



THE CLAIM POST

WINTER 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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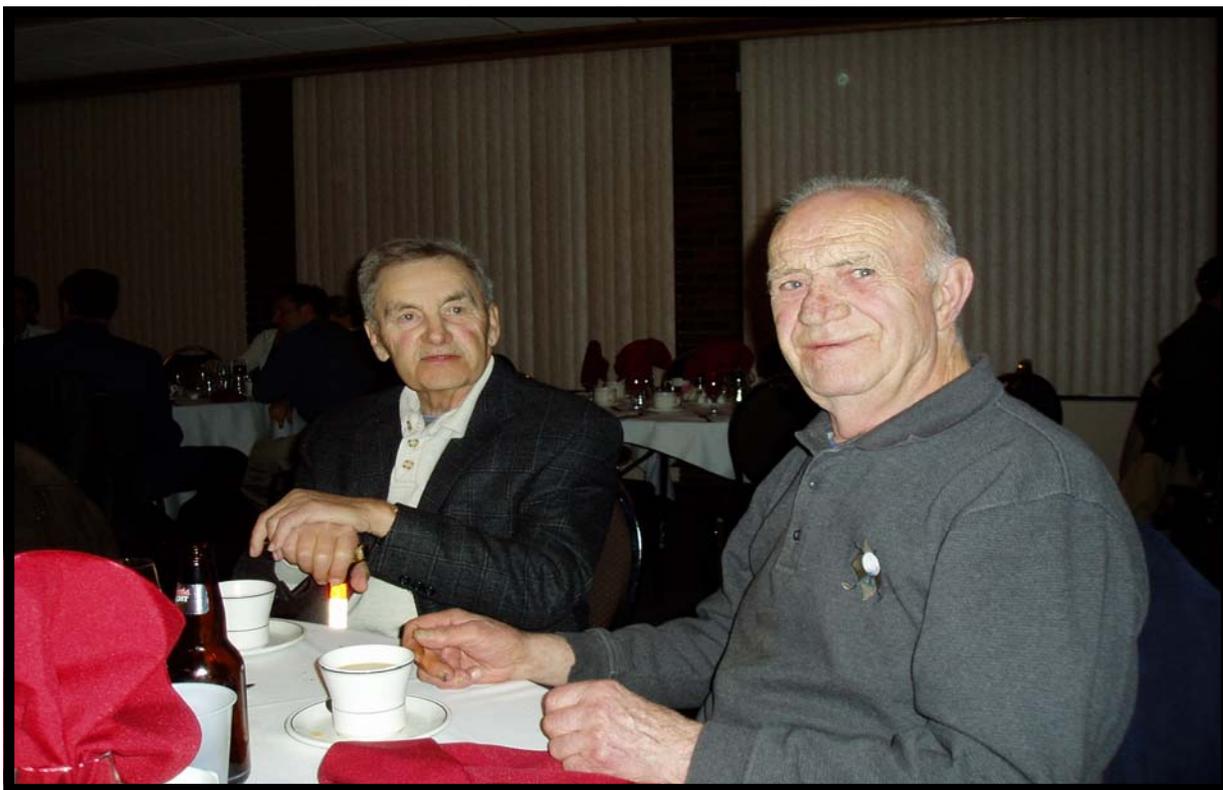
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CONTACT INFORMATION

NWOPA	E-mail	nwopa@tbaytel.net
P.O. BOX 10124	Tel.	(807) 475-1414 (Cyndee Komar)
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO	Fax:	(807) 767-2550
P7B 6T6	J. Halet (Pres.)	(807) 475-4142 jhalet@tbaytel.net

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

Claim Post Editor: John Halet / Cyndee Komar (distribution)



Constantin (Costy) Bumbu
May 31, 1928 – January, 28, 2008

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a long-time NWOPA member, prospector and friend, Costy Bumbu.

Following retirement in 1983, Costy went into prospecting full time and made significant contributions to the mining exploration industry.

In 2002, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the N.W. Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium in Thunder Bay.

His friendly smile, good humour, and pleasant nature will be missed by his associates.

