

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. The 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.

SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIA

The OPA has completed another successful April symposia season. The two events, Sudbury and Thunder Bay may have been the best yet. The volunteers in both cities coupled with Susan, Alvina and Terrie, helped to produce smooth and seemingly effortless shows. The Sudbury SPDA show was sponsored by FedNor, MNM and Industry. The event included a visit from the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Northern Development and Mines. The event succeeded in providing a great review of the exploration activities of the Northeast highlighting gold, diamond and Cu-Ni-PGE's. The Sudbury show also had excellent short courses and mine tours. The Thunder Bay show was hosted by NWOPA had great sponsorship including FedNor, NOHFC and MNM with a wide range of Industry participants. Participants topped 285 registrants with 73 posters, booth and displays. The event highlighted the prospectors, juniors and major mining companies achievements over the last year. The event hosted over 20 speakers and a 190 person sit down awards ceremony meal. The Awards Ceremony recognized:
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT- Alex Kozowy, Larry Mealey, Bill Moorehouse and John Gammon
DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR- Russell Kwiatkowski, Derek Kwiatkowski, Jim Martin, Daron Slaney, Don Hoy, and Mac

Watson
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR- Ewan Downie, Iain Downie, Mitch Dumoulin and Placer Dome (CLA) Ltd. Campbell Mine-District Exp. Dept. (Jim Rogers).

OPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The OPA attempted the AGM on April 6th in Thunder Bay but a quorum was not present. The meeting was differed to the Sudbury symposium the next week. At this meeting a quorum was represented and the agenda completed. The AGM succeeded in passing the Bylaw changes recommended by our lawyer (see website for bylaws), received the Auditors report (for a copy please Email OPA), appointed our Auditors for 2004 and elected / appointed the Directors for the 2004 year (list attached). A short Director's Meeting followed the AGM where the executive was elected.

MMAAC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Surface Rights/Mining Rights Update: A lengthy discussion took place around the whole issue of surface rights and mining rights. Very little has been done since the December 11, 2002 letter to Minister Jim Wilson, as the Ministry and committee were waiting for a response from the Minister. Now that one has been received, from the new Minister, Rick Bartolucci, he has asked the MMAAC to move forward on this issue (see



We're easy to get a hold of
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letter attached). As a result the previous working group has been re-established with the following members: Garry Clark, Brennain Lloyd, Peter Griesbach, Hugh Carlson, Mike Bourassa and Roy Spooner.

Action item: The committee will work together, through e-mails, teleconferences and meetings to work on sections 29-30 & 32, and on notification of assessment work and bring something back to the committee for the next meeting scheduled for June 15 & 16, 2004.

Map Staking: A lengthy discussion took place on this issue, from pros and cons, to differences between Northern and Southern Ontario, to loss of income if no ground staking, to money going into general revenue and not into the municipalities, and to panel discussions being needed across the province to get input from groups, associations, prospectors, junior and senior mining companies. Peter Griesbach put forward the following motion: To establish a sub-committee of the Mining Lands and Exploration sub-committee to investigate and detail stakeholder representations, benefits and weaknesses of similar programs in other jurisdictions and infrastructure requirements should Map Staking or Map Selection processes become a consideration in Ontario. Colin Chambers seconded, but Les Hulett put forth an amendment to the motion that the sub-committee would provide a progress report back to MMAAC at each meeting with a draft report and recommendations to MMAAC by October 31st, 2004. Colin Chambers seconded the amended motion, Mike Leahy, Garry Clark and Dean Rogers Jr. abstained, all else in favour. (Ron Gashinski to provide land tenure chart from Provincial Territorial Mining Rights Committee - attached to minutes).

Another sub-committee was established to deal with the less non-intrusive staking methods. That sub-committee will consist of Peter Griesbach, Ron Gashinski, Mike Leahy, Colin Chambers, Roy Denomme and perhaps Garry Clark.

