WHEN IS A POSTED CLAIM NOT REALLY OPEN FOR STAKING???

Recently it has been pointed out to the OPA that all is not what it seems when a claim is cancelled and then POSTED. The claims system is controlled out of Sudbury and has been heralded as the best in the country. In my opinion it probably is, except there are a series of potential events all users must be aware of.

When on the internet you will see the list of cancelled and then posted claims. These are listed on a daily basis with postings noted as soon as possible by MNDM. This is the process most prospectors would follow to see if the claims are “open” for staking.

The twist to this is the potential of a “relief of forfeiture”. This process involves an application to the Minister for relief if the claims came open and the owner had a valid excuse to have an exclusion or relief of time. This could involve various tales of woe including such things as: I filed the work but the Courier didn’t get it to Sudbury on time, my fax got jammed while sending in my paper work or I had a sickness issue and couldn’t get the work in. These would supposedly be acceptable dependent on the economic investment or value of the claims.

The catch on the “relief from forfeiture” is the claims could still be posted! The only way to tell is to look for withdrawals on the claim map. The entries on the end of the claim abstract reads:

CANC 2004-07-09 CANCELLED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 72(1)(B) OF THE MINING ACT R.S.O. 1990

CANC 2004-07-09 NOTICE OF RE-OPENING (SUBSECTION 72.1 (2) AS AMENDED BY RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT 2000) POSTED 2004-JUL-12 - CHECK CLAIM MAP FOR ANY RESTRICTIONS TO STAKING

The key is the last line in italics. The sentence refers to the potential of a withdrawal order that is placed on the claims if a “relief from forfeiture” is applied for. The cost of the application is a mire $765 for as many claims or units that is requested.

The possible withdrawal of the area of claims is only noted on the claim map and is not reflected in the posted claim list or the claim abstract. This withdrawal could occur at any point prior to the claims coming open and no adverse interest would occur.

Under the old Mining Act (pre 1991) when a “relief from forfeiture” was applied for and subsequently granted there was no withdrawal of the lands from staking. This allowed the staking out of the lands and then a Mining and Lands Commissioners hearing would settle the costs of any adverse interest. I remember
that there was a standard set that if you staked a
case (16 hectares) a general rule was the award
would be approximately $200.
This process was changed, I thought, to allow
playing field to be leveled for all concerned.
We changed the extension of time process so as
people needed to work ground or lose it. And
the “relief from forfeiture” I thought had been
made hard enough to access that frivolous or
minor cases but obviously not.
The OPA will be presenting this issue to the
Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee for
review at the next meeting.

FIRST CIRCULAR

FRIENDS OF THE GRENVILLE (FOG)
FIELD TRIP, SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2004

TECTONO-MAGMATIC EVENTS OF
THE SAGUENAY REGION BETWEEN
1506 Ma AND 1020 Ma
C. Hébert

In the Saguenay region of the Central Grenville
Province, new and previous U-Pb geochronological data show six magmatic episodes be-
tween 1506 and 1020 Ma. The 1506 and 1393-
1383 Ma magmatic episodes are recorded in the
country rocks of the huge 1160-1140 Lac-St-
Jean Anorthosite Suite (20,000 km²). Younger
magmatic episodes are documented by intru-
sions with ages of 1082-1067 Ma, 1045 Ma, and
1020 Ma. The Grenvillian deformational history
of the region can be subdivided into three
events. The first event (D₁) is related to a major
period of thrusting, which produced foliations
and/or gneissosity generally oriented E-W to
ESE. The D₂ event was a period of shortening
and major dextral strike-slip, and was responsi-
bile for the dominant NE-SW fabric. The D₃ de-
formation produced numerous ductile-brittle
subvertical faults with northerly to NNE trends
and sinistral displacement. The field trip will
focus on these structural events and on the rela-
tionship between almost all the six magmatic
episodes and the regional structures.

