

News views and opinions on the  
mineral exploration scene in ontario

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# THE EXPLORATIONIST

The Newsletter of the Ontario Prospectors Association

*The Explorationist Newsletter is brought to you as a 'member service' of the Ontario Prospectors Association. It's purpose is to share news and information amongst it's 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 it's members and Directors. The writers accept full ownership of their contributions.*

## DIAMOND FEVER

I made the trip to Vancouver to represent the OPA and assist at the MNDM booth promoting Ontario. The talk of the floor and the bars was the Diamond Plays in Nunavut and Quebec. I contemplated this fever and wondered why not in Ontario? Place your thumbs together pointing your fingers toward the ceiling. Your hands represent exploration in Manitoba, Nunavut and Quebec. Where your thumb touch is the extent of most exploration in Ontario.

1. Ontario has classic geology and proven diamond-bearing pipes in the lowlands. But in Quebec where they have just discovered diamonds there are greater then 3 map sheets staked solid!
2. Ontario has a new tax regime favouring development. But people are still staking in the far north of Nunavut.

What is wrong here in Ontario and why isn't the area of the James Bay Lowlands staked solid. You peak over the border into northern Manitoba and it's heavily staked for diamonds. Some of the indications

that there are diamond pipes in that area can be traced to work by the OGS.

We should be exploring the reasons why this isn't occurring in Ontario. Is it:

1. Excellent financial incentives in both Manitoba and Quebec. This is one of the larger draws to the other provinces.
2. Map staking and exploratory licence systems allowing speculators to acquire ground from their office any where in the world?
3. Is the geology and geological support better? I think the OGS and recent OTH work is superior or at least equal to any other jurisdiction.
4. Is it something that can be solved by government or it a function of the industries follow the leader ways?

If you have any comments or suggestions please forward them to me. This issue needs to be addressed and I believe the OPA needs to pursue the answers.

Yours,  
Garry Clark



[We're easy to get a hold of](#)

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**Questions from the Ontario Prospectors Association  
to the  
Progressive Conservative Leadership Candidates**

The Ontario Prospectors Association represents the mineral explorers of Ontario. Our members are concerned about the future of exploration and mining in the province. The Conservative government, to date, has been very supportive of the industry and has helped place Ontario back on the map as a place to come and explore.

As a candidate for the leadership of the Conservative party and Premier could you please give us some opinions and ideas of how you would address the following concerns:

1. The exploration industry requires relatively short-term access to large volumes of land to explore to locate a mine that may eventually occupy less than 16 hectares. Recent moves towards more protected areas have caused the alienation of land which could be prospective for finding future mines. Where would you lead the Province in regard to creation of additional protected areas and the allowance of exploration within the present protected areas?
2. The exploration community has been and will continue to be the economic stimulus of the northern part of the Province. An inventory of ore reserves across the Province paints a dismal picture with more mines closing than ever before. Stimulation of the exploration community is required. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has recently completed extensive geoscience data collection and continues to be a strong advocate for the industry. What is now required is a continued commitment of funds and programs. The Ontario Geological Survey base budget is not sufficient to sustain a world class Survey to attract continued exploration. How and what would you be prepared to do to address this problem?
3. The junior exploration companies are attracted to Ontario because it has some of the most prospective geology in the world. The present problem they face is the raising of risk capital that can be used for exploration and administration. The administration of a junior cannot be completed using "Flow-Through" dollars. The province must develop a method of assistance that would alleviate the problem. Quebec, which has similar geology, has developed an assistance program that attracts numerous juniors. How would your administration address this issue?

We would like to include your response in a mail out to our members.

Please feel free to contact us at anytime with questions or requests. The Ontario Prospectors Association wishes you well in the leadership race and looks forward to working with your administration in the future.

**THE OPA FORWARDED THESE QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL TO ALL CANDIDATES**

Response: Jim Flaherty

Thank you for inviting me to respond to your survey. I welcome the opportunity to express my views on one of Ontario's most significant industries. Let me start by saying that I appreciate the important contribution prospecting, exploration and mining make to the Ontario economy. Mining continues to be a cornerstone of the northern Ontario economy and I am well aware of the important role grassroots prospecting plays in the mining sequence.