Donations can be made in Costy's name to the "Bernie Schnieders Memorial Award", Geology Department, Lakehead University.



Photo courtesy of D. Campbell

Long before I met Costy Bumbu, I came across his name in the bush of the Thunder Bay region while staking claims. Whenever I see a name on a post, I am always curious...who is this guy? Especially with a name like 'Costy Bumbu'...a name like his sounds like some sort of character in a Hollywood movie. Well, he may not have been in a movie, but his name was just as legendary in the Northwestern Ontario region. Finally, at the symposium held in April each year in Thunder Bay, I was able to shake the hand of Costy and put a face to the name. Ever since then, it became customary to catch up with stories about the bush at the symposium and Christmas Party.

Costy was known to be a tough bush man and it was said he would go into the bush with his knapsack and stay several nights until the job was done. After expressing my fears of crossing lakes in poor ice conditions, Costy told me of the time he went through the ice. He said, "You never know your own strength", but when he was under the water, he ripped his feet out of his snowshoe bindings in one motion and swam to the surface.

I visited him in St. Joseph's Hospital, only a few days before he passed away. Even though he was in a lot of pain, he still had a twinkle in his eye. He told me of moving to Canada as a young man, then moving up north and how he had worked for several timber companies over the years. He said he still had the original claim he staked in 1956. After saying a quick prayer with him, I said goodbye and told him I would visit again next time I was in Thunder Bay. Leaving his room, I couldn't help but shed a few tears. I didn't know it was the last time I'd see Costy. Costy seemed at peace with his life as he said, "It's part of life, and when it's your time, that's it." I know that for his 79 years, Costy's life working in the bush was a full one.

Submitted by Jessica Bjorkman

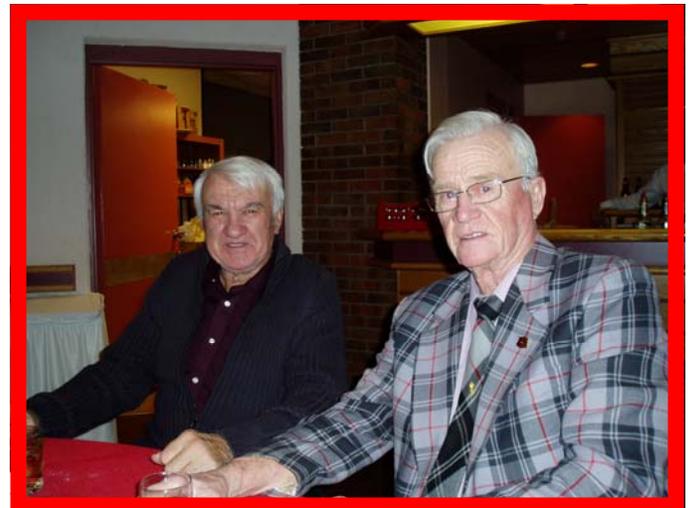
NWOPA's 2007 Christmas Party was held on Friday, November 30 at the Da Vinci Centre in Thunder Bay. A delicious buffet was served by the Da Vinci with great musical entertainment provided by Maverick Music Services. Later on, a number of partygoers enjoyed performing Karaoke! Many companies and individuals (listed below) sponsored great prizes for this event. Major door prizes were the "Frisky Fox" package sponsored by RPT Uranium & Bob Chataway, a GPS street pilot unit sponsored by Accurassay, and two \$100 Future Shop gift certificates sponsored by Northstar Drilling. Compliments of Bob Moffat, two draws were held; one for a man's gold nugget tie pin and the other for a lady's gold nugget pin. A total of \$313 was made on the charity draw for the Shelter House. The Gold Price contest was won by Katarina Bjorkman. Much appreciation is given to Peter Young for organizing this entertaining contest. Many thanks to everyone who made this party such a successful and enjoyable event!

Thank you Sponsors!

