



THE CLAIM POST

FALL 2008

The Claim Post is the official newsletter of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association. The purpose of the Claim Post is to provide a forum for our members to discuss current events and exchange information. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association including all of its members and Directors. The writers accept full ownership of their contributions.



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Visit NWOPA'S website @ <http://nwopa.net/>

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NWOPA BOARD ACCLAIMED AT THE APRIL 2008 AGM

The membership of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association is fortunate to have the same board of directors as last year returning to volunteer their time to make prospecting better in our region. They represent a wide range of skills, talents and interests and are very attentive to the issues that affect our business.



<u>Back Row:</u>	Joe Riives, Steve Kissin, Barb D'Silva, Karl Bjorkman, Bob Chataway, Dave Hunt (Vice President)
<u>Front Row:</u>	Cyndee Komar (Secretary), John Halet (President), Paul Nielsen (Treasurer)

<i>2008-09 Committees</i>	<i>Members</i>
Benevolent	B. D'Silva/B. Chataway
Communications (Newsletter)	J. Halet (editor)/C. Komar (distrib.)
Education & Events	B. D'Silva/B. Chataway
Elections	TBD
First Nations Issues	B. D'Silva/K. Bjorkman/J. Riives
General Meetings	Dates/chairs to be determined
Land Use	J. Halet/K. Bjorkman
Minister Mining Act Advisory	B. D'Silva
MNR NW Reg. Advisory	J. Halet
Ontario Prospectors Assoc.	J. Halet/D. Hunt
Policies & Procedures	Board
Sub-Symposium	J. Halet/B. D'Silva/K. Bjorkman
Website	Geoff Clark

2008 Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium
"Beyond Superior – Explore Northwestern Ontario"
April 8th & 9th, 2008



Gold Leaf – Golden Mile visible gold in grab sample #609954 grading 6,025 g/t Au (174 oz/t Au)
Photo provided by Kodiak Exploration Limited



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du patrimoine du Nord
de l'Ontario

We kicked off this year's symposium on Monday evening with another successful workshop. More that 50 prospectors attended the "Alteration Affects in the Proximity of a Mineral Occurrence" three-hour session at the Valhalla Inn. Many thanks to the volunteer instructors for their excellent assistance:

Dr. Mary Louise Hill
Dr. Steve Kissin
Mark Smyk

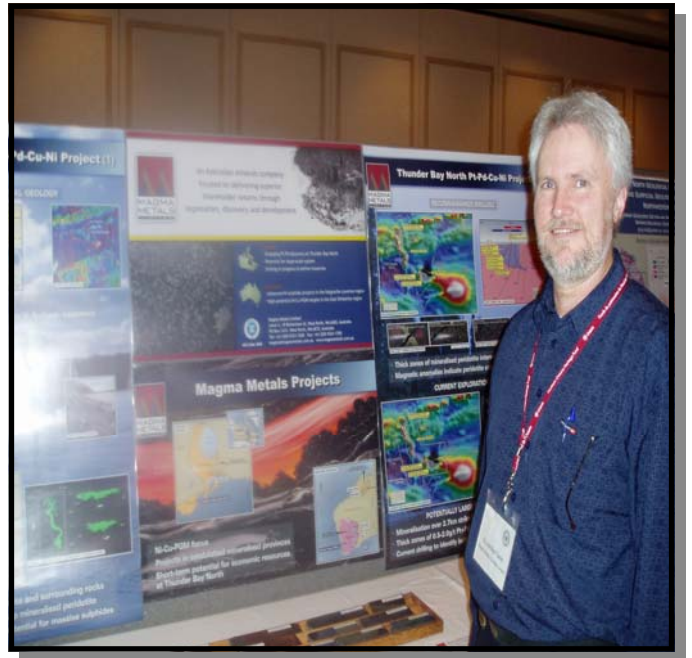


We were pleased to have some professional geologists attend our workshop and give their expert guidance to prospectors learning about alteration. Dr. Jim Franklin, Abraham Drost and instructor Dr. Mary Louise Hill all helped us with this year's course.

Registration reached an all time high with over 450 participants. Susan, Alvina, Paul and Neddie did a great job dealing with the Monday morning registration rush while Dave Christianson gave a very informative talk on **Lyme Disease** in the Speaker's Hall.