Action item: Sub-committee to provide a progress report back to MMAAC at each meeting with a draft report and recommendations to MMAAC by October 31st, 2004

MAP STAKING CONTINUED

Tuesday, February 10, 2004
Mr. Wally Rayner
Chair
Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee

Dear Sir:

My name is Michael Oniel, I recently wrote to the Hon. Rick Bartolucci on January 19, 2004 with some suggestions in favor of adopting map staking in Ontario, and by reply understand that my letter is being reviewed/discussed next week at your meeting.

If I could, I wish to very briefly add just one rather important point with respect to the benefits of map staking. Many years ago, I along with a guide, wanted to stake a couple of surface rights only claims in a township in Southern Ontario when we were confronted by a man wielding a shotgun and demanding that we leave immediately, indicating he held the mining rights to those claims. I did check with the Mining Recorder prior to my staking and said claims were open and available prior to and after this incident.

Needless to say we left. I mention this incident because I feel as per my aforementioned letter, that map staking would not only eliminate claim disputes and their inevitable litigation, but would also substantially reduce claim disputes and right of entry, on the ground, where it would be in fact dangerous. I am proposing that when an individual map stakes a claim, he/she would be provided with a notice that he/she is the beneficial claim holder of that mining claim, thereby giving in effect authorization and legitimacy for being on the ground in and near that claim. This authorization would also be of some value to cottagers and others in Ontario, since it could be shown to them as a form of confirmation, whenever a prospector needs to be on or traverse patented or other claims, cottages or other lands etc, in order to be able to access his staked claims. I am certain that cottag-

ers , land management stakeholders, prospectors, police and others would appreciate the value of said instant confirmation by way of Ministry Notice of the beneficial holder of a given map staked claim, since said Ministry Notice of beneficial holder would be instant confirmation and recognition of that prospectors right to be in or near those map staked lands, thereby eliminating any dispute or confusion and significantly reducing any potential for violence on the ground .

I am confident that my proposals for map staking as set out in these two letters will be of significant benefit to all involved in the business of exploration as well as Ontarians residing in or near exploration lands.

I am grateful for your consideration of my proposals and look forward to your response.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, I Remain;
Michael Oniel
E-mail- moni@VIF.com

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. Wally Rayner

Chair
Minister’s Mining Act Advisory Committee
5 Martin Road
Toronto, Ontario M4S 2V1

BY FAX- 416-486-0542

Further to my letter today and since I will be away for a week, I should like to take this opportunity to amend my map staking proposal as follows:

I should like to name my proposal **ADVANCE STAKING** rather than map staking, firstly to distinguish this proposal from map staking in other provinces and because the proposal I submitted would merely be an adjunct to the existing staking practices and one of a two step process of staking a claim in Ontario., as outlined in said proposal. In addition I would recommend that each licensed prospector would be entitled under my proposal to “advance stake”

only 12 to 15 claims per day, which in reality is the equivalent of, and mirrors the actual practice today, wherein an experienced staker is only physically able to stake a block of 12 to 15 claims per day and in this way the existing business and other staking practices and arrangements would remain virtually unchanged from today, with the exception that a prospector must “advance stake” or record the claims he wishes to stake.

An additional proposal would be for the Mining Recorders to only accept “ advance staking” applications with appropriate fees, during regular business hours, and to confirm in writing or by e-mail that said claim was in fact paid for and recorded by the Mining Recorder.

Mining Recorders should release the new updated staking maps on a bi weekly basis, this will allow time for Mining Recorders to properly and accurately update staking maps and areas.

The entire process should be computerized as much as possible, including “advance staking” by email provided the appropriate fees are delivered or wired in at the same time as the “advance staking”.

I hope that some of these proposals will be of some assistance in modernizing and simplifying the litigious and outdated current staking practices in the province of Ontario.

Thanking you again in advance for your attention to this matter, I Remain;
Michael Oniel

DISENTANGLEMENT CONTINUES??

March 16, 2004

Mr. Garry Clark
Executive Director
Ontario Prospectors Association
Mr. Gregor Beck
Director, Conservation and Science
Ontario Nature

Dear Garry & Gregor:

This letter is to follow up on our conversation of today in which we discussed the status of the mining lands-OLL protected area disentanglement process.

