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OPA’s update on new Mineral Lands Administration System

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Two major events occurred in Ontario this spring. The Ontario Prospectors Association delivered a successful Ontario Prospectors Exploration Showcase (OPES) and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines launched the Mineral Lands Administration System (MLAS). The OPES was held in Thunder Bay in early April, which highlighted the exploration, industry suppliers and government work across the province. The show took place over three days with 40 speakers, 80 exhibitors (including 12 core shacks), an NWOPA awards evening and a prospectors’ bash. There was a drone use in mineral exploration workshop, an MMI course and the Explorers Cup (a charity hockey tournament). The speakers this year included contractors, junior companies and a cluster of prospectors showing their properties. As part of the prospectors’ bash, there was a live band and dancing. The Ontario Prospectors Association Award, presented at the bash, went to David Hunt for his longtime volunteer service and contributions to exploration across the province.

The new Mineral Lands Administration System (MLAS) for acquiring and managing mineral lands launched on April 10, 2018. The system functions well on the acquisition side of the equation, but the data side that is required to manage the cells by the staker is still having a few rough spots ironed out. Approximately half the number of cells/units staked in 2017 was acquired in the first day. This equated to roughly $700,000 taken out of the northern economy and placed in the hands of Queens Park.

The issues that have arisen within the data side are being worked on by MNDM with assistance of the land managers of the province.

The following issues need to be addressed:

- The application of assessment work is now based on the new cell claims, but reports may have been completed using legacy claims. The specific boundaries of boundary cells are difficult to determine from the maps – therefore, how do you figure out your working boundaries?
- The claims list of cells is lengthy for larger blocks and needs a method of searching for the ownerships. In discussions with MNDM, there is a movement to address industry concerns and hopefully we are not waiting for the second version of MLAS to get the solutions.

On the whole, this looks like a great base to start and the commitment from MNDM is to continue to improve on the system.

Overall, the exploration in Ontario seems to be picking up with the battery metals helping to keep prospectors and explorers busy. The traditional targets in Ontario (base metals and gold) are holding their own demand and price.

The OPA wishes all the explorers success in this field season. Hopefully, there will be some new discoveries that can be highlighted at the Northern Prospectors Association’s Northeastern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium from Oct. 16 to 18 in Kirkland Lake. For more information, visit the www.ontarioprospectors.com.
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In Ontario, we are committed to a 21st-century approach to mineral exploration, particularly with respect to managing our province’s mining lands.

We are bringing about progressive changes that will foster more opportunity to increase our global competitiveness, build on Ontario’s world-class geology and drive more international investment into our mineral exploration and development sector.

Recently, we have implemented the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS), which is a province-wide electronic registration and administration process that replaces Ontario’s century-old, traditional ground-staking methods.

This new digital process provides 24-7, real-time, online self-serve access to mining claim registration and lands management. Under MLAS, one can register claims in Ontario any time from anywhere.

MLAS was designed so that explorationists and miners utilize the same process to register their claims. Licensed prospectors with Internet access can now register claims in Ontario in the same manner as any major, intermediate or junior mining company.

This makes it easier and more efficient for prospectors to conduct exploration work in Ontario, and will no doubt help enhance Ontario’s competitiveness in the mining industry worldwide.

I would like to thank the Ontario Prospectors Association, along with the Ontario Mining Association, and the many mining companies, prospectors, exploration firms and indigenous communities that have contributed their invaluable insights and feedback to the development of MLAS.

These are exciting times for mineral exploration in the Province of Ontario, and we look forward to paving the way together for an even stronger future in this digital era.
The city of Timmins has been the heart of Canada’s mining community for over 100 years. It has enjoyed some of the world’s most prolific and longest operating gold mines. The Kidd Creek Mine long-touted the reputation as the world’s deepest base metal mine.

In Timmins and the surrounding region, there are 14 active mines. The mining industry provides over 3,500 direct jobs and another 2,500 indirect jobs within Timmins. Some of the key operations in the city’s history are coming to an end, such as Goldcorp’s Dome underground operations, which closed this past year after more than 100 years of mining and over 17 million ounces of gold produced. Kidd Mine, operated by Glencore, is also scheduled to close in 2022, more than 50 years after opening. Although it is disappointing to see such key assets that have played such a significant role in the city’s economy for decades come to an end, there is still many years of mining and a lot to be excited about in the city of Timmins when it comes to mining.

