THE EXPLORATIONIST
The Newsletter of the Ontario Prospectors Association

Ontario Prospectors Association
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SUMMER 2013

I would like to thank the participants and delegates of the Northwestern and Northeastern Mines and Minerals Symposia. These were very successful events with record attendance. The Ministry ran successful coincidental workshops that helped inform explorationists on the changes to the Mining Act Regulations.

The (Northwestern) Thunder Bay Symposium had over 100 posters and booths this year with > 500 delegates attending. The event was open to the public one afternoon for two hours and there were numerous interested people who wandered through the displays and expressed interest in our industry. NWOPA held their Awards Dinner with a sold out crowd. NWOPA would like to thank the Awards Committee for all their efforts again this year (Mark O'Brien, Don Hoy and John Halet). The Award Recipients are posted on the NWOPA website. http://www.nwopa.net/symposium.html

The (Northeastern) Sault Ste. Marie Symposium was the largest ever completed by the Sault and District Prospectors Association. They made the move to a new venue at the Canadian Heritage Bushplane Heritage Center which worked out to be a fabulous decision. The event attracted over 150 delegates and over 30 posters and booths. The theme "Bush Planes and Prospectors: A Common Heritage" was accentuated by the planes and displays throughout the venue. Delegates were seen wandering around the planes and commenting on the ones they had flown in! The volunteers of the SDPA completed a great job on the complete show.

The next event is the Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium (OEGS), November 5 & 6 in Sudbury. Planning will commence in mid-August so watch please for postings on the OPA website www.ontarioprospectors.com

2014 Symposia

- Northwestern Ontario Symposium - Thunder Bay, April 8 & 9
- Northeastern Ontario Symposium - Timmins Dates TBA

DROP IN EXPLORATION IN ONTARIO!!

The drop in metal prices are very similar to previous down turns we have experienced and having it coincide with changes to the Regulations is pure bad luck. The reasoning

for the lack of exploration in the Province is not an made in Ontario problem. Worldwide the Junior markets are being hammered. Raising risk capital for exploration has become almost impossible for most Juniors. With record low stock prices numerous Juniors cannot afford to sell shares without diluting themselves by a drastic amount. Though during the week of July 22nd a definite uptick in Gold has hopefully caught the eyes of investors. One interesting point is the price of Platinum and Palladium have been doing fairly well over the last few years.

MINING ACT MODERNIZATION

Phase II of Ming Act and Regulation changes are now out and functional. The Plans and Permit processes seem to be moving forward though some of the processing on Permits seem to need some help! If you have a Permit in the system it has been found that a monitoring of the timelines (phoning to ask what stage your application is at) is prudent to make sure the Permit application has been sent to the Environmental Registry for posting.

Geo-referencing has been employed by numerous claimholders and is a timely benefit for assessment requirements while there is little money to be raised. The main issue that has been occurring is 45 day notices being issued for missing claim posts and pictures. If you are going to do some geo-refing review the Standards guidebook on the MNDM website.
http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/georeferencing_standards.pdf

You may also want to call the Mining Recorders and ask for the helpful tips list. The main tip would be to get as much data and photos as possible. Using track function on your GPS and record them which can show that you spent time looking for a missing post.

THE VIEW FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

The mineral exploration and development industry in British Columbia has continually evolved, changing its practices and updating regulations in both reasonable and practical ways based on sound facts and information.

Industry's approach is in contrast to the incomplete set of facts and fearmongering it sees from some special-interest groups with a narrow agenda. A recent Vancouver Sun opinion piece by Sarah Cox from Sierra Club B.C. and Jessica Clogg from West Coast Environmental Law is the latest example. The Jan. 30 article contained a disappointing number of errors and omissions about B.C.'s mineral exploration laws and the industry today.