There was a good range of **speakers and exhibitors** this year. The junior mining companies, prospectors and service companies were well represented as well as MNDM, MNR, DFO and the Ministry of Labour. The **Investors Forum** held on Tuesday evening was open to the public and was very well attended. The **Awards Luncheon**, held on Wednesday, is always a popular event and as usual was sold out.



BERNIE SCHNIEDERS DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR AWARD 2007

Gold Eagle Mines Ltd. (The Bruce Channel Gold Deposit)
Kodiak Exploration Ltd. (The Hercules Gold Project)

DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2007

Canadian Arrow Mines Ltd. (The Kenbridge Nickel-Copper Project)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2007

Ray Cousineau
Louis Cousineau
Bill Miron
John Ternowesky
Carter Nelson



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**CANADIAN ARROW MINES LTD. - KENBRIDGE DEPOSIT
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD**



photo courtesy of Jessica Bjorkman

Canadian Arrow Mines is a very different company than it was a year ago. The efforts of the new Arrow management team has resulted in a considerable upgrading of the historic Kenbridge nickel copper project as well as adding an increased pipeline of other quality nickel copper exploration projects to it's portfolio in the Kenora-Souix Narrows area. Today it has a profitably recoverable resource estimate of 71.2 million lbs of nickel and 49.6 million lbs of copper at an average cost of US\$4.89 per lb of nickel net of byproduct credits for copper located about an existing shaft.

It also has acquired a headframe, a hoist, a SAG mill, a positive Preliminary Economic Assessment supporting the above resource and an impressive suite of prospective land packages. 30,000 metres of diamond drilling over 150 diamond drill holes were completed in 2007. Baseline environmental, metallurgical and geotechnical studies were completed as well as finding ideal, environmentally low-risk locations for waste rock and tailings sites. Arrow is particularly pleased and appreciative of its relations with the Treaty #3 First Nations having recently commenced formal consultations. Government permit application and involvement has followed a timely and efficient path. Much has been accomplished in the last twelve months since the Arrow exploration team set foot on, and opened up, the Kenbridge Nickel-Copper camp in April of last year.

Though ore deposits may be found, mines must yet be made is certainly true for Kenbridge. Kenbridge is not a new discovery. Falconbridge Ltd. spent a lot of resources and energy between 1952 and 1958 sinking a shaft and completing an extensive amount of underground and surface diamond drilling and bulk sampling on the project before throwing in the towel at low nickel prices. This was nevertheless a serious commitment at the time. At today's nickel and copper prices, along with modern mining technology and expertise, Kenbridge has outstanding promise to become a state of the art mining enterprise. Though small by world class standards, Kenbridge and Arrow will succeed for that very reason. The combination of a small but excellent orebody with an experienced and determined team has an outstanding chance of creating the first of many successful mining operations for Canadian Arrow Mines.

Canadian Arrow intends to maintain its focus in 2008 to bring Kenbridge to a production decision as soon as is reasonably possible. As well, it will also be investigating its regional exploration targets in the hopes of finding the next Kenbridge.

By Jessica Bjorkman

LOUIS AND RAY COUSINEAU – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Louis and Ray Cousineau from Fort Frances are being awarded the Prospectors Lifetime Achievement Award. As brothers they have for years shared a passion for exploring the wilderness in search of "the Motherload". They have been doing this since they were 18 years old and have not intentions of stopping. Their devotion to prospecting and mineral exploration has included passing their enthusiasm on to all they meet.

At their former store, the Bonnie Blue in downtown Fort Frances, there were always samples around so anyone who was interested in knowing what a mineral looked like had plenty to view. Customers who came into the store could catch up on the latest exploration news, browse the Northern Miner magazine or talk to Louis and Ray about their prospecting efforts. Both Louis and Ray have long been advocates of the minerals industry often advertising and soliciting participants for upcoming prospecting courses or field trips conducted by Kenora District Staff of the Resident Geologist Program. When they sold the Bonny Blue it took a dump truck to haul away all the samples.