Accurassay Laboratories
Atikokan Home Hardware
Benton Resources Corp.
Bob Chataway
Bob Moffat
Boulder Creek Amethyst Mines
Canadian Arrow Mines Ltd.
Chaltrek Geological Supplies Inc.
Corey's Place
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I.J. Riives
Jim Parres
Kakabeka Hotel
Karl Bjorkman

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Sharpstone Geoservices Ltd.
Stares Contracting Corp.
Teck Cominco Limited
True Value Building Centre
Atikokan
Valhalla Inn
Walt's Dry Goods
Williams Mine-Williams
Operating Corp.

NWOPA's Christmas Party is a great time for prospectors and friends to get together...great food, prizes and music!



December 11, 2007

John Hallet:

It was great to be able to attend, for the first time, the Prospector Christmas party. It was also a pleasure, on behalf of Mitch Wicheruk and myself, to gift a couple of small pins with a sample of visible gold from the Bernie Mitch vein at the Fern Elizabeth Gold property, just a short distance northwest of Atikokan.

As per your request the following is history about where the gold came from.

First of all, I was approached to lease the property by Mitch Wicheruk who I first knew as an employee of Steep Rock Iron Mines. He was also an avid prospector and studied the history of the Atikokan area, thus he staked the old Elizabeth. I acquired the property from Mitch Wicheruk with the thought - well I have been putting money into moose pasture buying stock for a good many years, so why not take a shot at this!

I can tell you I spent \$125,000.00 on this property before I saw a piece of visible gold. That was when I insisted my crew put a drill hole under a spot Bernie Schnieders showed me. When the fellows finally did what I wanted, they came up with a 1/16" speck of gold, which I have to this day. A long story follows the small sample, too long for this article. I will, at a later date, tell you the story of this find if you wish.

When we finally put an eighteen inch drill hole under Bernie's spot and using the last 1/4 stick of powder, thank God, we turned up some pretty nice samples of gold. We named the area the Bernie Mitch Vein after Bernie Schnieders and Mitch Wicheruk.

The Elizabeth property has been around for a long time and I hope that Vencan Gold Corp, who have taken an option on the property, will find added tonnage so we can go to production.

We are fast approaching Christmas and the New Year so I take this opportunity to wish all the folks in the Prospectors Group a healthy, happy, prosperous new year.

Regards,



RC (Bob) Moffatt
PO Box 13
Atikokan, ON
P0T 1C0

ONTARIO EXPLORATION AND GEOSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2007 ***“Ontario: Explore and Discover”***

I was selected by the NWOPA Board to attend the OPA’s annual symposium (OEGS) held in Sudbury this past December. The timing of the show was a good fit with a “Letter to the Minister” we had been working on and I was assured by a third party of a chance to hand deliver the letter to Minister Gravelle myself.

The drive down was enjoyable, with the winter beauty of Lake Superior on the way. The show was well attended with good talks, even some from our region. There was a lot of government representation there, which was good as one of the main purposes of the trip was to put forth our concerns about the prospector’s role in the consultation process being developed by the government and First Nations.

I had the chance to discuss our views with various government persons who are front and center to the process. Hopefully they were listening and hopefully some of the other regional associations will approach the government and First Nations with similar concerns. The details of this issue can be read in a copy of the delivered letter included in this newsletter.

At the Awards dinner, I delivered the letter to Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines of Ontario, as promised (thanks in part to Brett Resources and Bud Dickson). He seemed to be sympathetic and his speech was very promising. Of note at the Awards dinner was the Northwestern Region’s own Perry English who won the 2007 Ontario Prospector Award from the Ontario Prospectors Association. Congratulations Perry!

The show did not include many prospector tables, if any. This would give any prospectors a good opportunity to display properties next year with a captive crowd all to themselves! On the drive home, a stop was made to visit Denver Stone (*OGS Mapper Extraordinaire*) in the hospital. Denver is on his way to recovery and we wish him well.

Submitted by Karl Bjorkman, Director, NWOPA



From left: Award recipient Perry English, Ontario's Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle, and OPA President Wally Rayner



Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association
P.O. Box 10124
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6
E-mail: nwopa@tbaytel.net

December 6, 2007

Honourable Michael Gravelle
Minister, Northern Development and Mines
Room 5630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street W.
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Hon. Gravelle:

It is the opinion of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) that after the dust settles in the government's negotiations with the First Nations of Ontario the mineral exploration industry will have a new guideline for exploration in the north. This will clear the way for further exploration, however, will there be room for the individual prospector of limited financial resources?

