
LANDS FOR LIFE
Some of these references to the mining industry used by the media, the public, governments and, unfortunately, the mining industry itself such as:

**ABANDONED MINES**

**ORPHANED MINES**

**MINE HAZARDS**

**MINE DUMPS**

etc. ..... ..... 

The contrast is obvious. These are but a few examples. THERE ARE MANY MORE.

A sardonic characterization of reality is as listed. The bracketed comments are deliberate and conceived by the author.

**NATURES BEST**

( MINING, forestry, hydro development - PROHIBITED )

**PARKS**

( Restricted and Regulated areas )

**LANDS FOR LIFE**

( The search for more restricted and regulated areas )

**ONTARIO'S LIVING LEGACY**

( The ultimate in Restricted and Regulated areas )

> Some suggestions for a more benign and unoffensive style of labelling mining industry environments follow:

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<td><strong>ABANDONED MINES</strong> C INACTIVE MINES / MINE SITES</td>
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<td><strong>MINE HAZARDS</strong> C MINE OPENINGS / SURFACE EXCAVATIONS</td>
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<td><strong>MINE DUMP</strong> C ROCK STOCKPILE / ORE STOCKPILE</td>
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A current amusing example of how the International Environmental Lobby is able to manipulate the public is in its clever, devious and adaptive strategy to modify word usage (terminology) to suite the current attitudes in the public domain. Example, Global Warming has been a buzz phrase used universally by the environmental Lobby to seduce the public into sympathizing with their aim of strangling targeted industries while enhancing their own power and influence with the public at large. Global Warming has been made the butt of jokes and derision by increasing numbers of people. The International Environmental Lobby is not to be side-swiped, they simply change their strategy by calling the same processes as they envision it, Climate Change. Global Warming has now been replaced by Climate Change, a form of terminology less likely to become the butt of public jokes or public sarcasm. Usage is a powerful tool not yet embraced by the Mining Industry. Perhaps some word usage strategy or word usage modification is a practise to be considered.

The image enhancement strategy through language modification presents the mining industry with an opportunity and a challenge. An opportunity to eclipse both opponents and the uniformed alike while at the same time presenting the industry to the public in an enlightened non stigmatized style. The challenge involves acceptance of the language modification principal by industry associations in particular (PDAC, MAC, CIMM, OMA, MWFC etc.) as well as mining companies, supply companies and members of the mining community at large.

Examples of demeaning language highlighted here are few in number. There are many more in general use. Perhaps editors of mining publications, and particularly editors of Provincial mining association publications could invite their readers to submit suggestions for mining terminology upgrades. Some of the creative and innovative terms that are sure to evolve could then be incorporated into regular use.

Editors of all mining publications could also set an example by using terminology that is upgrading rather than degrading. Thus, it is possible that over time a new mining terminology lexicon could be created with the involvement and participation of all diverse members of the mining industry - AN ONGOING PROJECT FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM. LET THE GOOD WORDS ROLL ....

Frank P. Tagliamonte
February 2001

Our Man ‘Tag’

Editor’s note: It is hoped that Tag will have a regular OLL column in future issues of the Explorationist. Frankie tells it like it is for sure!
People: ....for those who are wondering when they'll get their favorite crab-picker back....Don Leishman is progressing just fine. As a matter of fact he's back being a pain in the ass to us real prospectors again. Still a long road ahead and he doesn't expect to get back to pill pushin until Fall. ....GLM and his better two thirds were over for dinner a week ago and he looks better than he has in a long while. Must be Patty's lovin care (good cookin). Don't know how that gal does it....full time job plus 2 snot nosed 20+ yr old 'kids' to keep track of along with the old reprobate ! Sounds a bit like my shack eh wife ?!

Northwest Symposium: A reminder that all workshops are RSVP some are free, some are not and your bucks have to be in before you get a seat. This year's workshops are filling up quickly. For information about the event and how to pre register please refer to the pages that follow this article. With a whole afternoon on PGE's topped off with a 'Key Note' talk by Mining Man of the Year, Keith C. Minty (N.A. Palladium), another full day of informative and timely technical talks covering everything from REE's to good old Gold, a typical compliment of highly diverse Posters, displays and Prospector's Properties for Option, OGS first day Releases, a helluva luncheon with a surprise speaker on the second day, sweet Cyndee's face at the registration table and a bunch of top notch Workshops, this is bound to be another best ever.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

NWOPA (serious) Awards Committee Report:

NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION AWARDS GUIDELINES
(Developed by the NWOPA Awards Committee and adopted by the NWOPA Board of Directors, 2001)

Preamble

In acknowledging that the objectives of Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) represent and further the interests, serve the needs, and support the aspirations of the individual prospectors in Northwestern Ontario, it has been recognized that the initiation of annual awards would complement these objectives.

Awards that recognize local prospectors and their achievements create more interest in NWOPA, its history, its members and their contributions. They would also serve as a vehicle for publicizing the role of prospectors in the exploration and mining industry, and in the development of northwestern Ontario in general.

The NWOPA Awards Committee was formed in January, 2001 to both develop awards guidelines and spearhead the inaugural annual awards ceremony, slated for the Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium in April, 2001. It is recognized that the inaugural presentations may involve more than one recipient in each category.

Awards Guidelines

1) Awards shall be given annually by the NWOPA Board of Directors to those who have met the respective criteria for the three awards listed below:
   a) the Lifetime Achievement Award;
   b) the Discovery of the Year Award; and
   c) the Developer of the Year Award.

Normally, there will only be one recipient (or group of recipients) for each award. However, the number of award recipients in any given year shall only be limited by the qualifications of the nominees and shall be at the discretion of the Committee and Board of Directors. In exceptional circumstances, more than one recipient for an award can be recommended.
2) The NWOPA Board of Directors shall appoint the NWOPA Awards Committee. The initial appointment (2001) will be of three members:
   i) one to serve for three years;
   ii) one for two years; and
   iii) one for one year.