Louis has been prospecting in the Fort Frances and Mine Centre area for over sixty-one years. His first experience came during the uranium rush in the 1960's where he flew into Cuttle Lake, north of Rainy Lake, to stake claims. This was long before roads were constructed in the area. Louis is always up to date on new discoveries in the Fort Frances area and keeps up with new commodities and models of mineralization. Ray along with his brother has acquired holdings and worked many properties over the years and continues to prospect and explore with his son-in-law Ken Desjardins and grandsons.

Both Louis and Ray regularly attend the Northwestern Ontario Mines and Mineral Symposium and have been members of NWOPA from its inception. In addition both Louis and Ray were recipients of OPAP grants, the proceeds from which furthered their work on several properties. Years of work on numerous properties targeted commodities such as gold, copper, zinc, silver, uranium, soapstone, molybdenum and most recently diamonds. Numerous option deals were signed over the years to companies such as: Inco Exploration, Gold Fields Mining, Kidd Creek Mines, Nuinsco Resources, Hexagon Gold, Q-Gold Resources, George Armstrong Company and metalCorp. Their Mine Centre property has been optioned to five different companies over the years and is currently under optioned to Q-Gold.

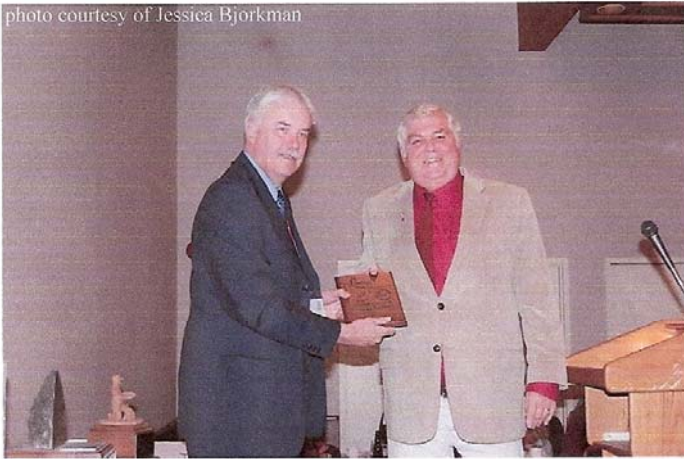
Back in the late-90's Louis and Ray brought an interesting soapstone occurrence to the attention of Kenora District Geology staff. After several years of marketing the property as a source of soapstone the Cousineau's attended a field trip to the Wawa area run by the Timmins Resident Geologists Office. The tour examined the unusual diamond-bearing rocks of the area. It was during this trip Louis and Ray realized they had similar looking rocks on their property east of Bear's Pass. Upon optioning the property to MetalCorp they insisted the company examine the rocks for diamonds. On February 5th of this year MetalCorp announced the discovery of six diamonds from a 100 kilogram sample collected from the Cousineau's property.

Louis and Ray Cousineau have for over 60 years displayed the enthusiasm, dedication, determination and proven track-record of discovery worthy of the Prospectors Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations.

By Jessica Bjorkman

CARTER NELSON – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

photo courtesy of Jessica Bjorkman



Everyone who is involved with this resource industry has an inspiration to be successful in their efforts. It is a achievement to have the vision and over the years have this dream become reality and create a business which produces a product that is recognized not only in Ontario but in the far-reaches of the world.

A sector of the resource industry which has been actively operating in NW Ontario is stone production. Granite has been quarried in this part of Ontario since the 1920s.

This Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a member of family who has been involved in the Canadian Granite industry.

The Nelson family's experience in the granite industry goes back four generations to a man named George Nelson. In 1909, George Nelson started out as a stone-cutter working in New Brunswick. Stone was in the family blood – granite operations have seen generations of the Nelson family involved in quarrying including George Nelson grandson Carter Nelson.

The opportunity to purchase an operating quarry attracted Carter to the Vermilion Bay area. This purchased didn't occur but Carter recognized the untapped stone potential of the area. Been an entrepreneur, Carter and his father Russell began examining the exposures and recognizing the opportunities that lay in this granite-rich area.

Carter's dream was to become a quarry operator and a create business in the stone industry. Based on the success of these efforts Carter and his son Nevin worked together to turn the dream into reality and in 1981 Nelson Granite Ltd. began producing stone.

