

News views and opinions on the mineral exploration scene in Ontario

October 2002 Issue

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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.

PROTECTED AREAS

This topic is always something that puts explorers on the defensive. Until OLL we seemed to lose small areas to explore (not counting Wabikimi) that didn't affect the entire community. OLL changed that, one large swipe and we were all affected and pissed off. The adjoining article explains about the battle in the 1980's. Not much seems to change over time! In reviewing the last few years I see some great ideas that came from the Round tables that were either ignored or twisted to a point that made them not functional. I spent a large amount of time talking to mining land holders that are affected and have watched the MNR twist on a rope on some of the issues. In anticipation for the lands to revert to the crown the Forest Reserves were categorized as parks in waiting. Once the MNR realized that patents were 99% guaranteed not to be returned they were excluded from the proposed parks. Now we are in discussion with MNR to explain that leases are the same as patents in most ways and that leases are about 95% guaranteed not to become crown land again. If you want the conflict of "mining in parks", leases are probably going to flash point before staked claims. I have now spent enough time with other stake-

holders that I realize they have been burnt also. The pro Parks groups were sold a bill of goods that included all types of mining lands and now they see that some of these lands are never going to be a park. The 12% that was hailed as a victory by Parks groups has been whittled down a little with not much room to get back the areas. In other cases the area or life science to be protected isn't adequately protected due to the arbitrary shape of the park or the existence of patent land that negates the park.

I have started meetings with the Partnership for Public Lands (PPL) to disentangle the mining lands affected by the OLL sites. The meeting to date has been focused on tweaking boundaries to exclude claims and assessing the impact of the problem. One thing that has come from the exercise is that the maps are inconsistent with some claims being Forest reserve and some not. Some patents being included as park and most not. And park shapes that in some cases make no sense. A big problem that has occurred is the creation of long river parks that prevent explorers from crossing or putting and taking water. These river parks were set up during the behind closed doors sessions with the Forestry and PPL. At these sessions the Forestry companies



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

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were given the chance to request crossing areas that would preserve the economics of their industry. AS USUAL OUR INDUSTRY WAS NOT CONSULTED! This issue is already coming back to bite the north. The lack of access could place into jeopardy the \$700 million dollar investment by Falconbridge in the Timmins area. This investment would also see adaptations to the Kidd site that would allow processing of nickel ore. This would make it a more versatile facility. The jobs and dollars for the community and province are significant.

PDAC Digest, Winter 1986-1987
by Dennis H. Waddington

Since we as an industry last had to deal with the potential problems of wholesale land alienation due to creation of provincial parks in Ontario, a number of changes have taken place. (See "Modern mining in parks should be encouraged," *PDA Digest*, Autumn 1986.) In 1982-83 (thanks in large part to the input of the PDAC, individuals, and companies, in addition to OGS and resident geology staff within the government), the originally proposed expansion of the provincial park system by some five million hectares was cut to roughly two million hectares and the Ministry of Natural Resources gave its policy statement that reasonable, controlled, multiple use, including mineral exploration and extraction, would be allowed in 80% of the new park area.

Since 1983 we have seen a change in government in Ontario. The mines function has been separated from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the clout of the Mines people has been decreased from what it was when they were within Natural Resources, due to the resignation and non-replacement of their new minister. Furthermore, although many of us may not have noticed it, one of the original groups submitting proposals to the MNR in 1983, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, has continued to lobby for a much more restrictive parks policy. They have succeeded inasmuch as through their efforts and those

of the parks people within MNR the present Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Vince Kerrio, appears to have taken the position that his predecessor's policy was merely a statement by a former government, which the present government has no obligation to honour. He has now submitted the question of allowing mineral exploration in parks to Cabinet for review and possible cancellation. The fact that the exploration sector curtailed its strong opposition to the creation of the new parks as a result of the apparent accommodations for the benefit of the mining industry, as well as the province as a whole, may have no importance without reinforcement of our views. The Cabinet is *not* reviewing the general park concept – only exploration!