SECOND CIRCULAR

Dear friends of Grenville

The 2004 fall FOG excursion will be carried
out in the Chicoutimi (now renamed Ville de
Saguenay) area which is located 210 km
north of Quebec City (via Route 175 North).
During this excursion we will stay at Parc
Aventure Cap Jaseux on the north shore of
the Saguenay river. This Parc is 20km east of
Chicoutimi (via Route 172 East). Accommo-
dation in log cabins (8 cabins of 1 room, 4 to
6 persons; cost: CDN$31.50/person/day),
standard camping (drinking water and elec-
tricity; cost: CDN$18.00/day) or rustic camp-
ing (drinking water; cost: CDN$15.00/day).
Prospector tents are also available (max. 8
persons/tent; cost CDN$7.00/person/day).
The ~15.6% provincial and federal sales taxes
are to be added to accommodation cost. In all
cases, you need to bring your own sleeping
bag. Each participant will have to do his or
her own reservation. For reservation contact
Mrs. Louise Potvin on the Cap Jaseux Web
site, where you can also familiarize yourself
with this outdoor activities centre (www.
capiaseux.com). Reserve early if you wish to
stay in a log cabin, otherwise, the choice will
be camping or prospector tents. Meals are
ensured by a catering service and the cost
including taxes and tips have to be paid to me
in advance. Registration is due on or before
September 3, 2004 by mail or e-mail. For
registration information please contact:
via email:
claude.hebert@mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca
or via mail to:
Claude Hébert
Service géologique de Québec
Ministère des Ressources naturelles
de la Faune et des Parcs
5700, 4ième Avenue Ouest
Charlesbourg, Qc, Canada, G1H 6R1
Tel: 418-627-6276 #5049

People who wish to participate in the field
trip but who will not stay at the Cap Jaseux
site also have to fill in the registration form.
If some of these people intend to take one or
more meals with the group at the Cap Jaseux
site, they have to indicate their choice on the
Note: A cash bar is available in the Common
hall where we will take our meals. It is forbidden to bring your own alcoholic beverage in this chalet.

A short briefing on the regional geology will be held on Friday 24th, after supper (~ 8 p.m.).

Geological cross sections to be visited

The title of the field trip mentions that this region includes magmatic episodes between 1506 to 1020 Ma. This shorter field trip will permit only to look at structural events which affect the plutonic rocks emplaced between 1505 to 1067 Ma. Two extra field trip days would be necessary to look at the deformation zones which affect the plutonic rocks emplaced between 1067 to 1020 Ma.

Three geological cross sections will be examined during this field trip. One of the cross section is located along the north shore of the Saguenay river near the village of Saint-Fulgence. The effect of the dextral oblique inverse St. Fulgence shear zone (SFSZ) will be observed along the contact between the supracrustal rocks of the 1506 Ma Saguenay Gneiss Complex and the orthogneisses of the 1391 Ma Cap-à l’Est Gneiss Complex. The transition between the shortening tectonic event and the development of straight gneisses is well exposed. The retrograde effect of the metamorphism is also well expressed. A second cross section will be examined on the south shore of the Saguenay river. In this section, we will observe the effect of the SFSZ on each side of the contact between the 1160-1140 Ma Lac-St.-Jean Anorthosite Suite and the 1082 Ma Chicoutimi Mangerite. We will also observe some very good examples of magma mixing. A third section is located in the Kénogami lake area. In this sector, it is possible to do a transect from the 1160-1140 Ma Lac-St.-Jean Anorthosite Suite up to the supracrustal rocks of the 1506 Ma Saguenay Gneiss Complex. This section also goes through a 1150 Ma Baie à Cadie mafic-ultramafic Intrusion, which is a tectonic slice of the rocks belonging to the Lac-St.-Jean AMCG suite. This sequence is composed of harzburgite, dunite, olivine gabbronite and Ni-Cu bearing gabbronite. The NE-SW mylonitic foliation related to the SFSZ is here affected by a NNE-SSW en échelon sinistral strike slip fault system. A last stop shows the SFSZ at the contact between the 1067 Ma La Baie Granite and the 1082 Ma Chicoutimi Mangerite. This stop also permits to examine an important brittle fault related to the Saguenay Graben.

The progress of the section along the Saguenay river is subject to two constraints. These are: the time of the low tide and the weather along the Saguenay river. The low tide will be at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning September 25th, and 8 a.m. on September 26th. We will adjust our choice depending on the forecast.

MNR to propose at least three New Parks for the Red Lake and Pickle Lake Area by March 31, 2005.

