

THE EXPLORATIONIST

The Newsletter of the Ontario Prospectors Association

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Spring 2014

The term Spring seems to be a little optimistic! The April Symposia have come and gone with a very optimistic crowd in both Thunder Bay and Timmins. There are lots of Explorationists that are looking for work and as many Junior Companies that are short or totally out of cash. Claims staked in the Province are dropping and claims coming open are growing also as no one has dollars to complete assessment.

The Geo-Referencing of claims has been a boom for some companies and contractors. The general feeling is that you should get the GPS work done as soon as possible so when we go to Map Selection your claims will be where they should be!!

Porcupine Prospectors & Developers Association (PPDA) THINGS ARE ALIVE AND WELL IN THE PORCUPINE CAMP

While it has often been said that the view from the Porcupine Mining Camp has always been optimistic and the attitude most of us take is that the glass is always half full, not even the upcoming provincial election is about to change that.

The spirit of exploration and mining form the basis of what the Camp has always been about, and despite the present economic situation and the proverbial crate of lemons that the Porcupine Prospectors & Developers Association had delivered to our area the group were busily engaged in making lemonade for the many who attended our recent Northeastern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium (NEOMMS) at the legendary McIntyre Arena complex. Not even the Northern weather, which closed the airport and the major highways, could dampen the enthusiasm of those many delegates who attended the four day affair which pleased the NEOMMS committee led once again by our perennial Chairman Bill MacRae. One of the added attractions this year was the addition of one more day of geological talks on current research into the understanding of, and exploration methodologies for Gold and Base Metals in the Abitibi Region. A special thank you is extended to John Ayer and Harold Gibson of the MERC organization and to all those who contributed technical papers. It was an exercise worthy of being considered for future Symposia being hosted by other Prospector Associations throughout Northern Ontario.

Another highlight of the Timmins Symposium was a Presentation by Richard Leveille of the Canadian Space Agency who gave a fascinating account of the NASA Mars Science Laboratory Mission and the findings of the Curiosity Probe which landed successfully on the Red Planet. Richard who hails from New Liskeard has a PhD in Geology and is currently lecturing at McGill University. Thank you Richard for enlightening our Dinner audience on the realms of outer space, as if we did not have enough on our plate to solve the mysteries of the geology here on planet Earth.

On behalf of the local prospecting fraternity we greatly acknowledge the support of the local mining community and those associated service providers who have made our recent Symposium a qualified success. The PPDA on May 24th. once again look forward to initiating the Mining Week celebrations at the Timmins Square and promote the interests of the Exploration and Mining Industry to young and old alike with the emphasis on the important role we play in the national economy. To that end we have always been appreciative of the support and promotional material provided from the Mining Matters program.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean S Rogers President
Porcupine Prospectors & Developers Association

Sudbury Prospectors and Developers Association (SPDA)

The 2013-2014 Sudbury Prospectors and Developers Association (SPDA) executive includes Joshua Bailey, President; Tom Morris, Immediate Past President; Roger Poulin, First Vice-President; and Ed Debicki, Secretary/Treasurer. Joshua Bailey and Roger Poulin represent the SPDA to the Ontario Prospectors Association. Todd Keast and Joshua Bailey represent the SPDA to the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee.

The SPDA meets the third Tuesday evening of every month September through November and January through May. Meetings include a social reception, a brief business meeting and a presentation by an invited guest speaker. The SPDA currently has over 118 registered members and an email notification list with about 700 addresses. Meeting attendance ranges from 30 to 70+ members. Invited guest speakers in 2014 have included Roy Denomme, Senior Manager Mining Lands with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; Grant Mourre, Exploration Manager with Transition Metals Corp. and Sudbury Platinum Corporation; Breanne Beh, Exploration Geologist with Probe Mines Limited; and Neil Richardson, Chief Operating Officer with North American Nickel Inc.

Sault and District Prospectors Association (SDPA)

Mineral Exploration Activity Update

Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd. - Eagle River and Mishi gold mines

In the first quarter, 13,730 ounces of gold were produced and 15,985 ounces were sold, as strong production in December 2013 was finally realized through gold sales. Overall, the Eagle River Complex produced 19% more gold in the current quarter than the same period in 2013. Total unit production costs per ounce decreased 25.7% to average \$977 per ounce for the period, compared to \$1,315 during the same period last year. As at March 31, 2014, the Company had 4,778 ounces of gold inventory, compared to 7,034 ounces as at December 31, 2013.

Richmont Mines Ltd. – Island Gold mine

Improved first quarter gold sales of 20,412 ounces, on target with 2014 production guidance of 70,000 - 80,000 ounces of gold; -- Strong year-over-year improvement: Revenues increased 26%, while average cash cost per ounce decreased by 19% at the Island Gold Mine and 22% at the Beaufor Mine; -- Q1 2014 operating cash flows of \$2.4 million, or \$0.06 per share, on revenues of \$29.5 million, versus Q1 2013 operating cash flows of (\$6.8) million, or (\$0.17) per share, on revenues of \$23.4 million.