How did this happen to us? In our business, we are accustomed to dealing with agreements where once the terms are established and everything finalized, we can carry on with our business knowing nothing will be changed without our further consultation and agreement. It therefore comes as a shock to us when other parties to that initial understanding continue to negotiate against us behind our backs. We don't see the need for a continuous, high-profile lobby for public lands. We can't afford the time and money to monitor such things on an individual or corporate basis, except when we are personally and immediately involved in an area being affected. Just as importantly, we face, as in everything else we do, a constant need to explain to an uninformed MNR bureaucracy, as well as the public, just what we do and how we do it.

Presumably we as an industry are concerned about the withdrawal of two million hectares of prospective working space, some of which is currently of high mineral potential (and the rest of it – who knows?). It should be made clear that we employ modern, low-impact, non-disruptive techniques over large areas in order to concentrate our efforts into

(Continued on page 3)

small, easily controlled areas of higher interest and that this cycle often must be repeated several times. We need to emphasize the community benefit of both exploration and mining as a way of spreading and creating new wealth for Ontario. We need to point out the changeable nature of the economics of our business due to such factors as changing commodity emphasis, commodity prices, technology, ore-formation concepts, and infrastructure availability and costs. We need to let MNR know that we are always interested in what they do with the land of this province, whether or not we are based in the local community or currently hold claims in the affected area, as we seldom tell anyone where we are going next and we could be anywhere tomorrow.

The message may seem self-evident to us, but we are getting hurt because it is not understood. How do we get it across? If we don't get it to the Cabinet soon, the whole issue will be academic, so this is a good place to start letter-writing. When we get a questionnaire on a park proposal or policy, we should try to answer it because MNR often considers the absence of a reply as significant as a response. I have been told that one park in northwestern Ontario was recently formed with no exploration allowed, simply because none of the admittedly small number of exploration people whose opinion was solicited actually answered. The reason they didn't respond was that two of the three proposed alternative parks management plans allowed exploration with an Exploratory Licence of Occupation, so they felt the industry interests were protected.

We can share the load if there is always someone writing some response, even though the grander efforts may be saved for particularly obnoxious proposals. We can try to explain ourselves to the bureaucracy where it seems appropriate, as there are some who just don't know us or what modern mineral exploration and mining are all about. More importantly, we must also remember that we are often up against well-organized, emotional, full-time

lobby groups to whom logic and long-term economic benefit can at times seem to be of little interest, if not completely irrelevant. PDAC members should write to the Minister of Natural Resources and to MPPs to express their concerns. At least, send them a copy of this article.

PDAC member Dennis Waddington is employed as Senior Geologist by Canamax Resources Inc., in Toronto.

SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE: EDITOR

Sunday, August 18, 2002

The Ottawa Citizen

**Landowners fight claims on properties
U.S. Miner Stakes Claims to Mineral Rights in
Perth Area**

by: Siri Agrell

More than 40 people met in a Ma-berly community centre yesterday, digging for answers to 134-year-old mining problem.

Residents of Perth, Westport and Big Rideau Lake have been battling the consequences of the Ontario Mining Act, which dates back to 1868, since they discovered an American mining company had laid claims to minerals beneath the surface of their properties.

Diamond Lake Minerals, based in Salt Lake City, Utah, currently has more than 100 mining claims registered in South Frontenac Township and the neighbouring Township of Bathurst Burgess Sherbrooke. The claims have been made on private farms, cottages and homes.

"Twenty-five dollars, a piece of ID, and you too can be a miner", said Maureen Towaj, chairwoman of the Citizen's Mining Advisory Group, at their first general meeting.

Her words – and the Act's stipulation that property rights do not extend below the surface – were no laughing matter for angry residents who could see the ground literally ripped out from beneath their feet.

At yesterday's meeting, they signed a petition to the Ministry of Mines and Development and picked up tips on how to

change legislation that has the power to drastically alter their scenic neighbourhoods.

"There's a line buried in the act that might be helpful to you: it says that there can be harm to the property," said Mike Murphy, a public education officer with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. At the meeting, Mr. Murphy explained how the group can request a ministerial review of the Mining Act.

Since March alone, Diamond Lake Minerals has registered more than 40 mining claims near Perth.