The City of Timmins proudly took part in Noront’s request for bids to host their ferrochrome processing facility. The City feels it is the ideal site for this facility as the site proposed (current Kidd Concentrator site) has significant infrastructure advantages, community acceptance and current use that provides tremendous benefit to Noront compared to other sites being considered.

Expansion of the shaft at Tahoe Canada’s Bell Creek mine is well underway and will support continued growth for Tahoe and the Timmins, Ont. region. The improvements include rehabilitation of a historic shaft, including a newly modified headframe and hoist room, and extension of the shaft from approximately 300 metres to a depth of 1,080 metres. The project is expected to double production at Bell Creek to approximately 80,000 ounces per year and significantly extend mine life. This will bring multiple benefits to the city of Timmins, local communities and our First Nations partners, such as increased employment opportun-

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**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF TIMMINS**

**Steve Black**

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ties, infrastructure and business opportunities.

“The project is part of the growth plan and vision we had when we added the Canadian assets to our existing portfolio,” says Ron Clayton, Tahoe president and CEO. “Timmins is a critical component of our strategy to increase company-wide gold production to more than half a million ounces by 2020. Revenue from previous operating success enabled us to build the necessary capacity at Bell Creek and has driven our growth and expansion in Canada (Source: Q3 2017 report).”

Gowest Gold is currently developing what they indicate will become Timmins’ newest gold mines at their Bradshaw Gold Deposit which is part of their North Timmins Gold Project.

Currently, Bradshaw contains a National Instrument 43-101 indicated resource estimated at 2.1 million tonnes grading 6.19 grams per tonne gold containing 422,000 ounces gold and an inferred resource of 3.6 million tonnes grading 6.47 grams per tonne gold containing 755,000 ounces gold. Further, based on the prefeasibility study produced by Stantec Mining and announced on June 9, 2015, Bradshaw contains mineral reserves (mineral resources are inclusive of mineral reserves) in the probable category, using a three grams per tonne gold cutoff and utilizing a gold price of US$1,200 per ounce, totalling 1.8 million tonnes grading 4.82 grams per tonne gold for 277,000 ounces gold (Source: Goldwest website).

Although Goldcorp’s Dome underground operations came to an end, life at this prolific property is not over. The company continues to do prefeasibility work on what could become one of the largest projects the city has seen in many years and is titled the Century Project. The project includes looking at doubling the depth and diameter of the current open-pit mine above the underground mine. The company has completed a concept study on engineering, waste-rock management and economics of an open-pit mine and processing facility. The base case prefeasibility study is not complete and was based on the following assumptions:

- 14-year mine life;
- 5,750,000 contained gold ounces;
- plant size of 50,000 t/d;
- 0.86 grams per tonne gold grade (diluted);
- 88 per cent gold recovery;
- 4.3:1 strip ratio (waste to ore);
- operating costs of US$18 to US$19 per tonne processed (mining, process, G&A);
- an initial Capex of US$900 to US$1,000 million.

In addition to the Century Project, Goldcorp is also working on Canada’s first all-electric underground gold mine at their Borden Mine. This operation is located approximately 160 kilometres west of the Porcupine Mine in Chapleau, Ont. They are currently developing the ramp and mine with commercial production expected in 2019 (Source: Goldcorp websites – development projects).

IAMGOLD is assessing the potential to construct and operate a new open-pit gold mine on the Côte Gold Project property, located in the Chester and Neville Townships, District of Sudbury, in Northeastern Ontario. It is approximately 20 kilometres southwest of Gogama, 130 kilometres southwest of Timmins. The open-pit mining operations are estimated to have a throughput of 30,000 tonnes per day should the project move ahead (Source: IAMGOLD website – development projects).

As Mayor of the City of Timmins, I am happy to see the projects in the pipeline are being developed by our mining partners. The above projects show the potential and continued importance of the Timmins region to the province. We continue to be one of the most active mining districts in the country and have a tremendous future ahead of us. The mining industry has always played a critical role in the success of the local economy and will continue to do so for many decades ahead.
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ABOUT US

The Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) operates out of Thunder Bay with a membership of approximately 300 prospectors, geologists, miners, service industry personnel and government employees. NWOPA’s mission is to “represent and further the interests, serve the needs and support the individual prospectors in Northwestern Ontario”. Our members drive how the elected board members carry out this mission.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

This past year, the exploration industry saw some interesting trends in commodities. Cobalt, lithium and palladium are among some of the hot trends for 2017/2018. Palladium reached an all-time high and, for the first time since 2001, surpassed platinum in price. Cobalt properties are in high demand and, for our neighbours to the east, the town of Cobalt is quite happy with the recent trend. Meanwhile, lithium prospects across the northwest have seen renewed interest, resulting in substantial exploration programs in search of the critical metal.

