

News views and opinions on the mineral exploration scene in Ontario

January 2008 Issue

Date: January 08

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 the members and Directors. The writers accept full ownership of their contributions.

2007 The Year of Exploration! What will 2008 Bring?

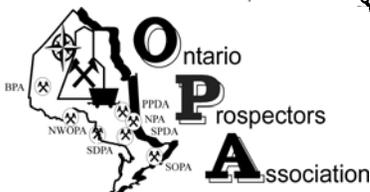
One of the most over used lines this year has been "Would you know of a prospector or a geologist that is available"? you could insert linecutter, geophysicists, or diamond drill into this question. In fact, and I am sure you will hear this question asked several times during 2008!

Even with the limited manpower in our exploration industry, discoveries have been made and numerous projects have moved from grass roots to advanced exploration. There is no area of the Province that isn't being rekindled in this broad, commodity driven frenzy. In 2000-2001 would you have forecasted the expenditure of almost 5 times more exploration dollars in the Province by 2007?

An estimated \$500 million of exploration expenditures have been made over the last year in Ontario with an Ontario Diamond mine on the horizon while explorers for uranium are back in the Province. The hot commodities continue to be gold and base metals, all driven by global demand, and explored for across Ontario.

The dollars expended have been from one end of the Province to the other. The OPA showcased some of this exploration and geoscience collection in Sudbury at the annual Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium (OEGS). 2008 dates are December 9th and 10th and we believe the level of exploration and development will be as great as 2007 or possibly greater, so mark the dates on your calendar now!

This year at the OEGS the Annual Ontario Prospectors Association Award was presented. The recipient was Perry English a successful prospector entrepreneur. Perry received his award during the Awards Dinner from our new Minister Michael Gravelle and new OPA President Wally Rayner. Part of Perry's humble acceptance speech included tribute to friends and colleges: "Before starting to prospect I spent hours sitting in the Red Lake Inn listening to stories from old time prospectors such as Jerry Desmeules, Andy Hager and Hans Polkom. It was these stories that first got me interested in taking up prospecting as a hobby while still working in the mines. Being very green and inexperienced I relied on the help and expertise of numerous people involved in the industry



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such as Brian Atkinson, Jack Parker, Craig McDougall, Ewan Downie, Jerry Williamson and Dave Adamson. I learnt a great deal from these people and others enabling me to move forward in the prospecting and marketing aspect of this industry. Some of these acquaintances have become life-long friends and people that I admire very much."

The upcoming year will be another year of looking for people and equipment to meet the commodity driven exploration frenzy. As Executive Director of the OPA I personally believe new deposits will be located and developed from the work in 2007 and 2008. I also believe that since we have the money we are completing a lot more diamond drill holes which is allowing us to sort out some geological questions we never could in the past! These questions are the ones needed to be answered before deposits are made.

The OPA will continue to represent the Explorationists of the Province and if there are issues that need some review and lobbying please call us!

DFO NOTICE

As you are aware, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has released 17 National Operational Statements in Ontario over the past three years. These documents were developed as part of a streamlining initiative for review of projects that are of low risk to fish and fish habitat under DFO's *Environmental Process Modernization Plan* (EPMP). While the current version of the Operational Statements expired on March 31, 2007, their use was extended until further notice while updated versions were being prepared.

We are pleased to advise you that we have now redesigned and updated all of the Operational Statements, and Version 3.0 has been released for immediate implementation.

Within Ontario, these include:

1. Beach Creation
2. Beaver Dam Removal
3. Bridge Maintenance
4. Clear-span Bridges
5. Culvert Maintenance
6. Dock and Boathouse Construction
7. High-Pressure Directional Drilling
8. Ice Bridges and Snow Fills
9. Isolated Pond Construction
10. Maintenance of Riparian Vegetation in Existing Rights-of-way
11. Moorings
12. Public Beach Maintenance
13. Punch & Bore Crossings
14. Routine Maintenance Dredging
15. Submerged Log Salvage
16. Overhead Line Construction
17. Underwater Cables

In addition, the following associated document(s) have been released:

- Ontario Notification Form
- Ontario Timing Windows

At the current time, these documents are only available in electronic form in both html and pdf versions, at the following DFO web site:

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/modernizing-moderniser/epmp-mppe/index_e.asp

They will also be available in printed form at DFO, Conservation Authority and Parks Canada offices by approximately mid-February.

You will notice that there are two additional Operational Statements listed on the Ontario Notification Form. These two new National Operational Statements are currently being finalized and are expected to be released in the coming weeks. You will be advised further when they are available. These documents address:

- Isolated or Dry Open-cut Stream Crossings, and
- Temporary Stream Crossings.

We are also pleased to advise you that we have released a Timing Windows Operational Statement (*Ontario In-Water Construction Timing Window Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat*) for the first time in Ontario. This document was developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources with input from our partner agencies, specifically for application to Operational Statements.

