

News views and opinions on the mineral exploration scene in Ontario

March 2002 Issue

Date: April 2002

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. 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.

NE AND NW SYMPOSIA ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The organizers of the NE and NW symposia deserve congratulations and a pat on the back for producing smooth running informative shows that presented the exploration highlights of the past year. The OPSEU strike did play a part in removing the delivery of some of the recent geoscience programs but the industry explorers filled the gap with great talks and excellent displays.

In the NW the talks by Bob Middleton on the Nipigon area and the exploration highlights of Northwestern Ontario were excellent and showed the variety of commodities being explored for and the success to date. The displays were, as usual informative and well thought out. The NW also was the host of an Industry/First Nations/Government workshop on Partnering For Success. This workshop was organized by D'Silva Parker Associates and supported by the OPA and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. The success of this event is expressed in an email we received:

"Just a note to let you know that Mark Hall and I really enjoyed the get together in Thunder Bay last week. Thanks for your efforts and I can tell you that it was a real (and unexpected) bonus to meet the people from Bear-

*skin Lake. I have a tentative meeting set up for mid - June, in order to get to know them better and to discuss points for an MOU. I'm optimistic, I must say. I will try to look you up next time that I'm through Thunder Bay.
Best regards, Doug Hunter*

In the NE, I personally was impressed by Gerald Riverin's keynote address on the Risks and Rewards of VMS Exploration, Scott MacLean's review of the North Rim Nickel/Copper Discovery and the fact that Kinross and Placer are forming a JV to take advantage of each others property wealth in Timmins. The Timmins show was well balanced highlighting gold, Copper-Nickel, Diamonds and Industrial Minerals.

Both events were upbeat and presented the wide range of commodities the prospectors and explorers of the province are exploring. Pam Sangster presented at both events and raised eyebrows with her presentation of the value of mining in Southern Ontario (>\$ 2.0 billion) that equates to >35% of the value of Provincial Mining. The content of the talk is something we need to get out to the Southerners so they see they are also part of the Mining sequence and that it isn't only in the north.

The newly appointed Minister, the Honourable Jim Wilson made time 3 days into his



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

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mandate to attend the Timmins event. The Minister walked through the posters/booth displays, meet with the PPDA/NPA/OPA representatives and attended a presentation by Bill McGuinty. We compliment the Minister for getting into the mix early and look forward to a productive working relationship with him.

PA Annual General Meeting 2002

The Annual General Meeting was held in Thunder Bay prior to the NW Symposium. Approximately 40 members attended in person. The OPA Auditor presented the Audited Financial Statements for 2000 and 2001, the Directors-at-Large were elected and some general business was conducted. The AGM minutes are presented on the Website.

Appointed Directors

Roger Dufresne, Prospector Northern Prospectors Association

Garfield Pinkerton, Prospector Northern Prospectors Association

Dave Hunt, Geologist N. W. Ontario Prospectors Association

Tom Trelinski, Prospector N. W. Ontario Prospectors Association

Andrew Tims, Geologist Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association

Bill Waychison, Geologist Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association

Vivienne Côté, Prospector Sault and District Prospectors Association

Ted Shellhorne, Prospector Sault and District Prospectors Association

Fred Swanson, Geologist Southern Ontario Prospectors Association

Andrea Rae, Geologist Southern Ontario Prospectors Association

Bob Komarechka, Geologist Sudbury Prospectors & Developers Association

Roger Poulin, Geologist Sudbury Prospectors & Developers Association

Neil Westoll, Geologist Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario

Patrick Reid, President Ontario Mining Association

Andy Chater, Geologist Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada

Directors at large

Tor Jensen, Financial Advisor

Wally Rayner, Geologist

Frank Tagliamonte, Geologist

One important business item discussed was the Map Staking issue. A lively discussion ensued with the introduction of the topic. At the end of the discussion the motion put to the meeting was voted on.

The Motion placed was by Steve Stares and stated:

That the OPA oppose map staking.

Seconded by Mike Stares.