And while cottagers and farmers are upset by what has been happening, the owner of the Graphite Mountain Inc., the Canadian subsidiary of Diamond Lake Mines, says he will continue staking claims until he's ready to start mining.

"They can get as upset as they damn well want, it's not my fault they don't own the mineral rights", David Houston told the Citizen in December. "If they have a problem with anything, it's with the Mining Act. They can take it up with the government."

That's just what the group plans to do.

The group believes the mines could do a lot of harm to their land, potentially decreasing property rights, leaching chemicals into well water and leaving ugly scars on their land.

"Would the provincial government let this happen in Muskoka?" asked Bob Hassard, who discovered his property on Otty Lake had been claimed when he found a stake on his property.

"Why would you put an open pit mine in the tourist area of Eastern Ontario?"

He envisioned a new ad campaign for the area if the mining begins: "If you love heavy machinery, noise and leaching chemicals, then you'll love the new Perth".

The Mining Act says that if a miner decides he wants to start developing the land - perhaps even build a mine - there is nothing the owner of the surface rights can do to prevent it. All he can get is

"compensation" from the Commissioner of Mines.

It is estimated there could be hundreds of thousands of homeowners in Ontario who do not own their mineral rights and don't even know it.

A reward for the group's efforts to have this legislation changed, they have been invited to meet with a policy adviser with the Ministry of Mining and Development.

"At the end of the day, this is a political process," said Lorne Rodenbush, the group's vice-chairman, who owns a 32-hectare parcel of land staked by the mining company.

"Fate made us neighbours, Graphite has made us friends and collective anger is making us a force to be reckoned with."

Timmins Council Urges Government to Develop a Provincial Mineral Policy Resolution states: 'No Exploration results in No New Mines'

Lydia Kapel/trueNorthNews.com
9/10/2002 12:09:22 PM

The City of Timmins plans to work with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ontario Prospectors Association to develop an acceptable framework for a Provincial Mineral Policy.

A resolution, read and passed during Monday's city council meeting, states that "the critical ingredient in developing new mines in the North is exploration."

Council believes that "the high mineral potential of the Abitibi region in North-eastern Ontario must be recognized and access to land in this region must be preserved."

The resolution also reads: "Whereas Ontario's current lack of a mineral policy has created a highly fragmented land fabric that, in most instances, absolutely pre-

cludes exploration due to inflexible boundaries drawn on paper."

Council has resolved to request the "Honourable Jim Wilson, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, to create an Abitibi Mineral Reserve where land use consideration and the needs of the mineral exploration and development community take priority in all future land use planning wherein guaranteed "Access to Land" will result in a pro-exploration Ontario Mineral Policy."

In an interview with trueNorthNews.com, Mayor Jamie Lim further explained that she meets with the Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association often and what they've been telling her is that current government policies regarding exploration are fragmented and too many roadblocks and bureaucracy impede mineral exploration in Northeastern Ontario.

"Mining companies will go elsewhere to explore if they can't get access to land and work permits in Northeastern Ontario," said Mayor Lim. "We can't afford opportunities like the Montcalm project to hit brick walls."

Lim also referred to the beliefs held by some people that there's no potential left for mining in the Timmins region. "What prospectors and developers have been telling me is that we're sitting on a treasure chest still waiting to be opened and there's still a lot of potential to explore the area," she said. "What we need is the government to form a mineral policy that encourages exploration. Current policies can make or break mining in Northern Ontario," stated Lim.

BRITTLE FAILURE OF EXCAVATIONS IN HIGHLY STRESSED, ROCKBURSTING GROUND
November 13 to 16, 2002

FEATURING:
Peter K. Kaiser
President, MIRARCO -- Mining Innovation

Chair for Rock Mechanics, Laurentian University

This short course will first build a foundation for design by developing a sound understanding of brittle rock and rock mass failure, addressing specific issues of rock characterization for tunnelling at depth, and then focus on stability assessment and support selection for excavations in massive to moderately jointed, competent rock.

Findings from a five-year rockburst research program and practical experiences from Canadian mines at great depth are integrated into the course. Application to complex underground structures will be demonstrated in Laurentian University's virtual reality mining exploratorium.