On Oct. 6, 2017, New Gold had its first gold pour for the Rainy River mine, yielding approximately 500 ounces of gold and 600 ounces of silver. It is exciting to see a new mine begin production in Northwestern Ontario; hopefully, there are more to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018

NWOPA’s first event for 2018 was the annual Awards Banquet, which included a dinner and awards ceremony, held at the 2018 Ontario Prospectors Exploration Showcase hosted by the Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) in Thunder Bay from Apr. 3 to 5. Here, NWOPA bestowed the Dan Calvert Distinguished Service Award, the Dave Christianson Lifetime Achievement Award, the Bernie Schnieder’s Discovery of the Year Award and the Developer of the Year Award to deserving members. NWOPA’s annual gen-
eral meeting took place on Tuesday, Apr. 3 at the Ontario Prospectors Exploration Showcase in the Scandia Room of the Valhalla Inn.

Coming up on June 23 will be the sixth annual Thunder Bay Mining Day, which will take place at Marina Park on Thunder Bay’s beautiful waterfront. Mining Day is presented by NWOPA and other local industry related groups and is co-sponsored by many of the companies with offices or activities in the Northwestern Ontario region. In 2017, over 20 exhibitors presented interactive games and activities with a mining-related theme to entertain the public and demystify the work of the mining and exploration community. The under-riding theme is to “Bring the Bush to Town”. The response from both mining companies and the public has been overwhelmingly positive and the event continues to be a key contributor to educating the public on our industry. Check out the gallery of pictures from previous year’s events as well as information for this year’s event at www.thunderbayminingday.ca.

NWOPA also participated in the Northwestern Trappers Festival held in Thunder Bay as part of our public relations work and outreach to the general public.

Please check out our website at http://www.nwopa.net/ for details on all the upcoming and past events and more information on our board members’ committees and what we’re doing for our membership.

LOOKING AHEAD

It seems we are finally headed for sunnier days with the downturn in the markets behind us. Companies are starting to perform grassroots work again, properties are being optioned and the industry in Canada seems to have made a recovery.

Jan. 8, 2018 marked the end of an era for Ontario, as the last day to ground-stake a claim. Many members went out to make their last claim post for nostalgia’s sake. On Apr. 10, we took the plunge into a new online system where Ontario’s ground-staking will be replaced with online staking. Ontario will likely see a staking rush, initially; however, there are concerns for the new system, both from the perspective of the prospectors and mining companies. One major concern is the cost per cell claim in the future. NWOPA continues to support Double Assessment Credits for a prospector’s daily wage; MNDM plans to go forward with this initiative to help prospectors in the future system. The NWOPA board is participating in several ways to advocate for our members.

This year, NWOPA will be saying goodbye to some longtime board members, Dave Hunt and Bob Chataway. We thank them both for their dedicated service to our board and wish them the best in their future endeavours.
After about a 30-year hiatus, I found myself back up in the Wawa area looking at gold properties and prospects last summer after consulting on projects in other parts of Ontario for many years.

Back in 1987, I was initiated to the Wawa area as the Wawa Resident Geologist for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), and the newly minted Resident Geologist Office for which we coined the acronym ‘WRGO’ (Wawa Resident Geologist Office). It was a tall, two-storey house that overlooked Wawa Lake and on the road to the still active Helen Iron Mine.

For about five years we went on a great ride – riding the wave of mineral exploration, staking rushes, and mine development. It was a time when junior exploration companies and prospectors had money to spend. Whether it came from flow-through share financing, the OMEP (Ontario Mineral Exploration Program), or the OPAP (Ontario Prospectors Assistance Program), everybody was busy exploring.

This wave of exploration was particularly evident in the Mishibishu Lake area west of Wawa, which required helicopter support – to the point that choppers were regularly lined up at the Wawa airport waiting to gas-up for trips to the various exploration camps.

This was quite a ‘heady’ time, which brought gold discoveries and mine development. The result was the discovery of the Magnacon Gold Mine and establishment of a mill complex and the discovery of the Mishi Gold Deposit along with numerous gold prospects along the Mishibishu Lake Deformation Zone (MLDZ). To the south, the Eagle River Gold Deposit was discovered (Magnacon, Mishi, Eagle River and the gold mill are now owned and operated by Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.).

