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 writers accept full ownership of their contributions.

This is a good one……….We’re really impressed with the quality and diversification of topics in the articles received from the regional associations! It can be a royal pain in the butt having to sit down and write stuff, I know! If we can all keep up this pace we’ll continue to have a newsletter that’s worthy of all the effort.

Hopefully the PPDA will be able to contribute something for the next issue which will be prepared during the last week of June.

In the interest of ‘space’, the NWOPA ‘report’ will go out in the B&B this month.

The OPA now has a number of standing committees in place and you are encouraged to ‘feed’ them with your issues and ideas. Committee make up is as follows:

**EXECUTIVE**

Roger Dufresne: President  
Vivienne Cote: Vice President  
Secretary: Wally Rayner  
Treasurer: Tom Trelinski and Dave Hunt (jointly)

**Committee Appointments**

**Audit Committee**: Roger Dufresne, Dave Hunt, (Tom Trelinski Alternate), Bob Komarechka and Ted Shellhorne  
**Membership Committee**: Garry Clark, Garfield Pinkerton and Tor Jensen  
**Symposium Committee**: Roger Paulin, Andrew Tims, (Thunder Bay Person), Bill McGuinty and Ray Zalnieriunas.  
**Education Committee**: Fred Swanson, Roger Dufresne and Vivienne Cote  
**Land Use/Access Committee**: Vivienne Cote, Wally Rayner, Bob Komarechka and John Halet  
**Issue Resolution**: Vivienne Cote, Andy Chater (Tor Jensen) and Neil Westoll  
**Communications Committee**: Roger Dufresne, Dave Hunt and Dave Larocque  
**Policy Committee**: Roger Dufresne, Vivienne Cote, Neil Westoll and Garry Clark  
**Finance Committee**: Dave Hunt, Tom Trelinski, Garry Clark, Roger Dufresne and Ted Shellhorne

Till next time:....
Mineral explorationists benefit from involvement in forest management planning process

By Abraham Drost
Regional Land Use Geologist, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

Mineral explorationists who get involved in the forest management planning process improve the likelihood of favourable routing for new forest access roads to their areas of interest.

The Mines and Minerals Division of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) is working to increase mineral sector awareness of this fact and to share knowledge of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) infrastructure across Ontario.

A key concern for mineral explorationists at the early stage of claim staking and grassroots exploration is having access to their chosen area of interest. Independent prospectors and exploration companies have historically relied on the forest access road network in order to access areas with exploration potential.

The new Regional Land Use Geologist unit in the Resident Geologist Program of the MNDM has commenced the FMU Exploration Database Project as a guide to the mineral exploration sector. The project is intended to highlight the opportunities available to mineral explorationists to determine present and future forest access roads in their chosen area of interest.

There are 56 Forest Management Units across Ontario within the “Area of Undertaking” as defined by the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management. An FMU defines an area for which a Forest Management Plan (FMP) is prepared for the purpose of access, harvest, renewal and tending by a Sustainable Forest License (SFL) holder, as defined under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. The Act is administered in Ontario by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). (Note: not all FMUs have signed SFLs).

At five-year intervals, each FMU undergoes a 27-month forest management planning exercise that sets out the forest manager’s access, harvest, renewal and tending plan for the next 20 years. A key element of the plan is the proposed road network which will be constructed to allow harvest, renewal and tending activities.

A formal public consultation exercise carried out at various stages throughout the FMP process ensures that all interested parties, including mineral explorationists, can comment on the preferred routing of secondary or primary forest access roads or voice concerns about proposed road use and abandonment strategies for roads or stream crossings.

Key contacts for each individual FMU are the plan author, usually a professional forester in the employ of the SFL, and the area forester, a professional forester in the employ of the MNR. Interested parties can provide input at anytime through the plan author or area forester who may be contacted at the SFL or MNR office, respectively.

MNMD’s Forest Management Unit Exploration Database will compile various FMU-related data sets into a useful format for the mineral exploration sector. These include contact information for the plan author, the area forester, the MNR district office within which the FMU is located and the Local Citizen’s Committee for the FMU. The FMU Exploration Database will also inform the viewer of the status of the Forest Management Plan within an FMU and the next formal opportunity for public input. The database will also link all claim maps (G-Plans) and claim holder information for a particular FMU into a searchable format. A quick search of the database will tell the client which FMU contains their claims.

Accessing the Database

Regional Land Use Geologists will update the FMU Exploration Database regularly and distribute it to the Ontario Prospectors Association and regional prospector groups for use by all interested parties.

The feasibility of an Internet link is also under study. The FMU Exploration Database may eventually be available as a hot button link on the ministry’s CLAIMaps system, tied to the G-Plan. Clients would then be able to see a particular G-Plan and determine at a glance the mining claim fabric in a particular area. They may be considering claims acquisition or have an active exploration project in the area. A quick check of the link to the FMU Exploration Database would tell them in which FMU the particular G-Plan is located and who the key contacts are. They could then access information on forestry road access in their area of interest.
Summary

The plan author and area forester of an FMU will have maps showing present and proposed forestry road access into the Crown forest lands of Ontario, along with proposed road use and abandonment strategies after the harvest cycle is complete.

While the FMU Exploration Database is being refined and populated with data from FMUs across the province, mineral explorationists are encouraged to use this valuable source of forest access data by directly contacting the MNR or SFL in their area of interest.

In particular, the exploration industry is encouraged to take a proactive approach to forest management planning in Ontario. The opportunity for public comment ensures that forest management planners are informed of mineral industry concerns regarding mineral values at the outset of a five-year planning cycle and throughout the planning process. Such involvement recognizes the multi-stakeholder nature of forest users and increases the likelihood of satisfactory solutions to such issues as bridge removal, road decommissioning and other impacts on mineral explorationists’ access to areas of mineral potential.

Regional Land Use Geologists at MNDM regional offices in Thunder Bay (Abraham Drost, Northwest Region at (807) 475-1368), Timmins (Gord Yule, Northeast Region at (705) 235-1613) and Sudbury (Dave Rowell, South-Central Region at (705) 670-5737) will be pleased to discuss these matters and provide further information.

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

The real reason why John Snobelen cancelled the bear hunt?

