

**SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE ONTARIO PROSPECTORS
ASSOCIATION STAFF AND DIRECTORS**

News views and opinions on the
mineral exploration scene in Ontario

December 2002 Issue

Date: December 2002

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.

THE EXPLORATIONIST

The Newsletter of the Ontario Prospectors Association

THE CONSESSIONS WE MAKE

I have worked for the last 8 months on trying to mitigate the problems one bad operator in our industry has caused. This person went about staking surface rights owned land with little or no respect for the surface rights holders rights. If these claims had been in Northern Ontario there probably wouldn't have been such a problem. The CBC got involved twisting the issues and trying to make out exploration, the Mining Act and the Ministry as the villain. The claims that were staked in Southern Ontario became a rallying cry for changing the 1800's Mining Act. Our efforts at changing the Act in the early 1990's obviously were not recognized as anything but making it more advantageous for exploration. The CBC was the beginning that saw our industry spread across Canadian Geographic, Cottage Life and numerous Southern Ontario Newspapers. The issue of surface rights holders not being fully cognizant of what they owned became more and more evident. The cry of the surface rights holders was "these people are trespassing"! The reality was they

had been poorly informed of their rights. The extensive press coverage probably was one of the best things that has happened in regard to waking up the surface rights holders. Numerous surface rights holders would have ran out to title searchers and lawyers to assess their titles.

All the press and public meetings have been hard on the Minister and MNM staff but is really fairly cheap education of the surface rights holders.

The Minister assessed the problem and charged his Mining Act Advisory Committee (MMAAC) with recommending potential changes to the Mining Act that would protect stakers and surface rights holders rights. The MMAAC struck a sub-committee that included OPA, Northwatch, Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations, Canadian Aboriginal Mineral Association and Ontario Mining Association members. We worked at developing potential solutions to be presented to the represented groups of MMAAC.

The potential recommended changes were presented to the MMAAC committee. Each of the associations and groups represented on the MMAAC



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were requested to have their constituents review the proposal and make comments. The recommendations that came forward included a method of Notice of Staking and Notice of Exploration.

Notice to Stake: The idea is to send a notice of the staking to the surface rights holder within a set time period.

Notice of Exploration: The concept would be to expand the present notice to surface rights holders to have the registered letter sent out 30 days prior to exploration. This would allow discussion between the explorer and surface rights holders.

These concepts have been discussed by the MMAAC group and forwarded as recommendations for the Ministers review.

If you have any questions please contact me or your local MMAAC representative.

THE ONTARIO EXPLORATION GEOSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

I would like to thank all that attended the show in Toronto. To present a quality event requires three components.

1. A strong organizational staff that works together and knows the requirements of the event. I would like to thank SUSAN WARREN and ALVINA WHITE (in our office) and BILL MCGUINTY (MNDM Toronto).
2. A group of willing volunteers that will present poster, booth, talks and provide manpower for setup and breakdown. This group is large and I thank all.
3. An interactive, attentive and interested group participants. This group swelled from last year by over 100. We all thank you for your participation.

The event has been heralded by most as a great success and requests to participate next year have been expressed. Receiving two large funding cheques from the Minister really put a bright spin on the Tuesday lunch.

- \$2.3 million for the Prospectors Assistance Program. The program is poised to commence January 1st. Please watch our website.
- \$0.5 million for the Nipigon Project. This is the initial installment that allows us to kick off the project.

There were a total of 25 booths and 48 posters this year with a great representation of industry results, suppliers and Ministry data. The previous venue problems seem to be getting better as participants are getting used to the multiple rooms.

We assembled an impressive speakers list this session totaling 42 plus the Canadian Exploration Geophysicists Society (KEGS) talks. These talks were grouped into modules of common interest. If you have a comment on the grouping of talks please send them to me.

We will be publishing a CD of the talks presented at this year's event. For more details please visit the website in the middle of January.

The OECS is the principle fundraiser for the OPA and with your continued support we will be able to act as the advocates for exploration in the Province.