In the historic Goudreau area, the Kremzar Gold Deposit was brought into production and a mill complex was constructed. It was also at this time that a one-kilometre decline was driven into what was later to become the Island Gold Deposit, and underground development was initiated below Goudreau Lake (Kremzar and Island Gold now owned and operated by Alamos Gold Inc.).

The historic Magino Gold Mine just west of Island Gold was redeveloped and a mill was constructed. The Magino Gold Deposit was recently reassessed as a lower-grade, bulk-mining operation by Argonaut Gold Mines.

Further to the east of Goudreau Lake, advanced exploration took place at the Edwards Gold Mine, Cline Gold Mine and other significant prospects following the strike of the Goudreau Lake Deformation Zone (GLDZ).

At the far-east end of this ‘string of pearls’ was the Renabie Gold Mine
which had operated on and off since 1941 and produced over a million ounces of gold. It was the deepest gold mine at the time (about one kilometre), and was the first to be closed under the new closure plan requirements under Section VII of the Mining Act.

Immediately south of the Town of Wawa were the most historical mines in the Wawa area dating back to the turn of the 20th century. The Surluga and the Jubilee Gold Mines were dewatered, advanced exploration was initiated and the mill complex was re-habilitated. The area along the Jubilee and Darwin shear zone was sprinkled with past producers such as the Minto Mine, Parkhill Mine, Darwin-Grace Mine and many gold prospects (all owned and currently explored by Red Pine Exploration Ltd.).

The incentivized exploration and development gave rise to a ‘boomtown’ feel to Wawa, Dubreuilville and White River, with mine impact studies undertaken by municipalities supported by an inter-ministerial working group and funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC).

Throughout this time, the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) conducted geological mapping, mineral deposit studies and structural geology studies. The WRGO undertook a number of projects which included creation of Geological Data Inventory Folios (GDIF), detailed and reconnaissance scale mapping projects, creation of the Wawa Mineral Deposit Inventory (WMDI), industrial mineral and building stone studies and initiated the use of desktop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and use of the new Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

The OGS together with the WRGO conducted numerous geological and mineral deposit field trips in the Wawa area. These field trips brought together exploration geologists, prospectors and OGS geologists and provided the opportunity to share ideas and knowledge of the area and the ability to see other geological/structural settings for gold mineralization.

Many who were active in the area in the late 1980s will recall Dr. Ron Sage
(retired OGS geologist) who played a lead role in initiating these fieldtrips and spent almost 10 years completing detailed mapping of many townships.

Over the last 10 years, the Sault and District Prospectors Association (SDPA) has continued to take field trips into the Wawa area and the larger District, including Hemlo and Borden Lake. These trips always bring out the camaraderie that exists between exploration geologists, prospectors and OGS geologists.

My trips back this summer brought me to some of the same areas that I had visited in the late 1980s, and like most geologists and prospectors visiting the same location, it seems you can always find/learn something new hidden in the rocks.

Mining activities that started in the late 1980s have continued to the present along with exploration and development activities in the Mishibishu Lake area (Wesdome Gold Mines, Argo Gold Inc.). In the Goudreau area the discovery of the Island Gold ‘Deep Zone’ has resulted in a significant increase in grade, width and depth to the gold deposit resulting in a friendly takeover of Richmont Mines by Alamos Gold.

Properties to the east of Goudreau Lake such as the Edwards and Cline mines have been purchased and additional property is being consolidated by a leading mining private equity firm. New exploration has been initiated east of Goudreau and Dog Lake on recently staked ground by companies new to the area (Manitou Gold Inc., Bold Ventures Inc.).

Much of McMurray Township south of Wawa has been consolidated by Red Pine Exploration, who has established an inferred mineral resource for a bulk mining operation incorporating mineralization along the shallow dipping Jubilee shear zone. They continue to explore the high-grade gold veins between and along strike of the past producers. Other juniors like RT Minerals and Argo Gold Inc. are exploring immediately south of McMurray Township in areas with past gold producers that received moderate attention during the late 1980s.