The increase in the recent mineral resource estimate is coming from the western portion of the Island Gold deposit towards the boundary of claims that are held by Argonaut Gold Inc. An agreement has been reached with Argonaut that will allow Richmont to extend this boundary westward by 585 m, increasing the exploration potential for the Island Gold Deep project towards the west.

Argonaut Gold Inc. – Magino Gold Deposit

In 2013, Argonaut Gold Inc. had announced that it completed a total of 89 000 m of diamond drilling in 340 holes to advance the Magino gold project, located 40 km northeast of Wawa, Ontario, towards a prefeasibility study (Argonaut Gold Inc., press release, February 25, 2013). In the winter of 2013, the company released the results of the prefeasibility study which includes a new resource estimate and summarizes the financial projection and operational plans for the Magino property, as a conventional open pit mine and gold leaching processing circuit (Argonaut Gold Inc., press release, December 17, 2013).

Harte Gold Ltd. – Sugar Zone Gold Deposit

Harte Gold completed a 7-hole, 1500 m diamond drilling program which was designed to increase the confidence of, and confirm grade in, the bulk sample area. In July 2013, Harte Gold received necessary permits from the Ministry of Natural Resources to proceed with site development work. Construction on a mine site access road commenced in July. Collection of the bulk sample is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Harte Gold reported excellent progress in its continuing efforts to pinpoint the source of the Hemlo style mineralization found on the Sugar Zone Property. With the initial discovery of the "Peacock Boulder" with gold values up to 87 g/t, Harte Gold's efforts have included surface and airborne surveys. An Induced Polarization ("IP") survey is underway. The IP survey is focused on an area covering approximately 2km x 5km located east of the Wolf Zone and Sugar Zone Deposit and is designed to identify the source of the high grade Peacock Boulders.

Exploration Activity

Gold, Copper, Uranium and REE exploration projects are continuing in the Wawa, Batchewana, Elliot Lake areas.

Wawa Area:

Augustine Ventures: Jubilee-Surluga Gold Property, McMurray Twp Area
New Dimension Resources Ltd. - Midas and Kam Properties, Goudrea Area
Canoe Mining Ventures - Iron Lake Gold Project, North Mishibishu Area
Zara Resources Ltd. - Forge Lake Gold Property, Hawk Junction Area
Pele Mountain Resources Inc. - Festival Project, Goudreau Area

Batchawana Area:

Superior Copper Corporation - Coppercorp Property, Batchawana Area
Boxxer Gold Corporation - East Breccia, Batchawana Area
Black Panther Mining Corp. - Olson Gold Property, Batchawana Area

Elliot Lake Area:

Appia Energy Corp. - Uranium-REE Property, Elliot Lake Area
Pele Mountain Resources Ltd. - Eco Ridge Project, Elliot Lake Area
Further details can be obtained from the MNM Report of Activities OFR 6294

Summary

Gold miners in Wawa are making headway through increased gold production and cost savings; new gold mine development is progressing at Argonaut's Magino Property and Harte Gold's Sugar Zone Property.

Results from the election at the Annual General Meeting of the SDPA are as follows:

President:	Delio Tortosa
Vice President:	Mike Tremblay
Treasurer:	Cliff Hicks
Secretary:	Denise Berg

Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA)

Update as of May, 2014

NWOPA covers a large area of the Province, from the Manitoba boundary to the communities along the north shore of Lake Superior and is centered in Thunder Bay. It is a registered not-for-profit association with 10 elected Directors from which are selected the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary for a one year term. The Objectives of the Association are "To represent and further the interests, the needs, and support the aspirations of the individual prospectors in Northwestern Ontario".

General meetings are held throughout the year to present the membership with topics of interest including most recently the Mining Act changes and proposals. See www.nwopa.net for information.

The Mines and Minerals Symposium is organized by the Ontario Prospectors Association in close association with NWOPA who provides volunteers and program input. This annual event is held every April in Thunder Bay, attracting 400+ registrants and 85+ exhibitors. Talks over the 2-day event are presented by local prospectors, MNM staff, junior mining companies and service providers to the mining and exploration industry.

NWOPA is a major organizer along with the local CIM and WIM branches in presenting an outdoor Mining Day event (see www.thunderbayminingday.ca) on the Thunder Bay waterfront. This year (May 31, 2014) will be the second time for the event and will focus on introducing the mining industry to the general public through family-oriented and themed activities for young and old. Exhibits include mining equipment, rock and mineral identification, gold panning, field games with geophysical equipment, speakers covering topics such as the history of mining in Thunder Bay, the Sudbury impact effect locally, and walking tours of the building stone used in Port Arthur. Visitors can learn about careers and education requirements for working in mining related fields from the school boards, university and college exhibitors. Due to the overwhelming success of the event, Thunder Bay city councillors have officially declared May 31 as "Mining Day".

Other public outreach activities include attendance at the NW Ontario Fur Trappers Festival, and Geraldton Trade Show where the booth attracts many interested visitors and our financial support of the NW Ontario Science Fair. NWOPA make an annual contribution to the Bernie Schnieders Fund at Lakehead University. Bernie was an enthusiastic supporter of our local prospector community.