A Mineral Sector Meeting and Northern Boreal Initiative-Whitefeather Forest Open House was held in Red Lake on June 16, 2004.

This was an excellent opportunity for the Mineral Sector to meet with the Elders of Pikangikum First Nation, the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation, Pikangikum’s consultants, MNR and MNDM to discuss the Northern Boreal Initiative and specifically the Whitefeather Forest Planning Area.

At the Mineral Sector Meeting, several short background presentations were given on the Northern Boreal Initiative (MNR’s model for land use planning in the Far North) and the Whitefeather Forest Planning Area.

The meeting was poorly attended with only two local prospectors and myself to represent the mineral industry. There were no company representatives present despite prior notification by MNDM.

An Open House followed the Mineral Sector Meeting. It consisted of poster board and video displays that explained the land use planning process and identified the values that had been captured to date and the expected future progression of the process. There were about
twenty Elders from Pikangikum present as well as MNR, MNDM and technical consultants to provide support to the public. The Open House was well attended by hundreds of interested individuals. Unfortunately only a small number of local prospectors and mining company representatives attended the Open House.

Notes from the Meeting and Open House

The Whitefeather forest is a planning area within the MNR’s Northern Boreal Initiative.

The Northern Boreal Initiative is touted as the MNR’s proposed model for land use planning processes in Ontario’s Far North.

MNR has clearly identified First Nation Traditional Lands, based largely upon trap lines, as being paramount in the land use planning process for Northern Ontario.

The Whitefeather Forest is one planning area within the Eco-Region 3S. There are five Eco-Districts within the Eco-Region 3S. Two fall within White Feather Planning Area.

As well as Pikangikum First Nation, Poplar Hill, Slate Falls, Cat Lake and Mishkeegogamang First Nations and Pickle Lake are located within the Eco-Region 3S. It is not known if the traditional lands of other First Nations of Ontario or Manitoba are included within the Eco-Region 3S.

MNR intends to complete a system of parks and protected areas within the Eco-Region 3S which will include at least one of each of: a wilderness park, a waterway park and a natural heritage park. As well the MNR has specific targets for the two Eco-Districts which are within the Whitefeather Planning Area; but these targets are not stated.

It is stated that the goal of the initiative is to be “based on Protected Areas”.

It is stated that the scale of protected areas is to be “internationally significant”.

The values mapping and data compilation has been largely completed for the Planning Area. The MNR in partnership with Pikangikum will begin to overlay the various values and will prepare a land use plan which it hopes to have completed in draft form by March 2005.

The MNR has actively engaged Pikangikum in this process for the past 9 years.

The MNR has not undertaken significant capacity building with First Nations, values mapping or data compilation for the Eco-Region 3S except with Pikangikum in the Whitefeather Forest Area. The MNR intends to wait until these other First Nations approach them before beginning land use planning in other parts of the Eco-Region 3S.

MNR has representatives from several of the affected First Nations participating in the committee overseeing park and protected area development.

The Draft plan for the Whitefeather Forest (to be completed by March 2005) will include the identification of parks and protected areas throughout the Eco-Region 3S not just the Whitefeather Forest. It is likely that at least 12% of the land base will be allocated for parks and protected areas.

The parks and protected areas will be permanently protected from activities of commercial and industrial logging, mining and hydro development.

The Eco-Region 3S contains extensive areas of high mineral potential of the Uchi Sub-province that is arguably the highest potential-under explored region of Ontario.

The Eco-Region 3S includes the head-waters of the Albany, Attawapiskat, Nelson, Severn and Winisk watersheds.

The establishment of parks and protected areas within the Eco-Region 3S has significant implications to regional access corridors (winter and all-weather roads) and hydro electric developments (power lines and gen-
eration facilities) that may exist or be planned for communities and crown resources outside of the Eco-Region 3S.

In addition to the contemplation of completing the Ontario Parks System, there is consideration being given to the establishment of a World Heritage Site that would consist of a series of “linked” protected areas stretching from the Whitefeather planning area west to Lake Winnipeg and possibly including all crown land south of the Barrens River down to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario. The justification for this area is that it represents a significant portion of world’s remaining undeveloped Boreal Forest and includes habitat for the endangered woodland caribou among other values. Agreements are currently in place between the Partnership for Public Lands and five First Nations including Pikangikum for the development of this park.