Consider their description of B.C.'s mineral tenure legislation as "antiquated," and from the 19th century. In fact, B.C.'s Mineral Tenure Act and Regulations were significantly amended in 2005 and again in July 2012. These laws are regularly updated and considered a model for other jurisdictions around the world. Moreover, converting

mineral tenure to a mining lease is very far from an automatic process. It is a modern and highly regulated process based on common sense — and it's already in place. And contrary to Cox and Clogg's statements, the principle of free entry has not been "abolished" anywhere in Canada. Had the authors reviewed the regulations more carefully, they would have also clearly seen that mineral claim holders do not have the right to explore on land occupied by a dwelling or building or land under cultivation. Those rules were established last century because they make good sense. As well, readers should know that it was the Association for Mineral Exploration BC that requested government to provide notification to new mineral claim holders of First Nations traditional territory. This measure has helped members of AME BC to properly identify local First Nations and engage their communities in a respectful manner. Further, as part of B.C.'s permitting process, First Nations must be consulted before low-impact mineral exploration activities can take place on their asserted traditional territories.

This is known as the Notice of Work permitting process and exploration programs are only approved by government after consultation with First Nations.
Perhaps also not widely known, the mineral exploration and mining industry is the largest private-sector employer of aboriginals in B.C., not to mention in Canada. By establishing partnerships and building mutual understanding, the industry is creating real and lasting capacity in First Nation communities throughout B.C. This was done in the absence of any new law or government directive, because it was the right thing to do, not to mention modern and progressive.

Unlike what Cox and Clogg will have you believe, the government already has the discretionary power to restrict access to explorers or even close specific land to mineral exploration where a legitimate, science-based concern is reasonably identified.
The government also uses this discretionary provision to close certain lands that have been identified for potential treaty settlement land for First Nations.
Naturally, mineral explorers require access to large areas to search for elusive new deposits, but readers should also know that exploration and mining in B.C. has affected much less than one per cent of the provincial land base, or an area smaller than Greater Victoria (540 square kilometres). Put simply, if we can't grow it, we need to explore for it and mine it responsibly. As such, AME BC advocates for certainty about where our members can explore for the fundamental minerals and metals that we all use and need on a daily basis. As consumers, we are all benefiting from the mineral exploration and mining cycle in one way or another, whether we realize it or not.

And in the rare event that mineral explorers discover a minable deposit, the proponent must adhere to a rigorous environmental assessment process. And quite clearly, when one digs a little deeper into B.C.'s environmental assessment records, one will find that not all proposed mine projects are approved in this province — even though the net socio-economic benefits of every potential mine to the greater good are important for everyone to carefully consider in a balanced and reasonable way.

Responsible mineral explorers understand that there will always be impacts when developing minable deposits and agree that these need to be soundly assessed and properly mitigated.

That's why it's important to recognize that during the past 40 years the industry, organized labour, and government have successfully collaborated on developing effective regulation such as the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia, resulting in a world-leading safety record three times better than the average for all sectors in B.C.

This is a well-deserved result that all citizens should know about and something that we can all take pride in as British Columbians.

Having a fair, transparent and robust regulatory plan that includes an efficient and effective staking, permitting and environmental assessment process, just makes sense. Through the respectful sharing of all the facts, responsible mineral explorers and developers will continue to participate in the design of progressive and practical 21st-century regulatory regimes that help to protect the environment and build a safe and successful industry for the net socio-economic benefit of everyone — now and into the future.

Gavin C. Dirom is the president and chief executive officer of the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC).

ESA changes end caribou battle
By Ron Grech, The Daily Press (Timmins)
Tuesday, June 4, 2013

TIMMINS - Forestry and municipal officials are hailing a provincial decision which they say finally balances the needs of both environment and industry.
"After fighting all these years, this sounds too good to be true," said John Kapel, sawmill operator and owner of John Kapel Enterprises in Timmins.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources announced Friday it will harmonize requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Crown Forest Sustainability Act. which will reduce red tape and eliminate overlapping regulations.
This is a move the Ontario Forest Industries Association has been asking the government to do for the last six years.

The change comes into effect July 1.