John was excited about his new rifle, and decided to try bear hunting. He spotted a small brown bear and shot it. There was then a tap on his shoulder, and he turned around to see a big black bear. The black bear said, "That was my cousin, and you’ve got two choices. Either I maul you to death or we have sex." After considering briefly John decided to accede to the latter alternative. Even though he felt sore for two weeks, John soon recovered and vowed revenge. He headed out on another trip where he found the black bear and shot it. There was another tap on his shoulder. This time a huge grizzly bear stood right next to him. The grizzly said, "That was a huge mistake, John. That was my cousin and you’ve got two choices. Either I maul you to death or we have rough sex." Again, John thought it was better to cooperate. Although he survived, it would take several months before John finally recovered. Outraged, he headed back to the woods and he managed to track down the grizzly and shot it. He felt sweet revenge, but then there was a tap on his shoulder. He turned around to find a giant polar bear standing there. The polar bear said, "Admit it John, you don’t come here for the hunting, do you?"

THE OPA MEMBERSHIP

THE OPA MEMBERSHIP PRESENTLY STANDS AT 856 MEMBERS.

THE AFFILIATIONS OF THE MEMBERS ARE:

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION: 316
NORTHERN PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION: 75
PORCUPINE PROSPECTORS AND DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION: 94
SAULT AND DISTRICT PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION: 13
SOUTHERN ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION: 36
SUDBURY PROSPECTORS AND DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION: 58
Unaffiliated: 264

Some days we just get stuck, and bogged down. Some days all you can do is smile and wait for someone to kindly remove your butt from the hole you find it wedged into.
The following is a tentative list of speakers and topics:

discuss PGE models and mineralization with the presenters during a details will be sent once field trip groups are confirmed. supplemented by poster / rock displays. Ample time will be available to your registration will be confirmed by email, fax or mail and further Superior Region will be the prime activity for and will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. Once received, A series of talks with specific focus on PGE mineralization in the Lake Superior and will be held Sunday, Sept 16 to Wednesday, Sept 19, based at the Travelodge Hotel Airlane in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The theme of the conference is PGE models and mineralization in the Lake Superior region, which is currently a hotbed of exploration activity. Four different field trips have been arranged to demonstrate various geological settings and deposit types. The field trips flank a full day (Monday Sept 17) of technical presentations and poster displays specifically related to the main theme.

Please return the attached Registration Form, along with a cheque for the appropriate fees, by August 1, 2001. Register early, as space is limited and will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. Once received, your registration will be confirmed by email, fax or mail and further details will be sent once field trip groups are confirmed.

TECHNICAL SESSION / POSTER DISPLAY

A series of talks with specific focus on PGE mineralization in the Lake Superior Region will be the prime activity for Sept 17. The talks will be supplemented by poster / rock displays. Ample time will be available to discuss PGE models and mineralization with the presenters during a social evening on Sept 16 and lunch Sept 17.

The following is a tentative list of speakers and topics:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larry Hulbert (Keynote speaker)</td>
<td>Geological Survey of Canada</td>
<td>PGE Developments in Canada</td>
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<td>Mark Smyk</td>
<td>Ontario Geological Survey</td>
<td>PGEs and Exploration Activity in NW Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moe Lavigne</td>
<td>North American Palladium Ltd.</td>
<td>Lac des Iles PGE Mine</td>
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<td>Neil Pettigrew</td>
<td>Avalon Ventures Ltd.</td>
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<td>Jim Miller</td>
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<td>The Midcontinent Rift in the Lake Superior Region</td>
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<td>Mark Severson</td>
<td>Natural Resources Research Institute</td>
<td>PGEs in the Duluth Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Middleton</td>
<td>East West Resource Corporation</td>
<td>PGE Exploration Models for the Nipigon Basin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Hoy</td>
<td>Freewest Resources Canada Inc.</td>
<td>New Style of PGE Mineralization in the Coldwell Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Walford</td>
<td>Geomaque Explorations Ltd.</td>
<td>Marathon Deposit in the Coldwell Complex</td>
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Attendance on the field trips is on a first come-first served basis. Field trips will be conducted with a minimum of 15 and maximum of 40 participants.

Field Trip 1: Coldwell Alkaline Complex Sept 16
(Mark Smyk Ontario Geological Survey and Industry Geologists)
The 1.1 Ga Midcontinent Rift-related Coldwell Complex is the largest alkaline complex in North America and consists of a variety of tholeitic to alkaline gabbros and syenitic rocks. This trip will provide a cross section of these intrusive rocks, featuring PGE-mineralized gabbros from the Marathon deposit (37 million tonnes of 1.58 g/t Pd+P+Au), Geomaque Explorations Ltd. (Polyelmet Mining Corporation) and the Bermuda (Freewest Resources Canada Inc.) and Geordie Lake (L.E.H. Ventures Ltd.) properties. This trip will leave Thunder Bay on the evening of Sept 15.

Field Trip 2: Lac des Iles Mine/Legris Lake Complex Sept 16
(M.J. Lavigne and Staff North American Palladium Ltd. and Neil Pettigrew Avalon Ventures Ltd.)
North American Palladium Ltd.’s Lac des Iles palladium deposit (121.65 million tonnes of 1.94 g/t P+P+Au) is hosted by an Archean mafic/ultramafic intrusive complex. The trip will focus on palladium mineralization of the Roby, Twilight and Baker Zones as it relates to the development of intrusive breccia, varioporous gabbro and alteration. The trip will also look at the Legris Lake Intrusive Complex (Placer Dome / Avalon Ventures Ltd. / Starcore Resources Ltd.) which hosts significant grades of PGE mineralization in a hydrothermally altered gabbro.

Field Trip 3: Duluth Complex Sept 18-19
(Jim Miller Minnesota Geological Survey and Mark Severson Natural Resources Research Institute)
This two-day trip will start with an examination of the type locality of the 1.1 Ga Midcontinent Rift-related Duluth Complex at Duluth, Minnesota. It will also feature Cu-Ni-PGE prospects along the basal contact zone of the northwestern margin of the Complex, with investigation of exploration drill core and test pit sites. A PGE-reef prospect in the Sonju Lake intrusion of the hypabyssal Beaver Bay Complex will also be visited.

Field Trip 4: Lac des Iles Mine/Legris Lake Complex Sept 18
(M.J. Lavigne and Staff North American Palladium Ltd. and Neil Pettigrew Avalon Ventures Ltd.)
See description for Field Trip 2.