I appreciate your comments on our government's support for the exploration community. It

*(Continued from page 2)*

has not been an easy road for your industry. When we took office, the exploration and mining industry was stiffened by high taxes and red tape. Investment dollars were fleeing Ontario for greener pastures.

Our plan to cut taxes and red tape and introduce investment incentives was the right plan to reverse this trend. Mike Harris has taught us that if we stick to our plan, we can achieve our goals no matter what challenges come our way. It is the vision I will bring to Ontario as Premier because there is still more to do.

The Honorable Tim Hudak, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, is one of my key cabinet supporters. He has been a strong voice for the exploration industry around the cabinet table when he served as Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He still maintains an active interest in the industry and your issues. In fact, many of the initiatives he championed as Minister helped put Ontario back on the map for investors. I am proud to have Tim on my team. He worked hard to implement lower mining taxes, extend of Operations Treasure Hunt and introduce the focus flow-through program.

I have reviewed your concerns regarding land access for prospecting and exploration. It is important that prospectors' land access issues are taken into consideration before any potential expansion of parks or protected areas is contemplated – not afterwards. While Ontario's Living Legacy initiative was successful in creating the largest expansion of parks and protected areas, many in the mineral and natural resources sectors felt that it placed increased pressure on the land base. These industries that depend on keeping the land base open and accessible should play a role in the planning of any future protected area expansion.

Ontario boasts some the richest geology in

the world but new mines cannot be developed if the exploration and mining communities aren't given the tools to help develop their claims. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, through the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) provides excellent client support to the industry by making current geoscience data readily available. This information is essential in identifying new targets, which could lead to the discovery of a new mine. Operation Treasure Hunt has succeeded in putting a new buzz back in Ontario's exploration community. It is my goal as Premier to ensure that Ontario is the leading jurisdiction for mineral exploration investment. Initiatives like Operation Treasure Hunt are important in achieving that goal.

Access to capital for small mining exploration companies still remains a key issue in stimulating mineral development in Ontario. That's why we introduced a flow-through share plan to encourage mineral exploration and investment in the province. We were very pleased when the Federal government followed our lead and introduced a 15% non-refundable tax credit.

As you know, Ontario offers a 5% enhancement to the Federal incentive. Therefore, Ontario follows the Federal eligibility guidelines on allowable expenses. However, I understand that there can be significant costs incurred by small exploration companies when developing a claim. These costs may include traveling to claim sites, consultations with First Nations and legal fees. Therefore, I think it is important that the Federal government re-examine their eligibility criteria, as I understand that this was a key issue for your industry at the September's Mines Ministers' Conference. As Premier, I would look forward to working with the industry to resolve this issue to ensure that Ontario is the leading jurisdiction in mine development and investment.

I look forward to working with the Ontario Prospectors Association, and keep mining in the province of Ontario. Your continued support is appreciated.

Sincerely, Jim Flaherty

Dear Executive Director,

Thank you for taking the time to write on behalf of the Ontario Prospector's Association. We believe that a strong economic foundation is critical to delivering the quality and accessible health care, education and social services Ontarians want and deserve.

Ernie has long understood the important contribution the mining sector has made to Ontario. That's why he was instrumental in bringing in such important programs as operation Treasure Hunt. In Ernie's 2000 Budget, a series of tax cutting measures were introduced through to the year 2005 in Personal Income Tax, as well as large and small corporate income tax.

In that budget, there were a number of initiatives that directly benefited the mining industry such as:

- cutting the mining tax rate in half,
- the introduction of flow through shares and;
- reducing the corporate tax rate from 15.5 to 8 per cent.

Having said that, we do not intend to rest on our laurels. We have worked hard to get Ontario back on track. But the job is not done. We recognize the concerns of your Association and realize that there is more the Ontario Government could do to ensure that mining remains a viable industry for generations to come.