Jamie Lim, OFIA's chief executive, told The Daily Press, "The changes that are being made are based on the recommendations that were brought forward by the ESA panel in January," which was made up of a varied range of stakeholders. "It will certainly assist in simplifying the rules not only for forestry but also municipalities and other sectors."

Not everybody is happy.

Immediately following the announcement, environmental lobby groups jointly issued a press release decrying the government's decision.

Anne Bell, director of conservation and education with Ontario Nature, in an interview with The Daily Press, accused the MNR of “essentially caving to industrial interests.” She said, “The MNR sees industry players as primary clients and they’re dealing with an industry that’s responsible for exploiting resources as well as protecting them. And I think there is a conflict in its (MNR’s) mandate.” Bell believes the prospects of future development in the mineral-rich James Bay lowlands may have helped to influence the government’s decision. She said these changes have “definitely got implications for opening things up around the Ring of Fire.”

Lim said the negative response from groups like the David Suzuki Foundation and Ontario Nature is no surprise considering those groups were given a free hand in drafting the original ESA.

“It’s no secret that these special interest groups wrote the Endangered Species Act back in 2006,” said the former Timmins mayor. “They put out an Ivey Foundation report taking credit for the fact they wrote the act. It was a very lopsided act, the way it was written, very difficult to implement on the land base.

“So I think what the government has done is brought forward changes that brings much needed-balance into the implementation of the Endangered Species Act.”
Dan McDermott, director of the Ontario chapter of the Sierre Club Canada, suggested in the jointly issued release by environmental groups that the government’s decision will make woodland caribou vulnerable to extinction. “I guess we’ll need a new animal for the Canadian quarter,” McDermott was quoted as saying.

Lim said these types of “comments are simply ridiculous because forestry is still required to comply with all the policy direction developed under the ESA within our forest management plans ... These new changes that are being brought forward don’t allow the forest sector or any other sector for that matter to avoid its obligations to protecting species at risk. “Ask the people in Iroquois Falls and Cochrane, how much they have done for the woodland caribou. The Abitibi River Forest management plan has seen a 20% reduction in industrial wood fibre, almost entirely because of the implementation of the caribou conservation plan.”

Kapuskasing Mayor Al Spacek, whose community is dependent on the forest industry for its local economy, described the response by environmental groups as “fear mongering.” “Their typical operating style is to swing the pendulum far to the side of panic,” said Spacek, who is also president of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. “The fact is, we harvest in Ontario less than one half of 1% of our forests per year” – a stat which is corroborated by the MNR. “And there is as much boreal forest coverage in our province as there was at the turn of the century ... Industry has been very responsible, in ensuring every precaution is taken when it comes to sustainability of the environment. On average as an industry, we plant two to three trees for every one harvested and have done that for generations.” Spacek said Friday’s announcement reflects a welcome change in the Ontario Liberal government since Kathleen Wynne took over the reins from Dalton McGuinty as premier.

Under McGuinty, environmental lobby groups “enjoyed a significant amount of influence. I believe this current administration (with Wynne as leader) is being more

realistic as to the science and finding a balance with the socioeconomic factors: The communities where these industries operate and the history the industry has when it comes to sustainability and the environment."

Kapel suggested it may have just been a matter of the province recognizing the balance had tipped too far in favour of environmental lobbyists and was hurting industry and Northern communities.

"It got to the point where these guys overdid it and maybe the government is finally waking up," he said. "Because at the end of the day, we still have protocols and procedures to follow, and we have work have the forest properly. Maybe now we can concentrate on cutting our costs and creating more jobs. That's what it's all about."

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PROVISIONAL PROTECTION UNDER THE FAR NORTH ACT

ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION (OPA) comments on: Development of a Minister's Regulation for Proposed Provisional Protection under the Far North Act (EBR Registry Number: 011-8933).

A First Nation or the Province may make a request for provisional protection at any time during the planning process prior to a final plan. Proposals for designating areas for provisional protection would be tabled through the joint planning team. The designation would come into effect no earlier than with approval of the Terms of Reference by a First Nation and Ontario. Provisional protection is intended to be used during the period when the joint planning process is taking place, leading to a long-term decision on the designation of the area. The use of the provisional protection tool should be in keeping with the purpose of the Far North Act.