Field Trip 5: Intrusions in the Nipigon Basin Sept 18
(Bernie Schnieders & John Scott Ontario Geological Survey and Bob Middleton East West Resource Corporation)
This trip will focus on Midcontinent Rift-related, PGE mineralized intrusions such as the Crystal Lake Gabbro which hosts Great Lakes Nickel Ltd.’s deposit (45.6 million tonnes of 0.34% Cu, 0.183% Ni, 0.994 g/t Pd+P+Rh+Au, 3.29 g/t Ag). The trip will include an examination of PGE mineralized drill core from the mafic/ultramafic Leckie Lake Stock of the Wolf Mountain/Seagull property (East West Resource Corporation / Canadian Golden Dragon Resources Ltd. / Avalon Ventures Ltd).
SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, Sept 15, 2001
18:00 to 22:00  Field Trip 1 departs for Marathon

Sunday, Sept 16, 2001
08:00 to 15:00  Field Trip 1
08:00 to 18:00  Field Trip 2
15:00 to 19:00  Field Trip 1 returns to Thunder Bay
19:00 to 22:00  Registration / Cash Bar Mixer / Poster Session

Travelodge Hotel Airlane

Monday, Sept 17, 2001
08:00 to 09:00  Registration
09:00 to 12:00  Technical Session I
12:00 to 14:00  Lunch / Poster Session
14:00 to 17:00  Technical Session II
18:00 to 22:00  Field Trip 3 departs for Duluth, Minnesota
18:00 to 21:00  Cash Bar Mixer

Tuesday, Sept 18, 2001
08:00 to 18:00  Field Trip 3 (Day 1)
08:00 to 18:00  Field Trip 4
08:00 to 18:00  Field Trip 5

Wednesday, Sept 19, 2001
08:00 to 20:00  Field Trip 3 (Day 2), return to Thunder Bay

Field trips involve walks of low to moderate difficulty. Participants are urged to bring their own safety glasses, boots and hard hats if possible. Field Trip 1 requires an overnight stay. Field Trip 3 requires two overnight stays. Hotel rooms for the field trips will be reserved for participants but will be at the participant’s expense and will be paid by the participant at the time of the stay. Participants of Field Trip 3 are required to bring proper identification (e.g., passport or birth certificate) for travel in USA.

TRANSPORTATION TO THUNDER BAY

Thunder Bay is situated on the Trans-Canada Highway and is served by major air carriers (Air Canada, WestJet, Bearskin Airlines, Mesaba-Northwest Airlink).

Surface Distance From:

Toronto: 1387 km (862 miles)
Winnipeg: 700 km (435 miles)
Minneapolis: 581 km (361 miles)
Chicago: 1047 km (651 miles)

ACCOMMODATION IN THUNDER BAY

Attendees of the conference are asked to arrange their own accommodations while in Thunder Bay. The conference hotel is the Travelodge Hotel Airlane 1-800-465-5003, where rooms are available at a conference rate of $87 per night plus taxes. Reservations must be made by August 15 to guarantee availability. Other hotels within walking distance are:

Valhalla Inn 1-800-964-1121
Victoria Inn 1-800-387-3331
Best Western Crossroads 1-800-265-3253
Comfort Inn 1-800-228-5150

REGISTRATION FORM

Please respond as soon as possible - space is limited and will be reserved on a first come first served (payment received) basis.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
____________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Fax: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Price CDN $</th>
<th>Registrant Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical Session</td>
<td>(non CIM member)</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(paid CIM member)</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 1 Coldwell Complex</td>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 2 Lac des Iles / Legris</td>
<td>Sept 16</td>
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<td>Field Trip 3 Duluth Complex</td>
<td>Sept 18-19</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 4 Lac des Iles / Legris</td>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>$ 75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trip 5 Wolf Mountain</td>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>$ 75.00</td>
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TOTAL ENCLOSED ____________

Prices for Technical Session and Field Trips include proceedings, field trip guidebook and lunch. Accommodations are not included.

Cut along this line and mail the registration form with your cheque

Please make cheque payable in Canadian Funds to:
SUPERIOR PGE 2001 and mail by August 1, 2001 to:
SUPERIOR PGE 2001
 c/o Ontario Geological Survey
 Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
 Suite B002 – 435 James St. South
 Thunder Bay, ON  P7E 6S7
superiorpge2001@ndm.gov.on.ca

For more information, please contact:
Mark Smyk at 807-475-1331 phone, 807-475-1112 fax, mark.smyk@ndm.gov.on.ca
Karen Rees at 807-346-0404 phone, 807-346-4233 fax, avalon@microage-tb.com

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Andrew Mitchell (Chair) Wardrop Engineering Inc.
Moe Lavigne North American Palladium Ltd.
Al Smith Noranda Inc.
Mark Smyk Ontario Geological Survey
Mark O’Brien Ontario Geological Survey
Karen Rees Avalon Ventures Ltd.
A Prospector

During a recent casual discussion with a discrete group of NWOPA directors, a debate arose as to whether we should call ourselves explorationists or prospectors. The point of view of one, grizzled old debater was that a prospector was anyone who explores for gold, silver, oil and so on. It was immediately brought to his attention that Marco Polo explored for precious metals. Thus he must have been a prospector. With this dilemma frustrating the group, one of the sages went to the reference library attached to the bar and after searching a dictionary for "explorationist" found that it wasn’t even a word. Some considerable reflection led to the following definition. A prospector is an independent businessman who seeks to gain a profit by acquiring the mineral rights to a piece of ground and then transferring those rights to another party for a negotiated price. An examination of some key words and phrases in this thesis may reveal some truths. Anyone can seek, search for, explore for valuable minerals, but in the Province of Ontario, according to the Mining Act(1991) " No person shall prospect on Crown lands or stake out, or apply to record the staking of a mining claim unless the person is a holder of a prospector’s licence...18.18.(1) . What this means is that anyone with a $25 licence can obtain the mineral rights to a piece of ground: and this includes major and minor companies, promoters, housewives and so on. You don’t even have to stake it yourself: just get on the phone and call a contractor and you will have the mineral rights. So licenced people can explore for and acquire mineral rights but, 50.(1).(b) they can not remove or dispose of any minerals found in, upon or under the mining claim until, 52.(3) the mining claim is leased, 251/91, and that will require $1600 of assessment work per claim to be done within a specified period of time. Then there is the problem of advanced exploration and mining costs. This boils down to the main issue of funding. Raising the capital to explore and mine a property is a skill unto itself. It is a complex and often frustrating process that is left to those people who want to do it. This excludes prospectors. They are a unique group of individuals who have the many skills needed to acquire the mining rights to a piece of ground and then through choice or necessity, transferring those rights to another group for certain negotiated considerations.

