Saying hello to Hemlo

Pavey Ark paves way for private exploration projects

Advice for the prospective prospector
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Ontario Prospector

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Ontario Prospector

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The last year has seen another roller coaster of markets and project acquisitions. The summer started with a flurry with funding seemingly flowing to all levels of exploration projects. Geologists and prospectors along with diamond drills became hard to locate and there was optimism of a continued busy exploration season. Slowly, the smaller companies started to run out of the funds raised and projects slowed. The larger projects continued to move forward with interesting results.

The commodities of choice continued to be dominated by gold, but lithium and cobalt projects have been in demand. The demand for lithium has resurrected numerous old projects across the province and breathed new life into dormant projects. The area around Cobalt has been staked, optioned and bought by various companies hoping to capitalize on the historic production and known showings. The decision of the countries around the world to move rapidly move toward electric cars is having the effect of changing the exploration landscape.

Ontario is still moving toward map selection for acquisition of mining claims with the implementation date being early 2018. There are some interesting and useful new features being embedded in the new system that should make it more efficient for prospectors and exploration companies alike. One of these features will be the liberation of assessment reserves from being tied to dates of completion. The new system will provide a reserve usable at anytime on any contiguous claims. Please visit the Mining Act Modernization website to keep informed on the changes and the needed interactions required (www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/mines-and-minerals/mining-act/modernizing-mining-act).

The Ontario Prospectors Association would like to congratulate the participants of the JEAP (Junior Exploration Assistance Program) for successfully completing exploration programs across Ontario. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund provided the funding that supported over 40 projects completed by over 30 juniors. The OPA administered the process with great responses from those that received assistance. The main comments from the participants was that the program was timely as it extended their exploration budgets and will there be another project like this in the future. The OPA is presently lobbying for another project for 2018.

The OPA is in planning mode for the Ontario Prospectors Exploration Showcase from April 3 to 5, 2018. Again this year, the Showcase will highlight exploration across the province, suppliers and contractors to the industry and recent government geoscience programs. Last year’s Showcase at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay was a success with an excellent attendance of the industry players. Watch the OPA website (www.ontarioprospectors.com) for details and mark your calendar to attend.
Perry English has always felt like he belonged outdoors, in the field – and that’s where his life took him.

Retired from working in the mine, English has led – and is still leading – the life he wants. He lived in Red Lake, Ont., attending high school at Red Lake District High School. He later on went to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ont. but didn’t stay long.

“I was a little too smart for everybody there,” he laughs.

Instead, he moved back home where his father told him to either get a job or find another place to live. English chose the former. He started to work at the Dickenson Mine, now known as Goldcorp Mine, as an electrician for 18 years.

“They were looking for an apprentice - they had tradespeople there – so I applied for the job and I got it. I took an apprenticeship and got my ticket,” English recalls, adding he also did a short stint in an open-pit mine called Griffith Mine.

During the last few years of his time with Dickenson Mine, English had already begun prospecting on his own. Eventually he quit working at the mine and started to prospect.
English says prospecting has been good to him over the years. In addition to making a living out of it, he’s made a lot of friends in the industry.

full-time. Most times, he was on his own but he would occasionally prospect with a partner as well.

“A lot of times, I went out on my own. When I was staking claims, I would put my Ski-Doo or four-wheeler in my truck and away I’d go,” English says.

English says a lot of his prospecting career involved following logging companies around. He remembers riding on his four-wheeler, looking at new areas or areas that have been overlooked after the logging companies have been there.

“You look at the rock and if you find something that looks interesting, you’d take some samples and send them away,” he says. “Then you get on the phone to call mining companies to look at what you’ve found.”

English has mostly been prospecting in northern Ontario – his backyard, as he calls it – but he had claims out in New Brunswick and Labrador as well.

These days, however, English is not out in the bush as often as he’d like to be. At the moment, he has a few thousand claim units, but it takes a lot of time to look after them and try to market them. English says the actual staking of claims is a young man’s job. However, that is all about to change as the province of Ontario is about to move to map-staking which is slated to take place over the next couple of months.

“I spend a lot of time marketing them. I go to a few conventions every year, like the PDAC (Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada) convention in Toronto, and I go to the convention in Vancouver and talk to mining companies and try to peddle my claims to them,” English says.