AN ISSUE THAT REQUIRES COMMENT

Recent developments have led to the creation of a new medical school for the North. This joint school will be based

(Continued on page 3)

in Thunder Bay (Lakehead University) and Sudbury (Laurentian University). The two LU's and their communities fought hard to get the school established and each has new Regional Hospitals that will provide state of the art facilities for teaching. I believe we all hope this will help develop Doctors in the north that stay in the north.

BUT a troubling occurrence has happened with this event. There is fairly open talk of the medical school taking over a large portion of the Willet Green Miller Centre and displacing parts of the MNM and Geolabs. This state-of-the-art facility resulted from the move of the OGS/MNDM offices from various sites in Toronto to a one stop shop in the early 1990's. There was some opposition at that time but welcome arms from the Northern Prospectors of the Province. It has since evolved into an accepted and charished office complex that allows instant access to all facets of the MNM from Lands to Lab.

The concern is the fragmenting of service, the loss of service during moving and the loss of ease of access to the various sections of MNM at the Willet Green Miller Centre.

It would probably end up with the various departments moving to available office space across Sudbury.

I find it hard to believe there would be any economics of turning a rock lab into a medical lab and then reconstructing the rock lab somewhere else.

We need to voice our concerns so please send emails and letters ASAP.

The OPA has sent the following:

December 13th, 2002

Hon. J. Wilson
Hon. T. Hudak
Hon. C. Hodgson
Toronto, ON

Dear Ministers,

The Ontario Prospectors Association is an 900 member advocacy group for the exploration and mining community of Ontario. It has come to our attention that there are suggestions that the Ontario Geological Survey and the Geolab be transferred out of the Willet Green Miller Centre on Ramsey Lake Road in Sudbury.

We wish to solicit your support as Cabinet members to stop the fragmenting of one of the best geological and mines branches in the world. Explorers of the Province recognize the synergy and availability of all functions of the Ministry of Mines in one location. This facility was constructed to allow the interaction of all part of the Ministry of Mines as well take advantage of an outstanding university and a world-class geological environment.

The original move, in 1990, from various centres in Toronto to a single state-of-the-art site in Sudbury was welcomed by northerners because it provided a single focal point for the Ministry. Once completed this move created a strong synergy of the Geolab, the library, the Mines Group, the Resident Geologist program and the Ontario Geological Survey.

Once again the Ontario Prospectors Association thanks you for continued support with this issue and if we can assist in any way please call me at any time.

Yours truly,
Garry Clark,
Executive Director
Ontario Prospectors Association

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pleasure that the MNDM announces that John Mason was the successful candidate in the recent competition of the position of the NW Regional Manager for the Resident Geologist Program, based in Thunder Bay. John's current home position is that of the Regional Resident Geologist for the Thunder Bay North District, however, along with Bernie Schnieders he has been the co-acting RGP NW Regional Manager for the past year. John will be assuming his new responsibilities in the New Year. Please join us in wishing John good luck and best wishes in his new position within the Resident Geologist Program.

Dear Garry:

An editorial was placed in Thursday's Sudbury Star by Ms. Kuyek and Mr. Winfield of the Pembina Institute entitled "Mining subsidies no longer a good investment in Canada's north." This editorial ends with the call to ban mining in Canada's north. Their full report is posted on www.miningwatch.ca. I have submitted the attached letter as a rebuttal to The Sudbury Star though the editorial may have been sent to a number of papers or my rebuttal may not be appear.

I have contacted Roger Poulin, the PDAC, the CAM and now the OPA. I hope all are vigorous in the defence of mining. Perhaps an advertisement expounding the virtues of mining should be drawn up and circulated. If you need assistance or my support please feel free to contact me.

HOUSTON LAKE MINING INC.

E. Grayme Anthony
President

Mining: Helping to Sustain our Canadian Way of Life

I could not help but react to the incredibly one-sided viewpoint expressed by Ms. Kuyek and Mr. Winfield in their diatribe entitled "Mining subsidies no longer a good investment in Canada's north." As someone who has enjoyed a fulfilling life in mining and exploration for the past twenty years in Can-

ada's North and as someone who is a Conservationist long before there was an Environmental movement I certainly have another viewpoint about mining. I see my particular mission in life as finding the materials that our civilization needs to maintain the standard of living that we currently enjoy. That Standard of Living allows us to be informed enough and wealthy enough to make environmentally sound choices. Ms. Kuyek and Mr. Winfield would have us Northerners act as seasonally employed and poorly paid tour guides to southern elitists.