Explorationist is a broad term that should be used to includes anyone who seeks to find a mine. A prospector is a specific breed of dreamer who tries to make a profit in the mining industry by using limited resources and a lot of faith and determination.

John Halet (NWOPA)

So, you think a gallon of gasoline is expensive?

Diet Snapple 16oz for $1.29 = $10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16oz for $1.19 = $ 9.52 per gallon
Gatorade 20oz for $1.59 = $ 10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray 16oz for $1.25 = $ 10.00 per gallon
Pint of milk 16oz for $1.59 = $12.72 per gallon
STP Brake Fluid 12oz for $3.15 = $ 33.60 per gallon
Vick’s Nyquil 6oz for $8.35 = $ 178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4oz for $3.85 = $123.20 per gallon
Whiteout 7oz for $1.39 = $25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5oz for $0.99 = $ 84.48 per gallon

And this is the REAL KICKER......
Evian water 9oz for $1.49 = $ 21.19 per gallon
So next time you’re at the pump, be glad your car doesn’t run on Nyquil, or Scope, or Whiteout
FEDNOR SUPPORTS MINING
PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION

GREENSTONE, Ontario, (April 27, 2001) - Thunder Bay-Superior North MP, Joe Comuzzi, is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development) (FedNor), a federal contribution of $384,295 to the Lake Nipigon Heritage Authority (LNHA) for the Phoenix Bedrock Mapping Project.

“This economic development initiative will generate prospecting, mineral exploration, investment and create or maintain community jobs and business opportunities for the town of Beardmore and area,” says Mr. Comuzzi.

The project will result in the creation of bedrock geological maps and reports for the townships of Sandra, Dorothea, Eva, Summer and Kitto, north and south of Beardmore, at the western end of the Beardmore-Geraldton Greenstone belt.

The proposed map area has high mineral resource development potential for gold, base metals, platinum-palladium, and high-technology rare metals. A 1999 forest fire improved access to this area and exposed bedrock, a situation which is expected to produce higher quality maps and improve the likelihood of exploration success.

FedNor funding will help offset costs associated with hiring staff, obtaining field and telecommunications equipment and office space.

“The Government of Canada, through FedNor, strongly believes in helping communities in the North become self-sustaining,” says Mr. Mitchell. “This project will help generate positive returns for the Greenstone region and benefit the many sectors that make up the local economy.”

“The area has a strong tradition of mining and forestry and the prospects for continued mineral development are good,” says Eric Rutherford, President of Lake Nipigon Heritage Authority. “Up-to-date geological information needs to be available to trigger prospecting, staking and follow-up exploration by the private sector.”

Through this initiative, FedNor is acting on its commitment to supporting economic growth and diversification in rural Northern communities.

Funding for this project was provided for in the February 2000 budget and is therefore built into the existing financial framework.

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For more information, please contact:
Christine Aquino, Communications Assistant, Office of the Honourable Andy Mitchell, (613) 947-5852
Luc Marchand, Community Economic Development Officer, (807) 766-1811 or 1-877-333-6673
David Frood, Communications Officer, (807) 766-1820 or 1-877-333-6673

837-480950
Saturday, May 12 and the Northern Prospectors Association’s eleventh annual High Water Run is due to start at 1 P.M. At 10 A.M. it is snowing and breezy to put it kindly. All those people who were considering purchasing plants on Mother’s Day are having second thoughts. Ann Black’s guarantee of fabulous weather for the event seemed like famous last words. Then, by 11:30 the snow showers stopped, the sun came out and, by the end of the day, the temperature had reached 12 celcius in the odd southerly-exposed and sheltered spot.

For the tenth time in the eleven-year history of the event, Bill Thorpe and John Tuovinen captured the title in the 15 kilometer race from Lake Sesekinika to Kenogami Lake along the Blanche River. That the race is now an Ontario Canoe Racers sanctioned event doesn’t seem to matter. Some suspect that the duo could well have made eleven of eleven tries had Tuovinen, 71, been able to participate last year. Tuovinen, with his much younger partner Thorpe, at 68, completed the course in 1:47:50, some 10 minutes ahead of their closest rival and two minutes under their time of two years ago.

Kudos also go to Terry Link who placed third in overall time and first in the Solo event with a 1:59:21.

Medal winners for the day included Bill Thorpe from Kirkland Lake and John Tuovinen, Swastika for the Men’s Event with their time of 1:47:50, followed by Doug Culhane, Kearns and Eric Blais, Virginiatown at 1:58:21, and, Chris Nychuk and Adam Bougie from Kenogami at 2:09:13.

The Ladies Event was captured by Tammy Baker from Kearns teamed with Mary Joyner from Virginiatown with a time of 2:43:33, followed by Jen Rosko and Kerry Pochopsky from Kirkland Lake at 2:53:15, and, Virginia Kitty, Larder Lake with Darlene Kitty, Ottawa at 3:25:35.

The Mixed portion of the Run was led by Jen Nychuk from Kenogami teamed with Paul Vanderburg from Richmond Hill for a time of 2:26:40, with Nadine Dickie and James Perry from Kirkland Lake in second at 2:39:30, and, Kim Prince, Kirkland Lake with Brandon Ormsby, Kenogami third at 2:43:48.

The Solo portion was led by Terry Link from Kirkland Lake at 1:59:21, followed by Jack Ford, Kirkland Lake in the second position at 2:20:15, and, Richard Laxton, Swastika in third at 3:17:13.

Winners of the Poker Run were Gavin Date and Rob Gervais.

Congratulations to all of the medal winners and thanks to the 19 participating teams and 3 soloists. Thanks also to the timers Diane McKean, Linda Poynard and Ann Black, and, to Dave Larocque and crew who manned the sweep boat. Kudos also to the Last Resort for their wonderful hospitality and to Tony Larocque for the great dinner.