Each year closes with our annual Christmas Party, a great way to gather the members and celebrate the successes of the field season and to forecast the commodity prices for the New Year.

Submitted by Bob Chataway, President, NWOPA

2014 Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium Awards Banquet Speech

Nobody ever tells geologist jokes. Or prospector jokes

There's jokes about lawyers, accountants, politicians, blondes, doctors and clergymen – but not about us mineral exploration people.

We're so unknown and unloved we don't incite humour. Not even black humour.

An awareness survey was carried out in 2012 by APEGS, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. The study's authors

concluded that the public generally 'had no specific knowledge of what most geoscientists actually did.

And in the 'Lessons Learned' section of the brief report, they stated that:

'In the case of engineers, the public has a very narrow understanding of their work. In the case of geoscientists, they don't really know anything.'

And remember: this study was done in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan consists of two small cities floating in a sea of farms, forests, oil wells and mines. Saskatchewanians can plainly see where their stuff, and their wealth, comes from.

In Ontario, despite the fact that everything in our lives depends on mining and the products there from, most people don't have a clue.

As a result we're branded as wild-west cowboys who rape and pillage the land; leave abandoned campsites, littered with old oil drums, all over the bush; destroy indigenous cultures; fund terrorists and child soldier armies; poison land, water and forests; ruin the economies of poor, developing nations and enable the destruction of the planet via increased carbon emissions.

Apparently we're just a little to the right of Atilla the Hun, but wearing a field vest and holding a rock pick in one hand and a beer in the other.

But wait a minute. Contrary to popular opinion, I think we're pretty environmentally responsible, and are becoming cleaner, greener and leaner all the time.

I've been actively involved in mineral exploration since 1980. Most of the time we hire local people, buy local supplies and services, and leave our work areas clean and safe.

And it's not like we're out there desecrating the primeval boreal wilderness. Nearly every area we are working in these days has been prospected, explored and logged many times over since before the turn of the 20th century.

Mind you, when you drive a D6 through the bush it's hard not to rip up some dirt and push over a few trees, but outside of the Far North, within 10 years, it's pretty hard to find a trace of any disturbance.

Over the years I've spent considerable time looking for old camps, grid lines, claim posts and drill sites, and they're often incredibly hard to find. An inexperienced person, unaware of the tiny details to look for, is likely to find nothing at all. I think we're pretty damn clean about what we do.

Occasionally we tell people about the good things we do – how we create jobs and wealth, increase the well-being of society, etc., etc. – but mostly we only preach to the converted or, more often, say nothing at all and leave ourselves open to question. And questions are always negative. And so our bad rep continues.

In the age of Face book and Twitter, the age of social licence, transparency and instant criticism, how do we begin to re-brand ourselves?

We can start by showing people how much everyone depends on what's pulled from the ground in this completely manufactured environment we live in.

We can show people the difference between mining and exploration, and the tiny, temporary footprint we have.

We can remind people that those of us who work in the field probably spend more time in nature, and appreciate the natural world as much as any of the environmental radicals out there.

And we can show people that the way forward to saving civilization as we know it is to become more technologically advanced, not by going back to some mythical and unobtainable past state.

Whatever we do, I think we'd better start doing it soon. We're losing the social licence battle. We've got enough enemies out there. If we don't do something soon we won't be welcomed anyplace. And our future will be even less secure than it is right now.

Dave Hunt

First Nations chiefs declare intent to control forestry operations on traditional land in Whiskey Jack Forest

Created: Wednesday, 12 February 2014 15:45

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Written by Administrator 3 Hits: 334

By Alan S. Hale, Kenora Daily Miner and News

Chiefs from the three First Nations inside the Whiskey Jack Forest signed a declaration on Monday afternoon calling on the provincial government to effectively scrap their current forestry plan and **give up control over the logging industry inside the forest to a partnership made up of their communities.**

Simon Fobister of Grassy Narrows, Leslie Cameron of Wabuaskang and Howard Kabestra of Whitefish Bay signed the document which frames the call for more aboriginal control as a matter of affirming the sovereignty of First Nations over their own territory as well as their treaty harvesting rights.

The chiefs want the province to transfer the sustainable forest licence for the Whiskey Jack to a partnership made up of all three communities. Forest licences last up to 20 years and would give the communities the exclusive right to harvest all the trees in the licensed area. It would also make them responsible for coming up with a brand new forest management plan **as well as monitoring and enforcing the rules on any companies they allowed to operate in the Whiskey Jack.**

Although the communities would technically be partners which would hold the

logging licence jointly, the declaration states each would respect the others' autonomy regarding their traditional territories.

"We three communities want to work together as partners the Whiskey Jack sustainable forest licence. We made it clear to the Minister of Natural Resources (David Oraziotti) that was our goal and he's hopefully going to give us a response by April 1 (before the provincial budget)," said Fobister.