Both the Eagle River and the Island Gold mines have lifted the Wawa area from the ‘small gold mine’ mentality, to having the potential for large, deep, high-grade gold mines as well as deposits with low grade, large tonnage, bulk mining potential.
With the discovery of the Borden Lake Gold Deposit by a couple of prospectors (Mike Tremblay and Jack Robert), the Wawa area appears to be connected to the large-scale mineralized corridor with high gold endowment stretching from Val D’Or, Quebec through to Kirkland Lake, Timmins, the Swayze area, Borden Lake, to Wawa, White River and Hemlo.

Gold deposit discovery takes time, perseverance, knowledge, financing, good people and good luck. The wave of exploration in the mid-to late 1980’s was not simply about the price of gold, but also about providing the incentives that allowed explorers to make discoveries. Incentives from various levels of government, including OPAP and OMEP, allowed exploration companies to leverage investor risk capital. The results after 30 years speak for themselves.

The current Junior Exploration Assistance Program (JEAP) by the Ontario Government, although beneficial, is a mere shadow of the OMEP program in financial terms. The Ontario Government should be providing a similar level of incentives to the junior exploration industry as they do the electric and hybrid-electric car market. As for the large gold miners, they have started establishing strategic partnerships with junior exploration companies, as this will be their main project pipeline for their future gold inventory.

The Ontario Geological Survey has been remapping areas of the Michipicoten Greenstone Belt. The Sault Ste. Marie District Geology Office is actively providing field trips and short symposia in the Wawa area – once again bringing together like-minded individuals to share ideas and do some ‘arm-waving’ at interesting outcrops.

After 30 years, there has been significant consolidation of high mineral potential ground, however, untested areas continue to be prospected and explored for gold in the hopes that another Island Gold, Eagle River, Renabie or Borden Lake can be discovered.
Cobalt’s TIME TO SHINE

There’s no denying it – cobalt is back with a vengeance.

Gino Chitaroni is the president of the Northern Prospectors Association and of Polymet Labs, not to mention a lifelong resident of Cobalt, Ont. According to Chitaroni, cobalt is experiencing a surge of interest from the electrical vehicle business, which requires cobalt, lithium and nickel for their batteries. And the town of Cobalt is the epicentre of those metals in Canada.

“The veins that were mined here for silver also carry cobalt – and only rarely was it ever recovered or reported,” Chitaroni says. “Cobalt was more of a hindrance than it was a benefit for the silver miners.”

Chitaroni explains that there haven’t been any silver-cobalt mines operated in the Cobalt Mining Camp since 1995 to 1996. Not many people foresaw the high interest in cobalt two years ago when the metal was only a third of the price it is today. However, that changed in the span of six to 12 months. In early 2016, interest in cobalt increased – and it hasn’t abated since then.

“In 2016 and early 2017, most of the work done in the Cobalt Mining Camp was more about acquisition and staking. Only in the later half of 2017 did we start to see any exploration work on the ground, once companies got their projects financed,” Chitaroni says. Projects ranged from grassroots exploration, airborne geophysical surveys, geological mapping, region power stripping and now diamond drilling.

Companies operating in the region include Brixton Metals Corp., Power Americas Mineral Corp., Battery Minerals, Cobalt Power Group and First Cobalt Corp., which is the biggest company currently in the camp.

“[First Cobalt] is now on their second program of diamond drilling. They have a very large program outlined that they’re starting to get underway at the Keeley-Frontier Mine,” Chitaroni says.

Brixton Metals is currently drilling, Power Americas is drilling on the western extremity of the Cobalt Mining Camp and Cobalt Power finished two programs of diamond drilling within the past year.

“Another company that did a lot of diamond drill exploration last fall was LiCo Energy Metals Inc.,” Chitaroni says, adding they did well on their Teledyne project north of the town of Cobalt.

Outside of the Cobalt Mining Camp, there is plenty of exploration going on as well. Activity is noted from the town of Temagami in northeastern Ontario over to the northern rim of the Sudbury Basin in the west, north up Highway 144 over east to Gowganda and Elk Lake right to the Quebec border.

“It’s a big, big area that’s being looked at for cobalt,” Chitaroni says.

In the future, Chitaroni hopes that, over the next five to 10 years, there will be at least one or two mining operations churning out anywhere from between 3,000 to 10,000 metric tons of cobalt metal per year out of the Cobalt region. He also anticipates sustained exploration in Cobalt for the next three to five years.

“The markets are a funny thing,” he muses. “Today it could be cobalt, tomorrow it’s lithium. We’re getting a good run here in the Cobalt Mining Camp for the first time in my lifetime, and hopefully we’ll benefit from it. It’s been a sleeping area for exploration for decades.”
Established in 2009, Manitou Gold Inc. has three exploration properties under its belt – and it is just getting started.