The list of sites that form part of our review include the 26 sites for which the OPA and PPL provided a joint recommendation on boundary adjustments; the 20 sites that the OPA and PPL were not able to reach a decision on but had asked government to review and present solutions; and, the 11 sites that were not part of the OPA and PPL discussions (these are primarily the stand alone forest reserves that are not part of the list of 378). This represents 55 sites comprising some 28,000 hectares of forest reserves.

Field staff from both Ministries were asked to review the 26 sites subject to the joint recommendations. Field staff were also asked to develop options for the remaining 20 sites as well as the 11 sites that had not been previously dealt with by the OPA and PPL. This review was completed in late October.

Upon reviewing the field staffs evaluation it appeared that many of the recommendations involved maintaining the status quo. We (Dan Marinigh, Hial Newsome and Bart Feilders) determined that it was appropriate to challenge this evaluation to ensure that all options to remove as much of the forest reserve designation as possible was considered. This challenge process was completed in mid-February and the results are presently being reviewed with our field organization to confirm that the advice being put forward provides for more complete and lasting solutions.

Concurrent with this review and evaluation process we have briefed Minister's staff as the opportunity has presented itself.

Our next steps are to undertake briefings of senior staff including our respective Deputy Ministers to obtain endorsement of the proposals being put forward. We expect to initiate this within the next few weeks.

We understand that all parties view that this

process has gone on for a very long time and that closure in the near future is desirable. We appreciate your contribution and patience to this process.

Please call if you wish to discuss further.

Yours truly,

Original signed by
Dan Marinigh; Manager,
Land Use Coordination Section,
Ministry of Natural Resources
Hial Newsome; Senior Manager,
Resident Geologist Program

ANOTHER REQUEST

Hi I know that Kirkland Lake area is a well established gold mining area, but do any of your members metal detect for nuggets, and are there many to be found in Ontario. I have wanted to look for gold for more years than I care to remember. Now that I get closer to retirement, the lure is getting stronger and stronger. I am looking more to find a reason to get back to nature than anything else. I certainly am not looking to make a living looking for nuggets, but the idea of finding something that no other person has ever held holds a certain allure. I talked to several geologists who have kind of turned me off with my dreams of panning or metal detecting in Ontario. They seem to think that the glaciers wiped all the alluvial deposits away, and the shields granite is too hard for any real gold to be washed into the streams..... Anyway any help you can give me I would very much appreciate...Ken Caldwell (Hamilton, Ont.)

Ken

Yes there are areas in Ontario to pan for gold. Historically there has been some in Red Lake, Beardmore and Sudbury area that I know of. I've sent this to Jack also who may know the more famous spots around the Sudbury - Gogama areas. Hopefully he will send them to you or point you in the right direction. Another possibility, though not well documented, is diamonds. A gentleman in the Wawa area has found a few in some of the

rivers around there.

As for metal detecting; I'm not sure about gold nuggets. I also have send this to Russell who is a metal detector user. I know the last time he showed me some of his finds they were more fur trade-pre fur trade copper and iron. Hopefully Russell has a minute and you can start to correspond. Russell maybe can get you turned onto more traditional prospecting (since he's had a string of success lately).

Our website also had a section on the Ontario Exploration Corporation that helps fund prospectors. If you get involved you may want to look at that. The website will soon have a section on prospecting that will be downloadable in small pieces.

Good luck

Garry Clark

Hi Ken,

This is a quick email to provide you with some information on panning for gold in Ontario. In the Kenora and Dryden areas most of the prospectors crush samples collected from potential gold-bearing quartz veins and pan them for gold. Some prospectors I know have panned gold from the tailings at old gold mines with some success but you would need to obtain permission from the land owners to do this. I've heard of some prospectors panning for gold in gravel pits with variable results.