"We have been very clear that we want to work together to manage the forest and do so from an environmentally friendly way, and in a way in which our communities will benefit."

Fobister, Regional Chief Stan Beardy and Treaty 3 Grand Chief Warren White all recently met with Oraziotti when in Toronto to make it clear they rejected the current Whiskey Jack Forestry Management Plan the province has spent years creating. Oraziotti called the meeting "productive" and said he had agreed to a study to determine how to sustainably log the forest, but hadn't agreed to the chiefs' request for a full environmental assessment of the decade-long plan.

The chiefs say allowing the First Nations in the area to run the forestry industry inside the Whiskey Jack would assuage their concerns that allowing logging in the forest would lead to clear-cutting operations which would damage their environment and not adequately protect culturally sensitive areas of the forest.

"We're not against harvesting timber, just in the manner in which it's taking place. As native people this land is our mother and we need to protect it. But we're tired of seeing our resources extracted and not seeing any benefit from it," said Cameron.

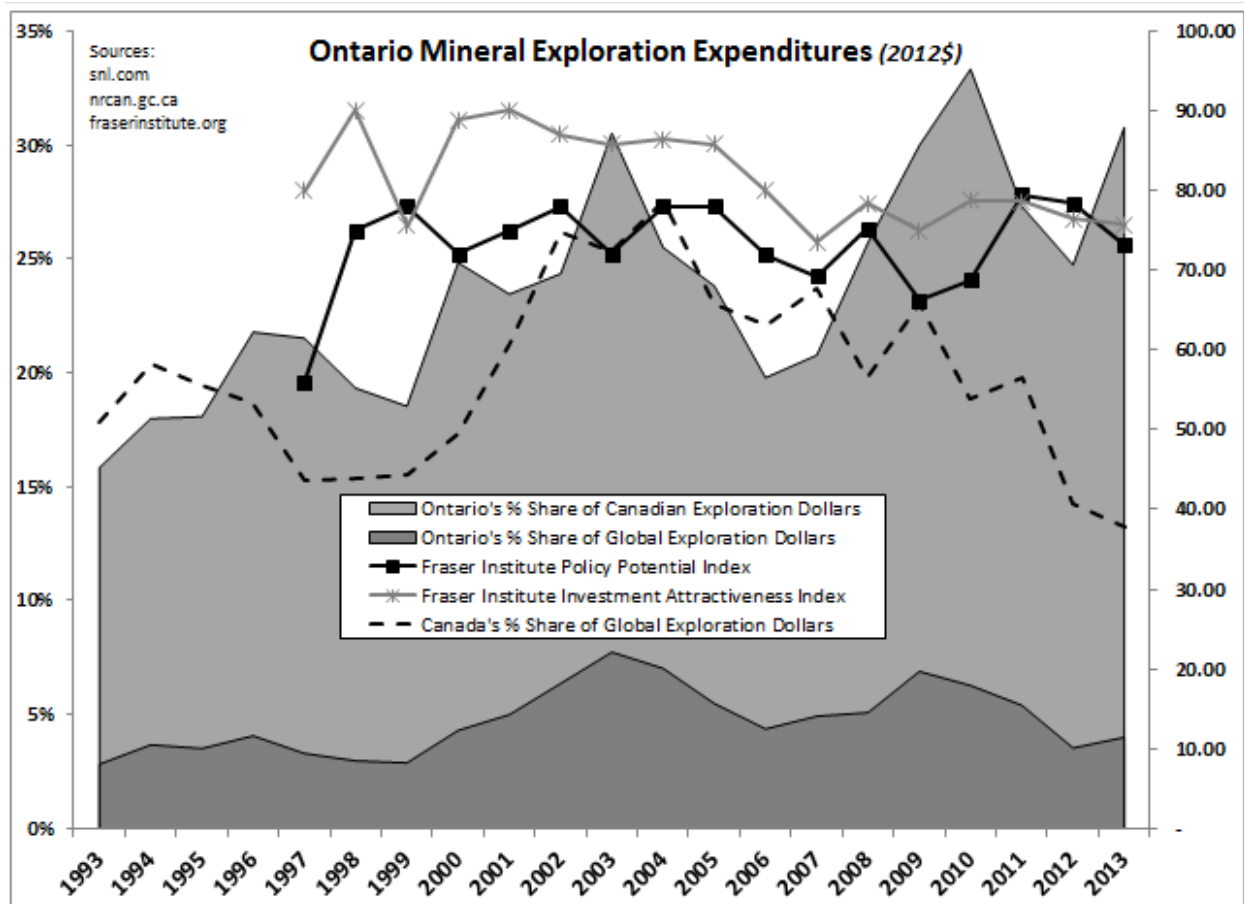
"I think this would be a big step forward, not just for our communities, but all of Treaty 3."

The chiefs said they have been frustrated with the forestry planning process in the Whiskey Jack because they feel the province has made them an afterthought. This is something Oraziotti has denied strenuously in the past, saying he wants First Nations to be involved in the process and for them to directly benefit from the logging operations.