Ernie Eves is seeking the leadership of the Ontario PC Party because we have come so far since 1995 in making Ontario the economic engine of Canada again. We want to continue to lower taxes, improve the effi-

ciency of government and create more public/private sector partnerships to foster economic growth in the future. We are listening to the concerns of Ontarians and we would like to sit down with you and a few of your colleagues in the next couple of weeks to discuss how we can build on the gains Ontario has made to ensure that all parts of the Province prosper. I look forward to speaking with you in the next few days.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hodgson  
Campaign Manager  
The Ernie Eves Campaign

**EDITORS NOTE:** We had asked all the candidates and by publishing date we had received these responses. Please contact the candidates yourselves and ask questions about their plans for the north.

**APGO: Compounding the Negative Effects of the Bre-X Tragedy**

The creation of provincial professional geoscientific associations, such as the APGO, has the potential to negatively affect our fragile industry greater than any other single event in history. Increased bureaucracy, increased competition, reduced ability to make a living and crippling fees are the potential rewards for exploration geologists.

The concept of provincially run professional associations for geologists has been around for more than a decade in Canada, however it received little support until the downturn in exploration investment that was largely blamed on reduced investor confidence in

the wake of the Bre-X fraud. Some groups placed blame for the fraud on the shoulders of the geological community. Stock exchanges, analysts, brokers, governments and large mining interests were quick to deflect criticism levelled on them by supporting the concept of a need for a professional geological association. Coincidentally, it was the TSE, government and large mining interests that provided the funding to make the APGO a reality.

### **APGO will not prevent another Bre-X and will not bring investors back.**

The theory that a professional association will prevent future Bre-X type frauds and bring investment back to exploration is simply incorrect. Enron, the largest bankruptcy in US history, occurred under the control of lawyers and chartered accountants whose powerful associations and strict codes of ethics apparently had little effect to stop that fraud. As well, professional associations have been in place in many provinces for years and the lack of exploration investment in provinces such as B.C. indicates that they have had no discernible effect on bringing the investors back to the industry.

### **Another layer of crippling bureaucracy.**

Now explorationists will have an additional layer of bureaucracy to deal with and it's potential to damage the industry are already being felt.

### **Geoscientists cannot work outside of province.**

Membership in APGO does not certify the professional to work outside of Ontario, thus individual provincial memberships will be required for **ALL** Provincial Associations in whose domain work can be found. This will potentially cost the individual many thousands of dollars each year. Fur-

ther, as of the February 2002, membership in the APGO will no longer qualify geologists to author securities reports for the Vancouver or Montreal Stock Exchanges.

### **No need for a geology degree anymore.**

In the past a bona fide degree in geology, a fellowship in the Geological Association of Canada or a P.Eng were considered credentials to work as a geologist anywhere in Canada. Now you can be designated a P. Geo with little more than ten years experience and three friends to attest to your abilities. This is a dream come true for all of those brokers, analysts, company officers, promoters and pseudo-geologists who didn't have the time, ability or money to graduate from a four year university science program.

### **Say goodbye to the G.A.C.**

Yes this is likely the death of the venerable Geological Association of Canada. After years of serving Canada's geologists, who will need or can afford to support it.

### **The Good News; You may not need to join the APGO after all.**

Legislation that sets out the rules governing the APGO, Chapter 13 Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 states that;

**“An individual practises professional geoscience when he or she performs an activity that requires the knowledge, understanding and application of the principles of geoscience and that concerns the safeguarding of the welfare of the public or the safeguarding of life, health or property including the natural environment.”**

And that;

**“An individual shall not practise professional geoscience unless he or she is a member of the Association and practises in accordance with the terms, conditions and limitations imposed on his or her membership.”**

With exceptions that include;

**“An individual who is engaged in activities that are confined to prospecting within the meaning of the Mining Act.”**

**Prospecting is defined as the “search for minerals” under the Mining Act thus membership may not be required for mineral exploration activities or for the authoring of non-securities reports such as assessment reports.**

**So what do we need membership for?**

If you don't currently require a P.Eng or Fellowship in the GAC and you don't intend to sign securities reports, act as an Expert Witness or conduct other non-exploration activities like signing off on mine closure plans, then there may be no need to join.

**Minimize the negative effects now!**

The APGO is currently moving full speed ahead on it's membership drive in order to fill it's thirsty coffers. Let's hope it has time to take care of some non-revenue generating issues like the transferability and mobility of professional geoscientists between Ontario and other provinces/territories and formalizing agreements with the stock exchanges to allow APGO members to file securities reports anywhere in Canada.