   The member with the briefest incumbency shall be Chair of the Committee. After the first year, the Board of Directors shall appoint one new member who will serve for three years. In their third year, this member shall be Chair.

   The Committee membership shall reflect the three main constituent groups of NWOPA: prospectors; industry and government. Attempts should be made to involve members from all across northwestern Ontario.

3) By the end of February each year, the Committee shall make its recommendations to the President of NWOPA, who will then inform the Board of Directors of the recommended nominees. Any questions or comments shall be directed to the Committee as soon as possible.

4) The NWOPA Board of Directors will normally accept the Committee's recommended nominees and have the corresponding awards engraved accordingly for presentation at the annual Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium in April.

5) It is recommended that NWOPA annually sets aside such funds as will be required to support the ongoing costs associated with these awards.

6) It is recognized that these guidelines may be amended or augmented at any time; all changes shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

**Nominating Procedures**

1) The deadline for nominations is February 1. Nominations shall be accepted at any time by the NWOPA Awards Committee. Committee members may nominate candidates, but Board members may not nominate nor support individual nominees.

2) Nominations must be in writing and supported by appropriate documentation such as letters of recommendation, lists of accomplishments, resumes and other evidence of contributions to NWOPA and prospecting in northwestern Ontario.

3) Nominations are not restricted to the current NWOPA membership. However, an honorary membership may be conferred on awards recipients.

**Selection Guidelines**

1) There shall be three annual NWOPA awards:
   a) the Lifetime Achievement Award;
   b) the Discovery of the Year Award; and
   c) the Developer of the Year Award.

2) The *Lifetime Achievement Award* shall be presented to someone based on their cumulative work, discoveries, options and contributions to the local prospecting and exploration fraternity.

3) The *Discovery of the Year Award* shall recognize an outstanding local discovery during the previous year, perhaps involving more than one individual or company.

4) The *Developer of the Year Award* recognizes an outstanding local developer or development during the previous year (*e.g.* bringing a mine on-stream, promoting Northwestern Ontario, etc.)

5) These criteria should be considered as general guidelines. The relative weights ascribed to each shall be at the discretion of the Committee. Contributions to NWOPA should also be considered.

NWOPA Awards Guidelines approved by NWOPA Board of Directors 2001
The Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association and partners, MNDM and OPA are happy to announce that this year’s event will take place April 10th and 11th, 2001 with several Workshops running between April 8th and 12th inclusive.

This is the second of three ‘updates’ that you will receive. We’re still in the planning stages so this one remains fairly general. The update that you will receive with the March Newsletter will provide much more detail regarding presentations, displays etc. For now here’s some stuff for you to consider:

“Where’s it at…………………………………….”?

….As in past years the event will take place at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay (next to the Airport for you immigrants).

A block of rooms has been set aside for participants at the discount rate of $99.95 (plus tax). For reservations call: 1-800-964-1121 or 807-577-1121 and quote group # 812. Note: some ‘corporate’ discount rates may be lower so check out what’s cheaper. In any case, you are advised to book early as the number of discounted rooms is limited and this event is highly attended.

“How to get involved/attend…..”

You could just ‘show up’ and open your pocket book at the door but that means long line ups and we know how you like them !!!! Included in this newsletter are all the ‘forms’ you’ll need to 'PRE' register (save some aggravation for both you and us), Reserve a 'Booth' so that you can share information with the others or sell something of interest to explorationists, Reserve a seat at one or more of the Workshops and/or field trip (see details to follow) etc. (sorry we don’t have one form to cover everything and enable you to write one cheque etc. like Bill McGuintys effort. Come to think of it, his was screwed up anyway. Maybe next year we’ll set that as a priority)

“What’s happening…….”?

The theme for this year’s event is: “PGE’s”, “Activity and Potential in N.W. Ontario” with the first day being devoted entirely to PGE’s. The second day will add a good mix of other topical and timely technical presentations and hopefully another “Surprise Booth” complete with OGS Releases. (Maybe some more helicopters waiting at the door again this year ?)

Following the afternoon presentations on April 10th Keith Minty, President of North American Palladium (Lac des Isles mine), and recently nominated, ‘Mining Man of the Year” will provide us with some interesting information and insight we’re sure, in his ‘Key Note’ address.

The Key Note address will be followed by an always busy and popular, schmoozing session complete with snorts and munchies.
Technical talks will continue throughout day 2 (April 11th) and will include a 'Luncheon' around the noon hour. We've offered to buy the new Minister Dan Newman a new pair of silk boxer shorts if he will be so kind as to provide a luncheon Address. If the incentive route doesn't work, maybe we'll have to threaten him with a 'Herbie' attack!? I understand he has a good sense of humour and we're likely to see some action along the same lines as his predecessor 'Prospector Tim' so let's hope he's able to come.

"The dope on Workshops......"

This is still a work in progress, but here's what we have so far.............

**Sunday, April 8th:** "What is a Mining Claim" and "How to stake a Mining Claim" : this couple hour workshop presented by Poppa NWOPA will be geared to the 'interested' public. Symposium registration is not necessary and it is being presented in sync with NWOPA's public awareness policy.

**Monday, April 9th:** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM "Xray Defraction", Geochem Lab Tour.
Location: Lakehead University, Dr. S. Kissin / Al McKenzie, No charge, Min. 5 people, max 10. OPA membership required.
RSVP: Al McKenzie, 807-343-8853

**Monday, April 9th:** 7 PM - 10 PM "Transportation Dangerous Goods (Explosives)"
This workshop is part of an on-going series made possible by NWOPA for NWOPA members. (NWOPA membership is required).
Whenever we purchase explosives we are obliged to 'certify' that we have been trained in, and understand the rules and regulations pertaining to the safe handling and transport of those 'Dangerous Goods'. As a result of this workshop (and you pay attention, don't piss the instructor off and pass the exam) you'll be able to 'certify' yourself and meet the purchasing requirements.
Location: Confederation College: Min. participants 10, Max. 20 (Reserve your spot early, this one will fill up quickly for sure.)
Cost: $60 (direct to instructor)
RSVP: Dave Christianson 807-767-4670