The declaration calls on Ontario to give a response before the government tables its next provincial budget, but even if the government were to agree to the communities' proposal, the chiefs said the current Supreme Court challenges launched by Grassy Narrows and Wabunaskang against the province's power to issue logging licences in their territory will still continue.

It was not possible to get a response from the provincial government before press time.

Canada's share of global expenditures peaked in 2004 (28%) and Ontario's peaked in 2003 (7.7%). The steady decline since these peaks has resulted in \$14.8 billion spent elsewhere than Canada and \$5.7 billion spent elsewhere than Ontario. This is independent of changes in total expenditures as a result of the broader market cycle. Interesting that while Ontario's share of funds spent in Canada has been increasing – we're still losing, just not as fast as the other provinces and territories.



Update on the work of GeoTours Northern Ontario initiative

March 2014

Hello folks,

This is a letter to update the many of you across northern Ontario that helped us with our GeoTours field work in October 2011 and May 2012. Much has happened since I last sent you a note in June 2012.

Just let me remind you that the **GeoTour Northern Ontario** initiative is a collaboration of Natural Resources Canada, Ontario Geological Survey, Laurentian University, and Science North science centre in Sudbury. The funding for GeoTours is primarily from the TGI4 program of Natural Resources Canada. GeoTours attempt to highlight great geological stories in communities across Northern Ontario. Our hope is to engage residents, visitors, and educators in Northern Ontario’s remarkable landscape, geological origins, and mining economy.

In the fall of 2012, we completed the first 5 GeoTours for sites in the Sudbury area – Science North, Dynamic Earth, Sudbury Discovery Site, A.Y. Jackson Lookout, and Superstack – and these were published on the Science North website at

www.sciencenorth.ca/dynamic-earth/geotours/. PDFs of each GeoTour can be downloaded for free from that site.

In addition to these first five GeoTours we will complete two more GeoTours for the Sudbury area: Jane Goodall Reclamation Trail, and mining infrastructure in the Copper Cliff area. We also will complete GeoTour guides for 10 communities and provincial parks: Cobalt; Temiskaming Shores; Kirkland Lake; Timmins; Parry Sound; French River Provincial Park; Killarney; Lake Superior Provincial Park; Nipigon; and Thunder Bay.

Originally we had considered the possibility of publishing additional GeoTours for Elliot Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa, Marathon, Terrace Bay and Greenstone. This was not possible and we regret any disappointments this may cause. However, we are thankful for what we were able to complete.

We are hoping to publish the GeoTours in late 2014 or early 2015. They will be publications of the Ontario Geological Survey, hosted on their website at <http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/mines-and-minerals/geology> and also on the Science North www.sciencenorth.ca/dynamic-earth/geotours website.

On a personal note, I retired from Natural Resources Canada in February 2014 but I will continue to work with my colleagues at Natural Resources Canada and the Ontario Geological Survey to complete our GeoTours Northern Ontario project. If you have any questions or comments you can reach me at bob.turner7@gmail.com

Sincerely
Bob Turner
Bowen Island, British Columbia
On behalf of the GeoTour Northern Ontario team

To: Ontario Mining Association, Lesley Hymers
Ontario Prospector's Association, Garry Clark

Dear Ms Hymers and Mr. Clark:

As you are aware from my last email (August 29, 2013), O. Reg. 239/13 made under the *Public Lands Act* (Activities on Public Lands and Shore Lands – Work Permits and Exemptions) came into effect January 1, 2014.

Communication material is now available online which provides a plain language overview of the activities and associated rules. I have provided the link for each activity in both French and English below and encourage you to provide them to your membership.

Buildings on a mining claim (registration with MNR is required)

- <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/buildings-mining-claim>

- <https://www.ontario.ca/fr/environnement-et-energie/batiments-sur-des-claims-miniers>

Further information and instructions on how to register activities can be found in the [Natural Resources Registration Guide](#). For your membership who are not able to register online, MNR has developed a [hard copy registry and registration](#) guide which can be provided by the Registry and Approval Services Centre by emailing mnr.rasc@ontario.ca or calling 1-855-613-4256.

If you have any questions regarding the activities and their supportive communication material I can be reached at Pauline.desroches@ontario.ca or by telephone at (705)755-2140.

Again, I appreciate your involvement and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Pauline Desroches

Manager, Lands and Non-Renewable Resources Section
Natural Heritage, Lands and Protected Spaces Branch
Policy Division
Ministry of Natural Resources

Copper Reef's Thompson resigns, grumbles about market

2014-01-07 18:37 ET - News Release

Mr. Stephen Masson reports

COPPER REEF MINING CORPORATION ANNOUNCES EDWARD (ED) G. THOMPSON'S RESIGNATION

Ed Thompson has departed as a director of Copper Reef Mining Corp. Mr. Thompson brought enormous strength, experience and depth to Copper Reef's board, and his wise counsel, no-nonsense approach and humour provided invaluable insight to the company's exploration ventures and prudent guidance as a public corporation.