Douglas P. Parker  
Exploration Geologist  
(Who is hoping to explore throughout Canada again sometime in the near future.)

**2002 NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
MINES & MINERALS SYMPOSIUM  
April 8, 9 & 10**

Valhalla Inn, 1 Valhalla Inn Road  
Thunder Bay, ON

Technical and Poster Sessions Workshop

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**2002 NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO  
MINES & MINERALS SYMPOSIUM  
“New Frontiers, Old Horizons  
– Rediscovering Ontario’s Minerals”  
April 17, 18 & 19**

Porcupine Campus, Northern College  
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Technical and Poster Sessions Workshops/  
Tour

For Further Information:

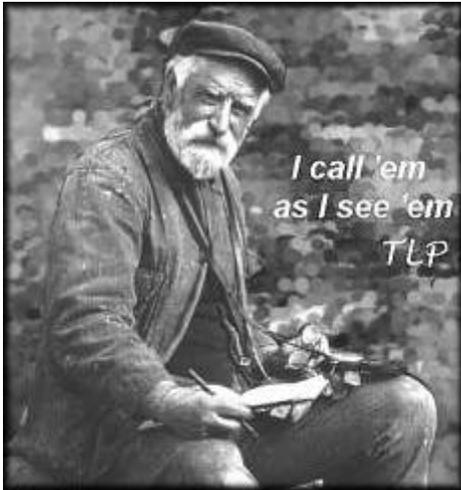
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## THE LAST PROSPECTOR

Bin away for a goodly time now as I managed to learn me some French and headed to what they tells me is the number one place in the world to do me prospectin--- Quebec. Lordy lordy dem Quebeckers treats minin people with respect and de insentitives to work dere is unbelievable. Not like those political folks in Tranna who keeps takin away prime explorin lands and promisin the same thin for what I understands is three yers now and never anting up. It looks to me as if them politicos got hold of the dogs tail ands wagin it fer em. Me guess is theys keepin him that way so's he can't bite back. Makes no wonders all the oldtime prospector fellas have left fer dem places wheres there no green blobs all over the map.

Now the fellas up ta the general store tells me that the governments got so concerned that they lost so many prospectin folk in Ontario that they passed a new law that's gunna force yer everyday geelog to dicide ifin he wants to be geelog er prospector. Ifin the geelog wants to stay a geelog 'es got to fork out to the fancy pants geelog club \$275 fer a membership, anudher \$175 ferin someone to look at 'is membership application, anudher \$175 to takes some gee-

log worthyness test, and anudher \$125 to get a autherisation certificate to work as a incorporated geelog. Nows if that's not enough, they tells me that these new geelog club members will have to have sum damn fancy liability insurance ta boot. A geelog fella I still know who's bearly keepin his head above water tells me det dat special insurance runs abouts \$5000 per year fer \$1,000,000 in coverage. At a up front cost of \$5750, and an annual cost of \$5400, it looks to me as if dem incorporated geelogs gots some serious personal evaluatin to do especially in these times when most geelogs I knows can't affords to buy fancy pants lets alone patches fer the ones they got.

That sure makes me glad I is a prospector. We don't need no fancy pants. All we's gots to pay fer is our Prospectin Licence. That's twenty-five bucks ands good fer five yer. That's an annual cost of \$5 per yer, and that sure beats \$5400 dem new professional geelog club members gots to pay per yer. Now us prospectors is still allowed to prospect within the meanin of the Mining Act, and this allows us to invistigate and search for minerals and submit our work fer assessment. Not much different from what those exploration geelog fellas does is it? It's too bad my written aint too good er I'd be able to charge meself out at \$400 per day and sign those assessment reports as a "professional prospector".

Now ifin I was a suspicious independent incorporated geelog, I would be thinkin theres bin a bit of hanky panky goin on by those big time fancy pants geelogs in Tranna to reduce geelog competition and hike up the geelog consulting costs to pay fer dem dandy downtown offices. But those govern-

ment fellas wouldn't allow for anything like that to happen, they only lookin for the easiest and cheapest way to make Ontario look like the best place in the world to prospect. So dem government fellas gets this brilliant idea to double the number of prospectors in the province by makin all dem basement geelogs into twenty-five dollar edumakated professional prospectors. I hears dem politicos now "Hey Ontario's gotta be the best place in the world to prospect, just look at the number of edumakated professional prospectors we have!"

