

Inside this issue:	
Changes to the NWOPA Board of Directors	2
Upcoming Events	3
Recent Events	5
News from the OGS	9
In Passing	10
Announcements	12

The Claim Post



The President's Letter, Fall 2009



Geologist Graham Wilson in fitting colors for fall field exploration.

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.

As I watch the snow fall outside my window this Thanksgiving weekend, I am reminded that the field season is coming to a close and freeze up will soon be upon us again. This year brought much change to prospectors although we have not seen much of the effect as yet. In 2010 I shall be eligible for my Lifetime Prospector's Licence and realize that my "Life Time" as a Prospector will never be repeated by the next generation of Prospectors as change is coming. Future Prospectors will need to be technologically advanced as well as being enthusiastic about fieldwork and I wish them success in their pursuit of a career that I enjoyed as a lifetime lifestyle.

I would like to personally thank all the prospectors who took the time to participate in the Ontario government's Consultations on Bill 173: The Mining Act and Bill 191: The Far North Act.

In 2010 the regulations for these Bills will be passed despite what Northern Ontario deems in its best interests once again by the overriding political will of Southern Ontario. I hope that all Prospectors will quickly become computer savvy so that they can get in on the map staking that eventually will become the provincial standard.

Many exploration companies continue to proceed during this time of uncertainty and are to be applauded for their tenacity and perseverance in bringing various projects forward. NWOPA would like to acknowledge Brett Resources, Lac des Milles Lacs First Nation and the Township of Atikokan for reporting its agreement in the Globe and Mail Business Section for Bay Street to see. Congratulations and continued success! At the 2010 Mines and Minerals

Symposium NWOPA will be recognizing the many organizations that have succeeded in negotiating agreements to support their ongoing efforts to keep mineral exploration active across Ontario.

As for the NWOPA board we shall be working diligently on the upcoming Christmas Party December 4, 2009 at the Da Vinci Centre and ensuring the continued success of the 2010 Mines and Minerals Symposium April 7 and 8 in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn.

I look forward to seeing all of you there and to hearing of your exploration successes.

Best Regards,

Barb D'Silva

President NWOPA

For more information and links, visit the NWOPA Website



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

< back to main page <

www.nwopa.net

Claim Post OPA	Meetings By-Laws	Events Board of Directors	Membership Land Use Issues	Symposiums Links
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Fresh faces to the 2009/2010 NWOPA Board of Directors



This year, there are some changes as well as additions to your NWOPA Board of Directors. We congratulate long time board member Barb D'Silva into her position as NWOPA President. As well, there are three new directors. Welcomed to the board are Allen Raoul, Dr. Mary Louise Hill and Suzanne Halet.

(Left) Ex-president John Halet with incoming president Barb D'Silva at the April 2009 Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium. Image courtesy of Paul Nielsen

The Claim Post is published bi-annually in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

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2009 - 2010 NWOPA Board Committees

Benevolent	B. Chataway / B. D'Silva / C. Komar
Communications	S. Halet / C. Komar / B. Chataway / D. Hunt
Education, Events and Advocacy	B. D'Silva / B. Chataway / A. Raoul / S.Halet / C. Komar
Elections, Nominations, AGM	Dr. M.L. Hill (elections) / J. Halet (chair)
First Nations Issues	A. Raoul / B. D'Silva
General Meetings	P. Nielsen / B. Chataway
Land Use	J. Halet / K. Bjorkman
Minister Mining Act Advisory (MMAAC)	B. D'Silva / K. Bjorkman (Alt.)
N.W. Reg. Advisory (MNR)	B. D'Silva / A. Raoul
Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA)	D. Hunt / B. D'Silva
Policies and Procedures	Board
Species at Risk (SAR)	B. Chataway
Sub-Symposium	P. Nielsen / D. Hunt
Website	Geoff Clark / C. Komar

Board of Directors 2009-2010

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
President	Barb D'Silva	(807) 345-3860	barbdsilva@live.ca
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Director	Karl Bjorkman	(807) 929-1093	kbjorkman@xplornet.com
Director	Allen Raoul	(807) 466-2966 / (807) 543-1969	georaoul@gmail.com
Director	Suzanne Halet	(807) 251-9863	suzanne.halet@gmail.com
Director	Dr. Mary Louise Hill	(807) 343-8319	mary.louise.hill@lakeheadu.ca

NWOPA OBJECTIVES

To represent and further the interests, serve the needs, and support the aspirations of the individual prospectors in Northwestern Ontario.