Come paddle with us next year.

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Little Leroy was at home doing his Math homework. He said to himself, "Two plus five, that son of a bitch is seven. Three plus six, that son of a bitch is nine." In that moment, his mother comes in and hears what he is saying. "Leroy, what are you doing?! Why are you saying that?!" Little Leroy answered, "I'm doing my Math homework, Mom." She said, "And is that what your teacher taught you?"

He replied, "Yes." The next day, the mother, worried about the education her son is receiving, goes to Little Leroy's school to talk to the teacher. The mother said to his Math teacher, "I would like to know what you are teaching my son in Math?"

The teacher replied, "Right now, we are learning addition problems."

Little Leroy's mother asked, "And... are you teaching them to say two plus two, that son of a bitch is four?"

When the teacher stopped laughing she replied, "Not at all! What I taught them was two plus two THE SUM OF WHICH IS four."
MNMD’s CLAIMaps project enhances information delivery to meet client needs
By Roy Denomme
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

CLAIMaps I was launched by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNMD) in 1998 and was a huge success with our mineral explorationists, other stakeholders and internal clients alike. This application, although basic in design, provided a number of benefits to our stakeholders in Ontario. The system:

- provided instant access 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year (24/7 - 365) to current land tenure information via the Internet.
- allowed clients to download the information free of charge.
- provided access to maps and information outside government business hours and within the comfort of the client’s office or home.
- reduced staff pressures to provide hardcopy prints to stakeholders by the Provincial Recording Office, the ministry’s main Mining Lands office. (Statistics show that the implementation of the system reduced client requests for maps, from 48,000 annually, to 8,100 maps within a year of operation).
- provided the ministry with a vectorized CLAIM database, which could be used in the future in other initiatives.

The CLAIMaps I initiative required 11 months to create and cost $300,000 to put into production.

In addition to its success with clients, the CLAIMaps project was also recognized for its innovative and business solutions, winning an “Award of Excellence for Technology Innovation / Organizational Transformation” at the Showcase 2000 Information Technology Awards ceremony in Toronto. This award was especially gratifying as the applications were judged by the IT industry.

In 1999, the ministry embarked on the second phase of the CLAIMaps initiative known as CLAIMaps II, with funding of $1.3 million provided through the ministry’s Operation Treasure Hunt. The goal was to build on the success of the CLAIMaps I application and to enhance the delivery and products to the ministry’s client group. The two-year initiative was to be much more aggressive than CLAIMaps I. It would implement a number of changes based on client comments and the need to move to a more robust technology.

Some of the objectives outlined for the CLAIMaps II initiative included:

- Creating a standardized and seamless provincial topographic base at 1:20,000 in vector format, to replace the scanned raster map images and to eliminate the discrepancies in scale and quality of the original maps.
- Digitizing some 400,000 land tenure polygons to create a totally vector database of spatial information.
- Providing the ability for clients to access tenure information by providing a hot-link from the map to the corresponding attribute data located in a sister database.
- Providing enhancements to the Internet tools to allow easier navigation through the site.
- Enhancing staff tools to streamline the processing of documents being received by the ministry and improve overall customer service.
- Enhancing the products delivered to the clients requested through the ministry.

The system would still provide clients with 24/7 - 365 access to the information via the Internet, as well as the ability to download maps at no cost.

The CLAIMaps II application was successfully unveiled, on time and on budget, at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) annual convention in March 2001. Clients responded favourably to the quality and functionality of the new system. Recently at the Northwest Mines and Minerals Symposium in Thunder Bay, the system again received accolades from the client group. Results from a client survey conducted during the symposium showed that all clients were very satisfied with the new system.

Unfortunately, CLAIMaps II may be a victim of its own start-up success. In the few weeks that the system has been operational, access to the Internet site has dramatically increased. This has tested the new system to its limits and beyond, requiring MNMD to review the systems capacity and performance standards to meet the client demands.

In March 2001, MNMD obtained funding through an expanded Operation Treasure Hunt to further enhance the CLAIMaps II system.
Based on client feedback and with the vision of using the GIS path for solutions, CLAIIMaps II will undergo another transformation. This third phase of the initiative, CLAIIMaps III, is now under way and could be available as early as April 2002. Some of the solutions that are being proposed for this initiative could include:

- Moving the application toward the Land Information Ontario Warehouse (LIOW) currently part of the Ministry of Natural Resources initiative of compiling in one repository provincially significant spatial and attribute values. This would give CLAIIMaps III access to a much larger data set, and provide up-to-date topological enhancements. This would improve a client’s ability to review and use more information in preparation to carry on exploration activities.
- Improving client Web tools by moving to a more robust browser. This would allow clients to manipulate data layers more easily as well as provide the ability to customize map downloads and dynamically pan and zoom throughout the maps.
- An expanded product line of information and maps.
- Further refinement to tools and functions, which would allow the ministry to further enhance the customer service.
- A review of the system performance could provide solutions to further enhance the performance of the systems hardware.
- The review of the issues and protocols to possibly provide clients with access to the vector claim data.

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines through its CLAIIMaps application has one of the most valued land tenure database systems in the world. MNDM is dedicated to maintaining that status through CLAIIMaps III and beyond, as it strives to meet the business needs of its clients in Ontario and around the world.

Roy Denomme
May 1, 2001
The Sudbury Prospectors and Developers Association

Special Events

The Northeastern Ontario Mineral Symposium held on April 17th and 18th has been a resounding success. Over 450 delegates attended the technical talks and browsed through over 80 exposition booths and poster boards. Many delegates attended the short courses offered the day following the event. There certainly was something for everyone!

The various committee members and volunteers are to be commended on a job well done. A big thank you on behalf of the SPDA membership is directed to: (left to right on the picture below) Linda Mullola, Tom Poupore, Roger Poulin, Harold Tracanelli, John Perry, David Beilhartz, Scott Halladay, Honorable Dan Newman (Minister MNDM), Ed Debicki, Grayme Anthony, Bob Komarechka, Sue Gosselin, Ruth Debicki, Gordon Slade, Mark Hall, Clive Stephenson, Helen Komarechka, Frank Racicot, Mike Koziol (hidden behind Katie Andrews-Smith), Marcel Shank, Katie Andrews-Smith, Mary Rocca and Rachelle Decosse (hidden behind Mary Rocca). Missing from the picture are: Tim Lloyd, Red Butler, Karen Pascoli, Gord Salo, Mike Welch.