Headed by Richard Murphy, CEO, and Pat Dubreuil, president, Manitou Gold is headquartered in Toronto, Ont. The Manitou Gold website (manitougold.com) states that the company is a “Canadian exploration company with an experienced discovery team and a large package of highly prospective gold properties located in the Gold Rock District of Northwestern Ontario”. Manitou Gold’s three assets are Kenwest, Gaffney and Goudreau.

Murphy says Kenwest is a corner-store asset, located 50 kilometres south of Dryden. It is a past producing mine property, which Manitou Gold purchased from Goldcorp Inc. During the week of Jan. 22, 2018, the company began an 1,800-metre drill program on the property.

Gaffney is the second property, and it’s known to have broad zones of lower-grade gold (around one to two grams), whereas higher-grade gold could be found in Kenwest.

“We hit the ball out of the park in 2011,” Murphy says. “We had a drill intersection at Kenwest that got everyone’s attention – with over 53,000 grams per ton.”

Murphy explains Gaffney will remain untouched for the next couple of quarters while work is being done on Kenwest. Manitou is currently working with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to get an underground bulk sample permitted.

Goudreau is the third and last property, located north of Wawa, Ont. on the east side of Island Gold Mine, previously owned by Richmont Mines until Alamos Gold Inc. took it over. The property got its name from the Goudreau-Lochalsh Gold Belt.

Manitou Gold acquired patented land east of the Island Gold Mine. “It’s private property which had never seen any modern exploration such as geophysics or drilling,” Murphy says, adding that work began in mid-January consisting of line-cutting and geophysical surveys.

In the future, Murphy says he would like to continue with the advancement at Kenwest and uncover all of the opportunities awaiting him and his team at Goudreau.

For more information, visit manitougold.com.
LiCo Energy Metals Inc. (https://licoenergymetals.com/) is a Canadian-based exploration company with a primary listing on the TSX Venture Exchange (TSX-V: LIC). The Company’s focus is directed towards exploration for high-value metals integral to the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries (specifically cobalt and lithium) with world-class exploration properties in Ontario, Nevada and Chile.

LiCo’s Ontario-based cobalt properties, the Glencore Bucke and Teledyne properties, are located six kilometres east-northeast of Cobalt, Ont. Recently, LiCo completed the acquisition of a 100 per cent interest from Glencore Canada Corporation (subsidiary of Glencore PLC) of the Glencore Bucke Property. Strategically, the Glencore Bucke Property consists of 16.2 hectares and sits along the west boundary of LiCo’s Teledyne Cobalt Project. The property covers the southern extension of the No. 3 vein that was historically mined on the neighbouring Cobalt Contact Property located to the north of the Glencore Bucke Property. Diamond drilling in 1981 on the Glencore Bucke Property delineated two zones of mineralization measuring 150 metres and 70 metres in length.

On the adjoining 13 mineral claims referred to as the Teledyne Cobalt Project, the Company has an option to earn 100 per cent ownership, subject to a royalty. The property adjoins the south and west boundaries of claims that hosted the Agaunico Mine. From 1905 through to 1961, the Agaunico Mine produced a total of 4,350,000 pounds of cobalt and 980,000 ounces of silver. A significant portion of the cobalt that was produced at the Agaunico Mine located along structures that extended southward onto the Teledyne property.

During the fall/winter of 2017, LiCo completed a diamond drill exploration program on both its Glencore Bucke and Teledyne properties. Here, LiCo completed 32 diamond drill holes totalling over 4,000 metres.

On Glencore Bucke, significant cobalt intersections include diamond drill hole GB17-10 that intersected 0.55 per cent Co over 5.00 metres from 28.00 to 33.00 metres, and diamond drill hole GB17-15 that intersected 8.42 per cent Co over 0.30 metres from 62.40 to 62.70 metres. Significant copper mineralization was also intersected, such as 0.90 per cent Cu over 20.20 metres from 42.50 to 62.70 metres in diamond drill hole GB17-15, and 1.25 per cent Cu over 6.10 metres from 67.50 to 73.60 metres in diamond drill hole GB17-21.