The values mapping undertaken by Pikangikum clearly demonstrate that the Whitefeather area includes a considerable variety of cultural, traditional and natural values that are sensitive to disturbance by multiple land use and that should be considered before undertaking activities within the area. These values are largely concentrated along shorelines.

The “remoteness” of the area has been identified as a significant value to Pikangikum.

The establishment of parks and protected areas within the area may have the effect of drawing a considerable amount of tourism and recreational users to the area. This could result in disturbing and disrupting the values and remoteness that the community hopes to protect. The values identified by Pikangikum may become the “destination” for tourism and recreation.

Pikangikum expressed a desire to engage the mineral industry with respect to exploration and mine development in the Whitefeather Forest in order to discuss the potential for partnerships in economic development.

Pikangikum expressed surprise at the lack of communication it has so far received from the mineral sector given the increasing level of staking activity and exploration being undertaken in the Whitefeather Forest.

It is not clear how the proposed management role of Pikangikum in forest harvesting activities and land management will affect the forest industry, other industries, other First Nations and government from benefiting and participating in resource extraction.

Doug Parker  June 18, 2004

THE OPA WEBSITE IS AVAILABLE TO POST PROPERTIES FOR OPTION. IF YOU HAVE A PROPERTY PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX YOUR PROPERTY DESCRIPTION TO THE OFFICE.
FAX 807-622-4156
gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com
FOR EXAMPLES VISIT
http://www.ontarioprospectors.com

A RECENT SUCCESS!
Email Received July 18, 2004

OPA Property Listing for Don’s Lake Property

Hi Garry,

I am e-mailing you to let you know that I optioned my Don’s Lake property, near Bamaji Lake, Uchi Sub-Province to Queenston Mining Inc. on July 15, 2004. On the same day, Queenston issued a press release on their website www.queenston.ca

I thank you and your associates for the superb service of listing properties for the Ontario prospector. This is an important vehicle for marketing properties.

Thanks Again and Best Regards
Don Brown
The following Bill was introduced to first reading June 10th, 2004 as a Private Members Bill by Mr. Bison. Since that point it has received 2nd reading and has been sent to Committee. The OPA and other resource users are watching the progress of the Bill and hope to be able to present opinions to the Committee.

**Bill 97 2004**

*An Act respecting the sharing of resource revenues for First Nations*

**Preamble:**
Many First Nations communities in Ontario are impoverished, although their traditional lands contain natural resources that could provide vital revenue. Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario enacts as follows:

**Definitions:**
In this Act, “comprehensive revenue-sharing agreement” means an agreement, including draft legislation, that will provide a comprehensive policy by which First Nations will receive benefits from natural resources extracted from their traditional lands, no matter what form those benefits take; (“accord global de partage des recettes”) “First Nation” means a First Nation that lays claim to traditional lands in Northern Ontario; (“Première nation”) “Northern Ontario” means that portion of Ontario lying north of the French River; (“Nord de l’Ontario”) “resource company” means a corporation or other legal entity that intends to extract a natural resource from the traditional lands of a First Nation; (“entreprise de l’industrie des ressources”) “traditional lands” means lands that were traditionally travelled across or made use of by a First Nation, whether or not they fall within a reserve occupied by that First Nation. (“terres traditionnelles”)

**Negotiations:**
Within 90 days of the coming into force of this Act, representatives of the resource companies, the First Nations, the Government of Ontario and any other parties that they mutually agree should be represented shall commence negotiations aimed at arriving at a comprehensive revenue-sharing agreement.

**Where no agreement:**
Where, three years after negotiations commenced, a comprehensive revenue-sharing agreement has not been arrived at, the parties to the negotiation shall appoint an arbitrator.

**If cannot agree on arbitrator:**
If the parties cannot agree on the appointment of an arbitrator, each party may submit the names of one or more potential arbitrators to a judge of the Superior Court of Justice, who shall appoint an arbitrator from the names submitted.

**Submissions:** An arbitrator appointed under this section shall consider any submissions made by the parties in any manner that he or she considers appropriate.