Mr. Thompson is resigning from the boards of all his junior public companies, in part in protest to the present conditions that have rendered almost 800 junior exploration companies essentially dead or in critical condition. Overregulation, the demise of the mid and small brokerage houses (squeezed out by the large bank-owned brokerage firms), the lack of or oblivious government support, the aboriginal blockage of timely permitting, overextended majors unable to help support or finance juniors, and mandated overhead costs that have gone through the roof have created a perfect storm for the junior explorers.

Essentially there is little or no money out there for most junior exploration companies and this may be the new normal. The fact that regulators, be they government agencies doing the permitting, aboriginal groups, security commissions and/or stock exchanges,

are either ignorant or oblivious of the impending consequences of the long-term effect of the essential death of Copper Reef's vibrant industry in Canada suggests that a recovery will be slow.

Mr. Thompson, through his years of leadership at the PDAC, has been a strong advocate of Copper Reef's industry, and his departure as an acting director is a sign of a whole industry in deep trouble. On behalf of management and the board, Copper Reef wishes Mr. Thompson good health and happiness in his future endeavours and thanks him sincerely for his great service and personal friendship to the company and the industry.

We seek Safe Harbor.

January 15, 2014
The Honourable Charles Souza
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

RE: 2014 Budget Consultation

Dear Minister:

Thank you for the invitation to the Northern Pre-Budget Consultation forum January 14th, 2014. I was greatly intrigued by some of the presentations, specifically the weight placed on the Ring of Fire economic impacts expected across the entire North.

The Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) represents the mineral explorationists of the Province. These are the prospectors and Junior Exploration Companies that discover deposits like Hemlo and the Ring of Fire. As an exploration industry we spend more dollars looking for deposits than the development costs of a larger deposit year after year. Once a discovery is made, larger companies will complete the development of the deposits that generate focused, recognized wealth. At this point Government and the Public point to the economic benefits of mining but miss the importance of the explorationists who continue to work in the background searching for the next deposit.

Our "exploration" industry is in one of the lowest economic cycles in 40 years. Junior companies are disappearing and risk capital is extremely hard to raise. We require support from the Government to attract the scarce exploration dollars to Ontario. Ontario is one of the most stable locations politically to explore and hosts excellent geological environments that are known to contain world class mineral deposits. But other jurisdictions are providing better financial incentives to explore. Examples of this are other Provinces that rebate Junior Exploration Companies a percentage of the exploration dollars they have spent, upon completion of their programs (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Quebec). Ontario

should examine a rebate system that would rival other Provinces that would attract the exploration dollars.

Prospectors in Ontario have also been hard hit. The continued Modernization of the Mining Act is an excellent initiative but will affect prospectors due to the changes to land tenure acquisition methods and the added burden of more regulations prior to starting exploration. To assist the prospector additional training and financial support for early exploration would be of assistance.

Prospecting training courses would provide additional skill sets for the present prospector and attract new prospectors to the profession. An assistance program for grassroots pre-claim exploration would help prospectors in finding new mineral occurrences and showings.

The OPA believes that, on a cost basis, assistance to Junior Exploration Companies and Prospectors would be offset, multiple times, by the potential resulting discovery of a new mine in the Province .

The OPA would like to continue dialogue in regard to the upcoming Ontario Budget and is available at anytime for further discussion.

Yours truly,

Garry Clark
Executive Director

Implementing the NE forestry plan

Hi Garry, good chatting with you. Further to our phone conversation, as you can see we are not proposing to touch mining.

Cheers,

Anna Baggio, Wildland League

The agreement aims to secure the future of 3 million ha of caribou range in the Abitibi River Forest, to conserve Boreal woodland caribou, and maintain hundreds of jobs in forestry. In order to provide business certainty in the long run and to implement a precautionary approach for threatened Boreal caribou, we are hoping that Ontario moves forward on two fronts:

- Encouraging necessary changes to the current Abitibi Forest Management Plan so that local forest industry and communities will be assured that improvements in wood supply will be sufficient for area mills in the long term and that the proposal will be enshrined in a new forest management plan. This will provide the legal basis to move forward; and,

- Putting in place a halt to forestry and road building on 538,821ha while all parties move towards full implementation in 2019. The temporary halt of MNR administered activities will last five years. Prospecting, exploration and mining will not be affected. The boundaries of this zone will be finalized through public consultation. Certain areas and activities are recognized and not affected by the halt for next 5 years include: OFSC Snowmobile Trail, 9 townships of the Taykwa Tagamou Community Interest Zone, Gerloch Creek Area, We Tum Winter Road, New Post Creek Hydro project and any upgrades or new hydro developments on the Abitibi River.

Conservatives support east-west Ring of Fire road

By: Northern Ontario Business staff

A Progressive Conservative government would back an industry plan that could see work begin on an east-west road into the Ring of Fire as early as this fall, Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli said in [Sudbury](#), April 24.

“We believe there's a quick win here, and that's the Noront Resources solution.”

