



THE CLAIM POST

FEBURARY 2006



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.



**BARB D'SILVA KARL BJORKMAN GREG BRUMPTON DAVE HUNT BOB CHATAWAY
CYNDEE KOMAR JOHN HALET PAUL NIELSEN (MISSING: CHRIS BEVER)**

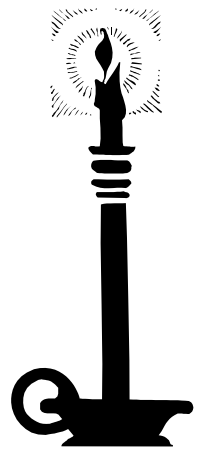
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Visit NWOPA'S new website: <http://my.tbaytel.net/nwopa/>
Claim Post Editor: John Halet Cyndee Komar (distribution)

NWOPA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The NWOPA Christmas party, which was held at the Da Vinci Centre on Friday, December 2 was a big success. The food, music and good company were appreciated by all. Many prizes were given out, but the main prize winners were Corinne Bain (half-ounce gold coin), John Komar (GPS) and Andy Anderson. Many thanks to the Board Members who made this event so enjoyable.



Thank you all our sponsors who made NWOPA's 2005 Christmas Party a great success!

Accurassay Laboratories
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Currie's Copy Shop
Da Vinci Centre
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Wolfden Resources Inc.



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

ELECTIONS: Elections for next year's NWOPA Board of Directors will be held at the symposium during the annual general meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 (*see notice included in this newsletter*).

FIRST NATIONS ISSUES: A moratorium on mining and forestry by a number of First Nations Chiefs is being held. Strong words have been stated "No exploration means no exploration. Which part of no doesn't the government understand?" There are only a few communities involved in this moratorium and we can only hope that this movement doesn't become too wide spread. Go to the relevant web site for particulars:
<http://www.wildlandsleague.org/>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: The third Thursdays of every month have been set aside for General Membership Meetings at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. At the last meeting, Peter Hinz, NW RLUG, MNDM gave an excellent presentation on land use issues faced by many prospectors. The problem remains that these meetings have been poorly attended so it appears that members aren't interested in the topics that have been presented. Give me a call if you have any ideas pertaining to this matter.

LAND USE: Greg Brumpton is the committee chair for this important part of a prospector's business. Keeping the forest roads open is a constant battle and Greg is right on top of this matter. We have mining reps sitting on nearly three-quarters of the Local Citizens Committees (LCC) across Northwestern Ontario. Expenses to attend the meetings are paid by MNR so if you are interested in being a mining rep give Greg a call.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NWOPA has a seat on this committee and we let our voice be heard whenever there are issues that affect mining exploration.

WEB SITE: NWOPA recently had its website redesigned and updated for easy maneuvering by members. Check it out at <http://my.tbaytel.net/nwopa/> We are open to suggestions from members for site ideas and additions.

ONTARIO EXPLORATION AND GEOSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM: This year I was provided with the opportunity to attend the OEGS (OPA symposium) in Toronto on behalf of NWOPA. We do this for a number of good reasons. We have many issues in the northwest that the politicians from the south are not aware of. Ministers and Deputy Ministers from MNDM and MNR were all there and were quite willing to give us an ear. Attending the speaker presentations, and viewing booths and poster displays also provided good ideas for our NW symposium in April in Thunder Bay.

MNDM: With government constantly cutting costs, we are fortunate to have Karen Allam, the new Mining Lands Consultant, at the James Street MNDM office in Thunder Bay. Among other duties, Karen will be there to assist prospectors with claim filing and assessment work submissions.

Submitted by,
John Halet, President, Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association



FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL

INSTITUTE ON LAKE SUPERIOR GEOLOGY

SAULT STE MARIE, ONTARIO, MAY 8-12, 2006

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING (NWOPA ELECTIONS)

The Annual meeting of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association will take place on ***Tuesday, April 4, 2006 following the technical session at the Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium, Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay.*** The agenda for the meeting shall include the presentation of the Association's financial statements, the election of Directors, and By-Law Amendments. NWOPA board is comprised of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 Directors.

Nominations are now being accepted for Directors. Any two members in good standing may nominate and second any other qualified member for office.

Nominations may be sent to the Nominating Committee:

c/o Garry Clark
P.O. Box 10124
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6T6
e-mail nwopa@tbaytel.net

or

May be dropped off at the MNM office
Attention: Cyndee Komar, NWOPA Secretary

The objective of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association is to represent the interests and needs of the individual prospector.

