Fieldtrip to the Eagle River Mine

Kirkland Lake Gold Camp

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INSIDE

REPORTS
Report from the Ontario Prospectors Association 5

FEATURES
Sault Prospector’s Fieldtrip to the Eagle River Mine 6
By Delio Tortosa

Breathing New Life into the Kirkland Lake Gold Camp 13
By Charles Page, Queenston Mining Inc.

Spotlight on Base Metals - 2005 21
By Peter Cashin and Brock Greenwell

Buyers’ Guide 25

Do you have an article you would like to submit for publication in the Ontario Prospector?
If so, please send your article to Jonah O’Neil
jonah@naylor.com
(Please note that all editorial content is subject to approval by the OPA)

ON THE COVER:
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The fall and winter of 2005 will probably go into the exploration record books as one of the busiest in Ontario, ever. The demand on exploration contractors was evident and the Ontario Prospectors Association office had many requests for references and information. The spring and summer look like they will continue with this intensive exploration in search of a full spectrum of minerals.

The Ontario Prospectors Association, in cooperation with the Ontario Exploration Corporation, produced a “Properties for Option Booklet” that compliments our website postings. The booklet was distributed at the Vancouver Roundup and through the Resident Geologist’s offices. The response to the booklet was great and one thing we learned was the need for more properties for option. Prospectors will need a great season to fill the demand of the exploration companies for new properties.

The Discover Abitibi and the Lake Nipigon Region Geoscience Initiative are drawing to a close and the immense geoscience databases developed are being extensively used by the industry. Both projects have spurred on claims to be staked and review of previously identified prospects. These co-operative projects are made possible when government, industry and academia come together with a common goal of stimulating the economy. Hopefully the Ontario Prospectors Association can become involved in these types of projects again in the future.

The Ontario Prospectors Association wishes everyone a bountiful exploration season.
George Mannard giving an overview of the area geology

Deformed gold-bearing quartz veins and sheared diorite of the 650 Zone

Sault Prospector’s Fieldtrip 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 foodstuff. 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
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.

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.
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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.
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- Target High Grade Outboard Veins in Mafic Volcanics

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- $6.0 Million Prod. and Dev. Budget
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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 eight 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.

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 one 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 Ltd.

Thanks also to Vivienne Cote, President, SDPA and Mike Hailstone, District Geologist, MND&M for photographs and editorial review.

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Breathing New Life into the Kirkland Lake Gold Camp

By Charles Page, Queenston Mining Inc.

There is a feeling of rebirth in the Kirkland Lake gold camp as evidenced by a marked increase in exploration spending. Seven junior resource companies are active in the camp, all with diamond drilling programs planned for 2005. These junior companies include Queenston Mining Inc., Kirkland Lake Gold Inc., Hinterland Metals Inc., GLR RESOURCES INC., Vault Minerals Inc., Zenda Capital Corp., and Richview Resources Inc., all believe the camp is due for a resurgence.

Current excitement in the camp is centered around the activity of Kirkland Lake Gold who is forecasting 2005 gold production from their Macassa operation at 100,000 oz. Combined with this production, Kirkland Lake Gold is in the second year of a $21 million exploration program targeting the potential for adding 14 million tonnes of ore.
for a major new discovery. And, as evidenced from recent exploration activity, this could occur soon.

Located in northeastern Ontario the camp has historically produced 37 million oz. of gold from 28 mines and next to Timmins, is ranked as Canada’s second most productive. Next year marks the 100th year anniversary of the first gold discovery in the camp where in 1906 the first prospectors in the area discovered gold at Swastika on a property currently owned by Queenston. Although the Swastika Mine produced only a small amount of gold, it started a rush into the area that ultimately resulted in the development of world class deposits including the seven mines along the Kirkland Lake Main Break between 1913-1933, the Upper Canada Mine in 1938 and the Kerr Addison Mine in 1937.
Current excitement in the camp is centered around the activity of Kirkland Lake Gold who is forecasting 2005 gold production from their Macassa operation at 100,000 oz. Combined with this production, Kirkland Lake Gold is in the second year of a $21 million exploration program targeting the potential for adding 14 million tonnes of ore. As part of the first year program, they have discovered four new, north-south trending high grade gold zones on their property, one of which is currently being mined at a grade of 22 g/t. These north-south zones appear to have been overlooked in the past as the majority of production in the camp comprised east-west trending ore bodies.

Another high profile player in the camp is Queenston Mining. With land holdings comprising 138 km² covering a continuous 27 km length of a regional gold structure referred to as the Larder Lake Break, the Company holds the largest land position in the camp. On Queenston’s property, historical gold production from four mines (Sylvanite, Upper Canada, McBean and Upper Beaver) amounts to 3.4 M oz. There also exists seven gold deposits (Upper Canada, Anoki, Anoki South, McBean, Amalgamated Kirkland, 180 East, Upper Beaver) that contain measured and indicated mineral resources of 700,000 oz. (3.6 Mt averaging 6.1 g/t) and inferred mineral resources of 850,000 oz. (4.8 Mt averaging 5.5 g/t). The past production and current resources indicate the quality of Queenston’s land package assembled along the proven mine trends and the potential for new discoveries.