**Imposition of agreement:**
Within one year of being appointed, the arbitrator shall impose a comprehensive revenue-sharing agreement that shall be deemed to have been arrived at by the parties.

**Tabling:** The comprehensive revenue-sharing agreement shall be presented to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislative Assembly.

**Commencement:**
This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

**Short title:**
The short title of this Act is the *First Nations Resource Revenue Sharing Act, 2004*.

*Please note for the complete copy of the Bill*
Sault Prospector's field trip to the Eagle River Mine, River Gold Mines Ltd., Mishibishu Lake Area, Wawa
by Delio Tortosa

The Plan
At our last couple of meetings we had some discussion about where we should go on our annual fieldtrip. It came down to a choice between either Hemlo Gold Mines or River Gold Mines and after a show of hands it became pretty clear most were interested in River Gold. The question was really whether we'd be able to manage an underground tour of the Eagle River Mine. Everything rested on the number of participants, so it was decided we would focus on a surface tour and depending on the numbers we'd try to wrangle an underground trip. It had been suggested that two bottles of Scotch could do the trick, so after minor deliberation on who was to do what, Bud Clavet opted to buy the alcoholic refreshments, while Viv would acquire munchies and other food stuff. Unlike the last couple of years, our rental van driver was not available, so we doubled-up and made our way up to Northern Lights Motel near Wawa in separate vehicles and then early the next morning headed into the Mishibishu Lake area.

Good Timing
By good fortune the timing of the fieldtrip could not be better. Drifting on the 540 metre level had intersected the two high-grade zones discovered during development drilling in 2003. These new ore zones had values of up to 146 g/t over 4.7 metres and 107 g/t over 5.5 metres. These kinds of ore grades along with some tid bits of information about a new 'style' of high-grade gold mineralization occurring within a breccia, made us keenly interested in picking up a few samples and seeing for ourselves.

A bit of History
The Mishibishu Lake area was quite active during the late 1980's with much of the greenstone belt staked and actively explored for gold. As a result of the exploration effort, several gold deposits were discovered. The Magnacon deposit was brought into production in 1989 and a gold mill built to process the ore. Just to the west of Magnacon, the Mishi deposit was delineated and a small open pit was developed. Fifteen kilometres south of the Magnacon and Mishi deposits, the Eagle River deposit was discovered and developed. In the early 1990's the price of gold floundered and the mines and mill were shut down. In 1994, River Gold Mines Limited was created to consolidate ownership and bring the Eagle River Mine into production. Most recently, River Gold has brought the Mishi deposit into production and has dewatered the Magnacon Mine with the intent of increasing additional ore reserves.

A bit of Geology
On our arrival at the mine site we were met by George Mannard, Vice President, Exploration for River Gold Mines Ltd. We circled around the drafting table while George gave us a detailed overview of the mineralized zones, where we were going, and the kinds of assays that had been found within the areas under development. We then headed off to the core shack where both George and Charlie gave an overview of the geology and the exploration being done on their large property holdings. The drill core on display was a section through the new 818 Zone. Notably, the mineralized shear zone hosting the Eagle River gold deposit extends well past the east and west ends of the diorite stock - into the greenstones. Some interesting gold prospects have been discovered, including a mineralized iron formation to the west and gold-bearing quartz veins to the east.

The Eagle River Orebody
The Eagle River orebody consists of a series of near vertically dipping quartz veins and lenses hosted mostly in a sheared diorite host rock. The ore zones consist of thicker sections of veins and lenses that plunge steeply to the east. The veins have been traced over a strike length of 2.5 kilometres and to a depth of 650 metres. Typically the vein-type ore consists of quartz veins separated by schistose sections of sheared diorite. Sulphide minerals generally occur along the quartz-schist contact and these appear to contain the higher grades of gold.

Most recently a new ore type was discovered referred to as breccia-type ore, consisting of variable-size fragments of sheared and mineralized vein material contained within a
quartz-calcite-feldspar matrix. The mineralized breccia has only been found in the lower levels of the deposit and appears to occur as breccia veins in close association with the main vein-type ore.