**Tuesday April 10th, 8:30 - 11:30 AM: "GIS Workshop" (see expanded information in separate article). Participants will receive a CD of user information/files. We think this one will fill up really quickly so get on the blower !
Location: Valhalla Inn
Cost: $20.00
Min: 15 Max: 30
RSVP: Dave Christianson 807-767-4670

**Wednesday, April 11th:** "GPS Workshop"? Not yet confirmed. More info to follow.

**Thursday, April 12th:** "Mine / Mill Tour" ... Lac des Isles Mine
A brand new installation....should be real interesting. Sorry only 20 seats available on the bus.
Depart Valhalla Inn 9 AM, return Valhalla Inn, 5 PM (via Happy Time Tours)
Cost: $50.00 (OPA membership required)
RSVP: Cyndee Komar  807-475-1414

There remains the possibility that we might add a couple more Workshops within the next short while. A group of first Nations people have indicated an interest in sharing some views and ideas with us and we would welcome that opportunity.

“Bonuses………………”

The much touted “Claim Maps II” (Ronny’s grandchild) is expected to be up and running and we are fortunate to have Roy Denomme include his ‘operating’ display at our event. You’ll be able to call up an area and print out a map with much greater ease and have a product of superior quality than what’s available now. We think you’ll be impressed with what you see here!

The ‘ERMES’, (and that’s ERMI, NOT ERMEEEE) system will be on display and Franco’s kids will give us the lowdown and show us how this outfit works. Imagine an ERLIS system that WORKS and you can actually USE !!!! You’re gonna love Franco for this one.

While wrapping this NW update up we should mention that the Northern Eastern Ontario Symposium will be held in Sudbury this year on April 17th and 18th (You’ve got a week to get from T. Bay to Sud. Should be able to ride a bike from here to there in that amount of time).

We haven’t been furnished with any specifics yet but from what I hear, it’s gonna be a pisscutter !!!!! They’ve been planning and organizing like crazy for the last month and a half already and driving Susie Gosselin nuts. Wonder if those other two sweet chicks in her office are helping (probably not, they’re always gone for coffee when I go to visit).

Stay tuned………………………………we’ll have more soon.

Golf in Heaven: (this one’s for Tim Hudak, now he’s got a better golf joke)
Moses, Jesus and some ‘ol geezer were going to play a round of golf.
Moses teed off, the ball went right into the pond. “No problem!” he said. Moses walked over, parted the water, and hit the ball again. This time it landed about one foot from the hole.

Jesus then teed off and the ball went flying off to the left, hit a tree, then miraculously bounced within about six inches of the hole.

The ‘ol geezer stepped up and teed off. As the ball headed right for the pond, a huge bass jumped up and grabbed the ball in its mouth. Suddenly an eagle swooped down, grabbed the bass and flew over the green. The bass dropped the ball and it rolled within two inches of the hole! All of the sudden, a worm popped up and knocked the ball in. A hole in one.

Moses looked at Jesus and said, “You know, I really hate it when your dad plays.”

A guy walks into a bar with his pet monkey. He orders a drink and while he’s drinking the monkey jumps all around the place. The monkey grabs some olives off the bar and eats them, then grabs some sliced limes and eats them, then jumps onto the pool table, grabs one of the billiard balls, sticks it in his mouth, and to everyone’s amazement, somehow swallows it whole. The bartender screams at the guy, “Did you see what your monkey just did?” The guy says “No, what?” He just ate the cue ball off my pool table—whole!” “Yeah, that doesn’t surprise me,” replied the guy. “He eats everything in sight, the little bastard. Sorry. I’ll pay for the cue ball and stuff”. He finishes his drink, pays his bill, pays for the stuff the monkey ate, then leaves. Two weeks later he’s in the bar again, and has his monkey with him. He orders a drink and the monkey starts running around the bar again. While the man is finishing his drink, the monkey finds a cherry on the bar. He grabs it, sticks it up his bum, pulls it out, and eats it. The bartender is disgusted. “Did you see what your monkey did now?” he asks.

“No, what?” replies the guy. “Well, he stuck a cherry up his butt, pulled it out, and ate it!” said the bartender. “Yeah, that doesn’t surprise me”, replied the guy. “He still eats everything in sight, but ever since the cue ball incident, he measures everything first.”
Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association


IMPORTANT NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS: A current (2001) OPA membership is a registration requirement. To become an OPA member requires filling out the prescribed application form at which time you are allowed to select one regional association to be affiliated with at no extra charge. If you wish to become a member of more than one regional association you should make those choices and add $20 for each additional affiliation. Our strength lies in overall OPA membership. The added benefits of regional association affiliations can be obtained from regional representatives. Affiliation with the local Symposium sponsor is much appreciated!

PREREGISTRATION: (includes 2001 OPA membership) ..$80
[Application form attached]

PREREGISTRATION: (I am already a 2001 OPA member) ...$30

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

COMPANY: ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________ PROVINCE: ____________

POSTAL CODE: ______________________________

PHONE: ______________________ FAX: __________________________

E-MAIL: ________________________________________________________________

***********************************************************************

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: “NWOPA” AND MAIL (ALONG WITH THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION) TO:

Paul Nielsen
777 Red River Road (lower level)
Thunder Bay On P7B 1J9

NEED MORE INFO? Call Paul @ 807-767-2826 e-mail: pnielsen@tbaytel.net

CUT OFF DATE FOR PREREGISTRATION IS APRIL 6TH, 2001
NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MINES and MINERALS SYMPOSUM
VALHALLA INN....THUNDER BAY
APRIL 10TH & 11TH 2001
DISPLAY BOOTH INFO / APPLICATION

Display space for this event is available as follows:

$ PROSPECTORS: approx. 4 feet of table space with backboard, $10, signage not provided, you must apply with this application form. (Registration is additional)

$ EXHIBITORS (MINING COMPANIES and GOVERNMENT): One 8 foot table with backboard, or equivalent space. $75.00..... Signage not provided (Registration is additional).