Monetary and in-kind services received from our sponsors helped tremendously in offering a first class professional event. Judging from the comments that I received from many colleagues, the show here in Sudbury was well liked and should have a solid future. The staff of the MNDM worked diligently in the admission booth making this part of the symposium work run smoothly. FedNor gave substantial financial aid to the symposium thereby providing funds necessary to build backboards for the symposium and to offer better services to all the delegates. The backboards will be available to all future OPA sponsored events.

The ambiance at the symposium was excellent but there still is one outstanding issue behind everyone’s mind. Availability of capital is still the ongoing concern to all the junior mining companies. Although many deals were signed, there is still a need to attract more financiers to the symposiums. This will certainly be a goal and challenge when the next symposium is organized.

I hope the delegates who attended the symposium enjoyed themselves as much as I did!

Local Issues

Wallbridge and Inco are in a legal battle over land position on the Kelly Lake property of the Copper Cliff Offset. Wallbridge is questioning the validity of the Exploratory Licence of Occupation that Inco has for the bed of Kelly Lake. In addition to this, Wallbridge has staked a small island in the lake. The matter is before the Mining Commissioner in Toronto and may be resolved at that level. A new Ni-Cu-PGE ore body beneath Kelly Lake is at stake in this dispute.

I would like to point everyone’s attention to the number of garbage dumps that exist over rocks that have significant mineral potential. In particular, one MNR approved garbage dump exists over a claim that has potential for gem sapphire and possibly some rare earths (REE’s). The property is situated in Bigwood Twp., in the heart of cottage country.

(Continued on page 12)
Below is a picture of some of the corundum samples that can be found at the edge of the dump.

The property is hosted in a syenite body that has had a long history of exploration. Numerous government publications describe the mineralogy and geology of the area. The exploration potential of the syenite body was well documented as being valuable for REE’s, graphite and nepheline syenite.

After prospecting and compiling data, one of our members staked the property when it became open for taxes owing. Over time, some local people had filled some of the pits on the property with household garbage. Subsequently, MNR approved the site as a garbage dump and has approved plans to expand the dump. The dump has already covered the REE showings and will soon obliterate what is remaining of the corundum showings.

The decision for the placement for this dumpsite was poorly researched by MNR. Although the prospector notified MNR of his concerns, there appears to be no interest by MNR to investigate the situation.

Can we stop this dump? Who is going to be responsible for any leachate problems (MNR or the claim holder)? Who is responsible for the thousands of garbage bags on the claim? Can we stop dumps at other area sites that may have economic potential? Can we even control the site of future dumps?

Roger Poulin
President SPDA
TRAINING NEW PROSPECTORS

Musselwhite Mine Again Shows The Industry How It’s Done Right!

Musselwhite Mine made an important contribution to sustainable economic development and the future of exploration in northern Ontario by conducting a prospecting workshop on May 8, 9 and 10th, 2001 as part of its “Collaborative Sustainability Initiatives” program.

Prospectors are vital to the exploration and mining industry and where better to have prospectors pounding the rocks but in the communities that are in the middle of some of the most prospective ground in the world.

Organized and presented by Doug Parker of D’Silva Parker Associates, this prospecting workshop introduced members of Kasabonika Lake First Nation and Cat Lake First Nation to a broad scope of information relating to the mining and exploration industry. Emphasis was on development of skills that would aid the individual in the pursuit of independent prospecting activities. Material covered and distributed could form a basis for knowledge and skills desirable for a career in mining and exploration.

A great amount of assistance was given by the Thunder Bay Resident Geologist Office of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, John Mason and Michael Grant (Geologists with MNDM) who assisted with instruction and by members of the Thunder Bay exploration community including; Chaltrek Geological Supplies, Noranda Exploration, Accurassay Labs, Chemex Labs and Clark Exploration Consulting, all of whom provided equipment and supplies used in the workshop.

The scope of the workshop was ambitious and the pace was rapid in order to cover the following topics:

- Prospecting (definition, history, role in the mining sequence)
- Mining Sequence (economics, environment, legislation)
- Role of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
- Minerals (definition, examples, identification)
- Rocks (definition, the rock cycle, examples, identification)
- Tectonics (rock dynamics, folding, fracturing and faulting)
- Mineral Deposit Types
- Acquiring Mining Lands (claim maps, staking, assessment requirements)
- Mining Agreements (Slate Falls case study)
- Getting Started Prospecting (equipment, safety)
- Selecting an Area for Prospecting
- Researching an Area
- Prospecting Techniques
- Exploration Goals and Techniques
- Geological Surveys
- Geophysical Surveys
- Geochemical Surveys
- How to Read a Map
- How to Read a Geological Map
- Geology of Northwestern Ontario
- Mineral Deposits of Northwestern Ontario
- Exploration Targets in Northwestern Ontario
- Local Case Studies
- Open Discussions Focused on Participant’s Interests

Laboratory and field exercises included:

- An Introduction to Rocks and Minerals
- Rock and Mineral Identification
- Pacing and Compassing
- Basic Orienteering
- Working on a Cut Grid
- Observing Outcrop Geology
- Stripping Overburdened Areas
- Measuring Strikes and Dips
- Taking, Marking and Recording Grab and Chip Samples
- Basic Use of Global Positioning Satellite Receiver
- Introduction to MNDM Web Site
- Mine Site Tour
- Assay Lab Tour
- Core Shack Tour

A prospecting kit was supplied to each participant including: hammer, hand lens, acid bottle, field books, safety glasses, pencil magnet, work (Continued on page 14)
gloves, streak plate, marker, flagging tape, sample bags, sample tags and a complete set of course material.

The participants showed a high degree of aptitude and interest during the course. Despite the rigorous pace and difficult material of the course, the enthusiasm and keenness of the participants produced an enjoyable and encouraging atmosphere.

Certificates of accomplishment were issued to all of the participants.

The instructors agree that there is a high probability that many of the participants will pursue prospecting in some form and that their positive attitude and extraordinary knowledge of the land will make a significant contribution to the area’s exploration activity in the near future.

Let's hope that more companies follow Musselwhite Mine’s example as a responsible progressive corporate citizen and promote mineral development in Ontario.