The resultant vote by a show of right hands was:

In favour 21

Opposed 2

Abstentions 5 (Garry Clark, Wally Rayner, Vivienne Côté, Ken Tylee and Patrick Reid)

New Minister of Northern Development and Mines - The Honourable Jim Wilson

MPP, Simcoe Grey

Jim Wilson has been active in politics all of his life. During university and upon graduation, he was an assistant to former Ontario Management Board Chair George McCague. Federally, he was Special Assistant to Perrin Beatty in both the National

(Continued on page 3)

Defence and Health and Welfare portfolios.

Raised and educated in Alliston, Ontario, Mr. Wilson studied political science and Christian studies at the University of Toronto where he also served on the university's Governing Council.

He was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as the member for Simcoe-West in September, 1990. When he was returned in 1995 to the new riding of Simcoe-Grey, he was appointed to cabinet as Minister of Health. In October of 1997, Premier Mike Harris assigned Mr. Wilson to the newly-formed Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology. He was returned to that position after his re-election in June, 1999.

Mr. Wilson is probably best known for having begun and implemented Ontario's health care reform process while he was Minister, and more recently, for championing electricity competition as sponsor of the government's Energy Competition Act. He is the first Ontario Cabinet Minister to have been given specific responsibility for Science and Technology, where his role is to keep the province on the leading edge of technological and scientific advancement.

Minister Wilson is a member of three Cabinet committees. He sits on the Economic and Resource Policy Committee, the Privatization and Super-build Committee, and the Environment Committee.

The following comment is against map staking in the province of Ontario.

I realize I missed the April 4 deadline but I will forward the following comment anyway because I believe it represents a large group of prospectors that have been overlooked with regards to what they spend in

the arguments for and against map staking and also the significant dollars that they generate pursuant to option agreements.

If someone completes a survey of how many properties private prospectors have optioned to junior mining companies and how many millions of dollars they have generated because of their prospecting efforts I think the numbers would knock the socks off the sceptics including those politicians who are marginal at best in their support of mining.

There are several comments in the most recent Explorationist Newsletter relative to putting stakers and prospectors out of work but there is no mention of how much those prospectors and stakers spend on each block staked as an argument emphasizing the importance of their contributions. What the little guy spends and discovers weighs heavily against restricting his efforts by introducing map staking.

I am a grass roots independent prospector and I feel it is important that I show just how much I contribute out of my pocket to the economy of my province. I don't want decision makers to think that all there is to lose by converting to map staking is the employment offered to claim stakers.

I stake for myself and explore my properties and If I find sufficient mineralization I try to option the properties off as opposed to others in the field who stake for wages or on a contract basis as often mentioned in the arguments for and against map staking.

An average day staking for myself would include the staking of about 8 units. My costs for staking of these 8 units averages out to be approximately **\$450** and this cost is based on the following:

The cost of purchasing a 4x4 pickup,

snowmachine, all terrain vehicle, boat and motor, chainsaw and related insurance, licensing and maintenance would be approximately \$200 per outing. Average distance travelled each time out approx 70 miles each way or 225 kilometres round trip for a fuel cost of \$40 and meals for myself total approximately \$20 for a total travel cost of \$260 per day. The costs would be significantly more if I rented. These costs can be added to either prospecting or staking as outlined below.

Prior to staking I make at least two trips to South Porcupine to the MNDM office to research the files and purchase maps at 30 kilometres return for a cost of \$15.00.

Equipment purchases required to stake include Snowshoes, winter and summer clothing including expensive boots, rainsuit etc. compass, G.P.S. unit, Personal computer, various types of maps, flagging tape, recording fees, axe, corner tags, line tags, survival kit, satellite phone, nails, note book, special pencils, pens, scale rules, Firearm including training and refresher courses, aerial photographs, copies of reports etc. Average cost for a days work approximately \$125.