$ COMMERCIAL displays will be allowed on an 8 foot table, (or equal space for your custom/modular displays), at the rate of $100 each and receive two Exhibitor-Badges free with no membership included. Signage not provided. [added membership does help our association]

REQUEST FOR BOOTHS SPACE:
NAME/TITLE OF DISPLAY: ________________________________________________________________

Contact Person(s): ________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ______________________ Fax: ______________________

e-mail address: ________________________________________________________________

TYPE OF SPACE REQUIRED: PROSPECTOR: $ 10
EXHIBITOR: (Mining Co./Govt): $75.
COMMERCIAL: $100.

OTHER INFORMATION: (circle requirements)

Power Outlet needed ? Y / N Display Board Needed ? Y / N

Table Needed ? Y / N For Special needs please call !

PLEASE SEND CHEQUE (MADE OUT TO NWOPA), AND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Paul Nielsen
777 Red River Road (lower level), Thunder Bay On P7B 1J9

SPACE IS LIMITED...RESERVE EARLY....for more info call: 807-767-2826, fax: 807-768-2070

(Sorry, we are not equipped to handle Credit Cards)
O.M.A. E.D. Patrick Reid sends the following message:

The Ontario Mining Association congratulates the "new improved, “Ontario Prospectors Association” The OMA has been representing the producing companies in Ontario since 1920. Currently our membership includes producers, and suppliers of equipment and services. Companies not individuals, are members. Our mission is to help improve the industry's competitiveness. We do this primarily by seeking reasonable and cost effective regulation and taxation and by trying to educate the government and public about the benefits of mining. We have a small staff, and are not engaged particularly in land use problems. We welcome the OPA as a partner which has the expertise and experience to deal with these "on the ground" matters.

O.M.A. Welcomes New OPA

Be careful that you type in the right address when you send an email. Who knows what might happen:

A businessman from Wisconsin went on a business trip to Louisiana. Upon arrival, he immediately plugged his laptop into the hotel room port and sent a short email back home to his wife, Jennifer Johnson, at her address, JennJohnson@global.com.

Unfortunately, in his haste, he mistyped a letter and the email ended up going to JeanJohnson@global.com, a Jean Johnson in Duluth, the wife of a priest who had just passed away and was buried that day. The priest's wife took one look at the E-mail and promptly fainted. It read: "Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here!"

Volunteer Organizations have a tendency to Eat their Young!

... A message/reminder to the Board’s of associations such as ours !!!!!!!!!!

The Northern Prospectors Association Trails Project

by: Dale Alexander, President, N.P.A.

Trails 2000 came into the fold of the Northern Prospectors Association in July 1999 via a Notice of Motion to amend our Letters Patent to include the following objective:

"To participate in activities related to the promotion of Mining Heritage, community service and recreation."

The NPA had already been involved with Gold Panning, the Historical -Geological Walking Tour, the High Water Canoe Run, and, the Home and Trade Show. This then was a formalizing of these local projects and a natural fit with the trail group.

Trails 2000 sprang from the Ontario Healthy Communities initiative in the early 1990's. A desire for a walking and biking trail network was high on the wish list of our community. The group struggled for a few years over the scale of the project, costs, maintenance, and, the committee-deadening word of the 1990's, liability. The group also struggled with organizing - a formal structure was required for funding but funding was required to create that formal structure. The old Catch 22 and no organizations in sight to take the lead.

Over time, the trails concept evolved to include the museum, lookout points, heritage walks and the Toburn Headframe. As a point of reference, the local Museum of Northern History is the former home of Sir Harry Oaks, mining magnate, inductee into the Hall of Fame, general bon vivant, and object of a suspicious death in the Bahamas in 1943.

The Toburn property realistically established Kirkland Lake as a gold camp with its first production in 1913. Partly refurbished in recent years, the bright red Toburn Headframe is both highly visible and well located on the trail.

Editor: We didn't have a photo of Dale so we included this beautiful shot of one of Mike Leahy’s Gold crystals.

(Continued on page 18)
"Mile of Gold". As one of the few remaining headframes in the Kirkland Lake area, its preservation is near and dear to the heart of the NPA.

Having a number of areas of mutual interest, the NPA was the organization to take the lead in July, 1999. Since then, Trails 2000 have made great strides. The trails network within the Town has been totally surveyed at this point and is ready for the tendering process. Agreements with landowners are nearly complete and liability insurance is in place. Monies have been received from FEDNOR, a separate Nevada account, and the Civic Service Association. Applications have been made to the Heritage Fund, Trillium Foundation, Millennium Fund and Temfund without success, but a Letter of Intent with municipal support, (to be followed by an application), applying for funding via the Ontario Superbuild Corporation is in the system. Also LACAC, the local architectural conservation advisory committee, in partnership with Trails 2000 / NPA is moving to have the Toburn Headframe designated as a historic site.

This is an ambitious project, but it has broad community support and is driven by people committed to the venture. Getting this far has been no mean feat. In 2001, we hope to see some physical manifestation of the past sweat equity.

PDAC #1 POST
Staked by: CDAC@PDAC
Lic. # K18642
Date: March 2, 2001
Completion time: 11:55AM
Toronto Twp: M5C 2X8

"SUPER" FLOW-THROUGH SHARES - AN UPDATE

In response to lobbying efforts by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), the Canadian Diamond Drilling Association (CDDA) and other provincial/territorial associations, major changes have been made to flow-through share programs to help stimulate mineral exploration activity in Canada. Nowhere are the tax shelters for investors more uniform, generous and easy to use than in Ontario!

Savvy investors have been calling their brokers and asking if they have any of that "super" flow-through. For taxpayers at the highest marginal tax rate the new 15% non-refundable tax credit, when added to the regular 100% deduction, is equivalent to a 136.7% exploration expense deduction for federal tax purposes. For good measure the Government of Ontario added a 5% refundable tax credit that "calculates out" to about a 30% deduction for an Ontario resident's provincial tax payable.