Mark Friday, December 4th on your Calendar for the 2009 NWOPA Christmas Dinner and Dance

Shine your shoes, and grab a date! Come out to the always enjoyable NWOPA Christmas Party. This year, the event will be held on Friday, December 4th at The DaVinci Centre. There will be a buffet style dinner, followed by dancing and karaoke.

An additional great reason to come out to the party are the loads of prizes to be won, so don't miss out. Music will be provided by Maverick Entertainment. For tickets and further details, please contact Cyndee Komar, at (807) 475-1414 or go to the MNM Geology Office at 435 James St. South.



The OPA Presents: The Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium, A Decade of Risks and Rewards

This Ontario Prospectors Association event will be held on December 15th & 16th, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Sudbury. The delegate pre-registration deadline is **November 20, 2009**. Registration fee details are included on the registration form available online at <http://www.ontarioprospectors.com/events/OEGS2009/DelegateRegistration.pdf>

The price for registration is as follows:

Two days \$260 before November 20, 2009
 Two days \$290 after November 20, 2009
 One Day Only \$145
 Students Pay Only \$85

For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.ontarioprospectors.com/events/OEGS2009/index.html>



The CIM Presents: Distinguished Lecturer Don Thompson— ‘Setting the Record Straight’



www.cim.org/activities/lecturers2010.cfm

Canada’s oil sands are a controversial topic and virtually every news-maker and layperson seems to have an opinion about this 179 billion barrel resource. The oil sands represent 97 per cent of Canada’s remaining oil reserves, but mis-interpretation and mis-representation of the facts are threatening development of a resource that generates significant

employment and tax revenue for Canadians. Join Don Thompson, president of the Oil Sands Developers Group, as he dispels the top ten myths about Canada’s oil sands and presents an alternative perspective on an industry that can play a critical role in North America’s economic recovery.

The lecture will be held on October 22nd at 7.30 pm at Lakehead University in the ATAC building, room 2001.

The 2010 Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium will be held on Wednesday, April 7th and Thursday April 8th at the Valhalla in Thunder Bay



Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association— Communities, Commodities, Certainty

On November 1st through 3rd, the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association Presents the 17th annual conference titled: Communities, Commodities, Certainty – Aboriginal Community and Resource Development in a changing economy. The aim of the conference is “to promote thinking, in order to meet the challenges facing all of us as we near the end of this



decade.

These challenges include the education and training of Aboriginal youth, preparing for the next upswing in commodities, as well as mitigating impacts and perhaps the renegotiation of agreements (IBAs, etc), as well as understanding

new and pending legislative regimes related to Aboriginal consultation such as the pending new Mining Act, Ontario.

This event will be held at the Delta Chelsea in Toronto, November 1st to 3rd



The CIM Mineral Resource Investment Showcase: A Positively Successful Event

A kind testament to the current success and solidity of the mineral exploration industry in Northwestern Ontario was expressed on September 17th at the Valhalla Inn. The event hosted presentations by five local junior exploration companies, who are only a sample of the numerous companies currently operating and exploring in this region. Featured during the evening were detailed talks as well as booth displays by Freewest Resources, Magma Metals Limited, Benton Resources, Premier Gold, and Mega Precious Metals. The event was filled over capacity, with standing room only. Considering the economic downturn, each company portrayed perseverance even though the challeng-



ing past year and expressed positive outlooks for their upcoming exploration programs in the new year. Looking only at the number of people who attended the showcase, Northwestern Ontario's mineral exploration industry surely is a shining light within a relatively dim local economic climate.

Above, Don Hoy of Freewest Resources talks to a full house.

Right: Al MacTavish of Magma Metals talks about the Thunder Bay North project.