I wonders if that new fancy pants geolog club figgered on all those basement geelogs becommin prospecters in der club financial projections?

I welcomes all you new edumakated prospectin folk, its bin lonely bein .....  
**TLP.**

### **Map staking commentary**

It has come to my attention that the topic of map staking is once again being proposed for the province of Ontario. It is no secret that I have been an opponent of this concept in the past and I see little reason to change this view today. Although there are some benefits to some parties with map staking, there are also some serious negative aspects that must be considered. The last time the subject came up, we agreed to wait and see how the Quebec experiment worked out before revisiting the issue. Well, Quebec has had a year to try it out and the news is not all good.

The last time I map staked claims in Quebec, it took 6 months to get the application "verified" (recorded and transferable). This alone is a pretty scary situation. Even with our own system, it can take a few days or even weeks to get a claim recorded and

plotted on the maps – does anyone want to wait up to 6 months to be able to tell if your claim is valid, not knowing if someone else applied for the same ground at another office 5 minutes earlier and took precedence over your application? All this time your money is tied up and you don't know for sure that you have the ground until the buyer is not interested or the play has fizzled. Don't forget that no work can be done until the claim is verified so you cannot go out and take even one sample until you get your notice in the mail. Remember the good old days when you could bring in an application to record, record the claim and transfer it to a client all within 15 minutes?

There are also other complications in Quebec where there was a pre-existing fabric of ground-staked claims. Too complicated to go into detail but suffice to say that it has been a complicated process that will be ongoing for many years to come before things get sorted out.

Someone is bound to say that it will be different if it is done in Ontario – that we will have learned from Quebec's experience. If you believe that, you have forgotten how well ERLIS worked, how well CLAIMS works and how great ERMES is. We keep digging ourselves deeper into technolock by not doing the job right in the first place and trying to patch up a bad foundation with chewing gum. ERLIS data is NFG and until it is repaired and updated, ERMES will never be any good. With a track record like this, do we have faith that MNDM will do any better with a map staking exercise – I am sorry to say that I think not.

As if this were not argument enough, also consider the following older arguments.

1-Map staking gives the larger players an advantage over the "little guy". In one

swipe of a pen, a cheque can be written (or cheques if there is a “limit” on the number of claims – employees have been used for this before) to cover a huge area, eliminating the opportunity for healthy competition. You cannot have 10 companies working an area if one greedy gut scoops all the ground and only works a small part of it. ( Nova Scotia and Quebec Eastern Townships were almost totally staked by single parties when map staking was implemented)

Consider the present gold company mergers and a scenario of rapidly rising gold prices. Would it be unreasonable to assume that one of these supercorporations would consider map staking every square inch of prospective ground in order to keep their competitors out and to have the exclusive right to explore? These guys are getting so big that they could write a really big cheque – like millions at once if the stakes got high enough. Are we willing to open that possibility up for them? (See Nova Scotia – Eastern Townships above if you doubt this would happen)

We will be told that we should try it out in Southern Ontario or FN (far north) areas first because we do not want to rile up the locals by blazing lines and erecting posts. In theory this sounds okay and even I might go for it if I had faith that it would not spread like it did in Quebec (notwithstanding second paragraph argument above). Even if we were to avoid the initial step of staking, there is always the matter of performing work on the ground that will come up eventually anyway – map staking is no escape from conflicts with other stakeholders.

Some will say ground staking is a waste of money but when it is all figured out, the map staking fees plus the time it takes to locate boundaries is probably more than the cost of ground staking. The added

benefit of ground staking is that someone gets to walk the ground and, especially if they have a direct interest (prospector), they get to bang rocks and take samples if they see fit. No one saves money with map staking unless it is in a remote, helicopter access area and they are only staking on spec. GPS, as handy as it might be, cannot replace a marked boundary and does not avoid the need for same.