It is the current practice that the provisional protection approach is applied by withdrawing proposed protected areas from staking under the *Mining Act* prior to public review of the Draft Plan. If provisional protection is a tool that can be considered for use earlier than the Draft Plan stage, it could help reduce the potential risk to identified values from incompatible uses while planning progresses to a Draft Plan, then to a final community based land use plan.

Under the provisional protection regulation approach being considered, the designation of areas for provisional protection could be brought forward at any stage in the planning process, but would take effect no earlier than with the approval of the Terms of Reference by a First Nation and Ontario. Provisional protection proposals would be tabled through the joint planning team.

At the Terms of Reference stage, a substantial amount of information is available to inform and support a request for provisional protection. Such information could include a biophysical and physical description of the land, ecological, cultural and heritage values, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, and mapping of existing land uses. As well, at this stage, the joint planning team is established and the Terms of Reference guides the preparation of the land use plan. The First Nation's approval of the Terms of Reference is through Band Council Resolution.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has provided a workbook that describes the proposed approach of Provisional Protection and potential uses. A series of Questions are posed to encourage comments on the approach.

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed approach, for eligible areas where ecological, cultural and/or heritage values would be considered?

The OPA does not believe in the proposed approach of provisional protection. The protection of ecological, cultural and/or heritage values is adequately protected in the present process at the Draft Plan stage of a Land Use Plan. Also there has been recent changes to the Mining Act that allow for the removal of such sites from staking by concerned Aboriginal groups. Therefore this Regulation is not required at this time.

Question 2: Are there any other types of values that should be considered?

No.

Question 3: Should provisional protection be a planning tool that is available earlier than the Draft Plan stage in the community based land use planning process?

Provisional Protection at the Draft Plan Stage is adequate. The Draft Plan stage is the point where all the factors are taken into account for the determination of potential Land Use. Provisionally Protecting areas prior to this places the hazard of land being frozen from exploration for numerous years and mineral cycles could be missed and economic benefit potentially lost. The recent changes to the Mining Act can be employed to protect areas identified as ecological, cultural and/or heritage values even before the Land Use plan discussions have started with MNR and the Community!

Question 4: If yes, under what circumstances should it be considered earlier?

N.A.

Question 5: Are there any additional considerations?

N.A.

Question 6: Are there other types of information that should be considered when evaluating requests for provisional protection?

The OPA has been a strong proponent of science based land use planning. The use of the Provincial Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP) process is obviously critical prior to Provisionally Protecting lands. The main issue with using PSMP in the Far North is the lack of geoscience information and previous exploration due to access and exposed rock. The fear is that the Provisional Protection would be placed on the land without adequate review of the geological/economic potential if completed at the Terms of Reference point of the Land Use Plan. It should be that a thorough geoscience study be completed prior to any final Land Use Plans are implemented.

Question 7: What information related to environmental, social and economic interests/values should be considered when evaluating requests for the designation of an area of provisional protection?

Focusing on social and economic interests/values, as mentioned above thorough geoscience information is required. PSMP falls short when there has been little or no previous exploration in a region that helps highlight potential. Specifically a review of the historic claim maps to see if claims existed should be undertaken and a series of elder interview questions could be set up to determine if anyone had seen exploration activities on the land that may not have been documented with MNDM.

Question 8: What information and methods should be used in the evaluation and consideration of these interests/values?

Answered above

Question 9: It is proposed that provisional protection should be reviewed after 3 years, or at the Draft Plan stage if completed before 3 years. Is the proposed timeframe reasonable?

The time frame of 3 years is potentially longer then a mineral cycle. There should be no Provisional Protection before the Draft Plan and a Draft Plan should progress to a formal plan in less than 2 years.

Question 10: Are there any additional considerations?

