ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SET OF SYMPOSIA
START A BANNER EXPLORATION SEASON

Congratulations must go out to the NWOPA and NPA volunteers for great shows in Thunder Bay and Kirkland Lake.
The Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium, “Superior Prospecting, Superior Results”, saw greater than 350 people registered with informative workshops that were extremely well attended. The speakers were very timely speaking on new prospects and planned summer projects. A special push this year, by Barb D’Silva, to encourage core and rocks at the booths was a great success at keeping people’s attention. The symposium is now also known for the Awards luncheon that recognizes explorers from the northwest. The recipients this year were:

BERNIE SCHNIEDERS DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR AWARD
Freewest Resources Canada Inc.:
Sungold Cu-Zn Property, Shebandowan

Wolfden Resources Inc. / Sabina Silver Corp.:
Bonanza-Follansbee Gold Property, Red Lake

DEVELOPER of the YEAR AWARD
North American Palladium Ltd.: Lac des Iles Mine

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Dan Calvert, Dan Christianson, Peter McKellar, Jim Redden

The Northeastern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium, “100 Years of Gold”, was attended by over 250 registered guests. Quite a success considering approximately 2 weeks before the event the venue was still a question. Hats off to Mike Leahy for putting up with the lack of optimism that the strike was going to be settled and not canceling the event early. The speakers were definitely a highlight with a good balance of commodity talks and government presentations. The unique set up with lunch in the area of the posters and booths really drew the people to see the displays. The evening Icebreaker had a great catered meal with an informative keynote address from Chris Rockingham of Northgate Minerals. Chris discussed the early history of Northgate Minerals as it pertains to Kirkland Lake and discussed their exploration of the Young Davidson Project in Matachewan, Kennes North Offset and the RDN project. Also during the Icebreaker the 2006 PPDA Achievement Award was presented to Dean Rogers Sr. by Bill MacRae the current PPDA President. Dean professed to be the best Mine killer in Northeastern Ontario. The mine tours and workshops before and after the symposium were exceptionally informative and well attended.

The organizers of the “Superior Prospecting, Superior Results” and “100 Years of Gold” would like to thank the:
1. Sponsors
2. Speakers
3. Exhibitors
4. Attendees
5. Volunteers

NEW DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS OPERATIONAL STATEMENTS

As you are aware, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) released Version 1.0 of

We’re easy to get a hold of
Contact the Executive Director: Garry Clark
Email: gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com
Phone: 807-622-3284 Toll Free: 866-259-3727 Fax: 807-622-4156
11 National Operational Statements in Ontario during 2005. These documents were developed as part of a streamlining initiative for review of low risk to fish habitat projects under DFO's Environmental Process Modernization Program (EPMP). The initial version of the Operational Statements expires on March 31, 2006.

We are pleased to advise you that Version 2.0 of these Operational Statements, with an expiry date of March 31, 2007, has now been released for immediate implementation. Within Ontario, these include:

1. Beach Creation
2. Beaver Dam Removal
3. Clear-span Bridges
4. Culvert Maintenance
5. Bridge Maintenance
6. Dock & Boathouse Construction
7. Isolated Ponds
8. High-Pressure Directional Drilling
9. Ice Bridges
10. Overhead Line Construction
11. Underwater Cables

As of April 1, 2006, copies of Version 2.0 of the Operational Statements are available on the Central and Arctic Regional website, listed below. Paper copies will also be available at DFO, Conservation Authority and Parks Canada offices in Ontario by mid-April.

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/habitat/index_e.htm

Also, please note that the Ontario Routine Maintenance Dredging Operational Statement has been released by DFO and Transport Canada and is also posted on the above website.

If you have any questions on this material, please contact me, or your local DFO office. Your comments are always appreciated.

Yours truly,
Sara Eddy

**NAN questions mining activity**

*Platinex moving equipment to claims near Big Trout Lake*

By Bryan Meadows, Northwest Bureau
The Chronicle Journal – Monday, February 27, 2006

Citing a lack of consultation between a southern Ontario mineral exploration company and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation claims the province isn’t living up to its treaty obligations on resource development.

“We had high expectations after the November 2005 Mikisew Supreme Court decision regarding the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate with First Nations when activities like mining threaten our aboriginal and treaty rights,” NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy said.

“The fact that Ontario has not implemented this decision in our province sets the tone for First Nation and government relations for resource development in NAN territory,” Beardy said.

“Our treaty partners continue to disregard direction from the Supreme Court in dealing with our people,” claimed band council spokesman John Cutfeet.

Toronto-based Platinex Inc. began mobilizing equipment this month on mining claims about 25 kilometres southwest of Big Trout Lake First Nation.