Queenston has been a constant landmark in the camp over the past 20 years, with exploration efforts by the Company and various joint venture partners leading to the discovery of four shallow gold deposits and eight new gold zones. In 2005, Queenston has embarked on a $3 million exploration initiative to explore for the next tier of gold deposits along the proven trends both near surface and at depth. This undertaking is the largest exploration program by the Company in the camp since its joint venture with Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation in 1996-97.

In the western portion of the camp Queenston has formed two joint ventures on key groups of claims that cover the western projection of the Kirkland Lake Main Break. The “Main Break” is an important gold structure in the camp along which seven mines have produced 24 million oz. of gold.

The first joint venture is with Newmont Mining Corporation on the Kirkland Lake West property where Queenston has entered into an agreement to earn a 50% interest in 18

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claims adjacent to and along geological
trend of the 3.4 million oz. Macassa
Mine. The most significant exploration
results reported from this property
came from development headings along
four deep levels driven from the Macas-
sa Mine in 1990 along a subsidiary gold
structure referred to as the “04 Break”.
Here erratic gold values along the Break
was encountered on each level and near
the end of the program, 156 t of ore
was mined from the 4750’ level averag-
ing 18.5 g/t, producing 87 oz. of gold.
The second 50%-50% joint venture
was formed with Kirkland Lake Gold
on the Gracie West property. This prop-
erty, lying adjacent to Kirkland Lake
West, has only experienced shallow sur-
face exploration in the past along the
“04 Break” with mixed results. The
combined Kirkland Lake West and Gra-
cie West properties provide Queenston
with a 5 km exposure along the western
projection of the 24 million oz. Main
Break corridor. The target of this year’s
work is to explore for ore zones that
may occur along both east-west and
north-south trending gold structures.
This will include ground geophysics
followed by a program of both shallow
and deep diamond drilling.

In the eastern portion of the camp,
Queenston has initiated a five hole, deep
diamond drilling program targeting
buried bodies of gold mineralization

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along the Larder Lake Break. This program initially focused along a 2.5 km section on the Princeton property where previous work has outlined a green carbonate horizon measuring 100 m wide. Green carbonate is the host rock at the adjacent McBean Mine (500,000 oz.) and at the 11 million oz. Kerr Addison Mine located 15 km to the east. In the third hole of the program (PR-04-11) a new, deep gold zone was intersected within a 65 m thick alteration horizon some 750 m below surface. The new gold zone assayed 5.8 g/t over 5.3 m and was largely carried by a high grade, 1.0 m interval assaying 30.6 g/t. This new zone resembles the graphitic ore zone at the Kerr Addison Mine and will be the focus of further drilling.

At the height of the 2005 exploration season Queenston will have four drills operating and will complete an estimated 40,000 m of drilling. The initial program will be focused on the Kirkland Lake West and Princeton properties and be followed with drilling on the amalgamated Kirkland and Upper Beaver properties. The Company will also return to a systematic, deep exploration drilling program along the Larder Lake Break which in the past has led to deep discoveries at McBean, Anoki, and Biroco.

As a result of the combined exploration efforts of Queenston, Kirkland Lake Gold and other juniors in the area, the Kirkland Lake camp is entering its busiest exploration period in years. A focused exploration approach along proven mine trends has recently been successful in discovering world-class deposits in the Red Lake, Timmins and Cadillac gold camps. By applying the same exploration philosophy the stakeholders in Kirkland Lake believe that now it is their time.
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Since the discovery of the rich Ni-Cu deposits of the Sudbury district in the latter part of the 1800s, Ontario has become Canada’s most important producer of copper and nickel (Table 1). Additional discoveries of world-class copper and zinc deposits in the Manitouwadge (1950s), Kidd Creek (1960s) and Sturgeon Lake (1970s) areas of Northern Ontario have also contributed to the province’s base metal production leadership position (Table 2).

Table 1 – Historical Base Metal Production in Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Production (Tons)</th>
<th>World Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ni</td>
<td>11 million</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu</td>
<td>15 million</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag (by-product)</td>
<td>1 billion ounces</td>
<td>15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn</td>
<td>10 million</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commodity price weakness for most base metals throughout most of the 1990s and early 2000s siphoned exploration investment interest away from the search for these
metals. Lack of exploration for new sources of base metals, in particular for copper, zinc, by-product silver, and lead, has accelerated the depletion rates of these commodities. Exploration is critical for Ontario and Canada to retain a leadership role in base metal deposit discovery and production.