When a Provisional Protection is granted at the Draft Plan point and a withdrawal under the Mining Act is placed on the lands an automatic opening of the Lands should be tied to the withdrawal. This timeframe of perhaps 2 years would cause the Land Use to be finalized. At acceptance of the Land Use a permanent withdrawal could occur.

The OPA would like to request to participate in committees that are proposed to review or discuss potential Regulations or Policies for the Far North Act. As expressed in the answers above the OPA believes this Regulation duplicates the Mining Act and is just more bureaucracy.

Respectively Submitted

J. Garry Clark, P.Geo
Executive Director
Ontario Prospectors Association

Algonquin Land Claim Negotiations

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) has approached the OPA to determine if the lands given to the Algonquins will cause any access problems for claim holders. Recreational users and members of the OFAH have expressed concerns that their access to private land maybe impeded. If you have this concern please contact John McCance at john@mccance.ca or 613.634.1821 (President, Southern Ontario Prospectors Association)

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Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Information Centre
Algonquin Land Claim

31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

Tel: (613) 732-8081
Toll Free: 1-855-690-7070

Ministère des Affaires autochtones

Centre d'information
Revendication territoriale

31 rue Riverside
Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

Tél: (613) 732-8081
Numéro vert: 1-855-690-7070

website: Ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim

MEMORANDUM TO: **Committee of External Advisors**
Municipal Advisory Committee

FROM: **Brian Crane, Ontario Chief Negotiator**

DATE: **July 24, 2013**

I am pleased to provide the following update regarding the Algonquin land claim negotiations.

As you are aware, the Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) was posted for public review on December 13, 2012. This public release was an important benchmark in consultations leading to a Draft Agreement-in-Principle for the Algonquins of Ontario land claim.

After the posting of the Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle, the three negotiating parties hosted a series of nine Public Information Sessions which were attended by more than 2,000 attendees, including many members of the CEA and MAC.

Date	Location
March 6, 2013	Ottawa
March 7, 2013	Perth
March 8, 2013	Kingston
March 12, 2013	North Bay
March 13, 2013	Mattawa
March 14, 2013	Pembroke
March 15, 2013	Bancroft
March 16, 2013	Toronto
April 10, 2013	Pembroke

At each Public Information Session, the negotiators provided an update, answered questions posed by the attendees and met individually with members of the public to discuss issues and get feedback on the Preliminary Draft AIP. Written comments were also collected by the negotiation teams as a result of these meetings.
In addition to these Tripartite Public Information Sessions, the negotiation parties have conducted well over 100 meetings with various groups of stakeholders to share information and receive input on various aspects of the Preliminary Draft AIP. These consultations have included:

- community meetings organized by the Algonquins of Ontario for Algonquin Voters
- meetings hosted by the Algonquins of Ontario with elected government representatives throughout the land claim territory, including Members of Parliament, and Members of the Provincial Parliament, and local municipal officials.
- many meetings organized by Ontario with those who hold legal interests on the Crown lands identified for potential transfer to the Algonquins, including trappers, hunt camp owners, as well as landowners who require access across the identified Crown lands to reach their privately-owned property
- meetings to deal with questions or concerns raised by interested parties including property owner associations, municipal council representatives and other groups
- meetings with neighbouring Aboriginal groups

We have also had input on the Preliminary Draft AIP from more than 500 contacts with the Ontario Information Centre by letters, e-mail, and telephone inquiries.

As a result of these extensive consultations and the many suggestions we have received, Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins have undertaken a further review of the content of the Preliminary Draft AIP and engaged in further negotiations. This included a review of proposed land selections and a further detailed examination of the text of the Preliminary Draft AIP.

We are taking a number of steps to advise stakeholders of changes in the Preliminary Draft AIP including:

- continuing meetings with local landowner groups in relation to specific land selections.
- continuing meetings with stakeholder groups to advise of changes in the text of the Draft AIP, including with CEA/MAC members who request meetings.
- continuing meetings with municipal officials and councils in relation to particular land use planning and land selection issues.
- advising all persons directly affected of changes we have made to the Descriptive Plans.