Placer gold was discovered in the Vermilion River valley off the northeast end of the Sudbury basin around 1948. A short report on the placer gold potential of this area was written by V. Prest and published by the Geological Survey of Canada in 1949. There is a location on a terrace at an oxbow lake near the Vermilion River north of Capreol where the gold is very fine. Another location is on Onaping Lake in Hanmer but this is private property. There are reports dating back to the early 1900's of placer gold at Meteor Lake in Beulah Twp. southwest of Shining Tree. There are several assessment files on this property but significant results have not been verified.

Information on these occurrences can be found in OGS Mineral Deposit Circular 17.

I hope this is of some help to you.

Best Regards.....Jack

Jack Parker
Manager, Bedrock Mapping & Geophysics

CONGRATULATIONS

Ron asked me to pass along a list of our clients in the northwest that are coming up on their 25-year anniversary. According to my list we did not have any clients in the northwest that had 25-years in 2003, however we do have 10 clients that are coming due in 2004. Their due dates range from April to November. The following is a list of these clients.

License Number Name

- E28410 Onni Harty
- E28434 Audrey Ferguson
- H9788 Richard Queen
- E28498 Robert Parker
- H9807 James Bond
- P10232 Danny Rivard
- P10241 Paul Chamois
- S3356 Brian Christie
- E28576 Robert Mckay
- H9830 Paul Dubenski

FYI

This list represents the people who purchased Licenses in the northwest it is possible that someone from the northwest purchased their license through another office.

If you have any further questions please give me a call or send me e-mail.

Scott Cousineau
Map Technician
Ministry of Northern Development & Mines

OPA WEBSITE

Post your properties for option free on the OPA website. This site also has breaking OPA news, great links and Contact information for Directors.



APRIL EXPLORATIONIST

Ministry of
Northern Development
and Mines

Ministère du
Développement du Nord
et des Mines

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Via fax and mail

April 20, 2004

Mr. Garry Clark
Executive Director
Ontario Prospector's Association
1000 Alloy Drive
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6A5

*Garry!
This is sent to you for information
as ED of OPA.
Regards
Duck*

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to inform you of a recently discovered Withdrawal Order covering an eastern section of the Attawapiskat River. As a result, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has taken steps to protect existing claims and leases in the area and to legally confirm the validity of these claims and leases.

As part of a 1979 land use planning exercise, areas bordering seven rivers in Ontario's Far North were withdrawn from staking. This was done to protect the areas concerned from mining development while decisions were reached as to which, if any, of these areas could be considered as possible future parks.

In 1979 there were no claim maps for many areas of the Far North (James Bay Lowlands). The practice was to create a claim map for those areas only as new claims were staked. A Withdrawal Order was put in place on strips of land 200 metres in width on either side of the Attawapiskat River. However, because no base maps existed for much of this area, the order was never fully documented on government maps. In the 1980s, a park was established at the western end of the Attawapiskat River in northcentral and northwestern Ontario but the Withdrawal Order remained in place along the eastern portions of the river in northeastern Ontario, although a park was never formally regulated. The Withdrawal Order has remained in place, undocumented on our maps ever since. With the introduction of the CLAIMaps system, and the associated complete map coverage for the province, a lengthy stretch of the Attawapiskat River was erroneously shown as being open for staking.

Earlier this year, the ministry discovered and verified the existence of this Withdrawal Order (known as W21/79) and has since been working diligently to ensure the integrity of your mining claims is protected, and the validity of your claims is confirmed.

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APRIL EXPLORATIONIST

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Our first priority was to safeguard existing claims. We have done this by placing a new Withdrawal Order W-P-15-04, along one section of the Attawapiskat River, to cover lands within mining claims that were staked without knowledge of the 1979 Withdrawal Order. Both Withdrawal Orders have now been placed on the ministry's ClaimsMap site where they can be viewed.

The government has also approved an Order-In-Council, under the Mining Act, that formally and legally validates your existing claims, notwithstanding W21/79.

We are fully aware that this unfortunate, historical situation has presented itself through no fault of yours, or any other mining company operating in the area. That is why our priority is to protect the investments you have made, and the operations you have established in the area.

Sincerely,



W.R. Cowan
Director,
Mineral Development and Lands Branch