Although the Kidd Creek Mine, north of Timmins, remains Ontario’s lone volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) producer, several important base metal exploration projects in Ontario worth noting are:

- KWG and Spider Resources are working in the McFaulds Lake area near the western extremity of the James Bay Lowlands. Drilling in the Archean basement rock below Paleozoic cover returned significant base metal values. Best drilling results returned 8.02 per cent Cu over 18.8 m and of 5.2 m grading 4.38 per cent Cu, 4.80 per cent Zn, 0.39 g/t Au and 15.43 g/t Ag. Similar greenstone rock sequences have been observed to outcrop to the west of this area.

- Canadian Golden Dragon Resources Ltd. diamond drilling at its Vanguard Prospect, Shebandowan Belt, showed values up to 4.15 m grading 6.39 per cent Zn, 1.89 per cent Cu, 28.31 g/t Ag, and 0.88 g/t Au.

- Tribute Minerals Inc. diamond drilling at its Dixie Lake, Red Lake Area, showed values up to 2.6 m grading 6.69 per cent Zn, 0.34 per cent Cu, and 5.01 g/t Ag.

- Wallbridge Mining Company in Ben Nevis Twp., northeast of the Kirkland Lake Area, intersected 7.14 g/t Au and 5.48 per cent Zn over 3.00 m in diamond drilling from a known alteration and sulphide mineralized system.

- Tribute Minerals Inc. recently acquired the Melchett Lake VMS Property, north of Nakina. The property hosts several occurrences of polymetallic Zn-Pb-Cu-Ag-Au VMS style mineralization. Selected grab samples from the Relf Zone averaged 13.0 per cent Zn, 1.2 per cent Pb, 0.26 per cent Cu and 0.32 g/t Ag. The best results returned 19.1 per cent Zn, 2.2 per cent Pb, 0.4 per cent Cu, 0.56 g/t Ag and 1.72 g/t Au.

- Freewest Resources Canada Inc. has discovered high-grade massive basemetal sulphides on its Sungold property, west of Thunder Bay. The occurrence, which is associated with a strong, one kilometre-long airborne electromagnetic conductor, returned grab sample grades of up to 12.49% copper and 10.01% zinc. Significant in-situ, heavily disseminated, stringer (footwall) and massive sulphide mineralization has to date been traced intermittently over a minimum strike length of 800 metres.

### Table 2 - Base Metal Production From Volcanic-Hosted Metallic Sulphide Deposits in Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine Name</th>
<th>In Production</th>
<th>Ore Milled</th>
<th>Cu%</th>
<th>Zn%</th>
<th>Pb%</th>
<th>Ag (oz/t)</th>
<th>Au (oz/t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timmins Camp</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>1966-71</td>
<td>0.816</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamieson</td>
<td>1969-72</td>
<td>0.509</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kam Kotia</td>
<td>1943-44, 1961-72</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidd Creek</td>
<td>1966-2003</td>
<td>152.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>6.51</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sturgeon Lake</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattabi</td>
<td>1966-2003</td>
<td>12.55</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>8.28</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-Group</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturgeon Lake</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>9.17</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>.15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon Lake &amp;</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>8.67</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>.01</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creeks Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manitouwadge</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitouwadge</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winston Lake</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston Lake</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>.93</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bay Mine</td>
<td>1971-1980</td>
<td>1.638</td>
<td>22.604 tons Cu</td>
<td>158,079 tons Zn</td>
<td>2,876,878 oz Ag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berens River Mine</td>
<td>1938-1948</td>
<td>0.561</td>
<td>1,797,091 lb Zn</td>
<td>6,105,872 lb Pb</td>
<td>5,796,177 oz Ag</td>
<td>157,696 oz Au</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World prices of the principal base metal commodities (Cu, Zn, Pb, Ni) have nearly doubled since early 2003.
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- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. . . . . . . . . . . . . Inside Back Cover

### LAWYERS
- Aird & Berlis LLP . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24

### MAPPING SERVICES
- Eagle Mapping Services Ltd. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8

### MINE CONSTRUCTION
- AMEC Earth & Environmental . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10

### MINING CABLE
- General Cable . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24

### MINING CONTRACTORS
- Noranda - Falconbridge . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 16

### MINING EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
- DUX Machinery Corporation . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24
- Subcoe Submersible Consulting & Engineering . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4
- Walden Equipment . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 22
- Westcoast Drilling Supplies Ltd. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 16

### MINING MAINTENANCE
- Jet-Lube of Canada . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 22

### PERSONNEL
- Tramin Ltd. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 18

### PROCESSING EQUIPMENT
- Preptech, Inc. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 25

### SATELLITE PHONES
- Spectrum Group . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 22

### SURVEYING
- Corriveau J.L.& Ass. Inc. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24

### WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY
- Beyond Wireless . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24

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www.rivergoldmine.com

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