NWOPA has watched the political shift of power to the First Nations of Ontario concerning land issues, in particular with the overall empowerment of the First Nation communities presently north of 51 to have a greater degree of governance over the areas in between the established Reserves. Specifically, this letter is to address the concerns of the individual prospector living in Ontario and their concurrent rights along with the First Nations people to prospect freely within reason in all of Ontario.

We, the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA), believe it is the right of all Ontarians, whether aboriginal or non-aboriginal, to obtain a prospector's license and prospect where they are so inclined within Ontario and within the law. We also applaud and support the efforts of government, First Nations and industry to come to an agreement to further the exploration for minerals in the north and the subsequent opening of valuable job producing mines. NWOPA is concerned that in the interest of the large mining companies and the junior exploration companies, the "little guy" is going to be passed over. There may not be a direct omission or mention of the prospector being treated any different than the exploration company. However, unless the prospector is almost exempted from consultation with First Nation communities, until the point of major assessment work being done or an option agreement, then all but the wealthiest or well-connected prospector will be left out of the exploration cycle in the north. The prospector can barely, if even possible, afford to charter a return float plane one time, whereas the exploration company can easily pay these costs several times if necessary. The prospector will not have the necessary funds to "be in the game".

Honourable Michael Gravelle
December 6, 2007
Page 2

The individual prospector or claim staker leaves the lightest of footprint matching that of a trapper or hunter/gatherer. The prospector usually does not use “other people’s money” and is therefore limited not only in how much they can do in the bush but also in how much money they can spend ahead of time in consultation.

If the prospector has to follow the same rules of consultation as a junior or major mining company then in essence the prospector will have been put out of the picture and will only be able to work as a contract prospector on someone else’s ground. The North will be reserved for rich companies and will become “third world” like from a land tenure point of view.

We do not believe that it is the intention of the government of Ontario or the First Nation leaders of Ontario to shut the “little guy” out of the mineral exploration industry. In fact, it is probable that if mineral exploration never progressed past the small individual prospector then we would not be having these talks in the first place. Please make the consultation process fair by having different levels of consultation for the different levels of exploration (please find the attached letter to the former Minister of Northern Development and Mines Rick Bartolucci dated June 1, 2006).

Ontario has a rich heritage of mineral exploration. Historically, prospectors working alone with pick and hammer have discovered more than their fair share of valuable mineral deposits. We trust you will protect our future as you work toward a better Ontario.

Sincerely,

Karl Bjorkman, Director
kbjorkman@xplornet.com

John Halet, President
jhalet@tbaytel.net

Attach.

Ontario Prospectors Association

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Boreal Prospectors Association

2008 Northern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium

"The Business of Mineral Exploration"

Sunset Inn and Suites, Sioux Lookout, Ontario

February 18th, 19th and 20th, 2008



Meet the People whose Business is Mineral Exploration.

Representatives and Participants will include:

Community Members, Prospectors, Junior Exploration Companies,
Major Mining Companies, Services, Government and Educators.

Call toll free (866) 259-3727 or visit www.ontarioprospectors.com

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MINES AND MINERALS SYMPOSIUM

**BEYOND
SUPERIOR**



**EXPLORE
NWO**

**APRIL 7-9, 2008
VALHALLA INN
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO**

- Monday, April 7th Workshop (7-10 p.m.)
“Alteration Effects near Mineral Deposits”
- Tuesday, April 8th Technical Session (1- 4:40 p.m.)
NWOPA Annual General Meeting & Social (5-7 p.m.)
Investors Forum (7-9 p.m.)
- Wednesday, April 9th Technical Session (8:30 a.m.-noon)
Awards luncheon (noon-2 p.m.) Technical Session (2-3 p.m.)
(Symposium times are based on last year’s agenda and may be subject to change)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.ontarioprospectors.com/>

<http://www.nwopa.net/>

Ontario Prospectors Association (Tel. 807-622-3284)

You are invited to attend an informal discussion on
Lyme Disease

PRESENTED BY:

Dave Christianson, Director Emeritus, NWOPA

In this presentation Dave will recount his personal experiences and knowledge with respect to contracting the disease, symptoms, diagnosis/treatment and personal protection from the blood-sucking critters that transmit the disease

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. (duration approx. 45 min.)