Noront is working to develop its Eagle Nest and Blackbird deposits, a mix of nickel, copper, platinum and palladium, as well as its chromite deposit in the remote site in northwestern Ontario. It proposes building a permanent road from the Webequie First Nation through Pickle Lake to Saugeen, connecting it to existing road and rail infrastructure.

Noront estimated in 2008 the road would cost \$306,000 a kilometre to build across the tough, swampy terrain. The company also has plans to smelt ore at Glencore's Strathcona Mill in Onaping Falls, once the infrastructure is in place.

“Our plan would share revenue with the host community – in this particular case, it's the First Nation,” Fedeli. “We would need to have infrastructure investment from the province, the feds and the proponents to make it an all-season road. They want to move nickel out of there.

“We see it as a quick win. You could be operating by the fall.”

Instead of finding ways to make progress, Fedeli said the Liberal government has wasted time making announcements and plans for plans, even as Cliffs Natural Resources have pulled back from developing the \$50 billion chromite discovery.

“I've personally been to the Ring of Fire four times now, (and) I have seen first-hand what it's going to take to get it into operation,” he said. “The Liberal government has bungled this file. It's five years now, and we've gone from almost 250 employees who were actually working at the Ring of Fire, to less than 10 today.

“That's why we need to be elected. This government has shown nothing in five years.”

Subject: Information for Prospectors and the Mining Industry about Species at Risk Bats and White-Nose Syndrome

I am writing to let you know that two species of bats were recently listed as endangered in Ontario, and to ask for your support to protect these species which will help to minimize the impact of white-nose syndrome (WNS) on Ontario's bats.

Species at Risk Bats

As of January 24, 2013 the Little Brown Bat and the Northern Long-eared Bat were listed as endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The act protects these bats, along with their habitat. These cave-dwelling bats have been documented using old underground mine workings as bat swarming and hibernation sites. Both of these bat species have been negatively affected by white-nose syndrome. Recently introduced to North America, white-nose syndrome (WNS) is a fungal disease affecting bats.

Bats are an important part of Ontario's biodiversity and as insectivores provide an important natural pest control service. Disturbing bats during the months they are hibernating can be fatal as it causes the bats to use up their energy reserves more quickly and reduces their chance of survival. Similarly, the fungus associated with WNS causes bats to awaken from hibernation much more frequently than normal, thereby causing bats to use up their winter fat stores at a faster rate. As a result, bats may leave hibernation sites and fly around outside, often in the daytime and during the winter months when there are no food sources available. Human-induced disturbances to hibernating bats infected with WNS can further reduce bat survival rates. Protection given to species at risk bats requires awareness of human activities that may harm bats or their habitat, in caves or mines where bats hibernate.

How you can help

As prospectors and developers in the mineral exploration and mining industry, you are in a unique position to help protect bats. We are asking prospectors, developers and mining industry staff (as well as researchers, consultants and the public) to:

- **refrain from entering all non-commercial caves and old underground mine workings where bats may be hibernating from late August to late May.**

If you are considering entering old mine workings where bats may be hibernating, it is important that you contact the nearest Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District office to discuss your plans in advance of beginning any work. We are also asking you to consider any other activities that may have a negative impact on hibernating bats and to contact the MNR to discuss these activities.

Although the primary transfer method of the fungus associated with WNS (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*), is thought to be through bat-to-bat contact, we know the fungus can also be transferred by humans and their equipment when travelling from one site to another. To help prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome, we recommend that:

- **equipment and clothing be washed between work sites; this can help prevent the potential transfer of the fungus to other locations** (see web link to decontamination protocols below).

How MNR can help

The MNR has responsibility for protecting and restoring endangered species in Ontario. The MNR may be aware of where bats are hibernating (i.e., caves, adits, shafts) and can advise on how to identify endangered bats. In addition, MNR may be able to provide advice on how to avoid or minimize adverse effects on hibernating bats including accessing old underground mine workings only between early June and mid-August.

The MNR has been working closely with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, to identify old mine workings that may be bat hibernation sites. Although some have already been inspected for bats; many of the bat hibernacula in northern Ontario have not been documented. If you do come across bats in old mine workings, please report these observations to the nearest MNR District office as soon as possible.

It is also important to contact the nearest MNR District or Area Office if you are planning to close openings to underground mine workings.

You can contact your local MNR District or Area Office for help with:

- Identifying caves and mines used by bats;
- identifying bat species;
- Techniques to avoid the spread of WNS;
- Tips on bat friendly actions when decommissioning mines such as the installation of bat gates (grates), while still meeting the requirements of the *Mining Act* and the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario.

White-nose Syndrome and Bats

WNS was first documented in New York in 2006. Since then, more than six million hibernating bats of nine species have been killed by the disease in 20 states and 5 provinces. The syndrome spread quickly across the eastern United States and into Ontario and Quebec. By winter of 2013, the fungus was detected in bats as far north as Ontario, as far south as North Carolina, as far west as Oklahoma, and as far east as Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It is expected to continue spreading in both the United States and Canada. In some caves and mines in Ontario, the population of bats has declined by more than 92%.