Good luck and good fortune to all of the participants.

Find a mine!

Douglas P. Parker
May 16, 2001

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**THE SEEMINGLY NEVER ENDING PURSUIT OF PROSPECTING FUNDING**

I started the challenge of establishing a replacement for OPAP over 18 months ago. In a direct call from the then Minister of Mines, Presidents of the Regional Associations and myself were told OPAP was gone, the last GRANT program under the Harris Tories. We were told that we had some options, one being the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC), a funding group that could possibly provide seed capital for an enhanced OPA and a replacement to OPAP.

I was optimistic and being operators in an industry that thrives on optimism, so were most of my colleagues. We commenced with the restructuring of the OPA. The membership stressed the point of functioning on our own timetable not the Government’s. We were pushed and pulled by our timetable versus the governments, but in the end the NOHFC timetable was the one that held the process. Eventually at almost a year from the beginning of the process we received the notice that our re-structuring plans were to be funded by NOHFC.

This notice came approximately 8 weeks after we submitted the plan. I personally thought within weeks of the announcement we would have the funds promised. This is where I was deluded and too used to working in an industry that moves quickly (at least more quickly than government). Three months later, the promised funds appeared (relieving me as well as our principal lender).

I had started working on the replacement to the OPAP program immediately after talking to the Minister. The OPA worked through various scenarios of “how to” establish a self-sustaining funding mechanism. We went down various blind alleys but by February 2001 had a potential plan for the replacement. Once the idea had OPA Board approval, we developed a business plan and pro forma for the Fund. The business plan, pro forma and legal opinion were submitted to NOHFC for approval in early April.

Now as the “once” optimistic, industry trained operator I expected that we would get a response within a short period of time (The last request took 8 weeks and funds were delivered within 3 months). It is now the end of May and I haven’t received a letter saying the ideas are good or bad.
The informal response I have received has been that it will take 4-6 weeks to get through the next stage. This would then have us waiting on a check so we can deliver the prospecting program.

SO YOUR QUESTION TO ME IS: Garry when do you think we will have our prospecting program delivered?

MY ANSWER IS: If everything goes without a hitch and all the timelines set out before me at present are met (I am now using timelines as per the way NOHFC worked last time), I would think checks could be cut by the end of July. I will be attempting to determine if we can predate or grandfather exploration dollars spent from the time of our application to NOHFC or to the NOHFC announcement of funding. This would allow funds spent on prospecting before the application to be used against the funding.

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS CALL ME ANYTIME: 807-622-3284

GARRY CLARK, Executive Director, Ontario Prospectors Association

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God and Women

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden, he said out loud, "Lord grant me one wish." Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii, so I can drive over anytime I want." The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of another wish, a wish you think would honor and glorify me." The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing', and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

Ed note: This one is so good we left it in great big print! (it came from yet another satisfied lady reader, no names of course!)
Mellon Lake

The Mellon Lake Granite Quarry is back in motion as property holder Palu-Corbelli Corp. has reapplied to the Ministry of Natural Resources for a Quarrying Permit. The applicant held a public meeting on May 23, 2001 at the Kaladar Community Centre. The format for the public meeting was informal, essentially providing an opportunity for those concerned to view the quarry application and quarrying plans. The Palu-Corbelli Corp. had several staff members on hand to answer questions about the proposed quarry operation from concerned citizens.

Large representation from environmental lobby groups was conspicuous by its absence and the meeting attendees appeared to be essentially local citizens from both sides of the issue (the way it should be!). The meeting for the large part remained non-confrontational and respectful, with only a couple of short bursts of temper being observed. Palu-Corbelli Corp’s Quarry Master did an extremely commendable job of demystifying the proposed quarry operation. Of course one cannot change the mindset of everybody but I certainly felt that the Palu-Corbelli Corp. took a big step in removing the “fear of the unknown”. The concerned public will now have a 30-day period to submit their site-specific concerns regarding the quarry application.

From our industry’s perspective we want to ensure that the applicant receives “due process” and that the final decision on this quarry application is based on sound science, not political pressure from special interest groups. We can’t ask for more than that!

Education is the Key

On a different matter, but one that certainly has some common threads, I attended a workshop put on by the Bancroft Area Forestry Association entitled Woodlots, Wildlife and You. The workshop was designed to educate logging companies, woodlot owners and the general public about new forestry practices that many of the logging companies are adopting. The format of the workshop divided the day into morning presentations by an MNR staff Silva culturist and biologist. The afternoon was dedicated to a field visit to a recent cutting operation that demonstrated many of the new selective cutting practices employed to produce a healthier more productive woodlot and to highlight practices that will help to preserve or in some cases benefit wildlife.

The “gem” that I took away from the workshop was how they had invited the general public to participate and see what they are doing to make the forestry industry more environmentally friendly. Based on the responses that I observed it certainly was a very successful public relations effort. This type of event is certainly along the lines that we the exploration/mining industry should try to emulate. Taking the fear of the “unknown” away from the average citizen and demonstrating that our industry is modern, high-tech, and can operate in an environmentally sound manner. Education is the key!

Kimberlite Indicator Minerals Workshop

With the unprecedented activity in diamond exploration throughout Ontario, the Southern Ontario Prospectors Association is currently in the midst of organizing a one-day workshop on kimberlite indicator minerals, to be held in the Tweed area. The workshop is intended to be a hands-on, practical introduction to sampling techniques, basic concentrating and recovery techniques that the prospector can use, and an introduction to kimberlite indicator mineral chemistry -what does it all mean. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for early July and will be open to all OPA members. We will keep you posted for details as things come together.

Fred Swanson
President- Southern Ontario Prospectors Association
One of the most beautiful and unique locations along the Lake Superior shoreline is found at the westernmost point in the Sault Ste. Marie area. The Gros Cap Bluffs, locally known as Blue Water Park, have been one of the favourite recreational destinations of Sault and area residents for years. This spot is one of those little gems that people used, enjoyed and unfortunately took for granted. Everyone had assumed that the Crown held these forty-five shoreline acres, but they were not Crown Land, and last month they were sold. The previous owners of Gros Cap had graciously enabled generations of local citizens to enjoy the hiking trails along the top of the bluffs, providing experiences in rock collecting, bird watching, and observing rare plant species. The historic Voyageur Trail traverses the property as well. Indeed, there was something for everyone. It came as a great shock to residents of both Prince Township, where Gros Cap is located, and of Sault Ste. Marie, to learn that the land had been sold to foreign interests in order to erect three large estate homes.