The saying goes "If it isn't grown it's gotta be mined". The materials that make up our homes, our pots and dishes, the cars we drive, the computers we love to surf on, the medical equipment that saves our lives all come from mining. It is simple economics that the cheaper we produce metals the cheaper the cost of materials. Stopping a mine from coming into production raises the general costs of the materials it would have produced. Thus houses, cars, computers, medical equipment and even medicines are made cheaper because of mining. Without the contribution of mining only the rich could afford these items that improve and prolong our lives.

Mining is a key employer to the people of the northern Ontario. The mining industry provides high paying jobs in regions where there is a limited number of opportunities for people. Resource-based industries may well be the best source for aboriginal employment and economic self-reliance.

Mining is an important contributor to Canada's tax base. While I don't have the precise numbers at my finger tips I can certainly provide an example. When special interest groups (less than 100 river rafters) stopped the Windy Craggy copper mine from coming into production in northern British Columbia they also stopped \$2.5 billion in direct and \$4.3 billion in total taxes which would have helped

pay for the social programs we cherish. The B. C. government at the time could not afford to provide lawyers for all those who could not afford a defense attorney. Mining output is an important export of Canada which contributes to our Balance of Payments which in turn strengthens our economy and Standard of Living.

Mining activities do not use a large amount of land but are generally point specific so very little area is affected. Mining and metals industries were the first industries to recycle (over 95% efficiency) and did so long before there was a blue box. It is true that old mine sites need to be cleaned up. Well so do chemical industry sites, the Great Lakes, the old garbage dumps and the former raw sewage outlets of our major cities. Mining like the chemical industry and our cities have learned to operate in a more environmentally conscious way. Old mine sites are prime locations to find new mines. It is quite possible that new mines operating on old sites can save the public the cost of clean up.

Current mining operations and the mining exploration industry itself operates under today's tough environmental legislation. Recent legislation requires mines to have closure plans that call for complete clean up of the mine site. Money must be set aside at the start of mining operations to provide for safe closure. This includes replanting of vegetation disturbed by mining activities despite the fact that Nature reclaims the land over time when left on its own. In my own experience as an exploration geologist operating in remote areas we are required to fly out any garbage even biodegradables.

Economic deposits of minerals which form future mines do not choose where they occur. Canada's North is a tremendous source for the materials we and the World require yet because of environmentalist pressures our governments continue to remove more land from mining exploration. Our governments do so without regard for mineral potential. It is not surprising that our mining industry is in decline when less prospective land is

available to explore, more bureaucratic regulations lengthen the time from discovery to mine, and deposits are harder to locate because the mines easiest to identify have been found.

On the other hand non-profit Environmental Funds pay themselves handsome salaries to advocate issues whether the issues are valid or the wildest of fantasies. (Show a picture of a wolf pup and the money rolls in!) The more issues they can advocate the more money they can raise and the more they can pay themselves. Last year the U.S. Department of the Interior spent \$36 million dollars in legal fees defending itself from the environmental movement. The Department did not have enough money left over to maintain the current road system in its National Parks. Ms. Kuyek and Mr. Winfield would have us living in caves (former mines?), naked in the cold (animal activists wouldn't allow furs), traveling by horse and buggy (how big a pooper-scooper do we need?) and eating off the land (no dishes as clay is mined).

Mining provides the North with high paying employment opportunities, lowers the costs of the materials that we need to maintain our Standard of Living and prolongs our lives with medical equipment. Mining contributes taxes so that we can afford our social programs and acts to equalize our regional disparities. Mining operates safely and cleanly under Canada's strict environmental legislation. As does agriculture and forestry, mining contributes to our environment by producing enough of what we need to help maintain our cities. If our population could not be concentrated in cities, what would be the environmental impact of all those people spread over the landscape having to forage for a living? Certainly more than that of our resource-based activities.