**Underground at the Eagle River Mine**

One would have thought that we were about to enter the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory after donning our white coveralls and all the underground paraphernalia. After posing for a few pictures, we stepped into a couple of rather comfortable U/G personnel vehicles and headed down the ramp. For some of the SDPA members it was their first time underground (Vivienne counted the number of turns the vehicles took and in which direction).

As soon as we were out of the trucks everyone took to the U/G like ducks to water - and there was lots of it! At the 540 metre level the mine is about 350 metres below Lake Superior.

**The 818 Zone**

The 818 Zone is dominated by breccia-type ore, containing fragments ranging from a few centimetres in size up to a metre. Fragments of various sizes have a 'splintered' appearance, having been broken along their length or shear fabric and then variably rotated. These zones of brecciation are also characterized by the presence of disseminated epidote alteration which is noted in drill core as the wall rocks and the mineralized breccia are intersected. Other breccia veins were noted within the 818 Zone consisting of wall rock fragments contained in a predominantly calcite matrix with associated hematite-rich seams. This secondary breccia type forms large cavities and its relationship to the mineralized breccia-type ore is uncertain (Keweenawan age?).

**The 650 Zone**

The 650 Zone is more typical of the classic vein-type ore that has provided the main stay for River Gold Mines for the last 8 years producing 517,000 ounces of gold from 1.8 million tonnes of ore at a recovered grade of 9.1 grams of gold per tonne. Proven and probable reserves at Eagle River currently stand at 1,268,000 tonnes at 10 grams per tonne. High-grade intersections of 146 g/t over 4.7 metres and 50 g/t over 2.3 metres in the 650 Zone attest to the continued richness of the gold mineralization with depth and the longer term viability of this gold mine.

**The Surface Tour**

When it comes to access to the surface exposures of orebodies, you cannot find much better than a good access road directly over the surface expression of the 650 Zone. We simply drove up and stepped out of the vehicles - even the bugs were not that bad! Here we had an opportunity to see how it all fits together. The folded and thickened quartz veins and lenses are contained within a shear zone that occurs at the contact between diorite and mafic volcanics. The 650 Zone is at the eastern edge of the diorite stock which hosts most of the vein system. It is possible to walk from south to north through unsheared mafic volcanic rocks, to sheared mafic volcanics, folded quartz veins with sheared slivers of diorite and/or mafic volcanic, to sheared diorite and then unsheared diorite. A good lesson in geology!

**The Eagles Nest**

After such an 'exhaustive' day in the field, George Mannard invited us to share in some refreshments at the Eagles Nest. This is the location at the top of the hill where the original drill program was completed by Hemlo Gold Mines. Much of the drill core is still at the site. The small cottage has a spectacular view of Lake Superior with Miichipicoten Island in the distance.

Folks may not remember, but the nearest comparison to the Eagle River gold deposit both in size and style of mineralization in the Wawa area was the Renabie Mine. The Renabie produced over 1 million ounces during a lifetime that spanned over 25 years. With the hard work and dedication evident in River Gold's mining and exploration team and the continuing resilience of the ore body, we can expect to see River Gold Mines Ltd. live long and prosper.

**Acknowledgements:**

Thanks to all the folks who helped out in giving the SDPA a great surface and underground tour and to their hospitality, especially: George Mannard, Vice President, Exploration; John Plecash, Chief Geologist; Charlie Hartely, Exploration Geologist; Joe Wilkins, Mine Captain; River Gold Mines Limited. Thanks also to Vivienne Cote, President, SDPA and Mike Hailstone, District
Hunting for Mineral Wealth in Northern Ontario

Increasing First Nation Participation in Mineral Exploration

Mineral Exploration is like the hunt. It is a hunt not for an animal that will provide food and clothing, but for an ore body and profit. An ore body is a deposit of minerals that can be mined at a profit. Mineral Exploration is the tracking and locating of the ore body. This tracking and locating is carried out by Prospectors and Geologists using science, surveys and sampling much as a hunter will use eyes, ears, nose and knowledge to find the location of an animal.

An ore body is an elusive animal. It lives underground and hunters are fortunate if they ever see even part of an ore body on the surface of the earth. Most hunters only see signs that an ore body may be present and it is only by drilling into the rock that they can see a small part of what lies below the surface.