The expiry date on all Operational Statements was replaced with a "Version" number in the top right corner. This was done in order to avoid preparing new Operational Statements each year with a specific expiration point. As indicated in a statement at the bottom of each of the documents, Operational Statements may be updated as required, and proponents are expected to use the most recent version that is posted on the DFO web site, shown above.

All Operational Statement materials are available in both official languages.

If you have questions about any of this material, please feel free to contact me or your local DFO office.

A Gentle Man and Good Friend

Paul "Jethro" Gertzbein

Paul "Jethro" Gertzbein, prospector and geologist, died suddenly on Nov. 17, 2007. He was 49.

Gertzbein, senior mine geologist at the David Bell gold mine, in northern Ontario, was an avid gem and mineral collector and was well on his way to becoming a gemmologist.

In his 30 years in the industry, Gertzbein held posts with Gulf Minerals, McIsaac Exploration, Placer Dome, Inco, Harmony Gold, Ontario's Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

In addition to the broad spectrum of companies he worked for, Gertzbein also worked at various project throughout Canada in both the exploration and feasibility stages.

His career also offered him the chance to visit remote areas throughout the world, a perk his wife said he enjoyed. Gertzbein is survived by his mother Rose, sisters Ceri and Louise, brother Carl and wife Jurate.

The Northern Miner, Volume 93 Number 44, Dec 24-30, 2007

ICE SAFETY STRESSED

In addition, at the request of a client, I discovered that Ministry of Labour is requesting that drillers performing drilling operations on ice have some sort of "working on ice" training. While there are no specific regulations or legal requirements concerning this, it is pointed the client to a website and downloadable videos (http://www.yukonman.com/cold_water.asp). Our clients should be interested in this very practical information.

The request may have come about subsequent to the tragic accident of two winters ago, when a dozer operator making an ice road to Springpole, working through two local subcontractors, went through the ice on Birch Lake. The contractors were found guilty of some sort of lax safety procedures and fined substantial \$\$.

Every little bit of information helps!

2008 Mines & Minerals Symposia

The **Ontario Prospectors Association** in conjunction with the Regional Associations the **Boreal Prospectors Association [BPA]** and **Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association [NWOPA]** and the **Porcupine Prospectors & Developers Association [PPDA]** invite you to join them:

Northern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium "The Business of Exploration"

February 18 to 19, 2008 {Technical Presentations & Exhibits} in Sioux Lookout at the Sunset Inn & Suites

Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium "Beyond Superior – Explore Northwestern Ontario"

April 8 & 9, 2008 {Technical Presentations & Exhibits} April 7, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. {Workshop} in Thunder Bay, Ontario at the Valhalla Inn

Northeastern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium "A Century of Mineral Discovery"

April 14 & 15, 2008 {Technical Presentations & Exhibits} April 16, 2008 {TGI Course} in Timmins at the McIntyre Community Centre

Ontario Exploration & Geoscience Symposium

December 8 & 9, 2008 {Technical Presentations & Exhibits} in Sudbury at the Radisson Hotel

For registration details for the above Symposia please visit the OPA website at <http://www.ontarioprospectors.com> or call our office toll free at 866.259.3727 or 807.622.3284

DIGITAL ASSESSMENT WORK

Dear Ms. Blancher-Smith,

Re: Submission of Digital Assessment Compilation Work

It has come to our attention that technical reports which incorporate the use of digital compilation work using such tools as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), statistical and spatial analysis of compiled data, and the 3D visualization and mineral de-

posit modeling of compiled data, are not acceptable as assessment work by the Assessment Office of the MND&M.

It is our organization's view that this section of the Mining Act regulation be reviewed and given wider amplitude regarding the acceptability of technical reports based on the processing of digital data (i.e. GIS, 3D) derived from hardcopy assessment file information. We are requesting this change for the following reasons:

1. The exploration industry makes use of advanced computer technologies to assist in the discovery of mineral deposits. This includes the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 3D visualization and modeling applications (i.e. Vulcan, Gencom, Geosoft), in addition to standard spreadsheet, word processing, database, and internet applications. We believe that some of the regulations governing assessment work are out-of-date and need to be brought in-line with the technological progress made over the last 10 years.
2. The process of converting hardcopy assessment files such as geological, geophysical and geochemical maps and data into a digital format suitable for use with the applications described above, is a value added process resulting in increased value to the final product.
3. Converted hardcopy information such as geochemical data (assays, geochemical analyses) and drill hole data (assays, geology), allows us the opportunity to reprocess the data using statistical and spatial analysis techniques, providing new understanding of the original information. For example, the re-assessment of drill hole assay data provides the ability to create new models of the mineralized zone as well as the ability to view this information in 3-dimensional space. This then adds value to the original hardcopy data files.