English says prospecting has been good to him over the years. In addition to making a living out of it, he’s made a lot of friends in the industry. ●
Based out of Toronto, Ont., Canadian Orebodies is a junior exploration company with a specialized focus in the world-class Hemlo camp, which is no ordinary feat.

According to Canadian Orebodies president, CEO and director Gordon McKinnon, the company is the largest claim holder in the area with three projects that total over 25,000 hectares – the Wire Lake, Black Raven and North Limb properties. Canadian Orebodies owns 100 per cent of the Black Raven and North Limb properties, and it also has the option to earn 100 per cent on the Wire Lake property.

“The Wire Lake property was a very interesting project to be able to acquire as there was a historic 2,300-metre gold zone that was discovered there, but was never followed up on until now,” McKinnon recalls.

The reason no exploration has taken place on this project since the discovery many years ago is the project owner and contractor at the time got into a dispute that led to a work stoppage. Neither was able to settle, so they went to court – a process that lasted 22 years.

“It was not for a lack of interest or geological potential. Lots of people have been wanting to work on it over the last two decades but couldn’t due to the stubborn battle going on,” McKinnon says.

In late 2016, the litigation was settled and the Wire Lake property became available. McKinnon says he noticed the non-transfer ability and litigation notice had been lifted, so his team…

By Cindy Chan
contacted the Ministry to verify if it was true, then contacted who was now listed as the property owner. And the rest is history.

Interestingly enough, the property owner knew Gordon McKinnon’s father, the late Don McKinnon, a co-discoverer of Hemlo which is currently operated by Barrick Gold Corporation.

“He knew my father, so I guess that helped the negotiation,” McKinnon laughs. “We were the first people on the ground in nearly three decades.”

According to McKinnon, Canadian Orebodies recently completed its first drill program on the Wire Lake gold zone, with 3,000 metres in 22 holes. The first seven holes of that program have been released and they verify the historical understanding of the Wire Lake gold zone and further demonstrate the breadth of near-surface mineralization in this extensive gold system. The remaining holes will be released in the weeks to come.

“It just goes to show how much gold is in this system. We’re very happy with what we see. It’s reconfirming what was done years ago and we continue to expand on that,” McKinnon says.

Moving forward, Canadian Orebodies is on the lookout for parallel zones, higher-grade pockets and sweet spots. So far, they’ve only drilled shallow holes. Deeper holes are planned down the road after all results from this program are interpreted, as history has proven the majority of the ounces and grade at the Hemlo mine come at depth.

“There’s a lot to follow up on here,” McKinnon says. “We’ve had prospectors and geotechnicians out in the field the entire summer and will be there until the snow falls. Wire Lake and Black Raven together are over 180 square kilometres, a massive land package.”

McKinnon says he is looking forward to showing the potential of Wire Lake and Black Raven outside of the known Wire Lake gold zone.

“Our ground work over the summer in terms of other target generations should surprise people about how widespread the targets and potential of Black Raven and Wire Lake are.”

For more information, visit canadianorebodies.com.
ADVICE for the prospective prospector

What makes a prospector?

A prospector must be a multi-faceted individual if she or he is to succeed over a period of time. A good discovery is of course essential at some point, but even that is usually not enough if you don’t know how or where to sell or option it.

One must love the outdoors and if she or he has a family, they must be blessed with one that will put up with the ups and downs of the industry. There is a characteristic that keeps showing up within good prospectors and that is “sisu”. It is the Finnish word for perseverance. Sisu is in your core; it is who you are and who you will always be. It is not momentary courage, but the ability to sustain an action against the odds. Deciding on a course of action and then sticking to that decision against repeated failure is “sisu”. It is sometimes hard to be persistent or focused on a goal. We all want instant gratification. Don’t be afraid of not succeeding. Know when to stop and say, “Is it worth the risk?” Refocus, rebuild and change your strategy. Rely on your instincts, gut feeling or sixth sense and become a relentless rototiller of moose pasture when you sense that you are getting close to what you are looking for. Above all, be prepared for a whole lot of work.