This course is intended for practicing engineers and geologists that are faced with the challenges of tunnelling at depth in hard, brittle rock. The content of the course will also be of value to those involved in the Geological characterization and design of underground excavations, stopes, hydropower caverns and repositories in massive rock.

Space is limited. Don't be disappointed, register early!

Cost: \$850 (incl. GST) for the three-day package, including software access, in-room computer services, materials, lunch and refreshments.

For more info visit <http://www.mirarco.org>

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Lake Nipigon Geoscience Initiative

The mineral industry has identified a number of profound technical and geological questions about the Lake Nipigon region. These questions about the region stand as impediments to the likelihood of discovering a mine in the Nipigon Plate. The two year study is critical to attract more mineral investment in the region, advance the next generation of mineral exploration, reduce exploration risk, enhance the likelihood for discover and increase the basis for immediate and future resource-based economic development in the region.

To achieve this goal the Ontario Prospectors Association has entered into an agreement with the North Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation to obtain financial assistance. Project financing is contingent on the Mineral Industry Partners, Communities, Ontario Geological Survey, Lakehead University and the Ontario Prospectors Association to provide in-kind support to the project in an aggregate amount of \$3,790,000 in services and supply of data sets.

The following letter is a call for Mineral Industry Partner support.

RE: Lake Nipigon Geoscience Initiative (LNGI), in-kind industry support

The prime objective of the LNGI is to acquire a better understanding of the bedrock geology, stratigraphy, igneous petrogenesis, regional tectonic controls and metallogeny of the Proterozoic sedimentary and igneous rock and Archean igneous rock of the Nipigon region through regional mapping and basin analysis.

To achieve this objective the LNGI is soliciting mineral exploration and mining companies for data sets that will help the Ontario Prospectors Association develop a multi-layered GIS product that will assist the mineral exploration sector in their efforts to evaluate the potential for nickel-copper, platinum-palladium and gold-copper mineralization in the region.

The key results of this initiative are as follows:

1. New, high-quality geological data are provided to meet industry needs and priorities
2. In the short-term, increase staking activity in response to the geological study
3. In the medium term, an increase in mineral investment in the area
4. In the long term, the mineral industry is able to explore more effectively within and beneath the cover rocks
5. Local and regional communities receive economic benefits of mineral exploration activities, and
6. Local, regional and Provincial communities receive benefits of development of potential ore bodies.

In order for the project to proceed, the Ontario Prospectors Association must demonstrate to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation that industry is supporting our initiative by providing in-kind support to the project by committing in writing the kind and the value of the data sets being supplied.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

ORE DEPOSITS AT DEPTH- Challenges and Opportunities

A Field Conference sponsored by the CIM – Geology Society and organized by the Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association

September 24th-25th, 2003, Timmins, Ontario, Canada

As mining progresses to depth in many of the world's established mining camps, new challenges are being posed for explorationists and engineers alike. These challenges must be addressed or mines will be forced to shut down prematurely, thus potentially leaving a vast amount of untapped mineral wealth at depth. This field conference will focus on the exploration and geotechnical problems associated

with exploring for and mining deep ore bodies and will lead to a broader understanding of advances in technology that now make this feasible.

Topics

The field conference will include both relevant field trips and technical sessions covering various aspects of exploration and mining-related challenges associated with deep ore deposits. The organizers will be soliciting papers for sessions dealing with: Geology; Geophysics; Deep Diamond Drilling; Economics and Engineering with a strong focus on geomechanical issues; Computer software developments as an aid to understanding deep ore bodies; Gases and fluids in deep drill holes: their origin, nature and how are they controlled, and their implications for safety, drilling and mine development.