4. Once the data is in a digital format with embedded 'intelligence' (as opposed to simply a scanned map), it is available to others as part of a technical report with accompanying digital data (i.e. CD or DVD) in MND&M's assessment file system. Hard-copy assessment information would only need to be converted once into an intelligent digital format. Various import and export functions are available to convert the data into other formats.

It makes sense for exploration companies to utilize assessment information to its full value prior to the implementation of an exploration program since this can lead to new interpretations and can provide guidance in planning an exploration program. This type of exploration work can save a company time and money by allowing it to focus on areas interpreted as being more prospective for mineral deposits.

The idea of digital assessment work is in-line with MND&M's direction towards digital submissions of assessment work reports. If there is a willingness to allow the submission of technical reports in digital format (PDF or Word), then why not allow the submission of intelligent digital data (i.e. suitable for GIS and 3D software) converted and compiled from hardcopy information in the assessment files?

This is not to say that we do not endorse the production of hardcopy reports for the assessment file system. Many prospectors and geologists still find it useful to review the assessment files in hard copy form.

The Sault & District Prospectors Association unanimously endorses this letter.

Yours truly,
Delio Tortosa,
VP
Sault & District Prospectors Association

Rubicon consultant Perry English receives 2007 Ontario Prospector Award

VANCOUVER, Dec. 14 /CNW/ - Rubicon Minerals Corporation (RMX.T:RBY. AMEX) is pleased to report that Perry English, who has provided full time prospecting services to Rubicon since 2003, has received the 2007 Ontario Prospector Award at a recent dinner and Awards ceremony in Sudbury, Ontario.

In 2003, Rubicon purchased Perry's interests in 90 mineral properties and agreements in Ontario and created the English Royalty Division (ERD). The motivation for Rubicon was to 'buy-back' its own option deals in Red Lake from Perry, thus saving future cash and share option payments. In addition, Rubicon received cash and share payments from all other deals. Perry also provided his exclusive services to Rubicon to source new property acquisitions and enter into additional option agreements, a successful arrangement which continues to the present day. A summary of the ERD demonstrates that unique contribution that Perry has made:

- 1) Over 100 new option agreements have been generated since the deal was signed.
- 2) Approximately 12,000 claim units have been staked at no net cost to Rubicon.
- 3) Cash plus share option payments over three years valued at over \$1.5 million.
- 4) With 67 current agreements, Rubicon has exposure through royalty interests to 67 projects in areas and commodities outside of its core focus.

"Our association with Perry goes back to the late 1990's when it quickly became

apparent that in order to expand into Red Lake, Ontario, we needed to talk to Perry. Since that time this unique association has turned into a successful business relationship and friendship which has led to significant new opportunities and cash flow for Rubicon and ultimately leads to funds being injected into the Ontario mineral exploration industry which otherwise may well have gone elsewhere."

"In our view Perry is unique in our industry. He is a one-man project generator who displays a combination of experience, contacts and the proven ability to deliver deals. In many ways, he represents a new-age prospector utilizing the technology that surrounds claims and claim staking in the modern Ontario while at the same time ready and willing to roll up his sleeves and 'turn over the moss' in the hunt for new mineral occurrences. The prospector continues to be a mainstay in the Canadian mining business and no-one exemplifies this better than Perry. We extend our hearty congratulations on his well deserved Award and look forward to our continuing relationship," stated David Adamson, President and CEO.

**The Northern Miner, Volume 93 Number 45, Dec. 31, 2007 - Jan 6, 2008
Perry English receives 2007 Ontario Prospector Award**

Perry English, a consultant for Rubicon Minerals (RMX-T, RBY-X), is this year's recipient of the 2007 Ontario Prospectors Award, from the Ontario Prospectors Association.

The award was presented to English during a dinner and Awards ceremony on December 11, in Sudbury, Ontario.

"In our view, Perry is unique in our industry," said David Adamson, President and CEO of Rubicon during the ceremony. "The prospector continues to be a mainstay in the Canadian mining business and no one exemplifies this better than Perry."

English was commended for his willingness to "to roll up his sleeves and 'turn over the moss' in the hunt for new mineral occurrences."

The prospector held interests in 90 mineral properties in Ontario before selling them to Rubicon in 2003.

Through the purchase, Rubicon created the English Royalty Division (ERD) of the company, which generates royalties by optioning out land covering 1,000 mining claims to other juniors. The ERD has allowed the company to stake 12,000 claims at no net cost, and has provided cash plus share option payments of about \$1.5 million over three years.

PERRY'S THANK YOU

Wally Rayner, OPA, President

Before too much time passes I wanted to thank you and the entire Ontario Prospectors Association for letting my name stand for the Ontario Prospectors Award. Winning it meant a great deal to me and it is an honour that I will always cherish.

It takes a great deal of work to put on a symposium and Awards Dinner but the Association did a tremendous job and everything went off without a hitch. I met many new people associated with the exploration business at this event and hope to see you all there again next year.

Once again, thank you and the entire committee.

Best Regards

Perry