The net after-tax cost for an Ontario resident for qualifying expenditures made in Ontario is just $429 per $1,000 invested. This puts Ontario third nationally, but close to second place B.C. at $421. Quebec ranks #1 at $255. However, both B.C. have Quebec have more conditions or complexities, and when it comes to attracting potential investors keeping it simple should really help in Ontario.

To qualify for the added tax credit under the new rules, "grassroots"-type expenditures will be limited to those related to:

- prospecting
• geological, geophysical or geochemical surveys
• surface drilling (rotary, diamond, percussion or other methods)
• trenching
• "specified sampling" that includes collecting and testing samples that do not exceed 15 tonnes per sample or accumulate (by adding samples of one tonne or more collected in a one-year period) to an amount of 1,000 tonnes or more from a single mineral resource.

The following expenses could remain eligible for 100% CEE to the extent they otherwise qualify for regular flow-through under the current definition:
• underground work
• test pits for samples exceeding 1,000 tonnes
• feasibility or mineral recovery study expenses
• surface drilling to advance a drill-indicated resource to reserve status

Companies may wish to issue "super" flow-through shares and regular flow-through shares at them same time. They will, however, have to maintain more detailed records to track separately the expenses related to "super" flow-through shares and those regular CEE flow-through shares.

Did "super flow-through raise a lot of money in 2000? No, it came too late to become widely known. However, in the market tumult created in the wake of the collapsing 'dot.coms', several junior company presidents have related to the PDAC that without the tax credit "boost", they would not have been able to raise any money.

Was it a case of "too little, too late?" No, it was just a matter of late arrival. The announcement failed to attract media attention as well, probably due to a perception problem - a 15% tax credit does not sound as 'sexy' as its equivalent 36.7% federal tax deduction.

The PDAC is hoping to assemble a marketing partnership called TEAM "SUPER" FLOW-THROUGH to help publicize "super" flow-through shares to investors across Canada. PDAC is currently taking advice on how best to achieve this objective on a limited budget.

An eight-page pamphlet entitled WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT "SUPER" FLOW-THROUGH SHARES is to be handed out to PDAC Convention delegates between March 11-14, 2001, and mailed out to members unable to attend. Visit the PDAC web site for details post Convention: www.pdac.ca

Hope to see many of you on the Convention Floor!

Dave Comba, CDAC/PDAC
Resource Stewardship Agreements

...article researched and written by D. Christianson. Previously included in the B&B Newsletter.

This article is being written in response to a request for information about, and what our 'position' might be, with regards to the 'Resource Stewardship Agreement' process that has just recently 'hit the streets'. I've been away from this topic for some time and needed to get updated prior to providing the information requested.

I have to report that our 'Suits' haven't been very cooperative when it comes to providing what I needed. For some time now the suits have operated on the principle that an 'informed' Poppa was much less 'dangerous' (better) than an uninformed one and they have gone out of their way to feed me the (their) facts.

Some time ago, I requested certain info from Captain John's office, some of which related to the actions of another suit by the name of McLure. This guy is on the NDM side (you know, the ones that usually screw things up for us). They have a habit of going into things (sticking their noses into our business) and making decisions (for us) when they know jack shit about what we're really all about. Anyhow, this suit didn't get back to me at all and I was left to my own resources. When Poppa has to do that, things sometimes get messy. Not really so in this case except for the fact that I'm pissed off and wondering if the good relationships that we've worked so hard at building with these jerks is going downhill. Maybe Herbie will see fit to shit on someone in these regards later ?!

I was eventually able to get what I needed to comment on re what the process means to us and what our current 'position' might be. Some History first:

RSA's are a result of the Lands for Life process. A need was identified by both the Tourism and Forestry operators for a 'better way' to allow for compatibility while operating on the same land base. IE Tourista's need a certain degree of 'wilderness' in order to be able to market their services and make decisions (for us) when they know jack shit about what we're really all about. Anyhow, this suit didn't get back to me at all and I was left to my own resources. When Poppa has to do that, things sometimes get messy. Not really so in this case except for the fact that I'm pissed off and wondering if the good relationships that we've worked so hard at building with these jerks is going downhill. Maybe Herbie will see fit to shit on someone in these regards later ?!

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An RSA is simply a business agreement between a particular tourist operator and a respective forestry operator. It defines the terms and conditions with respect to wood harvesting within a defined area, it's that simple.

As a matter of fact, the Boreal West Roundtable was the width of a grain of gold away from reaching a consensus on this issue right at the time the process was yanked from under our feet.

In any case, the 'idea' survived and was revived last year when reps from Forestry and Tourism were forced into a bargaining situation by el governmente. As a result of our pissing and moaning, we were allowed to sit in on the first round as 'observers' (we were concerned about possibilities concerning access restrictions etc). That think tank, thunk itself out and literally blew up after the first day! So much for round one. It was quite a while later that the parties got back to the table, this time without our 'observance' and they came up with a draft agreement. That draft agreement resulted in a 'Memorandum of Understanding' being signed off on by all parties, including a 'suit' who supposedly represented our interests, (McLure). The next step included the production of a propaganda package by MNR. It included all the details concerning the meaning and implementation of the process. Several drafts have subsequently surfaced re the 'how to's' for making things happen but I haven't seen a final draft yet. It is my understanding that someone (MNR or Tourista) could be playing games with the 'definition' of areas of influence etc and the original principle of protecting 'values' in areas containing specific values has suddenly taken a twist. [What else is new? We know what 'moving targets' are all about, just look at the Great Lakes Heritage Coast blow job we got!]

How does (might) the process affect us? My read on the M.O.U. and all the other stuff tells me that the process including these Business Agreements shouldn't affect us. I would qualify this; however, in the following comments.

a) there is a statement in the M.O.U. that makes room for us to be 'next' as far as having to enter into similar types of operational business agreements with tourist operators. "The initial focus of the agreements will be the mutual interests of the tourism and forest industries; however, the process may be applied to other sectors." This definitely bears watching by our industry.

b) RSA's irregardless of the signees or anything else, will be part of and subject to, all of the rules/conditions included in the Forest Management Planning process. In other words they are supposed to be totally open to public/stakeholder scrutiny prior to being carved in wood or water.