2009 Mineral Specimen Winner: Shane Dyer



On September 1st the lucky winner of this year's mineral specimen was drawn. Shane Dyer, a local Thunder Bay prospector was the recipient. The mineral specimen was an impressive mass of quartz crystals hosted in carbonate limestone from the Steep Rock series. The mineral specimen was kindly donated by Ray Bernatchez, an Atikokan geologist.

The funds resulting from this year's draw totalled \$572. This sum will be donated to the Bernie Schnieders Memorial Award. This award is designated to go to an M.Sc. Geology Student enrolled in Lakehead University. Thanks to all of you for helping to make this great donation possible!

In Review: The 2009 Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium

The theme of this year's NWOPA symposium "Always Looking Forward" certainly was an optimistic one. In step with the theme, the symposium proved to live up to the name.

Right: Luncheon, Image courtesy of Jim Parres

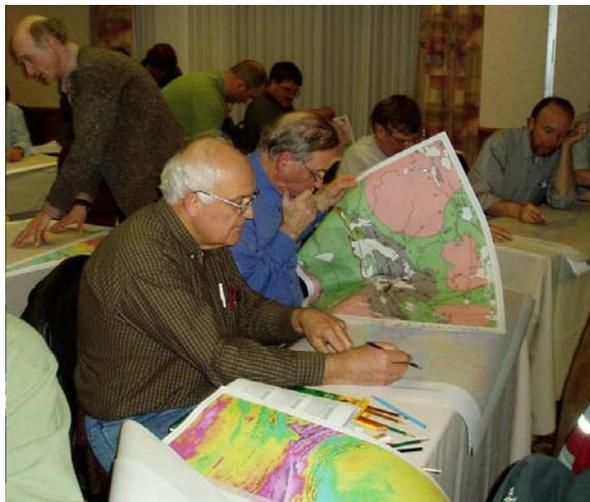


Above, Peter Young and North Star employee. Right, John Scott, with Russell Kwiatkowski. Above and right images courtesy of John Halet.

With record setting attendance and a vast array of exhibit booths displaying the variety of mining related businesses in the Northwestern Ontario region, this spring's symposium had a hopeful future in mind.



Also, featured at this year's symposium was OGS geologist Desmond Rainsford's airborne geophysical interpretation workshop for prospectors, as well as Activation Laboratories introductory soil gas hydrocarbon (SGH) short course.



Left, Sid Seeley (foreground) is working with prospector Greg Brumpton. Image courtesy of John Halet.

2008 Awards Recipients

BERNIE SCHNIEDERS DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008

Magma Metals Limited - Current Lake Discovery
Al MacTavish, Justin Johnson, Jim Martin, Keith Watkins,
and Graham Wilson

DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008

Williams Mine - Barrick Gold Corporation
John Florek, Shawna Fedoruk, Adrian Forsyth and Rob
Reukl

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2008

Dr. E.G. (Ed) Pye
Amede Lafontaine
Peter Moses
Allan Best

Images: Above, Williams Mine
– Barrick Gold Corporation's
John Florek, Shawna Fedoruk,
Adrian Forsyth and Rob Reukl.
Right, Russell Kwiatkowski and
Peter Moses



NWOPA Would Like to Thank The Sponsors of the 2009 Mines and Minerals Symposium

Diamond:

Accurassay Laboratories
Boart Longyear
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
Nuna Group of Companies
Sage Gold Inc.

Gold:

Alto Ventures Ltd.
Barrick Gold - Hemlo Operations
Bob Fairservice
Canadian Exploration Services Group
Cypress Development Corp.
PC Gold Inc.
Rainy River Resources Ltd.
Rubicon Minerals Corporation

Silver

A. Glatz Prospecting
Garden Lake Timber
Historical Prospecting
I.J. Riives Prospecting
Sabina Silver Corp.

Platinum:

Activation Laboratories
Hilldale Geosciences
Magma Metals (Canada) Limited

Palladium:

ALS Chemex
Benton Resources Corp.
Clark Expl. Consulting Inc.
Cobra Drilling/Northstar Drilling
Cook Engineering
Freewest Resources Canada Inc.
J & J Hackl
Kodiak Exploration Limited
Landore Resources Canada Inc.
Marathon PGM Corporation
Metalore Resources Ltd.
Municipality of Greenstone
Premier Gold Mines Limited
Roxmark Mines Limited
Sharpstone Geosciences Ltd.
Vale Exploration North America

NWOPA at the Annual Fur Trappers Convention

In February, Cyndee Komar and Bob Chataway manned a booth for two days at the convention Fur Trappers Convention. While there, they fielded questions about prospecting and how to get involved. They commented on the local areas that were hot with exploration, as well as explained some employment opportunities in the mining industry and also provided general stories about prospecting and exploration. A number of people took information regarding the N. W. Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium.