Please attend the annual meeting and cast your vote.

NWOPA T-Shirts FOR SALE

Sizes M, L, XL, and XXL (\$10.00)

Contact Cyndee at the MNM Geology office
(Tel. 807/475-1414)

INFORMATION NOTICE

Sue Herbert, Deputy Minister of Northern Development and Mines, is pleased to announce the appointment of Christine Kaszycki as Assistant Deputy Minister, Mines and Minerals Division.

Christine brings to the position considerable expertise in strategic planning, mineral sector development and collaborative leadership. For the past five years, she was the ADM of the Mineral Resources Division in the Manitoba Department of Industry, Economic Development and Mines. During this time, Christine played a key role in enhancing exploration and mining investment in Manitoba, and in creating a legislative, program and policy environment that ultimately resulted in the Fraser Institute ranking Manitoba as one of the best places in the world for mineral exploration and development.

Before moving to Manitoba in 1997, Christine was a manager with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' Sedimentary Geoscience Section. She was Chief Geologist for Manitoba prior to becoming Director of the Geological Services Branch there. She holds a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Illinois and participates on many provincial and national committees. Her work as Chair of the National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee helped garner the PDAC Environmental Award in 2004.

Christine looks forward to moving back to Sudbury with her husband and two daughters.

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

A N N U A L A W A R D S

Nominations are requested for the following awards to be presented at the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at the Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium:

1. The ***Lifetime Achievement Award*** is presented to someone based on their cumulative work, discoveries, options and contributions to the local prospecting and exploration fraternity.
2. The ***"Bernie Schnieders" Discovery of the Year Award*** recognizes an outstanding local discovery during the previous year, perhaps involving more than one individual or company.
3. The ***Developer of the Year Award*** recognizes an outstanding local developer or development during the previous year.

Please contact one of the following by March 24, 2006 with nominations:

John Mason Tel. 807/475-1331 / Fax 807/475-1112

Dave Christianson Tel. 807/767-4670

Mike MacIsaac Tel. 807/623-8005

Boreal Prospectors Association Symposium

Report By Karl Bjorkman to the
Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association
Board of Directors February 2006

Karl Bjorkman was selected by the Board Members of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) to attend the Boreal Prospectors Association (BPA) Symposium held in Sioux Lookout on February 21st and 22nd.

I arrived in Sioux Lookout the afternoon of February 20th and was invited by Doug Parker to attend a meeting between the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) and the First Nations communities north of the “area of undertaking”. This meeting was set up to explain and discuss the idea of the Far North Geoscientific Mapping Initiative with various representatives from the First Nations. This meeting was certainly not attended by all the First Nations leaders. There were about sixty people including MNDM at this meeting. These were also for the most part the same people who attended the BPA.

The director of the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) Andy Fyon was the speaker. Andy highlighted the purpose and benefits of the program and the government’s desire to dialogue with the First Nation communities. It was also stated that the program was not and could not be carried out over the whole North but the target areas would be selected on various factors including the willingness of the local First Nation communities to participate, present gaps in geological mapping, and known mineral potential. The government will spend \$15 million dollars over three years. The feedback from the First Nations people who answered Andy was mostly, but not all, unsure and concerned about the government’s agenda. I did not get the feeling that these voices necessarily represented the majority of the First Nations people in the room. I think there is a big challenge to see beyond a very vocal minority. The idea from the government side seems to be to go ahead with the program by partnering with the communities that want the mapping initiative. If the government proves itself trustworthy with these willing communities then the good will can spread to others. One question by a First Nation attendee was concerning revenue sharing by the government. It was interesting to hear the MNDM respond that while they don’t talk for the government, it is their understanding that the government is seriously considering some form of revenue sharing with the First Nation people.

February 21st was the first day of the BPA symposium. After an introduction by Doug Parker of the BPA, MNDM speaker Mark Leroux spoke on Ontario’s place in the global mining and exploration industry, Andreas Lichtblau, Mark Smyk, and Glenn Seim delivered speeches highlighting their own specific Resident Geologist areas. The speakers realized the audience did not necessarily understand some of the concepts and adapted their presentations for those who were not used to geology maps and terms. During lunch speaker Andy Fyon, Ross Kelly (MNDM, Sed) and Jack Parker (MNDM, Precamb) highlighted the more technical side of the Far North Geoscientific Mapping Initiative. After lunch Roy Sidders (Ministry of Natural Resources MNR) talked about the Northern Boreal Initiative which related more to logging north of 51. He discussed

the efforts of the Pikangikum First Nation to obtain a Sustainable Forestry License (SFL) in their traditional area immediately north of Red Lake. Andreas Lichtblau (RG Red Lake) was consulted during the planning process as to the mineral potential of the area. This ties in with the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential (PSMP) program. The Pikangikum First Nation was quite interested in not “parking” areas outlined by the PSMP with the exception of part of a layered mafic intrusion that under lays a significant wetland area the First Nation (FN) views as very important in purifying the waters of their area. The forest plan will include some all weather roads through their area, which will allow access in the future to other FN’s further north.