An average day prospecting either on the staked claims or in open ground in addition to travel as above includes the following costs: assays, hand lens, dynamite, fuses, electrical detonator, lead wire, rental of gasoline plugger and purchase of fuel, shipping costs of samples, safety glasses, pick, shovel, water pump rental, camera, film and developing, rental of geophysical instrumentation, chisels, hammers, picks etc. and other prospecting tools for a daily cost of approx. \$100. Stripping and trenching using heavy equipment is now out of my reach since the O.P.A..P program has been cancelled.

Once I discover mineralization I have to advertise and I use the computer to list the property internationally and to contact various companies around the world. I rent dis-

play booths at regional symposiums and attend the main show and tell in Toronto at the annual Prospectors and Developers Convention to show my samples as well as pay to list my properties in the classified section of the Northern Miner I also travel to various company exploration offices to show and tell. The related costs increase my daily prospecting costs by at least \$50

I also pay to belong to the Ontario Prospectors Association.

I am sure I have forgotten to include other things but even with the above I spend approximately **\$450** per day and I am not paid to do this, my payday comes only if I find something significant enough to close an option agreement. I believe there are hundreds of prospectors like myself who collectively spend a lot of money in total and I do not see that fact related to in the arguments pro and against map staking to date.

The above costs are for an average days staking or prospecting 8 units therefore the cost would be doubled or **\$900** for one large claim. These costs must be considered in the decision making process. This is an idea of what all of these independent and in a lot of cases old fashioned prospectors spend from one side of the province to the other! Thank goodness for these dedicated individuals for without them the provinces mining industry would be piddling at best.

Prospectors and stakers are driven to hard work as a result of the potential rewards offered and as a result have staked and prospected more ground than companies could ever afford in my view and I am sure this could be validated by simply researching the history files. I feel confident that by allowing the status quo to continue there is a greater chance of finding minerals and adding many more dollars to the economy than there would

be if company geologists were to map stake large tracts of land resulting in those lands quite possibly being under explored and kept in a stagnant condition . Staking rushes would also be eliminated along with the benefits in mega dollars to both nearby communities and the province.

Prospectors explore in the darndest places and when they make a discovery the companies are soon to follow.Red Lake, Hemlo , Kirkland Lake, Timmins and recently the Wawa Diamond rush and the enhanced Sudbury P.G.E.exploration activities are good examples. If the prospector is removed from the scene because of map staking the provinces mining industry is going to crawl along at a snails pace and the spin offs from the mining industry will follow suit.

I am afraid that map staking will hit us even If we do not want it, we do not have political backing as seen by the Living Legacy let down and the north is destined to suffer however I wanted to add a comment from one of many prospectors who do not appear to be represented relative to their monetary contributions in the arguments against map staking to date.

Garry Windsor (M-25212)
756 McClinton Drive
Timmins Ontario

MIKE'S TOP TEN ARGUMENTS AGAINST MAP STAKING

- 1 – IT WILL GIVE BUREAUCRATS TOO MUCH CONTROL OVER LAND ACQUISITION BY MAKING IT A PAPER/ COMPUTER PROCESS
- 2 – IT WILL ONLY DELAY THE INEVITABLE NEED TO MARK BOUNDARIES ON THE GROUND – THERE IS NO REAL COST SAVING
- 3 – IT WILL NOT ELIMINATE CON-

- FLICTS WITH SURFACE RIGHTS HOLDERS, ONLY DELAY THEM UNTIL WORK COMMENCES
- 4 – IT WILL DECREASE COMPETITION BY ALLOWING LARGE TRACTS OF LAND TO BE CLAIMED BY A SINGLE PARTY AT THE STROKE OF A PEN
- 5 – IT WILL CREATE NEW OVERLAP PROBLEMS OVER MISPLOTTED GROUND STAKED CLAIMS OR SIMULTANEOUS APPLICATIONS AS HAS HAPPENED IN QUEBEC (CAUSING 3 TO 4 MONTH RECORDING DELAY)
- 6 – IT WILL BECOME A NEW CASH COW FOR MNDM AT OUR EXPENSE
- 7 – IT WILL PREVENT PROSPECTORS FROM ACQUIRING GROUND INEXPENSIVELY FOR THE PRICE OF RECORDING PLUS THEIR LABOUR
- 8 – IT WILL ELIMINATE THE EQUALIZER OF HAVING TO BE IN THE BUSH TO ACQUIRE GROUND
- 9 – IT INVITES FRINGE PLAYERS TO SPECULATE FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WITHOUT EVER SETTING FOOT IN THE BUSH
- 10 – INCO WANTS IT