Keep mining in Canada!
Yours truly,
E. Grayme Anthony, Geologist

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION STAFF AND DIRECTORS

The following is an OPA member commenting on a radio interview hosted by POINTS NORTH (CBC), SUDBURY, 31 Oct 02, with the lobby group Mining Watch. In the interview Ontario's mining industry is described as a financial money pit for provincial taxpayers suggesting the province is over subsidizing the mining industry and getting very little back in return for its mining investment. The NOHFC grant to the OPA was specifically mentioned as an example. Even though it has nothing to do with mining.

So how do we take action?

This woman is clearly misinformed on many levels. She has taken things out of context and has over exaggerated greatly.

Perhaps she should look at the subsidies granted to the airline industries over the years or the film industry, to name but a few.

There are some pretty scary environmental activists out there right now. People are sick of hearing about greenhouse gases etc. so these clever environmentalists are hitting people with new ammunition - economics and public spending - these guys are smart and they're dangerous, and not just to mining.

Note that the Globe and Mail (a "Green" paper if ever there was one) also carried a derogatory and harmful article written by environmental reporter Martin Mittelstaedt in the October 30, 2002 issue (page A8).

So what is our lobby group -the PDAC - doing about these articles and interviews? Have they launched counter attacks? I've seen nothing.

Where is the message that the public can benefit from things like flow-through in their own tax savings? Or that exploration creates countless spin-off jobs? Or what the true (and very minimal) impact of mining actually is on the environment and how little space mining has taken over its history in Canada? Or the fact that without mining Canada would not exist? Or that without mining and natural resources we could not live as we do... with homes and heat and cars and eating utensils and shovels to plant the earth and hospitals and a multitude of medical procedures and equipment or many of the health-food nutrients that come from so-called industrial minerals? Almost everything we use in our day to day lives has a root in mining and natural resources - even the synthetic materials. What about the research and development mining companies have put into reusable resources and technologies including a variety of crops grown under the earth? Or the fact that many mining companies have not only provided economic stability but social and educational systems for communities in developing countries worldwide? Or that much of today's "greening" trends and emissions clean up and lake stabilization is the result of conscientious mining companies acting on their own

accord and not simply because it has been mandated. List goes on.

Who is telling our story??!!!!

Just one more thing....

Quite a few years back the Save the North Campaign (I think that's what it was called) led by guys like Steve Conquer and Ray Band and a host of others produced a small television commercial in which a fancy house with fancy car parked outside began to disappear before the viewers eyes. ... This of course due to the loss of mining in Canada. The commercial was very poignant and really stressed what would happen if there was no mining - our world as we've come to know it would self destruct or dissolve around us.

I only saw this ad once or twice but it left its mark. I'm sure it was it aired only a short time due to the cost of airtime. This commercial needs to be resurrected and we need to have some of the mineral producers in Canada (metals and industrial) sponsor public airtime for it. I would even go one step further and get a group to film the same sort of commercial but base it in a hospital...some poor soul on an operating table and various monitors and instruments start to disappear... then the building starts to fall apart. Let's hit back and use the same tactics these environmentalists are using. People are afraid of losing their health care and already upset with what's going on in that field -lets show them how much worse it could get without mining! - No scanners, x-rays or instruments and monitors, no needles and barium or gold treatments, indeed no building.

If companies like Harmony Gold can sponsor the Lord of the Rings (a truly ingenious marketing play) then why can't others sponsor the sustainability of their own resource industry. Maybe we could turn around and issue Goldcorp a challenge (or any other producer for that matter)?

Too much of our preaching about the virtues of mining and exploration is done to the converted - those of us already in the business. We see statistics about the benefits of mining and exploration in a multitude of industry papers, publications and websites, but I have NEVER seen anything (other than the great commercial mentioned earlier) in the public forum. Don't you think it's about time we took some action there?

Thanks for listening!

Cathy Butella
Exploration Manager



Date: _____

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