It is generally accepted that an ore body is found on only one in 10,000 mining claims. If each of these mining claims were considered a hunt, then a hunting party would have to hunt every day for thirty years before it was likely to find an ore body.

Mineral Exploration is expensive, requires a long period of time, involves a considerable amount of technical knowledge, a degree of luck and success is never assured. There is no profit in mineral exploration, it is an expense.

Because mineral exploration is an expense, there are few resources to share in this phase of the mining sequence. It is only after the discovery of an ore body that a harvest (mining) can occur.

It is during the mining phase that there is potential for profit and the sharing of the harvest. However, mining cannot occur without mineral exploration.

The production from a mine does not feed a hungry family or provide clothing but rather supplies a market for metals and minerals. The value of the harvest is always changing depending on the global supply and demand. As the market changes so does the ability for a mine to make a profit. Sometimes mines will close only to open again at a later date.

When new mining operations are considered today, the mines must consult with and provide benefit for affected First Nation Communities. The mine must ensure environmental safeguards are in place during mining and must provide an approved mine closure plan together with the money required to rehabilitate the mine site before the mine can start production.

Mineral exploration is undertaken by individuals (Prospectors) and by companies (Juniors and Majors). Juniors are companies that have no mines but rely on investors to finance exploration. Majors are companies with existing profitable mines. Majors have financial resources to undertake significant community consultation and education that Prospectors and Juniors don’t have. It is the Prospector and Junior whose discoveries often lead to the development of a mine.

Communities can encourage economic development and benefits associated with a mining operation by encouraging mineral exploration today. In order to do this there should be reasonable expectations of consultation and benefits during the exploration phase particularly when dealing with Prospectors and Junior companies.

If community expectations of consultation and benefits are excessive during the exploration phase, exploration will not take place; ore bodies will not be discovered and mine development will not occur. The Mineral Industry will not be sustainable and communities will lose the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the mineral industry. Communities and community members can participate directly in the exploration phase of the mining sequence as Prospectors, by developing Junior companies and by providing services and goods to the mineral industry.

Increasing First Nation participation in the mineral industry requires education, experience and planning.
In order to promote a sustainable mineral industry in Northern Ontario, and promote partnerships between First Nations and Industry, these Guiding Principles are suggested:

Several components to success should be considered:

- Education (both for First Nations and Industry)
- Communication (open and informed)
- Experience (with the industry and with the community)
- Planning (proactive, planning for success)

First Nations have expressed the need for a mandatory set of principles to guide development in Traditional Lands. Those principles include:

- The First Nation Culture and Way of Life shall be protected.
- The Environment shall be protected.
- Aboriginal, Treaty and Constitutional Rights shall be protected.
- Developments in the Traditional Lands must be of acceptable benefit to the people of the First Nation.

The Mineral Industry has expressed its critical need for the following:

- Certainty of land tenure.
- Timely access to the land during exploration.
- The need to generate profit at the mine development stage.

A robust Mineral Industry in Northern Ontario can provide an opportunity to break the cycle of dependence of northern communities on government funding and reduce the individual’s heavy reliance on community leadership. Active prospectors within northern communities can contribute significantly to the sustainability of the mineral industry by helping to develop Ontario’s natural resource wealth. Prospecting provides an opportunity for youth and elders to go out on the land and practice traditional activities together.

Increasing First Nation participation in the mineral industry can benefit the individual through increased knowledge, wealth and self esteem, can benefit the community though economic benefit and by bridging gender and generation gaps and can benefit Ontario through increased economic wealth and more importantly cultural wealth.

**Ontario Geoscience Data Portal Project**

In order to provide better access to Ontario's Geoscience Data and to keep Ontario a leader in mineral exploration, the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is sponsoring the Geoscience Data Portal Project – a bold new initiative to develop and maintain an Internet portal for the discovery and free electronic transfer of over 400 gigabytes of Ontario's digital Geoscience information. This includes all the OGS publications and maps, all mineral assessment work files, the lithogeochemical database, Ontario's mineral deposit inventory and drill hole databases.

In order to better understand our stakeholders needs we have developed an online survey at [http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/ogs/survey_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/ogs/survey_e.asp) to facilitate your input into this important project.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey, closing date will be August 31, 2004. We encourage you to distribute this notice to any group or individuals who might have an interest in Ontario's Geoscience data.