THE POTENTIAL OF WORKING WITH PPL TO CHANGE PRO- TECTED AREAS BOUNDARIES

Building Bridges By Monte Hummel

Today's conservation movement is largely urban-based – some would say too much so. As a result, many plans to protect wildlife habitat and species are typed out on computers in cities, but these plans only have meaning when they are actually played out on natural landscapes where rural, coastal and northern people live. If we're not careful, this can lead to "two solitudes" - one sector of society promot-

ing ideas that must be implemented in practical terms by an entirely different sector. WWF prides itself on being a bridge builder in this respect. That's why we have offices in Prince Rupert, Whitehorse, Halifax, Yellowknife, Iqaluit, Cuba and just now we're getting set up in Inuvik. That's why we try to be good "listeners," supporting conservation concerns that are championed by local communities, rather than simply arriving in town seeking support for what we want. In the end, if conservation measures are taken arbitrarily, despite strong objections from the very people who must deliver them, they will not last.

Modern conservation is about saving nature not just across protected lands and waters such as parks, but also across working lands and waters such as forests, farms and fishing grounds. In either case, we must work cooperatively with people whose livelihood depends on those lands and waters – Aboriginal people, private landowners, loggers, miners, guides, ranchers, outfitters, farmers, boat captains and commercial fishing interests. Obviously, they all should play a role in defining where and how their respective activities will take place.

April 4/02

WWF-Canada
Attention: Monte Hummel, President
245 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 410
Toronto On M4P 3J1

Dear Monte:

I just finished reading the Spring 2002 issue of "Working for Wildlife". What an excellent read! My wife and I have been members of the WWF for a number of years and continue to follow your continuing endeavours with much interest. (she's a better *Birder* [sees stranger birds] than you!)

In the past some folks may have perceived you and I as being on 'different' sides of fence re the protection of Natural values. I think you and I

both know that that is simply not true. On the contrary, I have the utmost respect for many of WWF's goals and objectives and are totally supportive of same.

When it comes to *working* and *protecting values* I think we are also very much on the same side. Your 'President's Message' in the Spring report was bang on! If that kind of spirit can prevail (on both sides) throughout the ongoing deliberations with the Ontario Prospectors Association re the principles and future application of areas of PSMP (Provincially Significant Mineral Potential), we will all win for sure.

Happy Headframes:

David E. Christianson, Director Emeritus

April 4, 2002

Mr. David E. Christianson
Director Emeritus
Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association
Dear Dave:

Thank you so much for your very statesman-like letter of April 4. I really appreciated it.

Needless to say, I agree with every word you wrote. And I want you to know that there is no sense of "victory over the bad guys" with respect to the recent decision by Ministers Newman and Snobelen regarding staking on untenured lands in the Living Legacy sites. On the contrary, the Partnership is absolutely committed to working collaboratively with Garry Clark and the OPA to now deal with pre-existing tenure fairly.

I don't know if anyone told you, but I took my "Keep mining in Canada" button into the discussions that we had with the OPA and PDAC, the very same button you gave me some years ago! I wear it

often, to assure people that I really would like to keep mining in Canada, but not just everywhere Dave.

Best regards,
Monte Hummel
President
World Wildlife Fund Canada

ANOTHER OPINION OF THE OLL PROBLEM

Hello Garry,

My name is John Hodgson and I am the CAO for the Municipality of Temagami. I just read your news and views article that came out in the February issue of THE EXPLORATIONIST. You noted correctly that the Province of Ontario, particularly the Ministry of Natural Resources, has broken promises in the Living Legacy process.

The Mining fraternity has to accept some of the blame when it comes to more land base being removed from mining. It was a mistake to walk away from the table during the early days of the Living Legacy process. I know and understand that it was distasteful to sit at the table knowing that the World Wildlife Fund and their colleagues were calling the shots.