Carter and Nevin are both involved in quarry and manufacturing activities. Carter's expertise is in managed the quarry operations, the development of new quarries and marketing the stone.

Their first producer, the flagship Vermilion "Pink" Quarry, is located west of the hamlet Vermilion Bay. There were huge challenges in the development of a quarry and marketing the stone during the initial years of production. The Nelson family met these challenges and over the years has become a leader in the Ontario granite industry.

Nelson Granite Ltd. is one of the few quarry operators who actively explore new areas for the stone potential. Carter's entrepreneur skills recognized that NW Ontario had the potential for various colors and textures of granite. Based on this exploration activity they have successfully located and developed at least six quarries. Nearly every year, since 1996 a new quarry has begun production. The rocks are porphyritic granite and the names of colors produced from these quarries are: Vermilion, Canadian Mahogany, Canyon Red, Pine Green, Crystal Gold and Shepody. This stone extraction represents a majority of dimensional granite produced for the province of Ontario. Exploration continues and Carter is presently examining the potential of several "new" colors of granite.

Carter entrepreneur skills are always researching uses of the stone extracted from the quarries. As a result of this research Nelson Granite Ltd. also operates a 50,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant at the Vermilion Bay quarry site. This is one of the largest producers of memorial products in North America.

Today Nelson Granite Ltd. is an integrated quarrier, manufacture and wholesaler operation. They sell granite blocks to the international market and have regular shipments to places as far as away as Asia. The largest granite block shipped to-date weighted an astonishing 125,000 lbs. These blocks generally are used for architectural purposes and are used in some of the most prestigious buildings in the world. Carter's granites have been used on buildings in Japan, China, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Russia, United States and of course Canada.

By Jessica Bjorkman

AMETHYST — MINE OR QUARRY?



**NWOPA SUPPORTS THE AMETHYST
PRODUCERS OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

Forest Dwelling Woodland Caribou



Species at Risk

Species at risk issues are land access issues to prospectors. Ontario's woodland caribou are designated as a Threatened Species under Ontario's Endangered Species Act 2007. In response the MNR has developed a Caribou Conservation and Recovery Plan. Under the plan *"the recovery of woodland caribou will involve the maintenance and provision of **large tracts of mature conifer-dominated forest and restrictions on some land use with the proposed approach to recovery habitat.**"*

Mining exploration also requires that large tracts of the Boreal Forest be accessible for the search of minerals that are so valuable to the economy of Ontario. At a caribou recovery consultation session held by the MNR this September, the following case was made for prospectors.

Mineral exploration has limited impact on the environment and even if a mine is found it will occupy only about 16 ha of land. Rather than completely sterilize large tracts of land for caribou recovery, **"Best Practices Guidelines"** for working within these zones should be developed. With these guidelines in hand, a prospector or exploration company could time-table to work around migration patterns or calving periods. In this way, caribou recovery would be nurtured while the exploration economy is preserved.

John Halet, President, NWOPA

Modernizing Ontario's Mining Act

Considerable thought about this process has been done by NWOPA members and its board of directors, and as a result the board has submitted its consultation response to the provincial government. Rather than going into all of the details of the response, some of the main concepts, questions and concerns will be presented here.

Attracting investment capital for mineral exploration in Ontario is paramount. Without confidentiality, security of land title and certainty of claims acquisition, **investment dollars** will go elsewhere.

A **free entry system** that leads to **security of title** on Crown Lands for all of Ontario must be maintained.

Securing title on Crown Lands with First Nation interests is presently jeopardizing mineral exploration investment. The concepts of duty to consult, aboriginal rights, treaty rights, traditional lands, revenue sharing and so on are vague and confusing to all parties involved in the mineral exploration process. A set of rules and regulations that clearly define the outcomes for a company and a First Nation, from exploration through to development, needs to be established.

Cost of consultation and bureaucratic involvement at the earliest stages of exploration need to be timely, inexpensive and efficient.

Interim Measures Agreements must have non-negotiable predetermined limits.

Values maps that geographically define traditional land boundaries must be made available to prospectors.

Most, if not all, exploration companies have environmental policies in place to limit surface disruptions to any land on which they operate. Areas that have special environmental or cultural concerns such as Species at Risk or Traditional Lands should have **Best Practices Guidelines for Mineral Exploration** developed for them.