Next Steps

The Draft Agreement-in-Principle which we are now preparing will be placed before the Algonquin Voters for a ratification vote which may take place before the end of 2013. The Draft Agreement-in-Principle will be posted for public review at the same time as it is made available to the Algonquin Voters in preparation for their vote. The posting will take place at least two months before the actual vote.
A ratification vote on the Draft Agreement-in-Principle is a unique aspect of these negotiations. The negotiators agreed early in the process that it is important to ascertain the support of all three negotiating parties before the indepth and detailed negotiation of a Final Agreement begins. If the ratification vote indicates Algonquin support for the process to continue, provincial and federal government approval will then be sought to approve the Draft AIP.

Once an Agreement-in-Principle has been formally approved by all three parties, negotiations will begin toward a Final Agreement. This stage of negotiations generally takes approximately four to five years.

Consultations will continue with the Algonquins, the public and with stakeholders during the Final Agreement negotiations. We expect our consultation process will evolve in order to provide the parties with opportunities to engage in productive discussions with people who have interests that relate directly to various aspects of the proposed settlement. The ongoing consultations will include:

- meetings with the Algonquins of Ontario communities
- further public and stakeholder consultations
- environmental assessment of Crown land transfers under Ontario's Algonquin Declaration Order
- the development of fisheries management plans for Eastern Ontario to support an effective harvesting regime
- negotiations with hunt camp operators and others who hold legal interests on the proposed Algonquin Settlement Lands to work out post-settlement tenure arrangements with the Algonquins
- discussions with the forest industry to ensure continuity of operations on Algonquin Settlement Lands after title is transferred
- discussions with municipal governments concerning transfer of the selected Crown lands into municipal jurisdiction after the Final Agreement
- meetings with neighbouring Aboriginal groups.

There are still a number of stages ahead in the negotiation process, and all three parties remain committed to addressing the interests of all those who live and work in the region or enjoy the Crown lands and natural resources within the Algonquin land claim settlement area.

Our goal is to build and strengthen positive relationships between the Algonquins and their neighbours in Eastern Ontario.

You can of course continue to contact me or any of the negotiation teams at any time with questions or comments.

Contact Information
Canada: E-mail: revendication-Algonquins-OntarioClaim@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
Phone: 1-800-567-9604 (toll-free) or 1-866-553-0554 (TTY toll-free)
Ontario: E-mail: alcinfo@ontario.ca
Phone: 613-732-8081 or 1-855-690-7070 (toll-free)
Website: Ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim

Algonquins of Ontario: E-mail: Algonquins@nrtco.net
Phone: 613-736-3759 or 1-855-735-3759 (toll-free)
Website: www.tanakiwin.com

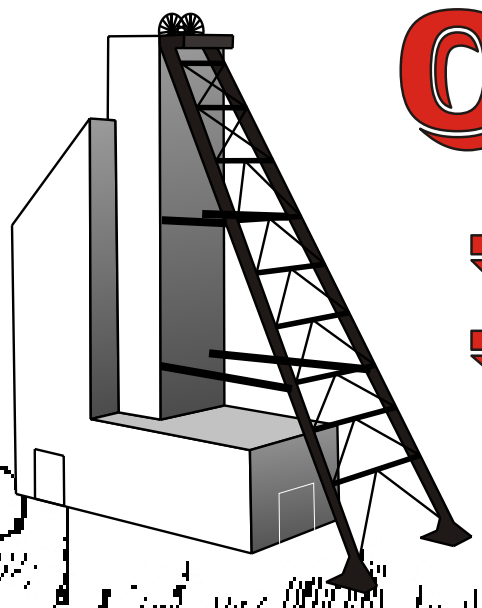
WANTED

PROSPECTORS
Searching for Funds

$10,000.00 to $50,000.00 Available

If you have properties in **Ontario** we want to help explore them

Ontario Exploration Corporation



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Forms available at
www.ontarioprospectors.com
or
Ontario Resident Geologist Offices