Doug Parker (BPA) and Peter Moses (MNDM, First Nations Mineral Information Officer) both highlighted their efforts to educate the First Nation communities through various programs and initiatives including prospecting courses, Discover Prospecting (OPA) and Mining New Opportunities (OMA). Louise Turcotte (Cambrian College), Mitch Parent (Northern College) and Don Bernosky (Confederation College) all discussed the strengths of their own institutions plus the formation of a partnering of various schools to form the Federated School of Mines which will support the mining industry. Colin Seeley from the PDAC finished the afternoon with a Mining Matters talk followed by a brief presentation by Garry Clark (OPA) outlining the history and direction of the Ontario Prospectors Association. The BPA Annual General Meeting was held over dinner later that evening with a screening of the Mining Sequence Video (Lori Churchill MNDM).

Day Two started with another brief presentation by Garry Clark concerning OPA matters. This was followed by Dave Bucar (Porcupine Joint Venture) who highlighted rehabilitation efforts by his company in and around the historic Timmins mining camp. This was followed by Indira Singh (MNDM) and Mike Grant (MNDM) who spoke to the FN’s on the governments’ role in monitoring the mining industry to ensure proper rehabilitation of future mine sites. The First Nations people present were very concerned about future mine closures and also about past abandoned sites. Some of the attendee’s have trap lines in and around dangerous (physical and chemical) old mine sites. They wanted to know how the government prioritizes the cleanup of these sites. Mike Grant said priority is given to sites that impose an immediate danger, usually physical, but sometimes environmental. He went on to say that there basically isn’t enough money (relatively) to do much in any one year, especially considering that many of the priority sites are located closer to more populated areas. Next Colin Seeley (Placer Dome) gave an updated history of the Musselwhite Mine highlighting the agreement with and the subsequent employment and contracting of the First Nations people within the area. Luc McKay (BPA Director and Shibogama First Nation Council) delivered a talk on the bush (traditional employment) verses wage (new employment opportunities) economies. Luc outlined that while many FN people would like to leave things the way they are and not have to confront environmental and social change, realistically you just can’t make a proper living using only the old “bush economy”. He talked about the need for educating the young people so they can take advantage of the higher paying jobs available. He also pointed out that the FN is well aware that a mine doesn’t last forever and neither do the associated jobs. I thought this was a well-balanced talk. Over lunch Mike Fox (Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund) gave a very frank discussion on the huge problems faced when trying to find economic development opportunities in the First Nation communities of the far north. His point was that most of what can be done within the

communities already has been done and that to go any farther you have to look outside the community proper. I had the impression that he was implying that if the First Nations want it better economically they either have to obtain more funding or embrace some sharing of the land whether that is mining or logging, however logging isn't even an option to those in the very far north. After lunch Michael Cunningham and Paulo Pereira (De Beers) gave an update on the Victor project (diamonds) and the associated agreements and successes with employing the First Nations people. Paulo discussed the exploration strategy as it relates to the First Nations. Doug Parker explained the history and the role of the BPA and talked about the opportunities available in the exploration industry and then gave the closing remarks. The overall mood at the second day of the symposium was more positive than the first day.

Obviously Doug Parker and the rest of the BPA Board along with the OPA including Garry Clark and Susan Warren put a lot into this symposium. This is a good place to meet and build relationships with the First Nations communities and hopefully next year there will be more industry representatives present to showcase their achievements and hear the concerns of the people. I talked to a few prospectors who were interested in employment in the exploration industry and it may be tough to make these connections elsewhere. What was not present at this symposium was the typical "come explore here" atmosphere but with the first season of the Far North Geoscientific Mapping Initiative under way this year it may be that the more willing and participating communities will be here next year with a cautious but inviting attitude. There were very few Junior and Major mining companies present.