The crux of the matter is that we have an imperfect system that still works very well despite centralization of recordings in Sudbury. It has given everyone, large and small, a chance to take part in ground acquisition at a fairly even level. If you have doubts about who will really benefit, look at the proponents of the idea – the bureaucracy in Sudbury and some of the largest corporations. Nuff said.

The “Regional Land Use Geologist Program” (RLUG) ....a year (and a bit) later.

**Some of you might recall the cautions and concerns that we raised soon after this program was put in place.....we were very much concerned that the position would make provision for MNDM “land cops” etc. Those concerns weren’t entirely unfounded as reflected from/in the original job specs. We are (very) happy to provide the following progress report based on approx. 15 months of operation. If you think that tells you it’s gonna be a good news story, you got it right !**

**The need for RLUG’s was first expressed several years ago and again when the first big round of cuts came to the R.G. program. The OGS client base told the bureaucrats in no uncertain terms that**

the RG's place was primarily in the field. Representing mineral development in land use planning and other issue driven situations was equally important but not at the expense of losing RG's field presence. The latter was not a matter of representing the 'industry' as much as it was representing the 'Mining Act' in those kinds of situations. In that light it was important to have MNDM at the 'tables' along with industry.

The Lands for Life later reiterated the need for this kind of representation and so did your humble scribe in his FMP Problem Solving Report to the Minister in 2000.

Not that we should be so naïve as to think that we were (partly) responsible for this positive action but it is nice to at least think you're important once in a while. Reminds me of the time a media interviewer asked Poppa NWOPA why he kept 'fighting' the big fight in spite of it all (the *Green factor etc*) and I answered with one word, 'Ego'. The guy's response was "well at least you're honest" and I hastened to add "yeah, to me being egotistical means getting personal satisfaction from a WIN that you were partly if not totally responsible for " ....floored the guy right there. Love them Wins, no matter how big or small ! We digress.....

The *people* involved in any project are what makes it to a large degree, good or bad. In this case we have 3 people, each responsible for a part of the province that has 'special' needs. We can certainly vouch for the fact that Bram Drost has been especially good with respect to the special needs of the NW. From what we know about Dave Rowell (Southern Ontario) he's keeping up the image just fine. As for the other guy (Gord Yule in the

NorthEast) we're not sure, never hear about what the guy's up to but you can bet that the boys in the NE are watching him. Nice guys all three and better choices I don't think could have been made.

The list of accomplishments relating to the RLUG program province wide are impressive, believe me. Check the 2001 Report of Activities (MNDM) for details. Hearing comments from MNR management suggesting that "creating the RLUG program was the best thing MNDM ever did" and "that fellow Drost was a fine pick for the (rlug) position" only add to the positive nature of the whole shitteroo.

Unfortunately with everything good comes some bad.....the budget for this program is appallingly short of what it should be to the point that it gives the appearance of being a token effort ! Given the importance of the tasks at hand and the impressive track record of accomplishment of the program (the 3 amigos) in a little better than 1 year, a much higher 'operating budget' is justified. To my mind it is simply unacceptable to not recognize this need and all stops need to be pulled with regards to impressing the highest levels of the bureaucracy (and politicians) of this need. Ordinarily I would tackle the lower level bureaucrats and hang this on them but after having worked closely with guys like Hial Newsome etc. I understand better where the problem really lies. He needs our help as well.

As it stands currently I would suggest that he program is over-managed to begin with.....too many bureaucrats ! I wonder if the 'lady' manager is really necessary. The 3 amigos seem to be able to work quite well together thank you very much. They understand their respective roles well and also understand who the 'boss' is and who and what they are ac-

**countable to and for. We have already witnessed on a number of occasions where the junior manager has attended and represented the program ‘alone’, or with one of the amigos, at different Ministry and Industry events resulting in much industry chagrin and ignorance. As we said earlier, these guys represent areas that have special needs/issues and it is extremely important for the respective constituents to both be aware of the program and also be able to relate directly to the RLUGs. If there is such a need to manage these guys let them take turns, managing their own group (themselves). If the cost associated with the ‘junior’ manager was put into the delivery of the RLUG program it would go a long way towards making their budget more realistic I’m sure.**

**We expect to see EACH of the RLUGs at such important gatherings of huge numbers of MNDM interested ‘clients’ as the PDAC ! Not a manager and 1 or 2 grunts.....all 3 Amigos !!!!!!! I think it’s safe to say that MNDM (and others) will hear *lots of noise* if it doesn’t happen, bigger budget and all !**

**Poppa Emeritus has spoken**

.....