I have some major problems with item 'b'. Currently the FMP process is badly flawed with respect to recognizing (that means accommodating) our needs and concerns. I proved this over an 8 month FMP fact-finding and education process undertaken recently. A separate report covers the whole issue of reality and recognition as it pertains to us.

Without belaboring this issue here I will suggest that the good news is that the Crown Forest Sustainability Act demands a review/repair process regarding FMP procedures on a periodic basis. We are presently inside one of those periods. The RLG's (Regional land use Geologist's) program has been given a mandate to feed the FMP review process and we are working closely with them.

If things were to remain the way they are I would be...
(Continued from page 20)

tremely concerned about our best interests being dealt with in respect to RSA’s or any other issue that relates to us.

As I see it right now, the problems noted above can be solved with the inclusion of a couple of additional mineral-development-specific ‘guidelines’ being included as ‘general’ guidelines for the FMP process. Along with this there is the real need for us to participate up-front and on-going in the FMP process in general.

My advice concerning our ‘position’ is as follows:

With respect to concern a), I would suggest that we take a wait and see attitude and monitor future goings-on as closely as possible. We would also need to be prepared to ‘act’ on short notice if something starts to stink.

As far as b) is concerned, we are fortunate here in the northwest by having an exceptionally good working relationship with a number of forestry companies. Companies like Bowater are very much cognizant of our needs and concerns and I doubt very much if they would include anything in an RSA that would have any potential negative effect on us. In other words, those kinds of things wouldn’t even reach the FMP process. On the other hand we need to keep a super watchful eye on all RSA’s as early on in their development/production as possible. We need to stay in contact with forestry companies and request a heads up for any time these things are started. In any event we must affect changes to the FMP process that will result in our issues, concerns, needs (call them what you like) being ‘recognized’ in the Plans.

Stay tuned….many of you will have yet another, job to do……………………………

---

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Prospectors Association will be held in Sudbury, Ontario, April 17th, 2001 @ 12:30 pm.

The meeting will take place at the Ramada Inn and will include a summary of the New OPA’s “Strategic Plan” and it’s “Implementation phase”. Information concerning the new prospecting incentive fund will also be available.

The year 2001 Board of Directors will be elected at this time. All OPA members are encouraged to attend and take part.

For more information, contact Garry Clark: 807-622-3284 or e-mail: gjclark@tbaytel.net
Northeastern Ontario Mineral Symposium

"New Minerals for the New Millennium"

Sponsored by:
The Sudbury Prospectors and Developers Association (SPDA)
The Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA)
The Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)

April 17 and 18, 2001
Ramada Inn, Sudbury, Ontario

- Exploration Related Talks
- Exploration, Mining and Service Industry Exhibits
  - Government Activities (talks, exhibits)
- Short Courses (Blasting Techniques, Panning Techniques)
- Workshops (GIS Applications, Microscope Techniques)
- Field Trip (Sudbury area – underground mine tour)

For Additional Symposium Information, including updates and registration forms please visit the OPA website at www.ontarioprospectors.com
or contact
Sue Gosselin at (705) 670-5620 sue.gosselin@ndm.gov.on.ca

* PROMOTE YOUR ORGANIZATION *

BECOME A SYMPOSIUM SPONSOR

(for sponsorship benefit information contact Ed Debicki at (705) 675-1151 (ext. 2197) edebicki@nickel.laurentian.ca
or
Marcel Shank at (705) 897-2712)
Transportation and Handling of Dangerous Goods

Objective
Provide a professional and comprehensive training program which deals with the principles and intent of the “Act”.

Trainee Candidates
Employers, managers, supervisors, drivers, shippers or anyone handling or offering for transport or transporting dangerous goods.

Program
Content:

a. Application
b. Responsibilities
c. Classification
d. Safety marks – placarding
e. Documentation
f. Potential hazards
g. What to do in the event of a spill
h. Explosives

Duration
Approximately 4 hours

Written Examination
Each student is required to complete a written examination at the conclusion of the program. Upon successful completion of the course, a wallet size certificate is issued. Students will receive the most recent edition of the book on Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

Note: Certification in the Transport of Dangerous Goods is the direct responsibility of the employer.
Thin Section for prospecting
...Bob Komarechka

April 19th 2001, Sudbury Ontario

Thin Sections are small polished slices of rock ground to the thickness of paper. They are examined by passing light thorough the paper-thin rock under a microscope. Thin sections can be used to identify the minerals, the rock type and give a quantifiable value to the mineral content, and from there give an indication of the economic potential. Unlike assays they provide a permanent record which can be examined repeatedly. They can be used to provide an evaluation of the whole rock as well as specific minerals and unlike like assaying it would be extremely difficult or impossible to contaminate the sample.

Related to thin sections are “Polished Sections” Polished Thin Sections”. These types of sections are used to examine opaque minerals, such as sulfides and native metals. These too can be used to determine the mineral composition and hence give an indication of the economic potential. Polished Sections also use a microscope, but use reflecting light.

The workshop is designed as a practical introduction to thin sections, how they are made, and how they can be used as a prospecting tool. Examples will be from Cu, Ni, and PGE bearing samples, rare earth pegmatites and diamond bearing host rocks.

Length of course: 4 hours
Instructors: H. Maitland – preparation of thin sections
?? mineral identification of minerals under the microscope.
Location: Willett Green Miller Center 933 Ramsey Lake Road Sudbury, 8th Floor boardroom

“I just love these Conventions and Symposia !