I would advise any members who are thinking of acquiring ground in the north to talk to the associated MNM representatives and the BPA before staking ground and try to confine your areas of interest to the communities who are more development friendly unless you know the politics of the area and know your ground is really worth the problems you may face. Having obtained your ground and even sometimes before you obtain your ground the overwhelming key word is CONSULTATION. The FN communities want to know what you are doing ahead of time. They will be much less suspicious of you if you communicate with them throughout your project. Also if things should go wrong with your project along the way, you are much more likely to get a sympathetic ear from any of the involved organizations if you have started the process with open dialogue. Unfortunately there was no real discussion about the "small guy" and how the FN people feel about the average prospector as compared with a junior or major company. We certainly don't have the resources to court the communities the way a large company could. In closing I would say while there certainly are theoretically tremendous prospecting opportunities in the far north, the present political climate makes prospecting right here in Northwestern Ontario look pretty good. GO NWOPA!!!!



EXPLOSIVES



Discussions with a number of people regarding the acquisition of explosives for prospectors have led to a great deal of misunderstanding and confusion about this issue. The two main consensus of opinion are: a) rules and regulations for acquiring explosives are going to change in the near future and b) Ontario has the **least** restrictive policies in all of North America. That being said the bottom line is that all a prospector has to do is to contact:

Bill Dietrich (Vendor) Cell 624-7953 Home 977-1717 RR#1 Pass Lake ON POT 2M0

1. Call him ahead of time to set up an appointment
2. Meet with him to fill out a FORM #20 Purchase and Possession Permit together.
He must see you and identify you as the purchaser.
3. Then you must go to the nearest OPP station so that they can do a background check and if you pass to STAMP the form.
4. Then you take the form back to Bill and he will get the explosives for you.
You only need to do this once as this is a 90 day permit.

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Certificate

Rod Brown (OPP) has explained that you don't need this certificate if you are experienced with explosives (EXEMPT). But if you **are** in possession you need to be able to demonstrate this experience to the authorities. Better to be safe according to Rod. Take the course for only \$80 at the NWO Mines & Minerals Symposium in Thunder Bay (see attached registration form in this newsletter).

THIS WORKSHOP IS OPEN TO OPA/NWOPA MEMBERS ONLY

Bill Dietrich, RR#1, Pass Lake, ON POT 2M0
Tel. 807/977-1717 Cell 807/624-7953

Price List

Power frac 1 inch \$440.00/case 25 kg	\$3.00/stick
Magna frac 1 inch \$320.00/case 25 kg	\$2.50 /stick
Magna pack \$440.00/case 25 kg	\$20.00/1 kg pac's
Amex \$100.00/bag	
Beeline \$250.00/150 M spool	\$2.00/M
Safety fuse \$20.00 each	
Electric instant dets - \$10.00 each	
5 M - Handidets \$10.00 each	
\$50.00 Magazine Charge	

The Prospector's Tool Box

An evaluation of a new tool by: Dave Christianson, Director Emeritus, NWOPA, February 2006

One of the many challenges Explorationist's are faced with on an on going basis relates to obtaining samples of 'fresh' rock for assaying purposes. The tools that we have both bought and made ourselves in the past are as varied as the types/shapes of knives in a woodcarvers box.

In the past we have relied on everything from hammers and chisels to dynamite, to assist us in collecting samples. We need samples of unweathered ('fresh') rock for assaying, and that means in many instances we have to find ways to 'break' rock from stubborn places. The good Lord didn't make the good stuff easy for us to find, or get did he? Explosives, especially the emulsion type (Magnapak) of recent years, used to be a tool of frequent common choice. However; the 9/11 events have resulted in this 'tool' being almost totally removed from our kits.

For a while now we've been back to practicing the ancient art of bashing away at rocks with a hammer /chisel and at the same time try to keep from 'chipping' our eyeballs out, or sawing channel samples with a rock saw while trying not to break our backs.

As luck would have it, (what prospectors doesn't believe in *Lady Luck*), along comes another tool that is definitely worth considering for addition to any prospector's kit.

A while back during my time spent with *Austin Nichols* contemplating the nectar of the Gods that he produces, (Wild Turkey Bourbon...for those of you who might not be true bush rats), I happened on an ad in a gold diggers magazine that caught my attention. "Hmmmmm a highly portable rock (coring) drill that would enable me to collect a foot or so of fresh rock from almost anywhere??!!" "a tool that even a crippled up old fart like me could pack around (and afford)" ?????? *Too much nectar of the gods of Nichols???????*

A short while later I contacted the inventor of the **Shaw Backpack Drill** Neil Shaw, and the rest is history or so the saying goes. We discussed the merits of his tool to great depth after which I was convinced that it was worth trying. I should note here that although the drill is purported to be able to drill down to depths of 10's of feet, my need was/is only to be able to retrieve a foot or so of fresh rock for sampling purposes.