**Comments on Surface Rights Overlying Mineral Rights  
Re: Recent CBC Radio Morning Interviews**

Recently there has been public concern regarding the demarcation of mining claim boundaries and the rights of pre-existing land holders. I think that it is essential to recognize that these issues are not new. Their existence has been acknowledged in the Mining Act as well as in Commissioner Cases and consideration for damages to landowners has been given where deemed appropriate.

The acquisition of crown mineral rights

is addressed in the Mining Act and Regulations by a process that has been developed in this province over a century and continues to be modified with the times. This process is fair to all including surface right owners who are free to claim the mineral rights of their lands as well. In addition, where warranted, mining leases may be acquired and these maintained by paying the province appropriate fees.

The recent press comments expressing surprise at the process is both disconcerting and naïve. The allocation of mineral rights are clearly shown on claim maps and the rights of the surface rights holder and their rights to the underlying mineral rights are clearly defined in their deed, available for public viewing at the land registry office. If some landowners have been misinformed of their ownership at the time of their acquisition they may wish to consider legal action against the party who misinformed them.

The mineral wealth of this province is an extremely important component in the economy of both the province and country and continues to employ a large segment of the population both in primary and secondary related industry. As long as minerals are used by the population, the ability to explore for these commodities should be considered a necessity to maintain this industry vibrant.

A process of expropriation is acknowledged for municipalities and others to acquire private lands. The reason for these expropriations may be of a significant value less than that of a productive mine.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to visit an operating oil drilling operation right in the middle of an active mall parking lot in downtown Houston Texas USA. The drill operated day and night with the drill cuttings and excess drill mud being removed from collector tanks in the early morning hours. During business hours the surrounding parking lot was clean and open for parking. I was even told of drill operations that had been undertaken amongst high-rise buildings with a building façade being constructed to avoid a visible public concern.

In northern Ontario there exist numerous underground workings which exist beneath many businesses and homes with no ill effect at all to the surface. Although mistakes in the distant past are acknowledged, with the current stringent

regulations now in effect, mines can operate safely with little or no adverse effects to surface rights holders, in many ways more safer and quieter than municipal underground subway systems.

It is important to recognize the public value of mining and to maximize the area available for exploration so that we can produce these commodities at reasonable value both for industry and the general public.

It is also important that surface rights land owners be aware of their land ownership rights. Claim stakers can also minimize disturbance to these surface rights by appropriate demarcation using flagging, loose and witness posts as outlined in the current Mining Act and Regulations.

Bob Komarechka,  
Director, OPA  
Sudbury Prospectors and Developers Association

**. Request for Information/Call For Data SSB#  
026640**

**Operation Treasure Hunt- Proprietary  
Airborne Geophysical Data Purchase**

Operation Treasure Hunt (OTH) is an initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM or the Crown) to stimulate the minerals industry by sponsoring geoscience surveys that will generate exploration targets.

All proprietary data acquired by the Crown will be made public without warranty, "as-is", without any reprocessing.

In August 1999, Paterson, Grant & Watson Limited (PGW) was retained by MNDM to provide Geophysicist Project Management and quality assurance – quality control inspection services for the airborne geophysical survey component of OTH. One of PGW's roles as the OTH Geophysicist is to seek out, and recommend for purchase by MNDM, proprietary airborne geophysical data that would complement the acquisition of new data being undertaken by OTH. This Call For Data constitutes the formal process by which MNDM will solicit, evaluate, value, and possibly acquire additional proprietary airborne geophysical data sets during the month of March 2002.

The Crown will select surveys to purchase on the basis of a ranking scheme that considers geographic, technical, and quality factors and available budget.