Place: NWOPA Symposium, Valhalla Inn,
Thunder Bay

***DONATIONS TO THE
"BERNIE SCHNIEDERS MEMORIAL FUND"
WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR***

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 9, 2008 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 21, 2008 with nominations:

John Mason

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

Dave Christianson

Tel. 807/767-4670

Mike MacIsaac

Tel. 807/473-5152

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING (NWOPA ELECTIONS)

The Annual meeting of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association will take place on ***Tuesday, April 8, 2008 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, the Treasurer's Year-End Report, 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 MNDM 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.***

**A PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT HAS BEEN POSTED ON
NWOPA'S WEBSITE FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO THE APRIL 8TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED
CHANGE, VISIT <http://nwopa.net/> OR CONTACT
NWOPA SECRETARY FOR A COPY OF THE AMENDMENT**

Landowners Beware!

IF YOU OWN PROPERTY IN THUNDER BAY OR THE SURROUNDING ORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS YOUR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE BEING THREATENED!

MNR Minister David Ramsay has designated **all** private land in the immediate Thunder Bay area under the Aggregate Resources Act **without public consultation.**

The Act applies to all "gravel, sand; clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite and rock" that is excavated on private land. The Act makes no exemption for personal use by the landowner or for donation of material.

Pit operator or not, if you excavate "hills, sand dunes, knolls, stones and rocks" on your land you are subject to the Act and must apply to MNR for an exemption under Sec. #3.

Section #4 of the Act allows MNR inspectors, at their discretion, to enter any private "land, vessel or premises" to remove documents or material.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS, WRITE, E-MAIL OR FAX A LETTER TO HON. DAVID RAMSAY, MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES; MICHAEL GRAVELLE, MPP; BILL MAURO, MPP.

ALSO, ASK YOUR LOCAL ALDERMAN OR COUNCILLOR TO SPEAK UP ON THIS ISSUE.

For more information on A.G.A. go to www.c-laws.gov.on.ca

Northwestern Ontario Trucking & Logging Association
Contact person: Suzanne Huot @ suzannehuot.sympatico.ca
or @ P.O. Box 190, Kakabeka Falls, ON P0T 1W0

The **Amethyst Producers of Northwestern Ontario** have recently been faced with a number of challenges. Mark O'Brien, MNDM presented these issues to the NWOPA Board so that we might better understand them. As a result, the board invited the producers to join our association so that we could deal with their concerns, issues and inquiries. Prospectors interested in acquiring amethyst properties will be interested in reading the following page:

- amethyst is not excluded from the Aggregate Resources Act, 1990 (ARA), so commercial amethyst extraction on Crown Land requires a quarry permit
- designated areas of the ARA were extended to northern Ontario on January 1, 2007, so commercial amethyst extraction on private land within municipalities surrounding Thunder Bay are now regulated under the ARA
- MNR has established the Ontario Aggregate Resource Corporation (TOARC) to collect aggregate fees, rehabilitate abandoned pits and quarries, and collect/publish production statistics
- mining lands are regulated under the Mining Act, so freehold and leasehold patent owners pay annual fees but are not regulated under the Mining Act with regard to extraction (i.e. no closure plan or financial assurance)
- unpatented mining claims are cited in the TOARC database but cancellation of claims is not tracked even though there is a recognized potential competing interest (i.e. new claimholder could extract to test material while permit holder could commercially extract)
- application and annual compliance reporting processes are unnecessarily complicated as they were designed for large sand and gravel producers in southern Ontario
- amethyst producers are not satisfied with the level of service from MNR staff and MNR staff are not pleased that amethyst falls to them
- most amethyst quarry permit holders are currently not in compliance with the ARA and/or MNR policy
- fees are \$500 for application, \$200 per year with \$0.115 per tonne royalty
- there is very little global exposure to Thunder Bay amethyst and there are no direct sales on the internet
- the local industry is small with regard to worldwide production
- low labour rates, low prices and high quality material results in large amounts of material coming into the local market from Brazil
- some local retailers market non-local material as Canadian amethyst as long as >50% of value was added in Canada, this is problematic as minor processing or cutting readily accounts for this margin; to address this problem, the Amethyst Mine Panorama labels their material as Mined in Canada, Canadian Amethyst
- operations are small, family businesses producing ~1-10 tonnes per year that rely primarily on local tourism traffic
- amethyst has been the official mineral emblem of Ontario since May of 1975
- MNDM assistance to amethyst producers has been limited to production of several brochures and regulatory compliance (e.g. ARA, Mining Act, etc.)