Challenges

When inexperienced, one must rely on help and expertise of numerous people such as the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, university or college professors, prospectors’ organizations including symposiums and workshops, company geologists and even family members. A good relationship with both company and government representatives is very important. The staff at MNDM are always willing to share their knowledge and point things out to you on field trips. Approaching companies to grubstake you is savvy. Usually that is based on the premise of first digs at your discoveries. The geology departments at the universities and colleges are very accommodating with analyzing, assaying and providing advice. Having family support is important. It is great to have help when you need it, whether it be staking, working claims or completing paper work.

Adapt to new technology, but keep in mind these are only tools. Things are rapidly changing, such as the use of drones and map-staking. Keep abreast and master a skill. When involved in consultation with First Nations, show respect and do not talk down because no one will talk up to you. The Ministry does have guidelines and template MOUs (memorandum of understanding) for starters. The regulations and
rules from the Ministry can be tedious and frustrating. Take small steps, remain calm and remember the pressure is the same on all players. It takes considerable willpower to keep from following the crowd when it comes to chasing certain flavours of the year (uranium, lithium, graphite). Keep an open mind to the state of demand for particular minerals. And, above all, have faith in yourself.

Hazards and safety

Hazards do occur, though not frequently. Situations such as dead tree limbs, falls and twists, vehicle problems, washouts, bad weather and animal/insect encounters can cancel your plans for the day. Some precautions are recommended. Check your tires and especially your spare. Carry first-aid and survival kits. Bring along a small power-charged battery with cables, axe and knife, flashlight, cell phone or a satellite communications device, a GPS unit, bear guard and whistle. Safety glasses and gloves are needed for not only flying rock but also for metal shrapnel from a hammer head. Masking tape can be extremely useful for taping up pant cuffs and shirt sleeves against deer ticks. Leave a map with a family member or friend and include contact numbers of individuals who know the area. Always have a partner.

Field trips

Timing and location improve your fortunes of success. I can say with experience that infrastructure like headframes/old mine sites enhance the probability. Go down dip or along strike of known previous orebodies and look for favourable host rocks and likely structural settings. Remember one can have parallel structures, especially shears. There is the age-old adage, “curiosity kills the cat”, but in prospecting let curiosity be your guide. In the past, certain pathfinders have indicated to me that I am in the right area for prospecting. They are as follows: quartz cross stock work, mill stone, garnets, carbonization, hematization, blue or white quartz eyes, tourmaline, spinifex, recrystallized quartz. Learn to identify specific minerals like sphalerite, galena, all the pyrites – preferably chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite and arsenopyrite. Don’t hesitate to pan some crushed rock. Listen to the wise old-timers who will give you advice, like “depression in the snow during spring melt indicates sulphides near the surface”.

Mineralized boulders can be your bread crumbs to a source. Knowing a bit about conductivity can also enhance the performance of certain VLF machines like metal detectors and beep mats. The time of year does have a bearing on readings – moisture in the ground at springtime versus dry ground in the fall. You will also encounter a better response after a thunderstorm.

Encouragement and success

Some pundits claim that success in exploration takes three things: risks, optimism and being willing to go out there and do it. I have learned over many years of prospecting that success requires patience and determination. It’s all in the state of mind – sooner or later, the person who wins is the one who thinks he or she can. Think outside the box. Be a great believer in luck and you will find that the harder you work, the more you will have of it.

We prospectors are a diminishing breed. Most people who care for you can’t understand the lyric, “I’ve been a miner for a heart of gold”. Becoming a prospector awards you to dream the dream.
Michael Tremblay turned smoke into fire.

Tremblay says he got into a prospecting career “by fluke”. He grew up in a lumber town, but he refused to go into logging. Mining was suggested to him, so he attended Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., graduating in 1983 after taking the exploration-focused geological technician program.

He then began his career by cutting line and doing geophysics in the Hemlo mining camp during the gold rush. Afterwards, he moved on to Noranda Exploration in 1984 to do field-mapping, core-splitting and other geotechnical tasks. That was around the time Tremblay decided to give self-employment a try.

“I realized after one season with a big company that I couldn’t stand the structure,” Tremblay says with a laugh.

“I could not conform to a structure. I could only deal with doing things in a sensible way without politics.”

Tremblay began doing contract geophysics and prospecting for several junior companies and individuals. He lived in Timmins, Ont. at the time, where there were plenty of opportunities for small contracts.