Right: Image courtesy of Bob Chataway

NWOPA General Meeting Highlights, May 21, 2009

A NWOPA General Meeting was held on May 21, 2009 at Confederation College. Topics discussed included The Mining Act - The Devil at your Door. Chairing the meeting were Barb D'Silva and Karl Bjorkman.

The meeting was well attended with 25 members voicing their concerns about the measures in the new Mining Act which is before the Legislature. Concerns about map staking and removal of the mining rights from surface right's owners lands were discussed.

-Bob Chataway



1st SESSION, 39th LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
58 ELIZABETH II, 2009

1^{re} SESSION, 39^e LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
58 ELIZABETH II, 2009

Bill 173

Projet de loi 173

An Act to amend
the Mining Act

Loi modifiant la
Loi sur les mines

The Hon. M. Gravelle
Minister of Northern Development and Mines

L'honorable M. Gravelle
Ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines

Government Bill

Projet de loi du gouvernement

1st Reading April 30, 2009
2nd Reading
3rd Reading
Royal Assent

1^{re} lecture 30 avril 2009
2^e lecture
3^e lecture
Sanction royale

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of Ontario

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de l'Ontario

Modernizing Ontario's Mining Act



http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/miningact/pdf/mining_act_tech_briefing_slides.pdf



2009-2010 Ontario Geological Survey Activities in Northwestern Ontario

A general meeting was held on June 11, 2009 at Confederation College. The meeting featured a presentation of the upcoming 2009-2010 activities of the OGS in Northwestern Ontario.

The meeting was attended by 15 members and heard two presentations from the OGS by Jack Parker, Senior Manager, Precambrian Section and Ross Kelly, Manager, Sedimentary Section.

Jack highlighted the areas where ground crews will be mapping and surveying this summer. These include the McFaulds area, Ogoki area south of Fort Hope, Pigeon

River intrusives south of Thunder Bay, English River Belt and support for a M.Sc thesis.

Ross detailed areas for geochemical surveys and data compilation that would be targeted this year.

Once again the OGS is actively searching for airborne surveys that exploration companies are willing to sell to the Survey. As well the OGS is looking for input as to where the exploration industry feels the OGS should be collecting and updating the provincial data base.

-Bob Chataway

The Precambrian Geoscience Section needs to know:

- Geoscience problems that our expertise can be used to address
- Ideas for mapping that will assist or stimulate exploration
- Are our products and services meeting your needs? Can you find them?

You can contact Jack Parker, Senior Manager, Precambrian Section, at Jack.parker@ontario.ca

Project Areas 2009-2010

PRECAMBRIAN GEOSCIENCE SECTION ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Abitibi Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI)

- 1 Geology of the Kidd-Munro Assemblage ●●
-B. Berger, J. Ayer, M. Houlié
- 2 Timmins South Mapping Project (English, Zavitz, Hutt and Semple Townships, Bartlett Dome) ●●
-S. Préfontaine, M. Duguet, M. Houlié,

Proterozoic Initiative

- 3 Geology of the Elliot Lake Area
-R. M. Easton
- 4 Assessment of Zinc Potential in Marbles
-R. M. Easton
- 5 Geochemistry of Mid-Continent Rift-related intrusions ●
-M. Smyk, P. Hollings, R. M. Easton

Provincial Scale Metallogenic Inventory Initiative

- 6 Characteristics of mineralized intermediate to felsic plutonic systems (Area not indicated on map; area covers majority of Province)
-G.P. Beakhouse

Metallogeny and Geology of Northwest Ontario Initiative

- 7 Geology of the Bending Lake Area
-D. Stone
- 8 Wabigoon Synthesis
-G. Beakhouse, S. Josey, J. Webb
- 9 Geology of the Lumby Lake Area
-S. Buse, D. Lewis