“Come and join us in Sudbury on April 17th & 18th “

Susie G. ‘all dressed up’
Views from Down South
....By: Fred Swanson, President, southern Ontario Prospectors Association

Its surprising what an effect perception has to do with our opinions. It seems that every once in a while a switch gets flipped, the light comes on, and we see things in a way that we never had before. For a number of people that switch got flipped last December at the OPA Symposium in Toronto, when Pam Songster (Resident Geologist, Southern Ontario and Ken Steele (District Geologist, Southwestern Ontario presented their paper A Billion Dollar Industry – Mineral Resources of Southern Ontario. In which they revealed that in 1999 mineral production in southern Ontario exceeded $1.7 billion (Cdn). This works out to about one-third of the total mineral production for the entire province! Kind of makes you think, doesn’t it!

I was taken aback by the number of people with whom I later spoke, who’s comments were along the lines of “those figures can’t be right are they? Or “I had no idea!” And these comments weren’t just from northerners that maybe aren’t familiar with the mineral industries in the south. They also came from explorationists who while perhaps living in southern Ontario do their work in the north or outside of the province, and were more than surprised to learn of the great contribution the mineral industries of southern Ontario make to our provincial economy.

Most people just don’t realise that there are in the neighbourhood of 70 mining/quarrying operations currently active in southern Ontario. The principal non-metallic mineral commodities produced in Ontario are salt, gypsum, nepheline syenite, calcium carbonate, talc, brick/shale, and building/dimension/landscape stone. Currently the only metallic mineral production is magnesium, derived from a high purity dolomite, quarried at Haley Station.

Industrial mineral exploration projects in southern Ontario are currently exploring for the following commodities: amphibole, phosphate, feldspar, kyanite, mica, silica, talc, titanium, traprock, vermiculite, wollastonite, high calcium limestone. Exploration programs for metallic minerals include gold, zinc and platinum group elements. Other commodities under exploration include diamonds, gemstones and mineral specimens.

Operation Treasure Hunt funded one project in Southern Ontario last field season. The project focused on the sampling and evaluation of mica-rich bodies in southeastern, Ontario. The work will also assess uses, markets, and future trends that may affect the demand for white mica. The report from this study is scheduled for publication release this spring. It is anticipated that positive results from this study will encourage further staking, exploration, and evaluation of additional deposits. It is hoped that additional commodity specific OTH funded studies will be conducted in southern Ontario during the coming field season.

If there is a single issue that has the greatest overall effect on our industry in the south, it would, with out a doubt be, land access!!! Exploration in southern Ontario has historically been hindered, in part, due to a higher proportion of patented lands than northern Ontario. The implementation of the Ontario Living Legacy (OLL) Land Use Strategy will essentially eliminate a significant percentage of the remaining crown land base available for mineral exploration.

If you’ve been following the Ontario Living Legacy issue you will have undoubtedly seen in print that this new Land Use Strategy would “provide increased certainty for resource industries because it ensures continued access to an identified resource base”. You will have also come across the term Provincially Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP). Essentially this means that if a specific area within any of the new land use designations is deemed to have PSMP (i.e. high mineral potential) the area will be “conditionally” open for staking, exploration and development. Since the same Ministry (MNR) that is responsible for designating the new Land Use Sites is also responsible for issuing Quarry Permits for many of the commodities that might be produced in southern Ontario, it will be essential that our industry feels we are being dealt with in good faith.

The most notable, specific issue, in southern Ontario at present is the proposed granite quarry near Mellon Lake, in Sheffield Township. The claims comprising the potential granite quarry site were staked prior to implementation of Ontario Living Legacy (business as usual) and thus is not a part of the later designated OLL site, as is commonly reported. It has become evident from the Mellon Lake Quarry Permit Application, that the process requiring the consultation of “all objectors” as required the under the Aggregate Resources Act and the Environmental Assessment (Continued on page 26)
Act, is extremely onerous on the applicant. The streamlining of this consultation process is definitely something that we will have to work towards.

Not to overwhelm you, as this is just an introduction, you’ll be hearing lots more about Mellon Lake, OLL, PSMP and many other issues in forthcoming editions of Views from Down South.

Fred Swanson
President,
Southern Ontario Prospectors Association

Where are the Drills?
By: Andrew Tims, President, Porcupine Prospectors & Developers Association

Upon returning last week from a six week drill job in Northwestern Ontario I realized that there were a greater number of diamond drills operating in the District of Red Lake, a town of roughly 5,000 people, than within the entire city limits of Timmins. The city of Timmins encompasses an area of 3,210-sq km with a population of over 47,000. That is an area five times the size of Toronto.

The Red Lake District has a historical gold production of over 19 million ounces and it now hosts one of the richest gold mines in Canada and possibly North America. Timmins has historically produced over 65 million ounces of gold and is home to several world class deposits and three currently producing mines: the world class Kidd Creek base metal mine, the Hoyle Pond, and Dome gold mines. It is hard to justify the disproportional number of drills active in the Red Lake District based on these facts alone. A large portion of the prospective land base in the Red Lake gold camp is owned by the major mining companies actively mining in the district. The Red Lake area is also “remote” in the sense that drill costs are higher than average due to mobilization costs. There are other gold camps in Ontario, which are financially cheaper to operate in. Then why is a Timmins based drill rig operating in the Red Lake District?

One possible reason for the heightened activity within the Red Lake gold camp is the recent completion of a multi-year study by the Geological Survey of Canada. This multi-discipline approach resulted in the production of a GIS database and a Current Research Report entitled “Integrated regional analysis of the Red Lake greenstone belt and its mineral deposits”. The new digital data sets and interpretations in concert with a well-publicized high-grade gold deposit seem to have sparked a renewed interest within a mature gold mine camp.

The Porcupine gold camp within the Timmins area is correspondingly a mature mining camp. Prospectors and explorationist have located and developed the near surface gold and base metal deposits. The best place to find another ore deposit is within, beside or below an existing deposit. Further investment is required to locate these buried deposits. To attract further investment from mineral exploration companies and ensure their success, it is essential to enhance the collective understanding of the known mineral resources and their regional and local setting, whilst providing new information on areas where heretofore deposits have not been found.