A summary of the most significant results of the recent drill core assays on Teledyne are TE17-05 2.32 per cent Co over 4.00 metres from 126.5 to 130.50 metres, including 21.9 per cent Co over 0.36 metres from 127.64 to 128.00 metres, TE17-04 1.82 per cent Co over 6.00 metres from 138.00 to 144.00 metres, including 5.06 per cent Co over 1.75 metres from 141.25 to 143.00 metres, and 18.70 per cent Co over 0.15 metres from 141.64 to 141.79 metres and TE17-05 1.70 per cent Co over 6.00 metres from 136.00 to 142.00 metres.

Other impressive assay numbers were also released by the Company and can be found on the LiCo website (https://licoenergymetals.com/). It should be noted that the aforementioned intervals represent core lengths, and not true widths.

“We are very pleased with the results of the Glencore Bucke and Teledyne Phase 1 drill program,” says Tim Fernback, LiCo president and CEO. “We not only were successful in completing the objective of the drill program but also with the overall grade, width and consistency of the mineralization. We are working on the design of the Phase 2 drill program that will involve over 10,000 metres of additional drilling which will then be the basis of completing a 43-101 compliant resource estimation.”

NI 43-101 reports for both the Teledyne and Glencore Bucke Properties, are publicly available on www.SEDAR.com as well as the Company’s website. LiCo’s recently completed diamond drilling program (September to December 2017) consisted of both twinning and infill drilling of the historical drill holes located on both the Teledyne Cobalt and Glencore Bucke Properties.
Jackfish Lake is where it all began for Wayne Richards.

Before he got into prospecting, Richards’ family owned cottages in the Jackfish Lake area in Terrace Bay, Ont. Eventually, Don McKinnon, former owner of the Hemlo mine, stayed at one of Richards’ properties – which set the course for Richards’ venture into the world of geological exploration.

“They stayed for a couple of years starting in 1979, prospecting all around our area, and they had Hemlo at the same time,” Richards recalls, adding that Jackfish Lake used to be an old town known for its coal trains. He remembers being fascinated by the fact that the late McKinnon owned the biggest mine in the area at the time – about a quarter of Canada’s production.

Richards and partners have been working on the Jackfish property since the 1980s. In 2017, Sanatana Resources optioned the property. In a Sanatana press release, company president and CEO Peter Miles says, “Sanatana is pleased to be back in the mineral exploration business and the Company’s board of directors and management are looking forward to starting exploration on the Jackfish property.”

The Jackfish property is located on the northern shores of Lake Superior, which is 20 kilometres east of Terrace Bay via Highway 17 in Ontario, the press release states.

“Everyone thought it was just granite [there],” Richards says of the property. “It took a long time for people to understand there were lots of gold veins in the granite, not commonly thought to be prospective for mineralization like that by past explorers – that’s why Sanatana approached me.”

Richards says typical greenstone belt rocks in the area are also prospective for gold and other types of mineralization.

Sanatana was the first company to pull together the land package in the area and take a broader-scale approach to exploration, rather than companies just testing one showing, drilling a target and then moving on. This was very important to Richards.

It has been rough for Richards as the market went down a couple years ago, he says.

“You can’t hang on to all the properties. You hang on to your best stuff and wait for a turn – but it hasn’t come yet,” he says with a laugh. “Everybody thinks the next year is going to be better.”

Regardless, Richards is looking forward to the future. To take his mind off the unpredictability, he says he has to get into something else, such as diamond drilling, in addition to exploration and cottage ownership.

“I do a bit of everything,” he says.
For one man, prospecting is what he enjoys best.

“Prospecting is what I live on,” Allan Best says. He started out working for a company back in 1947 just as a summer gig. However, it propelled him into a lifelong career. Best then moved to Labrador in 1950 for a bit to do some prospecting for Iron Ore Company of Canada for a summer. Best also remembers working in Red Lake in the 1950s.

“I was line-cutting, staking claims and doing work for mining companies pretty much all my life,” he says.

At 88 years old, Best doesn’t get out much, but he still enjoys prospecting. He’s done it for 40 years and he doesn’t want to give it up completely.

In his four-decade-long career, Best says he’s never had much money. One defining moment in his life was meeting George Armstrong of George Armstrong Co. Ltd. in Fort Frances, Ont. Best told Armstrong about his property in Sturgeon’s Lake, King’s Bay. Armstrong then encouraged Best to take his drill and see what he could find.

“From the first drill hole, we had a vein 10 feet wide,” Best says, adding a mining company optioned it and paid them $3,000 a month for a few years. However, in 2009, Best says another company tricked him out of it and he lost one of the best things he had in his life.