Fortunately, interested citizens decided to form a group to see what they could do to "save the bluffs." Don Marles, chair of the Sault Naturalists' Environmental Committee, along with several other concerned citizens, (including representation from the OPA) organized a meeting to discuss the matter and devise a strategy to try, at the very least, to slow the process down. A report outlining all the values in this area was planned, with input from naturalists, historians, archaeologists, geologists, and native groups.

The new owners must submit a rezoning application to begin development because the area is presently zoned, "Shield Lands". They must also prepare an environmental assessment. Hopefully, the results of the environmental assessment and the report written by the citizens' group will warrant another look at this area by government, at both the provincial and local levels.

Over the last few years Ontarians have been subjected to the systematic addition of great tracts of Crown Land to Ontario Parks. Hard on the heels of Ontario's Living Legacy came the Great Lakes Heritage Coastline initiative. When privately owned lands along the coast become available, the MNR is empowered to purchase these lands to hold them in public trust. Areas that have particular historical, natural, or cultural significance are being obtained and preserved for future generations. Where was the government when Gros Cap became available for purchase? It is to be hoped that the efforts of a hard-working group of local citizens, representing all areas of interest, working together to regain use of this very significant tract of Heritage Coastline will cause government to acquire Gros Cap and other northern sites that are worthy of preservation. The battle to save the bluffs has just begun. They constitute a unique and wonderful landmark, part of the local culture. It would be a loss to all if private development is allowed to continue.

The geology of Gros Cap is characterized by the unconformable contact between older (3 billion year old) Archean gneiss and younger (1 billion year old) Keweenawan lavas. Here on the north shore of Gros Cap, local Sault Ste. Marie geologists Delio Tortosa and Gerry Bennett examine flow features in outcrops of Keweenawan basaltic lavas.
PRODUCT REVIEW: Floatation Devices

Many prospectors spend considerable time on the water. The law says we must have an ‘Approved’ Life Jacket or Flotation device (appropriate for the activity/boat used) on board for each occupant. Common sense tells us we should also have the damn thing on, but do we wear them? Not too many of us do actually put the thing on every time we get in a boat. Part of the reason for that might lie in the fact that most life jackets are bulky and hot to wear. Mustang Survival has an item available that makes that a lame duck excuse... read on.

When we first decided to do this article I asked a fellow that many of us know well, a respected colleague and one who might spend more time molesting fish than he does knocking rocks, Resident Geologist (Thunder Bay), Bernie “Fishing First” Schnieders. Here’s what he has to say about Flotation Devices………………

Safety on the Water ........ By Bernie Schnieders

Mustang Classic Coat (MC 1505)
The standard full-length survival coat, is flexible and comfortable, offering warmth and protection from the rain. Not only can this coat save your life from drowning, but it can also protect you from hypothermia. Available from small to xxxl, this coat comes in red, orange, forest green, navy and gold. It is CCG approved, and insulated or uninsulated hoods can be purchased separately. This coat is less expensive then the ThermoSystem Coat, and offers warmth and protection especially in the spring and fall, and even on the ice. I’ve personally been in the water with the Mustang Coat as well as the Ice Rider Suit, and I can tell you that you float like a cork, and are super buoyant.

ThermoSystem Plus Coat (MC 1535)
The best Mustang Coat available, offers full-length warmth and flexibility, as well as an insulated hood (in collar) and neoprene beavertail to reduce heat loss, and further protect from hypothermia. Neoprene wrist closures, and reflective tape in sizes from small to xxxl. A must for big lakes such as Superior or Nipigon, and in cold water situations. Before my Ice Rider suit, I used my Mustang Floatation coat for ice fishing situations. Available in orange and red. CCG approved.

Classic Boater’s Vest (MV 1271)
A great summer fishing vest, comes in sizes from s to xxxl. Comfortable and light weight, with an adjustable belt on the waist and a variety of colors including red/purple and cobalt/silver. CCG approved. Easy to get on and off and store in a boat, I use a vest style life jacket during the warmer summer months. This vest will not protect you from hypothermia, but can save your life from drowning.

Airforce Automatic Inflater (MD 3012)
A compact, light weight life jacket that has both an automatic inflator and manual back up. Inflates in a matter of seconds. Sizes varying from universal to adult, in red navy and black. Safety whistle and reflective tape standard on each vest. While I have not personally used these life jackets, they seem to be the perfect choice for helicopter situations, and when you have to pack light. Available in manual and automatic backup models.

Ice Rider (MJ 6260)
The Ice Rider Flotation Suit is designed specifically for snowmobiling, and is a must on the ice. The Ice Rider offers warmth and flexibility, which has improved immensely in the past decade. I wouldn’t go ice fishing and snowmobiling on the ice without one! The suit includes zippered closures, venting, high collars, adjustable suspenders and reinforced knees. I personally use the bomber style jacket and suspender pants, and they are easy to get on and off, and I only use them when I am on the water. I’ve been in the water with my suit, and you are as buoyant as a cork, making getting out of the water a lot easier. The Ice Rider suit can truly save your life, and can protect you from drowning and from hypothermia! It’s a must for ice fishing, snowmobiling, staking etc. Numerous color patterns and available in sizes from s to xxxl, also in women’s and children’s styles and sizes.

…….. We thank Bernie for the above and should mention that all of the models described above are manufactured by ‘Mustang Survival’ and are readily available from local dealers as well as most mail order houses. Shop around for best prices.

Mustang also has a relatively new model available. Called the ‘Airforce’, it is an inflatable PFD and it looks (and wears) like a pair of suspenders. No more “it’s too bulky and hot” excuses! The model I tried is the Manual Inflator #MD3000.

I tried one out before I bought it just to see how badly it might beat me up when it inflated and also if it would hold old ‘sperm whale’ up. It didn’t hang a beating on me and it did hold me up. I’m sold on this one for sure.

In Thunder Bay you can purchase this model at a 15% (OPA member) discount from North Country Cycle and Sports, 1164 Roland St. [tell them Poppa sent you and I’ll keep getting my discount, har har].

Happy Safe Boating

Inflated

Starting to inflate