“By 1996, I was primarily prospecting on my own and with partners, and making my living selling claims,” Tremblay says.

One of the highlights in Tremblay’s career is the discovery of the Borden Gold Project in Chapleau, which happens to be his hometown. Tremblay recalls that the rocks there were never considered prospective because of their metamorphic grade – but he didn’t let that stop him.
“If somebody told me it wasn’t possible, then I’m going to work hard to prove it is,” he says.

Tremblay started working on Borden in 1987 and didn’t sell the project until 2010. He says he worked hard on the project for several years, working at the site for a month every year, but the mining industry took a beating around that time since the price of gold dropped and gold exploration seemed to stop.

“The numbers I was getting there was interesting. I never got an ore-grade sample, but I always got a gold number,” he says. “There was always smoke but never fire.”

Or so he thought.

The property sat open for five to six years until the price of gold turned around and companies began looking at low-grade, open-pit targets. During those years, Tremblay kept Borden in his mind, especially every time he drove by it.

“It was just one of those things that kind of bothered you – you never managed to sell it but you never forget that every sample you took had gold in it,” he says.

In 2009, Tremblay and his partner, Jack Robert, invited Dr. Dave Palmer, president and CEO of Probe Mines, to Borden because he was looking for a project.

“It was an easy process. The process from the field visit to the signing of the deal took probably six months,” Tremblay says, adding Palmer hit on the first hole. He drilled eight holes in his first program, and seven of those holes started and finished in mineralization.

“That was the discovery of the low-grade part of the deposit, which wasn’t what they were going to mine. Probe Mines continued working eastward and hit a high-grade zone, which they’re underground on right now,” Tremblay says.

Tremblay is still as passionate about prospecting as he was when he started – which is why he says he will never retire until his body breaks down and he can’t do it anymore.

“Every day is different, everything is a different challenge. That’s what nice about doing it independently like I do. You have to be your own lawyer, business developer, accountant and salesperson.”

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Established five years ago, Pavey Ark Minerals Inc., based out of Hamilton, Ont., is a private project generator, responsible for assembling and developing exploration projects with the intention of seeking qualified participants to further explore and develop the projects through options, sale or joint ventures. The only difference between Pavey Ark and several other project generators is that the former does it privately.

Richard Sutcliffe, founder and president of Pavey Ark, says his company uses some of its own capital and works with some investors privately because he feels it’s a much more efficient way to deploy capital.

"In this era of regulations, it costs a lot of money to keep a junior mining company as publicly listed and in good standing," Sutcliffe says. "If you’re private, you can ensure all invested capital is going into the ground – that’s the premise of my company."

Pavey Ark is named after a fell in the English county of Cumbria. That was one of Sutcliffe’s first introductions to geology – and he’s never looked back.

"[Pavey Ark] is a personal name for me. It was where, in my youth, my eyes were opened to the wonderful field of earth science and geology," Sutcliffe says, adding he also has a Ph.D in geology.

Sutcliffe started Pavey Ark with a project in Newfoundland. He purchased an asset called the Great Burnt Copper Project. Once he acquired the property, Pavey Ark validated a historical drill database, and established a NI43-101 copper resource, which he later sold to TSXV-listed Spruce Ridge Resources in 2015.

"It was the first deal in Pavey Ark," Sutcliffe recalls. "I’ve been working on this concept for a while and felt it was time to do this work privately instead of in a public company. The capital markets have not been particularly rewarding for junior public companies in recent years." Thus, Pavey Ark was born.

Nowadays, Pavey Ark is a junior mining company that is involved in the acquisition, exploration and development of mining assets. According to Sutcliffe, most junior companies don’t get to the mining stage. In most cases, junior companies are involved in exploration and early develop-
Sutcliffe says that Pavey Ark is involved in multiple commodities. The company has projects ranging from copper in Newfoundland to platinum group metals and gold in Ontario to oil in Saskatchewan.

“My investment decisions are driven by value opportunity and places where I see low-risk opportunities to add further value,” he says. “As a result, we are not focused on any particular metals.”

For Sutcliffe, he looks to acquire assets where someone else has done the initial work and where minerals have been identified. From there, he aims to validate and quantify them, usually resulting in a NI43-101 resource estimate. At that stage, the projects are ready for Pavey Ark to divest through an option or sale transaction.