In March 2010, WNS was confirmed in Ontario. Since then, it has continued to spread across the province. WNS has been confirmed at several sites in central and north-eastern Ontario. In partnership with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, the MNR is monitoring known bat hibernacula (areas where bats hibernate) in an effort to better understand white-nose syndrome and its impact on bats.

While there is no known human health risk associated with WNS in bats, bats can carry rabies. If you see dead bats, please do not handle them and report the observation to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at (866) 673-4781.

For advice and information on decontamination protocols for equipment and clothing, contact the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at (866) 673-4781. Alternatively you can visit this website for additional information:

http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/resource/national_wns_revise_final_6.25.12.pdf

We also encourage prospectors and mining industry staff to report unusual bat mortality or daytime-flying bats to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre at (866) 673-4781, the Natural Resources Information Centre at (800) 667-1940, or your local MNR District or Area Office.

For more information about the species at risk bats or WNS in Ontario, please read the lists, information and fact sheets available at the web links ontario.ca/speciesatrisk and ontario.ca/wildlifehealth.

Sincerely,



Corrinne Nelson
Regional Director
Northeast Region

cc: Gordon MacKay, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

ONTARIO 2014 ELECTION **"If it can't be grown, it must be mined"**

The objectives of the Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) are to represent and further the interests of the mineral exploration industry and the interests of prospectors. Our mission is to enhance and promote the Ontario mineral exploration and development community to foster a healthy mining industry.

Ontario is heading to the polls June 12th, 2014 to elect the next government. The OPA would like to ask the parties and candidates specific questions. The answers to the questions will inform our members of the parties and candidates views.

The exploration industry is in a state of decline due to lower global demand for commodities and investor fears of global economies. Ontario is endowed with some of the most prospective quality geology that hosts world class mineral deposits but ranks low in the standings as to Provinces to explore and is steadily losing its share of exploration dollars internationally. There are many reasons for this but the Government must acknowledge this and counter this with specific measures.

1. The Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) is a world renown organization that collects, stores and presents geological data. The various projects that OGS completes benefit the general public as well as the mineral explorers of Ontario. Geological data of the Province attracts investment to all of Ontario. An example would be a new exploration company coming to Ontario to follow-up on newly released OGS data. The company would expend monies in the Province and support the economy.

Would you and your party support an increased budget for the Ontario Geological Survey to allow for the collection of more geoscience data?

2. The exploration market is a global business. Exploration dollars are placed into areas of good geological potential, stable political jurisdictions and where there are potential incentive programs. Certain jurisdictions in Canada offer rebates to explorers. These are dominantly based on rebating a percentage of exploration dollar expenditures. When comparing provinces, it appears that investment in Ontario maybe drawn away by other Provinces which have rebates. Ontario needs an incentive program to stay competitive with the other Canadian and international Jurisdictions.

Would you and your party develop and implement an exploration expenditure rebate system in Ontario?

3. Recent changes to the Mining Act have has introduced measures that place the majority of the First Nation Consultation for exploration onto the shoulders of the Explorers. As part of the new measures, the Province has been encouraging Early Exploration Agreements / Arrangements with First Nations Communities or Tribal Councils. These agreements / arrangements have no form of standardization across the Province. Some agreements involve various forms of

environmental / traditional / treaty rights protection, payments (cash and/or shares), employment or training components and favoured contractor bidding. A move to a standardized agreement / arrangement across the Province would create greater transparency for the companies, public and First Nations people. Such an agreement could be tied to a Resource Revenue sharing program that could remove the "cash" payment portion from the explorer.

Would you and your party develop and implement standardized Early Exploration agreements / arrangements for explorers and First Nations across the Province? And with this would you and your party utilize Resource Revenue sharing to provide the financial component, replacing the Explorers as the source of funding?

4. The Far North Act (2010) principally designates that half (50%) of the area north of the area of the undertaking be set aside as park or protected area. The theory is that the First Nations communities will complete Land Use Plans for their Traditional Lands and in doing so will designate parks and protected areas. This process is ongoing starting for the near north communities. The decisions being made to protect areas are influenced by Ministry of Natural Resources with some direction from Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. The concern is that most of the area being looked at is poorly understood geologically and potential mineral wealth could be sterilized. Areas of similar economic potential to the Ring of Fire could be lost to the Province. Another potential issue is that the creation of protected areas may land lock areas of mineral potential. Left to its own, the mineral industry will never develop even a fraction of 1% of the Far North as it is naturally limited to narrow areas of economically significant geology.
Would you, if elected, pursue a review of the Far North Act methods of protection to ensure there is no lose of economic potential in the Far North?

5. The entire Province and large parts of Canada have been following the Ring of Fire mineral area developments. There have been various initiatives to date, including agreements with First Nations and commitments to geoscience collection.

What is your party's policy toward the Ring of Fire?

6. Recently implemented Plans and Permits regulations have created an enormous administrative burden for mineral explorers, the MNDM and First Nation's communities with great cost and little realized benefit to any party.
Would you, if elected, work to streamline these mechanisms to remove obstacles to investing in our Province?