(Continued on page 27)
The Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association would like to see NRCan and FedNor implement a similar multi-discipline approach appropriately entitled “Integrated Geoscience in Support of Mineral Exploration: Timmins Kirkland Metallogenic Corridor, Abitibi Greenstone Belt”. The program should include practical projects that would have strong immediate impacts to the exploration community. The program could include:

a. A GIS (geographic information system) compilation of all available geoscience data
b. A surficial materials database and three-dimensional diagrams of overburden materials
c. Detailed mineral deposit studies, compilation of historical mine data, and metallogenic analysis
d. High-resolution geochronology studies to precisely determine the ages of important geologic events
e. Airborne geophysical surveys to see through overburden and provide physical measurements of underlying bedrock, this is crucial information for mineral exploration
f. Magnetotelluric imaging studies, to give more information about the three-dimensional composition of the belt
g. A north-south seismic transect through the Timmins area to acquire information regarding the three-dimensional structure of the belt.
h. A 3D subsurface interpretation of regional geological structures

This type of program would carry out scientific work which companies may not have the funds, the perseverance, or the will to carry out. Such projects are generally collaborative in nature and are also long term, involving agencies, universities and industry in some form. An example of this is a land based gravity survey currently being carried out within the Porcupine mining camp, which is a collaboration between industry and the provincial/federal geological surveys. This project would represent a really good opportunity to add value to this part of the north. This is not to detract from the flow through share scheme which stimulates work on the ground and which builds on the foundation of the individual projects as described.

The completion of such a study would increase the chances of discovering another world class deposit thus recovering the cost of the program hundred fold and substantially adding new wealth to the provincial and national economies. To refrain from undertaking such a program would give credence to the generally accepted belief that the ‘powers that be’ consider Call Centers and Eco-Tourism the future for the northern communities. Such industries do not support the average Canadian’s life style nor the current social programs.

……. It’s a wrap ! One more page to come and that’s it for the first of a new series of “Explorationist” newsletters. Thanks to the Guy up above and Bourbon, (both the dog and the drink), we were able to get this ‘Panic’ issue out in time for the PDAC Convention.

It will be a while yet before we settle into a long term format/style etc but that will come as the learning curves progress.

We are especially thankful of those who fulfilled their commitments and got us ‘stuff’ in time ! We already have some excellent material for the April issue from Bob Komarechka and Frank Tagliamonte. Lets hope that keeps up. Anyone wishing to comment or contribute to future issues is encouraged to do so.
Editor: A short while ago we noticed an ad for a computer program and topo map coverage of Ontario that was supposed to be highly 'user friendly', etc. We purchased a Volume and asked GIS Guru Bob Auld to review it for us. Here is the result of that quick review: (Bob was so impressed with the simplicity of use and quality of data that he quickly became a stocking dealer for the product.)

'Softmap Plus' is a Windows based mapping system using four scales of basemaps. 6M, 2M, 250K and 50K. Canadian coverage is broken down into regions that are sold separately. For example Ontario is divided into four regions (volumes). The evaluation was carried out on the North of Superior region (Ontario volume 3) For full details visit the Fed Map website at www.fedmaps.com

The software is designed to allow the user to define a map by selecting the center point, scale, size and orientation of the desired output. The center point can be chosen visually by scrolling/panning/navigating around the map window with a variety of mouse driven tools or by using a GO TO function based on a database of geographic names. Normal Windows zoom in/out functions are also available. Navigation is further enhanced by an overview window based on the 6M map. Bookmarks are used to return quickly to previously stored map names.

The most impressive aspect of this software was the ease with which a custom map could be printed or pasted into a word processor document. For these functions alone Softmap Plus is a dream come true for any prospector or outdoor enthusiast who owns a modern computer and colour printer. There is no longer any need to buy or photo copy a paper map.

The added bonus is that the user is also able to add personal data in the form of points and text. The custom data is added on a choice of layers that can be readily turned on and off. The points can be accurately located with reference to the position readout located on the status bar at the bottom of the screen. The variety of custom symbols provided may be replaced with new custom symbols in BMP format. Text of standard fonts, sizes and colours can be added. There is no provision at this time to add lines or polygons on the personal layers; however, polygons are used to represent printing areas as defined by the user.

The software interface has a wide variety of custom display options including the ability to display several maps on the screen at one time. The map projections and units of measure for distance and area etc are easily set by double clicking on the status bar. Tool bars can be customized and relocated as desired. Map objects can be queried with the info tool or by selection with the right mouse button. A magnetic declination tool is provided for querying any point on the map.

The software was easily installed and required a minimum 40 MB if the map data is accessed each time from CD ROM. The Help files are limited and sometimes reflect a translation from French. Standard Windows terminology and functionality are maintained. After a moderate amount of use the program functions become fairly intuitive (logical to figure out)

GPS Option
A GPS option will soon be available which will allow real-time display of position on the map from a wide variety of GPS units or downloading of trip data from GARMIN GPS units.

Softmap Plus Version 4.00.0052 was evaluated

The Software Features may be viewed at their web site

http://www.softmaptechnologies.com/
Membership Application Form
Ontario Prospectors Association

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Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

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“I wish to be affiliated with the following (ONE) Regional Prospectors Association”
[please check in the box of your choice….only ONE please] [for each additional ‘affiliation’ add $20 plus gst]

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◇ PORCUPINE PROSPECTORS & DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION: Timmins

◇ SAULT & DISTRICT PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION: Sault Ste. Marie

◇ SOUTHERN ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION: Bancroft

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Please make cheque in the amount of $53.50 ($50 + 7% gst) payable to: Ontario Prospectors Association
and forward cheque along with completed application form to the regional association you have selected or OPA if no affiliation requested.

****For contact information, please turn page: .................................................................

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“THE OPA IS GOVERNED BY IT’S MEMBERS.”
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Note: All regional Association Websites will soon be accessible from one main OPA site.

Join the OPA Team.....
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Contact Garry Clark @ address above......