I was familiar with the power unit (Tanaka engine) and had confidence in its ability to provide the power required. What I didn't know was whether his ancillary items like rods and bits etc would stand up to any degree of reliable and cost effective sample collecting under conditions that are normal to me. A complete kit (in a backpack already) was received here shortly after.

After having had occasion to try it out several times now, I would comment as follows: It took me about 1/2 hour to put it together (first time) and start drilling in a boulder in my yard. Although I have had previous experience with this type of engine along with the drilling process in general, I can't see it taking too much longer for anyone. Simply put..."it's easy"!

The basic instruction information for starting and drilling is also good and simple. Admittedly there are some (minor) bugs to work through but that's to be expected when we tackle anything new for the first few times. The bottom line is, I was able to quickly get comfortable with setting up and getting samples under various circumstance/conditions. Is it cost effective for the purpose? I believe it is. I haven't put any per-sample cost to the process for the simple reason that I can't find a meaningful way to do that, given the diversified conditions under which it operates etc. I do know that I can afford to buy it and use it, and that's what counts (after having verified its ability to do the job of course).

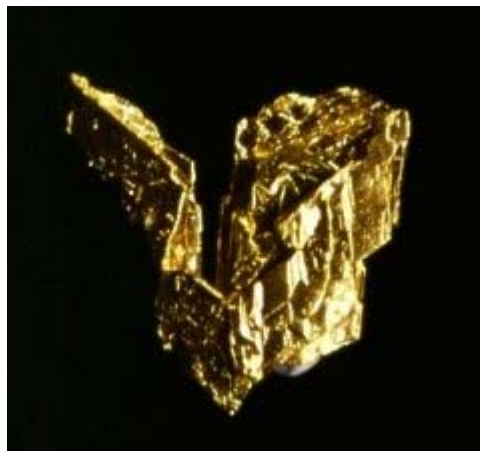
I am now informed that **Chaltrek Geological Supplies in Thunder Bay** will be the Canadian Distributor for the **Shaw Backpack Drill** and supplies. **These products will be on display and demonstrated at the**

NWO Mines and Minerals Symposium being held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, April 4-6th, 2006. "I continue to be impressed every time I use the little 'bugger', what more can an old bush rat say!"

Dave Christianson

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MINES AND MINERALS SYMPOSIUM

SUPERIOR
PROSPECTING



SUPERIOR
RESULTS

WORKSHOPS

MONDAY EVENING: "TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS CERTIFICATION"
TUESDAY MORNING: DR.MARY LOUISE HILL "DUCTILE SHEAR ZONES"

APRIL 4-5, 2006
VALHALLA INN
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.ontarioprospectors.com

or

<http://my.tbaytel.net/nwopa>

TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS CERTIFICATION

By Rod Brown, Ontario Provincial Police

**Monday, April 3, 2006
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Icelandic Room, Valhalla Inn
Thunder Bay, Ontario**

Cost: \$80/person

This course will update and train participants in the most recent rules and regulations on the handling and transportation of explosives. Participants will be given the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Certificate at the conclusion of the course.

To register, contact Terrie or Susan @ (807)622-3284

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE, VISA OR MASTERCARD:

Cheque _____ Visa _____ MC _____

Card No: _____ Expiry: Month _____ Year _____

Cardholder: _____ Signature: _____

Registration made by credit card can be faxed to 807/622-4156. Cheques should be made payable to "NWOPA" and mailed with this form to:

**Terrie Bailey/Susan Warren, OPA
1000 Alloy Drive
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6A5**

Space is limited to 40 persons

***Deadline for registration (unless maximum has been reached):
Friday, March 31, 2006***

DUCTILE SHEAR ZONES

By Dr. Mary Louise Hill, Structural Geologist, Lakehead University

**Tuesday, April 4, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Icelandic Room, Valhalla Inn
Thunder Bay, Ontario**

Cost: \$20/person

Ductile shear zones are the host to a number of significant gold deposits. Dr. Hill will present the most recent research on these important structural features. A better understanding of this type of geology should help prospectors in the field.

To register, contact Terrie or Susan @ (807)622-3284

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