Unfortunately this particular Provincial Government has handed over the North to the World Wildlife Fund to complete the Wildlands Project. Ontario and B.C. have both bought into this concept, and the people in the North of Ontario will be the biggest losers as the Project unfolds. Living Legacy and Conservation Reserves are just a small part of the bigger picture now being painted in the U.S. for us.

You just have to look at the Forest Accord to know that the Forest Industry sold out the North for cash. Their bottom line will look good but the communities and people who want to work in the resource industry will be the losers.

The Mining industry has to go on the offensive in a very public manner to get the message

out: American environmental organizations are making the land use decisions in Northern Ontario for the Province of Ontario. I think it is illegal for the Province to divest its authority, especially when dealing with mining rights, and I believe the Forest Accord is also illegal. The Province does not have the authority to transfer its mandate to groups like the World Wildlife Fund, or the Planning Partnership.

Surely you have access to a legal firm that could explore this situation.

I sensed your tiredness in the closing remarks in your article and understand fully. I have been the CAO in the Municipality of Temagami for ten years and have argued, demanded and begged successive Ministry representatives from land clerks to Ministers to stop this nonsense. I am not giving up don't you.

John Hodgson

THE ISSUE OF STAKING IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Group issues warning (Perth Courier)

Cautions that staking of mineral claims in townships could affect Perth

By Maureen Pegg

Perth councillors voted last Tuesday in favour of providing moral support to a group of people who are seeking to pressure the province to update the provincial mining act.

At a town council meeting held late last month, councillors were briefed on the impact on the town if properties in surrounding townships are mined for graphite.

The presentation was made by two representatives of the Citizens Mining Action Group which was formed in January.

Members of the group had discovered that their properties in Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke township had been staked by a mining company.

At the committee of the whole meeting held last Tuesday, councillors voted in favour of supporting the group, but stopped short of assigning a councillor to the committee.

“We would support them in their efforts to have the mining act changed, but we will not have a council representative on the committee,” Mayor Lana March said. “We already have enough committees to cover.”

Graphite Mountain Inc. has staked in excess of 100 mining claims in BBS and South Frontenac townships.

In the Perth area alone, 22 claims have been made on cottage and residential properties in the Black Lake, Pike Lake, Long Lake and Otty Lake areas.

The company has staked claims on Rideau Valley Conservation Authority lands and property traversed by the Rideau Trail.

“We take exception to the trespassing, which the prospectors can do legally,” explained Lorne Rodenbush, who is vice-chair of the citizens’ committee. “They can go on an owner’s property without permission.

“Once a mining company decides to look for ore, it needs only to give 24 hours’ notice. Land-owners would be compensated, but only for damage to their land.

“Eventually they can dig trenches, and big roads, drain lakes. That would have a negative effect on wildlife and tourism.”

He pointed out that Perth residents should be concerned because of the negative impact caused by convoys of trucks loaded with ore travelling down the Scotch Line and to a processing plant on the Rideau Ferry Road owned by a sister company of Graphite Mountain. Property values would decline, he said, meaning that BBS would lose assessment revenue and consequently would have less money to contribute to joint funding projects such as Conlon Farm and the library.

Maureen Towaij, who is chairing the group, prefaced her remarks by pointing out committee members understand that mining is an important industry in Canada, but some things in the act need to be changed.

“We are looking for a moratorium to all graphite mining in BBS and South Frontenac,” Ms. Towaij explained. “We’d like to see the act changed to give rights to property owners.”

The group hopes to pressure the provincial government to change the Ontario Mining Act, which was formulated in the late 1880s. It wants to work towards “levelling the playing field between landowners and mining companies,” Ms. Towaij said.

The action committee has contacted cottage associations in the area to alert them that mining claims have been staked in the area.