Abitibi Initiative

- 10 Geological Compilation of the Ramsay - Algoma Region
-J. Ayer, N. Trowell, J. Chartrand

Far North Initiative

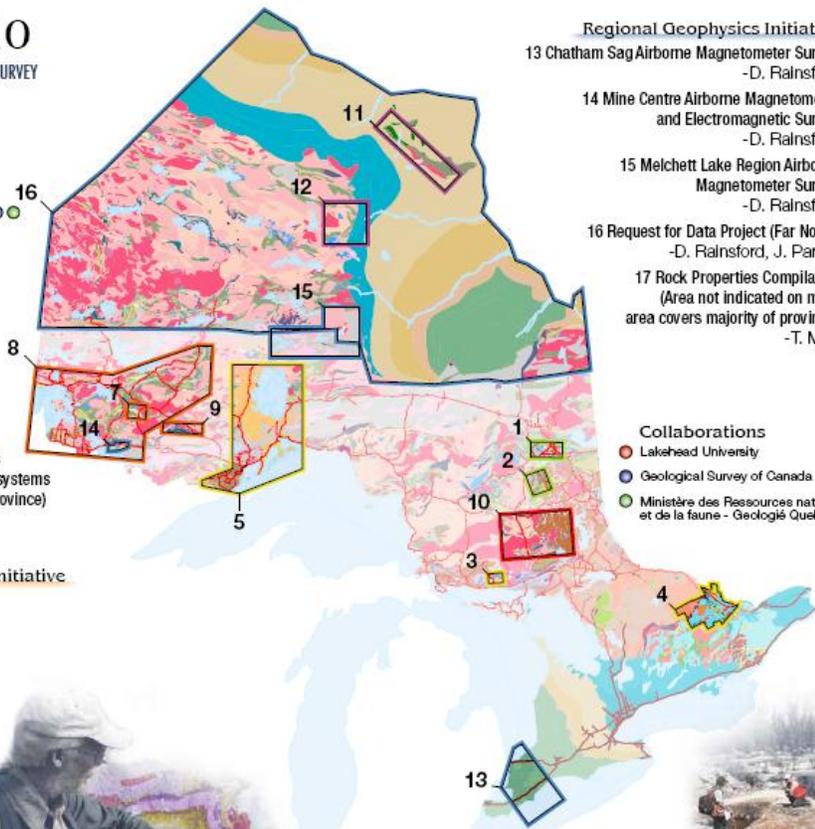
- 11 Sutton Inlier Reconnaissance Project
-G. Stott, S. Buse
- 12 McFaulds Lake Region Geoscience Gap Analysis
-J. Parker

Regional Geophysics Initiative

- 13 Chatham Sag Airborne Magnetometer Survey
-D. Rainsford
- 14 Mine Centre Airborne Magnetometer and Electromagnetic Survey
-D. Rainsford
- 15 Melchett Lake Region Airborne Magnetometer Survey
-D. Rainsford
- 16 Request for Data Project (Far North)
-D. Rainsford, J. Parker
- 17 Rock Properties Compilation (Area not indicated on map; area covers majority of province)
-T. Mulr

Collaborations

- Lakehead University
- Geological Survey of Canada
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la faune - Géologie Québec



For more information, please visit: <http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/>

In Passing

Mitch Wicheruk
(d. June 20, 2009)

Mitch Wicheruk was born November 25, 1924 in Calder. He left home in his late teens to pick sugar beets in Emerson, Manitoba, and then work as a weaver, looming carpets in Winnipeg, and later as a miner at Beren's River / Favourable Lake.

He served in the Army as Corporal for three years during World War II. Upon his discharge, he was an NCO. At one time he trained to build Bailey bridges.

In August, 1949, he settled in Atikokan, Ontario and it was there that he met and married Lillian Ardell Hogan, a school teacher, in 1951. He thought his stay in Atikokan would be short, but ended up spending his remaining years there. He and Lillian had five children, four girls and a boy.

Mitch worked for 30 years at Steep Rock Iron Mines as a driller helper, then shovel operator, and finally after an injury, as tool crib attendant. He made many out of town trips to pick up parts

needed for the mine's operation.