THE GOLDEN MILE

Edgar Lavoie, a writer and historian who lives in Geraldton, submitted his story and pictures to The Claim Post. He had previously written this for Greenstone's Times Star. The following pages are an interesting description of a property visit from a journalist's point of view.



THE GOLDEN MILE

Kodiak Active in Greenstone Region

by Edgar J. Lavoie

Part 1

Kodiak Exploration Limited has released the results on its newest gold zone on the Hercules property, and the values are spectacular.

On the morning of Tuesday, October 23, the writer toured the latest find accompanied by Steven Roach, Kodiak's project geologist, and Gerry White, district geologist for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

The Golden Mile Zone, formerly named the Amede Gold Zone, begins near the Kinghorn Road (Kilometer 31.6) in Elmhirst Township, north of Jellicoe. The zone has been mostly stripped of overburden for a distance of almost 2 kilometres (Imagine 20 football fields end to end).

Taking the "33" Road off the Kinghorn, in 0.5 kilometres the party reached the access road leading to the Golden Mile Extension, passing a "No Hunting" sign tacked to a tree. The two pickups proceeded westward for exactly 1 kilometre over very rough ground. It was ground for vehicles with 4-wheel drive.

The writer had visited this point on August 25. Since then, the backhoe had skipped perhaps 40 metres of swampy ground, and then scooped out the trench again for perhaps 700 metres. A tree-topped hill in the distance marked the end of the stripping operation.

Stephen Roach led the way, walking around the swampy ground and descending into the trench. At this point, a spectacular grab sample had been scooped by Ray Koivisto, the on-site prospector, and a sharp discussion had apparently ensued about whether the sample should be bagged for assay or should

be preserved as an exhibition piece. It ended up in the bag, and the assay produced the astounding result of 6000 grams per tonne (gpt).

At 31.1 grams per ounce, the sample assayed 193 ounces to the tonne (opt). Compare that to an ounce to the tonne, which is considered high grade ore.

Grab samples are, by their nature, very small samples. Better evidence lies in channel samples and drill core.

Roach called the 365-metre stretch between this point and the beginning of the Golden Mile Extension to the southeast, the "jewelry box". "We're getting gold in the wall rock, too," he said, referring to the Elmhirst Intrusive, a granodiorite. Channel samples had been taken every 15 to 20 metres. "In all these channels," he said, "we see VG [visible gold], and we didn't even need [magnifying] glasses." The channels averaged 20.20 gpt over an average width of 3.8 metres.

From the east came the sound of a backhoe filling in a cross trench. The Wilkinson Lake-Penelton-Yellow Brick Road-7 to 9-Marino line of strike had a bearing of 340 degrees. An exploratory trench had been dug between that vein system to the east, and the Golden Mile Zone, and in order to comply with regulations, its was being backfilled. Both Roach and White highly suspected, but had no proof yet, that there were more parallel vein systems between the two major exposures.

At the end of September, Kodiak had completed the third phase of drilling, 36 holes. The holes were "shallow", most of them between 50 and 100 metres in length. The published results (See news releases on www.kodiakexp.com) included this statement: "Highlights . . . include drill hole HR07-29, which graded 54.1 gpt (1.57 opt) gold over a mineable width of 2.0 m, including 134.4 gpt (3.9 opt) gold over 0.8 m, and drill hole HR07-31, which graded 12.64 gpt gold over 1.4 m."