Other Information, Please Contact;

Mr. Damien J. Duff, Manager of Geology, Falconbridge Limited, Timmins Region, P. O. Bag 2002, Timmins Ontario, Canada, P4N 7K1; Tel: (705) 267-8683, E-Mail; dduff@falconbridge.com

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Toll Free: 1-866-259-3727

Presentations

- Julie Selway, PreCambrian Geoscience Section OGS - An Overview of rare-element mineralized pegmatite and granites in Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario
- Damien Duff, Manager of Geology, Falconbridge Ltd. - Falconbridge Exploration Activity in the Timmins Region-An Update

- Ann Wilson, OGS Resident Geologist Program, South Porcupine - Wawa Diamond Exploration Targets - More pieces to the geological puzzle
- Rob Gordon, Quantec Geoscience - New Technology for focusing drill programs
- David Comba, Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada - PDAC's Efforts to get and keep access to money for exploration
- Peter Barnett, Sedimentary Geoscience Section OGS - A methodology for engineering geology terrain analysis within the Boreal Forest Region of the Canadian Shield
- Iain Allen, Geoscience Information Services - Collecting Field Geologic Data Digitally - It's Fast, Easy and Affordable
- Peter Thompson, Peter H. Thompson Geological Consulting - Metamorphism and Gold Exploration in Greenstone Belts from Yellowknife to Abitibi
- Blaine Webster, Goldeye Explorations Limited - A New Gold Discovery at Tyrrell Township, NE Ontario
- Gerhard Meyer, OGS Resident Geologist Program, Kirkland Lake - Exploration Highlights in Northeastern Ontario
- Derek McBride - The Limerick Prospect: A Significant Copper-Nickel Deposit in the Grenville of Southern Ontario

Red Lake Session

- Mark O'Dea, Fronteer Development Group Inc. - The Red Lake-Birch Uchi Belt - Untapped Potential
- Andreas Litchblau, OGS Resident Geologist Program, Red Lake - Gold Rush to the Northwest-Exploration and Mining Activity in Northwest Ontario
- Michael Dehn, Geologist, Goldcorp Inc.
- Ewan Downie, Wolfden Resources

- Donald McInnes, Red Lake Resources
- Michael Gray, Vice President Exploration, Rubicon Minerals Corporation

OMET Session

- C. Tucker Barrie, C.T. Barrie & Associates Inc. - Geochemistry of Graphitic Argillites and Sulfidic Exhalites near Gold and VMS Deposits in the Timmins Area
- Dale Sutherland, Activation Laboratories Ltd. - Use of a Soil Gas Hydrocarbon Technique to Differentiate Barren Graphitic & Sulphidic Conductors from Ore Bearing Conductors, to Investigate Bacteriological Contributions, and to Identify Different Organic Signatures over Different Styles of Alteration and Mineralization
- Keiko Hattori, University of Ottawa - Geochemical Exploration for Palladium
- John McGaughey, Mira Geoscience - Towards a 3D GIS for Mineral Exploration
- Jean Legault, Quantec Geoscience - Project 14, Demonstration of new Technologies for Mineral Exploration: Titan 24 Deep Earth Imaging MT/IP System, 3D Quest Process

Workshops (Planned)

OEGS Workshop #1

MapInfo-Discover Workshop

Organized for the OPA by: McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.

December 2, 2002, Macdonald Block, 0830-1630h

An Introduction to MapInfo Professional For Mineral Exploration

OEGS Workshop #2

QA/QC Short Course

Organized for the OPA by: AMEC

December 2, 2002, Macdonald Block, 0830-1630h

NI-43-101 Requirements for Technical Talks

A GREAT DEAL FOR ACCOMMODATIONS IN TORONTO FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

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Reservations can be made directly with the hotel by calling 416-977-0707 or 1-800-387-8687 during normal business hours or by fax at (416) 585-3157. We request, guests making their reservations, ask for the "OEGS" group rate code. Guests stating "OEGS" will be entitled to the special discounted group guestroom rate of **\$99.00** + taxes per night, a discounted parking rate of \$12.00 per 24 hours (with in and out privileges) and \$5.00 in Colony Cash. Colony Cash can be redeemed towards food or non-alcoholic beverage in the Chestnut Tree Restaurant or Dewey's Pub.

- To receive the "OEGS" special rates and privileges, guests must reserve their accommodations with the Colony prior to November 25, 2002.
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- Cancellations received less than 72 hours prior to arrival will be charged first night's room and tax.
- All rates are available 3 days pre and post the official dates of your conference based on availability.

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