He was an avid prospector (licenced since 1953), and enjoyed the peace and solitude of the bush. He was rewarded in the early 1980s with the discovery, with government geologist Bernie Schnieders, of highly visible gold in what became known as the 'Bernie-Mitch Vein'. He wanted a mine for the people of Atikokan and fought to have a portable mill there.

Nolan Cox
(d. July 1, 2009)

Nolan Merritt Thomas Cox was born in Geraldton, and was a prospector his whole life. His main interests were hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Kenogamisis Masonic Lodge A.F. #656.

Right, Nolan Cox. Photo courtesy of Gerry White

**Mike Fogen**
(d. July 3, 2009)

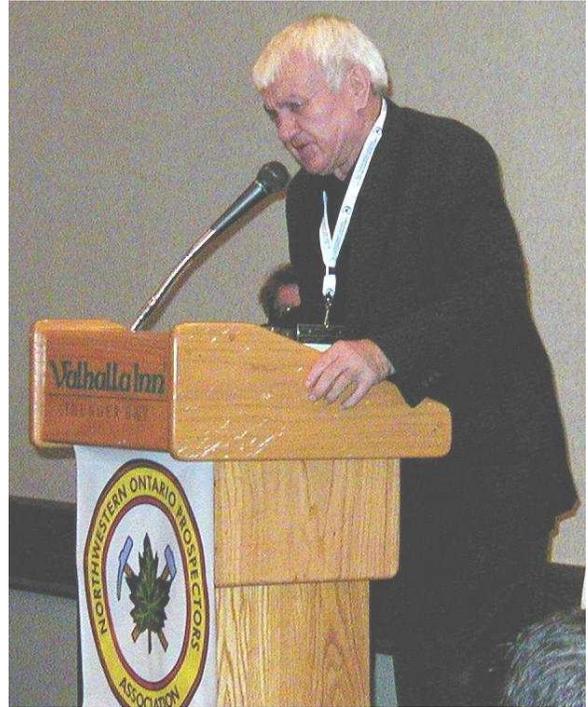
At 23 and with a dream of finding the mother lode, Mike immigrated to Canada in 1956. Holding true to his dream, Mike's first job was with the Holinger Consolidated Gold Mine in Timmins, Ontario. In 1958, Mike moved to Thunder Bay to work at the Coldstream Mine at Burchell Lake.

Mike's career in mining included working as a hoistman for Inco (Shebandowan) and Redpath (Hemlo), a prospector sharing a partnership in International Geoventures and holding interests in Pele Mountain Resources as well as Mengold. A highlight for Mike in his later years was prospecting with his dear friend Costy Bumbu and gathering on Saturdays at the Prince Arthur Hotel to share a cup of coffee and mining stories with his friends in the field.

How I Found the Big Boulder: By Dan Calvert, c. 2004

"I went to the Boreal Road with this "Bullseye" from a 1991 aerial in mind. Dave Christianson had phoned and told me to get out and stake it, as it looked important on the new maps that had just come out. As I was driving on the Boreal Road in that vicinity, I saw this bush road to the south. As I was driving along it, I noticed a large rectangular rock off to the left. I stopped to look at it thinking it could be diabase (Pt/Pd). It was about 600 feet off the road and as I got closer I saw it was granite. Then I saw this large rusty float. I examined it and saw some mineralization. This sample only assayed 219 ppb

Au, 57 ppb Ag, 195 ppm Pb and 229 ppb Zn. Not satisfied, I used a Magnapak that penetrated it a couple of inches. This fresh material assayed 4630 ppm Pb, and 5670 ppm Zn..." "My two daughters Netta Calvert and Cathi Siemieniuk helped me to stake the 8-claim block. I phoned Glen Kasner of RJK Explorations, and he suggested I get a backhoe. I met Andy, the hoe operator, in the yard the next day at 8 a.m.. We uncovered the "Boomer Boulder" and carried it out to the road. The next day, my son-in-law Gerry Shaw and my granddaughter Allie Duncan returned with me to the "Boomer" and tried to wash it.