While band leaders maintain there has been a lack of consultation about the company’s exploration plans. Platinex spokesman Simon Baker said exhaustive discussions have taken place.

“Absolutely yes, we have been talking. We’ve been talking for seven years,” he said.

“We’ve worked successfully with the band in the past, and we know we’re dealing with a situation where I think the community has some issues with the government,” said Baker.

“Alas, I think the government is getting involved and hopefully this issue that has been in the press, will be resolved very soon.”

Deputy Mines Minister Christine Kaszycki said the ministry has attempted to set up a meeting with the band council to discuss the issue.

“We’ve had a favourable response from the community (earlier this year)
about holding a meeting), but haven’t been able to confirm a date,” she said.

In a letter to the Globe and Mail published Wednesday, Platinex president James Trusler states that the company “continues to seek consultation in good faith to ensure appropriate benefits to the community,” including assistance to develop sustainable economic development projects.

However, he said, following the chief and band council’s recent “refusal to continue consultation in good faith, the company is proceeding with exploration. Nevertheless, if a (chromium/platinum/palladium) ore body is discovered and developed, Platinex will do its best to ensure that benefits accrue to the community.

“We invite Chief Donny Morris to join us in an initiative that could be of tremendous value for the future of people in the region,” Trusler states in his letter.

“Platinex respects the people of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and continues to seek a mutually beneficial working relationship.”

Platinex is exploring for platinum group elements on its 8,840-acre Big Trout Lake property as well as 81 mining leases acquired from Inco in November. The mining claims are about 580 kilometres north of Thunder Bay.

Meanwhile, band leaders say they are worried that the addition of seven Ontario Provincial Police officer in the community “to keep the peace” will increase tension and paranoia among residents.

“We’ve been told by the OPP that extra officers have been brought in to keep the peace in the community,” said Cutfeet. “However, their presence, particularly the vehicle checks of those coming or leaving the community, has created increased tension.”

OPP Sgt. Deb Tully said police sent in the extra officers due to a land claim dispute between the band and a mining company, and the possibility of a blockade of the winter road.

“We’re dealing with a very remote area so we wanted to ensure the situation is properly monitored and to ensure public safety,” she said.

There has been no road block to date, but Tully said there is a possibility of a peaceful demonstration at the exploration site the next few days.

The Chronicle-Journal - Saturday, May 13, 2006
The Letters Page
“De Beers clarifies conflict between hunters, helicopters”

Re “Mining operation threatening hunt, chief of Muskrat Dam First Nation says” Apr. 28; “Hunt foiled, says chief, Diamond company’s choppers blamed, May 1.

De Beers has demonstrated a firm commitment to working with Aboriginal communities at all stages of its diamond exploration and mine development activities. It is De Beers’ policy and practice to engage with local communities before exploration work begins. The purpose is to provide information to the community about the work planned and to obtain the necessary information from the community so that De Beers can minimize possible impacts on traditional pursuits and the environment, as well as to discuss job opportunities created by De Beers’ activities. As a result of this consistent and proactive commitment, the company has concluded a wide range of agreements with Aboriginal communities across Canada.

Contrary to statements published in the media. De Beers did act in accordance with its policy and practice and approached the Muskrat Dam First Nation in March, 2006. The company requested a meeting to enquire about the communities traditional land and pursuits and discuss the early exploration work planned in the region for the spring 2006.

This request was declined and for this reason the company was not aware of the existence, location and timing of the Muskrat Dam youth hunting trip to Agusk Lake. It is unfortunate that De Beers’ work...
in the area coincided with the hunt and, had the community agreed to a meeting with the company, this work could have been jointly planned to avoid any disruption to community activities.

During the company’s extensive engagement with the other communities in the region, no mention was made of the fact that the area of Agusk Lake was considered to fall within the traditional lands of the Muskrat Dam community, which is some 194 km south of Agusk Lake. A number of other First Nation communities, located closer to Agusk Lake, are very active in the area between Muskrat Dam and Agusk Lake. In fact, following consultation with Fort Severn First Nation, the First Nation and De Beers concluded an agreement providing the company with clear community support for a staged exploration program within that community’s traditional lands, including the Agusk Lake area.

De Beers has recently written to Muskrat Dam to outline its policy and practice regarding consultation and to again request a meeting with the community so that future work can be discussed and open dialogue with the community established. Through subsequent discussions, the company and the community have agreed to meet to find a positive path forward.

De Beers values its good relationships with local communities and goes to great lengths to understand their concerns and meet the needs of the communities within whose traditional lands the company operates. The consultation process provides De Beers with information needed to ensure that its activities minimize impact on wildlife, the environment and traditional lifestyles and established the beginnings of mutually beneficial relationship which could last years.