All hope is not lost – he plans on returning to Sturgeon Lake in Ontario – an area he knows fairly well – to drill one hole to see if he can get company interest in it.

Frank Racicot is both a geologist and prospector. He had known since he was in high school that he wanted to work outside and not be cooped up inside an office.

Racicot graduated from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont. in 1974 with a geology degree. He then went on to work for various junior mining and consulting companies across Canada in their grassroots prospecting, stripping, mapping or drilling programs.

“I’ve worked in the Yukon, Nunavut and every province – except for in the Maritimes,” Racicot says.

Racicot’s roots in this field stretch back all the way to the beginning of the 20th century. Many of his relatives were involved in mineral exploration; his great-great-uncle Adney Cryderman was credited with staking the Garson Mine in Sudbury, and his great-uncle Ted Cryderman was a mining engineer.

“Right now, I’m just doing research and getting ready to work for some other junior company,” he says, adding he participated in a talk at last spring’s symposium in Thunder Bay, Ont. on low-tech prospecting techniques. The discussion focused on exploration techniques that don’t rely on computers or expensive digital exploration instruments.

“Things are getting more technical, and there are many types of instruments being used out in the field;” says Racicot. “I’m more into low-tech things – and you can’t get more low-tech than a hammer,” he adds with a laugh.

Racicot says a good prospecting hammer is one of the most underrated tools for prospecting and sampling. Some prospectors carry a grub hoe and a sledgehammer while many use what is known as a ‘GeoTool.’ Racicot prefers a blacksmith’s hammer with a piece of hard, ‘grader-blade’ steel welded to it.

“I’ve combined two tools into one and it is certainly much more effective,” says Racicot. “It cuts two-inch tree roots and peels moss off outcrops with ease – yet has the necessary heft that it can break open just about any rock.” He claims he always finds new showings or geologically important outcrops with his Pt pounder every year.

While Racicot says he doesn’t have just one highlight that stands out from his career, he fondly remembers several recent gold showing, as well as the time him and his partner, veteran prospector Dan Brunne, found a platinum showing west of Sudbury in the 1990s.

“We found 15 grams of PGEs with a high Pt value – that was a nice find,” he says. So was the 100 units he staked for palladium east of Sudbury the next year.
Harte Gold Corp.’s Sugar Zone Project is turning into a pretty sweet deal.

Harte Gold Corp. is currently focused on construction of its 100-per cent owned Sugar Zone Project and exploration across its 83,850-hectare land position. A press release reveals in early May, the company announced the results of a positive preliminary economic assessment (PEA) of the project located near White River in Northern Ontario.

According to Shawn Howarth, vice-president of corporate development, back in February of this year, Harte Gold Corp. tripled its Mineral Resource Estimate at 714,200 ounces of indicated resource at a grade of 8.5 grams per tonne and 760,800 ounces of inferred resource at 6.6 grams per tonne. These are located in two different zones within the Sugar Zone project, the titular Sugar Zone and the Middle Zone. The overall property itself is about 80,000 hectares.

“The Sugar Zone Project has been the company’s primary focus since 2009,” Howarth says.

Howarth is referring back to the year new management, under the direction of Stephen G. Roman as president and CEO, took over Harte Gold Corp.

“At the time, there was a small amount of inferred resources defined on the property, but no definition of resource to this extent. There wasn’t any mine development or surface infrastructure – it was very much an exploration project,” Howarth explains.

The project has significantly changed since then. The company has defined approximately 1.5 million ounces of resource in the indicated and inferred categories, mined 100,000 tonnes through its advanced exploration bulk sample and Phase 1 Commercial Production Permit, delivered a PEA outlining 80,700 ounces of annual gold production over an 11-year mine life, arranged a comprehensive US$70 million debt financing package with Sprott Private Resource Lending (Collector), L.L. and Appian Natural Resources Fund and signed an Impact Benefits Agreement with the proximal First Nations band, Pic Mobert First Nation.

The construction of the Sugar Zone Project is about 80-per cent complete. Howarth says they’re targeting commissioning and ramp-up in July this year. Commercial production will be targeted by Q4 later in the year.

“A significant amount of underground development was completed through our bulk sample and Phase 1 Commercial Production program, providing us with a good understanding on how to mine the deposit and associated costs. We are currently exploring several opportunities to improve economics by expanding the resource and improving the resource grade incorporated in the mine plan, and also optimizations on mine planning,” Howarth says.

For more information, visit hartegold.com.
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