Recently, Pavey Ark completed an option deal with TSXV-listed Sunvest Minerals who are acquiring the McKinnon-Hawkins Gold Project, located south of Hearst, Ont. Before optioning the property, Pavey Ark completed a resource estimate showing 239,000 ounces of gold. Sunvest has recently completed an initial drilling program aimed at expanding that resource as part of their option commitments.

At the moment, Sutcliffe’s also got his eye on palladium, one of the best-performing commodities this year. As a result, he’s working on a new palladium resource project west of Sudbury called the East Bull Platinum Group Metals, which he is calling his new flagship project.

For more information, visit paveyarkminerals.com.

Left: Ben Kuzmich using portable drill Thunder Bay area in the fall of 2013.
NEWMONT FOUND A PARTNER IN PROJECT C.U.R.E. THAT SHARES ITS PURPOSE... TO CREATE VALUE AND IMPROVE LIVES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE MINING.

THE PARTNER
As a leading gold producer with operations in the United States, Australia, Ghana, Peru and Suriname, Newmont depends on positive community relationships.

THE OBJECTIVE
Newmont recognizes that its operations require support from the communities that host them and this support can only be earned. To this end, Newmont looks for development partners who provide community-centred services that proactively engage employees and community members alike.

OUR PARTNERSHIP
The commitment to positive relationships with host communities is a core value for Newmont, “Our business involves much more than exploring for and producing gold. It’s about understanding people’s interests and aspirations for their communities. Project C.U.R.E. helps make this happen through their extensive needs assessments and approach to gaining agreement from the end users on every piece of medical equipment before it is shipped. They also provide great employee volunteer experiences to pack and deliver medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics in communities close to where we operate.”

– Matt King, Senior Manager of Social Responsibility
“With a return on investment of 20:1, the work we do through our partnership with Project C.U.R.E. is one of the most impactful investments we make.”

— Matt King, Senior Manager of Social Responsibility

WORKING TOGETHER

The Newmont and Project C.U.R.E. relationship extends far beyond providing employee volunteer opportunities or sponsoring a cargo container of medical equipment and supplies. While these are cornerstones of the partnership, Newmont and Project C.U.R.E. take their responsibilities to local communities seriously:

• During the 2015-2017 baseball seasons and as part of a strikeout fundraising initiative with the Colorado Rockies, Newmont has generously donated a total of $124,650 to help deliver medical supplies to multiple countries. The donations from this initiative are distributed to projects in need of funding around the world where supplies are scarce and the need is real.

• Newmont employees not only volunteer to sort and pack materials and Kits for Kids at Project C.U.R.E. distribution centres, they pick up and deliver C.U.R.E. Kits when they are travelling to most international markets where they work.

• Newmont partners with Project C.U.R.E. to bring medical teams to Ghana, Peru and Suriname. These medical teams are comprised of 12 to 20 volunteer medical personnel and have provided primary care clinics, patient education and provider education to more than 7,000 community members. They use the supplies and resources provided by Project C.U.R.E. and a travelling pharmacy to serve the local communities. Newmont local staff and volunteers act as stewards, community liaisons and translators during the clinics.

• For four years, Newmont has sponsored the Helping Babies Survive training program in Ghana. Through this program they have trained more than 200 nurses and midwives in neonatal resuscitation and newborn care. The neonatal mortality rate in the regions of Ghana where Newmont operates has been reported at .79 while the national average is 8.7.

OUR IMPACT

• Since 2005 the Newmont-Project C.U.R.E. partnership has engaged Newmont employees, strengthened the infrastructure of Newmont’s host communities and fulfilled Newmont’s objective to serve as a catalyst for economic development in local communities. With Project C.U.R.E., Newmont has delivered more than $8.8 million worth of medical supplies and equipment, which adds up to 19, 40-foot shipping containers, benefitting nearly one million people.

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Rouillier Drilling:
40 years of industry experience in surface and underground drilling

Founded in 1977, Rouillier Drilling is a private, family-run business established in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, operating a fleet of over 75 drills. The company offers a wide range of services including diamond drilling, surface drilling, underground and heliportable drilling.