While they were doing this, I took my hammer and compass and prospected from the "Boomer" North – 30 degrees East. This is when I discovered the "Calvert Boulder", approximately 200 metres North – 30 degrees East of the "Boomer".

Dan Calvert (d. July 1st, 2009)

Dan was born on January 7th, 1930 in London, Ontario to Gilbert and Annie Calvert. He moved to Eagle River in 1946. An adventurer at heart, he quickly adjusted to the rigor of Northwestern Ontario lifestyles. He worked in the pulp and paper industry, construction, farming, heavy equipment operations and his greatest love, prospecting and the mining industry. Dan received his first license as a prospector on September 4th, 1956 and received a lifetime achievement award for 50 years from NWOPA in 2006.

He served as an active association member, volunteer and leader. One of his life's highlights was the discovery of the float rock currently displayed at the entrance to Lakehead University. This is the origin of one of his nicknames 'Boulder Dan'.

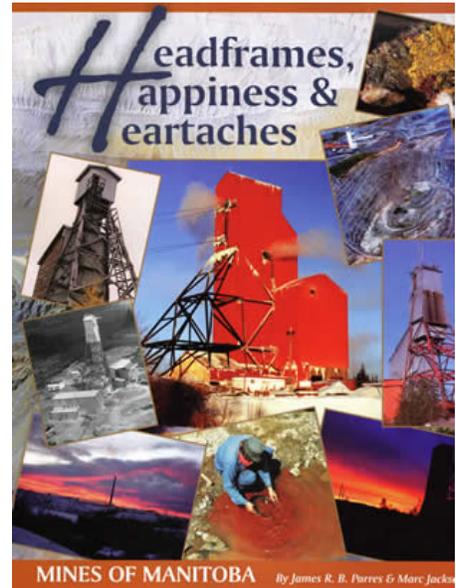
Dan was always looking for gold or minerals. He always had a small axe for breaking pieces of rock and a magnifying glass to look at the pieces. No matter where you went, these two items were with him. Over his career, Dan received many options but not one turned to a mine.

Yet, he was always positive, always looking. In his retirement, he prospected more. He never gave up in the search for the big find. From time to time, his entire family was asked to stake with him. Dan Calvert was the president of NWOPA for 5 years. The Calvert Boulder now sits in front of Lakehead University in his memory.

Headframes, Happiness & Heartaches

“When the permits are in place and the **Headframe** is erected (or, in some scenarios—a decline) **Happiness** prevails. Eventually, the ore-body, a finite entity, is mined out and the mine shuts down. The heartache is that towns that sprang up to service the mine, communities like Herb Lake, Sherridon, Bissett, Snow Lake and Lynn Lake, could become virtual ghost towns.” This book, co-written by James Parres and Marc Jackson aims to preserve the rich, colorful Mining History in Manitoba. Headframes, Happiness & Heartaches collects authentic stories of the actual discovery of Mani-

toba ore deposits and by recording the memorable accounts of the men who worked in the mines. Additionally, there is an excellent pictorial review of the many headframes, past and present, in such diversity that almost no two are identical. The book aims to address the more ‘human’ side of the industry, as both Parres and Jackson realized that there were only (until this book) a sparse handful of books about the many mines of Manitoba. Contact Jim Parres at 807-977-1679 to purchase. The cost of the book is \$34.95



New Website Announcement

The MNR has launched their new Electronic Forest Management Plans website which is available to the public. You can visit it, at <http://www.appefmp.mnr.gov.on.ca/eFMP/homeWelcome.do>

The image is a screenshot of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website. At the top, there is a banner with the Ontario logo and the text "Ontario" and "Ministry Of Natural Resources". Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for "Electronic Forest Management Plans", "Home", "Ontario's Forests", "FMP Renewal Schedules", "Map Resellers", "Comment Form", and "Help". A green bar below the menu contains the text "Designated Forest Management Units in Ontario as of April 1, 2009" and a "Francais" link. Below this, there are two radio buttons: "Forest Management Plans Current" (which is selected) and "Forest Management Plans in Preparation". To the right of these buttons is a dropdown menu labeled "Forest Management Unit:". Below the text is a map of Ontario divided into various colored regions representing forest management units.