De Beers’ relationships with Aboriginal communities in Canada are guided by its policy entitled “Working with Aboriginal Communities” and this policy has governed its approach to Muskrat Dam First Nation, the other communities in Northern Ontario and wherever the company operates. For more information regarding this policy please visit www.debeerscanada.com.

Linda Dorrington
Manager, Public and Corporate Affairs
De Beers Canada Inc., Toronto

EDITORS NOTE: The following article is from the Mining Watch website. I find it interesting that economic stimulation that has been around since the 1980’s can be negative to the country.

Federal Budget renews tax subsidy encouraging investment for new mines in remote areas
Friday May 5, 2006 09:20 AM

The federal budget re-introduced the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration (ITCE) from May 2, 2006, to March 31, 2007. This is a subsidy to investors that is ultimately being paid for with the suffering of indigenous peoples.

The program, known familiarly as ‘super’ flow-through, allows investors a 15% credit on their flow-through share investments in grassroots exploration. As the federal budget points out, the one-year 'look-back' rule will allow funds raised with the benefit of the credit in 2007, for example, to be spent on eligible exploration activity up to the end of 2008.

The cost of this subsidy to government is estimated at $90 million, but there has never been an evaluation of the ecological, social and cultural costs of the program to the public.

It is important to note that most provinces also have Flow Through Shares and tax incentives for mines in remote areas which are in addition to the federal program. The Investment Tax Credit has enriched speculative investors by reducing the after-tax cost of a $1000 investment in exploration in Canada to as little as $207 in Quebec, and $333 in BC.

Most of the exploration is in Canada’s northern and rural regions, where there are grow-
ing conflicts with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, who want consultation with governments and to undertake land-use planning before any of their traditional territories are allocated to mining.

There has never been an evaluation of the ecological, cultural and social costs of this exploration by the federal government.

Last week, Muskrat Dam First Nation discovered that exploration activities by DeBeers, including helicopters and drilling, had ruined their annual community goose hunt. This deprived the community of over 200 geese that they needed to feed their elders.

Fortune Minerals, a junior mining company registered in Ontario has made a number private placements of Super Flow Through Shares to its investors. The company proposes to mine anthracite coal in the "Sacred Headwaters" of the Tahltan people: the headwaters of five major rivers in British Columbia. Elders from the community have been blockading their exploration activities, arguing that the rivers need to be protected and their cultural heritage is at risk. The Tahltans are faced with five major new mining projects on their lands as well as infrastructure to support them all at the same time.

In northern Ontario, seven First Nations have issued a mining moratorium to stop the exploration activities of Superior Diamonds, Platinex and other mining companies on their traditional territories. They say the companies are infringing their rights and damaging their land. Both Platinex and Superior rely on the Flow Through Share Program to sustain investor interest in their activities.

PRESS RELEASE

Mining Week in Timmins is April 30 to May 6, 2006. The Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association supports an industry that contributes significantly to the economic growth and well being of the Timmins area as well as the Province.

In conjunction with Mining Week we would like to announce the establishment of a special section in the Timmins Public Library devoted to prospecting and mineral exploration. The “Paul Coad Geological Library” has been initialized by the generous donation of an extensive private collection of geological material by Linda Coad.

This collection is being made available to the public in order to act as a resource for local prospectors and geologists as well as students in an effort to encourage all people to become acquainted with geology and mining. This collection contains many out of print reports and maps that can now be accessed in the new innovative and exciting library building.

The Porcupine Prospectors and Developers Association has established a dedicated committee to assist in the management of the Paul Coad Geological Library to continue promoting the importance of prospecting, exploration and mining to the Porcupine Camp.

MARK THE DATES BELOW ON YOUR CALENDAR

The 2006 Ontario Exploration & Geoscience Symposium will be held December 12 & 13, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel, Sudbury, Ontario

The 2007 Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium hosted in conjunction with the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association will be held in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn - April 3 & 4, 2007

The 2007 Northeastern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium hosted in conjunction with the Sault & District Prospectors Association will be held in Sault Ste. Marie - April 2007 Venue TBA

POST YOUR PROPERTIES FOR OPTION ON THE OPA WEBSITE.
CONTACT THE OPA OFFICE 866-622-3284 or gjclark@ontarioprospectors.com
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1Includes on-mine-site and off-mine-site activities; field work, overhead costs, engineering, economic and feasibility studies, environment, and land access costs.

a Preliminary estimates.
b Company spending intentions.

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Exploration and deposit appraisal activities include only the search for and appraisal of deposits and do not include work for extensions of known reserves.