Document packages are only available through the electronic tendering service MERX. No copies will be available through any Ministry office or individual. MERX may be contacted at telephone 1-800-964-6379. Their e-mail address is [www.MERX.bmo.com](http://www.MERX.bmo.com)

When requesting the document from MERX, quote MERX Transmittal Number **57307** and the Ministry solicitation number SSB-026640.

Proponents who intend to respond to this opportunity are requested not to cancel the receipt of addenda or amendments, since they must obtain through MERX all the information documents that are issued through MERX.

**In the event that a Proponent chooses to cancel the receipt of addenda or amendments, their subsequent submission may be rejected.**

For technical Inquiries related to their data sets or the ranking and valuation scheme for this project, please contact Stephen Reford, OTH Geophysicist, co/ Paterson, Grant & Watson Limited at telephone 416-368-2888. For administrative queries please call John Lariviere, Procurement Section, Shared Services Bureau at 705-945-5711. For information about the proprietary data project, the Geophysical Atlas, priority areas, OGS Airborne Geophysical Program Inquiries, please contact: Jonathan Rudd, Geophysicist, Precambrian Geoscience Section, Ontario Geological Survey @ 705-670-5997.

No remuneration will be given by the Ministry for any costs incurred in the preparation of a contractor's submission. All bid responses for this tender should be received prior to the closing date and time of, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002- 14:00 hrs. (2:00PM) local Sault Ste Marie time.

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## MEMO

DATE: 12 February 2001 FROM: Frank P. Tagliamonte  
TO: Ontario Prospectors Association & Affiliates .... Attention: Gary Clark, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Nipissing Local Citizens Committee meetings .... Mineral Exploration Issues ....

The following concern was raised at the 22 November 2001 meeting which I did not attend. An abstract from the minutes reads :

*Lloyd Anderson expressed concern with the flagging used in mining exploration. The flagging can be very visible from recreational areas such as campsites, lakes and rivers. The mining sector should be asked to use less flagging or less visible flagging in recreational areas and where aesthetics are important.*

This concern was briefly discussed at the 10 January 2002 meeting. An abstract from the minutes reads:

- *Frank Tagliamonte addressed the concern regarding the amount of flagging tape being used for exploration/staking projects, especially what is visible from access roads, trails, canoe routes etc.;*
- *Frank will consult with mining industry folks on controlled use of tape with respect to recreational areas;*
- *Jon Cutter raised a few questions regarding logging activities/ mining claims .... Grid Patterns - if the grid has been used they probably wouldn't care if the forest company goes and cuts; Forest licensee should preserve corners but grids are not as crucial;*
- *Frank advised that if a licensee has contacted the claim person and not received a response, to go ahead with harvesting.*

These are the salient concerns expressed. In addition to the above it should be noted that it was suggested that the marking of claim boundaries and claim corners has to comply with the provisions of the Mining Act. Notwithstanding this, some cooperative initiatives should and can be considered by mining industry personnel to allay the concerns of other landscape users by initiating creative procedures which can be used and which do not conflict with the objectives of boundary definition.

With reference to Grids and in addition to what has been articulated above, it was suggested that a liaison between the forestry operator and the claim holder prior to harvesting operations would be a desirable approach to resolving the problem of harvesting in areas where there are established grids. For example: a cooperative procedure could be negotiated whereby certain key markers on the grid could be preserved so that it could easily be reestablished once forestry operations have been concluded.

These issues are important enough to merit some internal discussion covering aspects of the subject that may not have been addressed by me. Feed-back is solicited.

More importantly, this is an opportunity to demonstrate that this industry, the mining industry, is responsible, responsive and innovative and can work with other stakeholders to reach accommodations that serve the interests of all who depend on access to Ontario's landscape.

It is to be recognized that the international and domestic environmental lobby and their sympathizers have been demeaning the mining industry as a matter of general principal for several years now. Mostly as a kick them when they are down strategy. Perhaps we can seize this opportunities to demonstrate that their criticisms have dubious merit and are not reflecting modern mining best practices policies. It is possible they may be made to look even more ridiculous than they already are once these policies are more generally known and regularly implemented.

Copies of "Mining Industry Best Practices" should be made available to me so copies may be distributed to local members of the Nipissing Local Citizens Committee for their reference and information base.

Frank P. Tagliamonte, p.eng