The action group says many property owners have filed a dispute against the mining company. The deadline to do so was March 27. Graphite Mountain Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Diamond Lake Minerals of Utah.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO ME FROM THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER OF THE MINISTERS MINING ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Gammon,

I have recently had the pleasure of meeting a group of people who collectively call themselves the Bedford Mining Alert (BMA). I have asked, and been told by the BMA that you are a person in authority on the topic of this letter at the Government of Ontario, and so I am writing to you today.

My family (myself, my wife and two young children) has been looking for a modest seasonal cottage property in the Land O'Lakes area partially covered by Bedford township. We have found a small property for sale on Crow Lake (adjacent to Bobs Lake) that we want to put an offer on. After reading an article in the Ottawa Citizen a while ago I discovered an innocuous looking warning to potential purchasers of cottage property of the threat posed by mining interests in Ottawa's prime cottage country areas of Eastern Ontario.

This caused me to begin an internet search for more information related to the rights of property owners with respect to mining interests. It was during my search on the internet for additional information on this topic that I

ran across the BMA group. I very much appreciated the information on the BMA website and several other non-government websites. I was unable to find much information from the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines that discussed the rights of property owners.

What I have discovered in my search for information on this threat is truly frightening and will quite possibly cause us to look elsewhere in Ontario (or Quebec) for cottage property. This is unfortunate because we consider the many fine lakes in the Bedford area to be prime cottage country for the city of Ottawa on a par with the Rideau

Lakes Region. What I discovered of course is the topic of mineral rights, surface rights only (SRO), staking on SRO property etc. In more than one article I have read on the web, land-owners have referred to the situation as a nightmare. I am sure that you are quite a lot more knowledgeable than I am on this topic Mr. Gammon - and I do not wish to discuss the nuances of the subject.

Mr. Gammon, my two simple questions are these:

1. Why should my family risk (financially and emotionally) purchasing a cottage property on Crow Lake when there is the very real threat of a mine being created on the SRO land next door possibly only 100 meters away?

2. Why do the tax paying residents of the prime cottage country region of Eastern Ontario known as the Land O'Lakes region come under this kind of intimidation and seeming perpetual threat from the mining sector? Surely this kind of arrangement is more suitable for sparsely populated northern regions of Ontario and not prime cottage country? Unfortunately I am quite ignorant of geology. Is there some type of valuable mineral available only in this region?

As an aside, and in contrast, I note from the MNDM website that the residents of the Muskoka district from Toronto do not seem to be exposed to this risk. Is this region exempt for some reason?

I would appreciate a response to my questions Mr. Gammon. Please don't send me a form letter response. Your answers may help my family decide whether or not to proceed with the offer on the Crow Lake property and maybe any property in this region. Our dream was not to buy a little nightmare.

If you think my questions would be best directed at someone else within your ministry, please let me know whom that might be.

I will send a copy this email to the Bedford Mining Alert group. They may be interested in this also.

Best Regards,

D. Scott Whitmore P. Eng.

THE OPA WEBSITE HAS BECOME A VERY BUSY SITE. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THERE IS A SECTION FOR POSTING YOUR PROPERTIES FOR OPTION. *THIS SERVICE IS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS*. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS A WORD DOCUMENT THAT CAN BE PLACED DIRECTLY ON THE SITE.

Website visitors divided per weekday:

2002-04-02: 71
2002-04-03: 46
2002-04-04: 52
2002-04-05: 54
2002-04-06: 8
2002-04-07: 13
2002-04-08: 52
2002-04-09: 43
2002-04-10: 28
2002-04-11: 32
2002-04-12: 26
2002-04-13: 14
2002-04-14: 24
2002-04-15: 40

IN NAME ONLY

Welcome Minister Wilson to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. This portfolio will test your ability to institute practical and reasonable policies while weathering inter-ministry politics and other influences outside of your control. Some of your predecessors have been successful in this balancing act while others are not worth mentioning at all.

The title of your new ministry is the main source of conflict with current government policy. "Northern Development" suggests the goal of your portfolio is to encourage the economic prosperity of northern communities. The latest census data reveals that government policy to date is lacking in this endeavour as most northern communities have seen a 3-14% decrease in population. The second half of your ministry's title uses the term "Mines" to cover a wide range of responsibilities from administering the Mining Act to the activities of the Ontario Geological Survey. Regardless of the attempts by local governments to diversify their northern economies these communities still rely the resources-based industries as their major employers and revenue sources.