For further information on the Geoscience Data Portal Project please contact:

Brian Berdusco  
GIS Project Manager  
Land and Resources Cluster  
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines  
705-670-5746  
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Alternative Staking Sub committee Report

PREAMBLE

June 15, 2004

In February 2004 Minister Bartolucci asked for recommendations from the Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee regarding less intrusive staking methods for access to Crown mineral rights, particularly for those areas where surface rights are commonly held separately from the mining rights.

In February 2004 the Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee voted in favour of the establishment of a 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”.

To these ends a sub committee of the Mining Lands and Exploration sub committee was formed. Members of that group are Gary Clark, Ontario Prospectors Association, Peter Griesbach, Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations, Michael Leahy, Northern Prospectors Association, Colin Chambers, Ontario Conservation Council and Ministry of Northern Mines and Development staff advisors Ron Gashinski and Roy Denomme.

The sub committee has met via teleconference twice since February and presented preliminary findings to the Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee June 15, 2004.

The term less intrusive staking, covers a broad range of activities including special staking regulations for sensitive areas, single post staking, mandatory witnessing across incumbent surface rights and manual or automated methods of applying for mineral rights.

The subcommittee has prepared a list of five questions to be submitted to the Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee members for distribution to their constituents as part of the investigation and detailing of stakeholder representations.

The following statistics and data have been supplied by the Provincial Recording Office and may give some light to the Staking Industry as it stands under current regulations

GENERAL CLAIM STATISTICS

Q Number of claims staked by someone and not recorded or transferred in someone else’s name.
A There were 5911 claims staked in 2003. Of that 1047 were not transferred or recorded in someone’s name.

Q Number of claims staked by individuals who do not live in Ontario.
A Of the 5911 claims staked in 2003, 830 were staked by people who reside outside of Ontario.

Q What is the breakdown of breakdown of the # of claims staked by prospectors
A 7344 active licensees, 478 staked mining claims in 2003.

Below is a quick breakdown of the Numbers:
370 licensees staked 10 claims or less (142 staked only one claim).
85 licensees staked between 11 and 50 mining claims.
10 licensees staked 51 to 100 mining claims
13 licensees staked more than 100 mining claims

The top 5 stakers were 380, 213, 188, 183, 175.

CLAIM ATTRITION

There were 6101 claims staked in 2001. As of May 19, 2004 1650 of these claims were still active, 4451 of these claims have cancelled and 333 of the cancelled claims had work performed on them.

VALUE OF STAKING TO THE ONTARIO 2003 ECONOMY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Year 2003 Total Units</th>
<th>Cost/Unit**</th>
<th>Easy Access</th>
<th>Lowlands</th>
<th>Total Prov.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kenora</td>
<td>2346</td>
<td>$ 90</td>
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<td>$ 211,140</td>
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<td>Red Lake</td>
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<td>Larder Lake</td>
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<td>Porcupine</td>
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<td>$ 312,570</td>
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<td>$2,469,057</td>
<td>$ 6,387,531</td>
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</table>

* estimate 60% in lowlands, 40% in easier access
** including all costs

THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR YOUR OPINIONS. PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED QUESTIONNAIRE TO ENSURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD.
Questions for Stakeholders

Return Questionnaire to fax: 807-622-4156
or email: gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com
or mail to the OPA office, 1000 Alloy Drive, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6A5

1. In areas of incumbent surface rights, do you support less intrusive staking?

2. What methods of acquisition would you consider less intrusive and could be adopted.

3. What issues have you identified which need to be addressed should a “map Selection Process” be considered?

4. Do you feel there are benefits to a “Map Selection” process, which would streamline administration, and make acquisition of land faster and simpler? Please explain.

5. Are there any social, environmental, or economic issues, which need to be considered in adopting a “Map Selection” process?

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
2004 ONTARIO EXPLORATION & GEOSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
DELTA CHELSEA, TORONTO
DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2004

- Posters, booths and speakers planned over two days
- Workshops on remote sensing and 3-D geophysics planned for December 13, 16 & 17th
- Additional workshops planned and suggestions welcome

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANT SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
PLEASE CONTACT oegs@ontarioprospectors.com

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