With a growing presence in Wawa and Marathon over the last decade, the company has also recently expanded its reach by opening a branch office in Thunder Bay to better serve its clientele.

**Innovation is at the heart of the company’s strategy**

Innovation plays a key role not only in the design and development of the latest products, but also when it comes to the health and safety of employees. In 2016, Rouillier Drilling was awarded the Innovation Grandes Entreprises prize at the CNESST regional awards final, for developing the Zero Energy System, a safety system that makes any contact between members of the crew and the drill’s moving parts completely impossible, thereby greatly reducing any risk of injury and accidents.

“The Zero Energy System ensures that drilling teams benefit from maximum on-site safety. It requires zero effort and eliminates any risk of human error. This system has brought about revolutionary changes in the OSH culture, particularly in the diamond drilling industry,” says Mario Rouillier, president of Rouillier Drilling.

The company is also an innovator when it comes to designing products that conform to environmental norms and regulations. Rouillier Drilling has conceived and developed state-of-the-art track and crawler systems to reduce damage to fragile soils while still providing the necessary traction to transport materials. The environmental policies are frequently reassessed in order to review their overall quality, effectiveness, and relevance.

**Placing an extra emphasis on community**

The company’s management put great emphasis on building communities and actively contribute to their development. It is committed to issues related to the health and safety of citizens. Several organizations have already directly benefited from the company’s...
support and involvement over the course of 2017, including the Maison du Bouleau, the Pageau Refuge, the Amos Hospital Foundation, the Amos Midget League and the Université Laval team for its participation in the Toronto University Mining Olympics.

This year, Rouillier Drilling celebrates its 40th anniversary. Rouillier is proud of the work the company has accomplished over the years and the fact that it has remained a private entity and family-run business after 40 years of service. ●

Mario Rouillier (president at Rouillier Drilling), Philippe Laplante (sales manager at VersaDrill Canada), Vincent Boileau (business development manager at Rouillier Drilling) and Serge Caron (operations manager at Rouillier Drilling).
New Age Metals’ recent updates and successes

Formerly known as Pacific North West Capital, New Age Metals is living up to its namesake and focusing on a new age for the company.

New Age Metals currently has two divisions – Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) and Lithium, but their main goal is to develop the River Valley PGM Project, which is the largest undeveloped primary PGM resource in Canada.

According to Trevor Richardson, president/chief operating officer for New Age Metals, a total of over $30 million has been invested into the River Valley PGM Project to date, since 1999.

In 1999, Anglo American Platinum, also known as Amplats, signed an agreement with New Age Metals. In 2000, a drill hole led to the discovery of PGMs. In 2008, Amplats earned 50 per cent, after investing $22 million in exploration. In 2010, New Age Metals acquired Amplats’ 50 per cent interest back.

“Now we have 100 per cent ownership of the property,” Richardson explains. “In 2011, we restarted exploration and development activities.” The following year, in 2012, their mining leases were granted and they started to conduct baseline studies.

“In 2013, we conducted a metallurgical study, and 2015 was when we discovered a new high-grade zone as well,” Richardson continues. “In 2016, we carried out additional drilling on the new discovery, referred to as the Pine Zone.”

The River Valley PGM Project is road-accessible; according to Richardson, people can drive their car right to it. The project is located within 100 kilometres of Sudbury, Ont., one of the largest nickel-copper PGM sulphide mining and metallurgical centres in the world.

According to a press release, as of Aug. 17, the 2017 Drill Program has reached its midway point in the planned program, on the Dana North (T3) and Pine Zone at the River Valley PGM Project. The first portion of the program concentrated on followup drill testing of the 2015-16 PGM mineralization at the Pine Zone. From this point forward, drilling will now focus on the geophysical interpretation from the most recent Induced Polarization (IP) survey, conducted by Abitibi Geophysics.

“We’re focusing on the Pine Zone as well as the Banshee Zone, and the strategy is to have an updated resource that will include all historical and current drilling to date.”

Last year, New Age Metals acquired the River Valley Extension Project – also known as RVX – from Mustang Minerals Corp. “With the acquisition, New Age Metals has roughly 16 kilometres of mineralized strike, with over 60 holes drilled. The updated mineral resource estimate will include this extension area.”

For more information, visit www.newagemetals.com.
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