The future economic health of most northern communities is being threatened by the continual erosion of the technical expertise of the provincial geological survey, the elimination of all mineral exploration incentives and the expropriation and alienation of crown land. In simple terms the Ontario Treasure Hunt funding the Ontario Geological Survey has been utilizing over the last three years should be the normal operational funding level and not the exception. The surveys carried out through OTH funding have succeeded in initiating staking rushes and have encouraged the return of junior

mining companies to Ontario. What is the rationale in reducing the OGS staffing levels to that of housekeeping duties?

The foundation of any exploration program involves prospecting. This grass-roots work is generally unrewarding and a costly venture but lays down the basics required to discover a new mine. Ontario is the only province, other than Prince Edward Island, that does not provide an incentive to the prospecting community as a means to keep a healthy mining industry. The lack of an incentive infers the government does not desire the new wealth generated by the mining industry in Ontario. Finally land access is the lifeblood of northern resources-based communities. The imposition of 378 Ontario Living Legacy sites expropriating 12% of the land mass has affected a large number of mining claims holders. The parked claims holders are now unable to promote their properties and the value the investments in the property has been lost.

The Porcupine Mining Camp is being threatened by this policy of unilateral land expropriation. On one front an Ontario Living Legacy river park threatens the Montcalm Nickel project operated by Falconbridge Limited. The potential \$600 million injection into the Timmins economy over a 7-yr period is in peril due to a 200 m wide park about the Groundhog River – a river which meets the Ministry of the Environment requirements for the discharge of treated waters from Montcalm Project site.

All of the gold mines in Timmins occur within six kilometres of an ancient fault – the Destor Porcupine Fault Zone. This 6 kilometre wide corridor from west of Timmins to the Quebec border produced over 70 million ounces of gold from numerous mines over the last 95 years.

Again it is obvious that the economy of the north is of little importance to previous policy makers as there are two large Ontario Living Legacy sites within this six-kilometre corridor immediately west of Timmins. The largest of these two sites, the Tatachikapika River Plain Conservation Reserve (Denton and Thorneloe Twps), were the site of a major gold rush with exploration work injecting of a minimum 6 to 10 million dollars into the local economy. The work that was completed on those parked claims is now valueless as a recent policy change by the previous Minister of MNDM has deemed that high potential area un-touchable.

So, Minister Wilson you enter into a portfolio where the goals of your ministry are at odds with the past actions of the government. We wish you all the luck and support in your tricky balancing act.

Program Director

Lake Nipigon Region Geoscience Program

The Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) seeks a professional to manage the development and delivery of the Lake Nipigon Geoscience Initiative, in support of the mineral sector in the Lake Nipigon Region.

Reporting to the Chair of the Management Committee for the Lake Nipigon Region Geoscience Initiative, who represents the OPA, the Program Director negotiates and manages contracts and provides leadership and coordination of activities related to finance and administration, project management, technical and stakeholder meetings, and communication and publication. The Initiative and the position is funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

Based out of the OPA head office in Thun-

der Bay, the position requires periodic travel throughout the region and between Thunder Bay and Sudbury or Toronto.

The successful candidate will have the following minimum qualifications:

- Strong geological background in exploration, research and reporting
- Integrated project and fiscal management experience
- Written and oral communication and presentation skills
- Computer literacy specifically using Microsoft Office
- Contract negotiation, preparation and management experience
- Team leadership of private sector, university and government technical and management personnel
- B.A or B.Sc. degree in geology or closely related field
- Eligibility to become a Professional Geologist in Ontario.

This is a contract position that terminates in December 2003. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Interested candidates should apply by May 24 to:

Mail: Ontario Prospectors Association
1000 Alloy Drive,
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 6G5
ATTN: G. Clark

Fax: 807-622-4156

Email: gclark@ontarioprospectors.com

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