A company would be cognizant of the features of these special areas while exploring within them. The company would then be required to **report its activities** on a regular basis to the MNDM who would in turn determine if the guidelines were being followed. The reports would be freely available to all interested parties such as the MNR, DFO, First Nations and so on. If guidelines were not being properly followed the **MNDM** would have the power to issue **redemption orders** to mitigate surface or cultural disruptions.

The mining exploration community looks forward to working with the government of Ontario as it develops its **Far North Boreal Forest Plan**. Protecting one of the world's largest intact ecosystems while fostering sustainable well planned economic development throughout this vast region should be a major concern for all of the citizens of Ontario.

The Mineral Development Strategy ideas to solve the **Surface Rights Mining Rights conflicts** is well thought out and executable. Adding a working plan that is regulated would provide the final component.

John Halet, President, NWOPA

2008 Prospect North Mining Conference

The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce hosted a mining conference on October 23 & 24, 2008 at the Travelodge Airline Hotel, Thunder Bay, Ontario. It was well organized and well attended. Featured speakers were The Honourable John Milloy (Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities) and The Honourable Michael Gravelle (Minister of Northern Development & Mines). A severe shortage of trained mine workers was addressed by the former, and the importance of mining to the economy of the province of Ontario and the urgent need for a revised Mining Act by the latter.



There were a number of other upbeat informative talks by government and mining company representatives, but the pervasive theme of First Nation involvement in mining and mining exploration predominated throughout most of the conference.

Chief Scott Jacob of the Webequie First Nation gave an account of the positive working relationships that his community has developed with mining exploration companies working in the Ring of Fire area. On the other hand, Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose, NAN, stated quite clearly that the present system of notification and consultation is not acceptable to most First Nation communities. They want full jurisdiction over their traditional lands and resources, and the free entry system is definitely not acceptable.

A highlight of the conference was the signing of “The Letter of Intent” between Matawa First Nations and the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines as quoted in the *MNDM News Release, October 24, 2008*:

The Ontario government and the Matawa First Nations today signed a letter of intent to develop a consultation protocol for mineral exploration and development on traditional lands. Any agreement reached will ultimately provide greater certainty and direction for mineral exploration and development in a large area of North-central Ontario. It would also be intended to provide First Nations with opportunities to more actively participate in mineral resource development.

This important collaboration also supports the province’s current efforts to modernize Ontario’s Mining Act. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines began working with the Matawa First Nations on this initiative before work began on modernizing the Mining Act. Work toward developing a protocol will also provide the ministry with additional direction and insight into the concerns of the Matawa First Nations and ways those concerns might be addressed as the Mining Act is reformed.

John Halet, President, NWOPA



Tickets now available for the
2008
NWOPA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Da Vinci Centre, Thunder Bay

Friday, November 28, 6:30 p.m.

Buffet/Dance/Prizes/Cash Bar

Music will be supplied by
Maverick Entertainment (local DJ)
“Dancing & Karaoke”

\$20/person

For Tickets, please contact:

Cyndee Komar, Geology Office, 435 James St. S.
(purchase tickets by cash or cheque only)



**Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium
“Highlighting Another Successful Exploration Year”**

**December 9 & 10, 2008
Radisson Hotel, Sudbury, Ontario**

Delegate Registration

*Two Days \$260.00 before November 21, 2008
Two Days \$290.00 after November 21, 2008
One Day Only \$145.00
Students Pay Only \$85.00*

Exhibits

Poster Display
*\$360.00 Poster Price
\$260.00 Prospectors Rate*
Booth Display
\$825.00

**Ontario Prospectors Association
Awards Dinner, Tuesday, December 9th**

\$40.00/per person

Registration benefits:

2009 OPA Membership,
Coffee breaks & Lunches on Tuesday & Wednesday (December 9th & 10th),
Technical Presentations and Exhibits

Above prices include applicable taxes

Accommodation & Travel

The **Radisson Hotel**, located downtown Sudbury offers convention rates for delegates attending the Ontario Exploration & Geoscience Symposium to take advantage of these rates; contact the hotel directly **705.675.1123** and **Quote “0812EXPLOR”**

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