



The Claim Post

Summer 2016

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For more information on mining day please visit:

www.thunderbayminingday.ca

Stay up to date on NWOPA events by visiting our new website:

www.nwopa.net

President's Message

Welcome to the "Breakup" edition of the Claim Post

It has been a long winter of wondering when the exploration industry was going to bloom again. Well I think this is the year. My 2 cent stocks are now 4 cents and looking good. Any glimmer of hope is welcome news.

NWOPA is coming off another successful Symposium where the mood was very optimistic and option agreements were signed. That has got to be another positive sign of good times ahead. Congratulations to our successful prospectors!!

Besides the symposium, NWOPA once again supported the **4th Annual Thunder Bay Mining Day**, held on June 4, 2016 at Marina Park. This is a **fun-filled day for families** to participate in interactive games with a mining related theme; talk to a geologist about their rock collections; try their luck at gold panning; and many other activities. This year featured a good crowd that braved the rain to engage with some of our members on all things mining! NWOPA also hosted a general meeting on May 18 at Confederation College with the topic for discussion led by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

Good luck in the field this summer. Work safely.

Cheers,

Bob



Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium 2016: Seeking Minerals for the Future

The annual NWOMMS took place on April 5th and 6th at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, and by all accounts was a success! Over 400 delegates registered to view a sold out exhibitor showcase and listen in on 30 presentations. The symposium has remained a staple event for the mining and exploration communities and undoubtedly benefits from the spring fever that grips prospectors and explorers who are anxious to break new ground on their properties. The APGO took advantage of the large crowds and offered an excellent networking event in which 40 attendees mingled and learned about exciting new drone based technology to help in mineral exploration. Finding that next discovery outcrop might become a little easier!

An increasingly popular event following the symposium is the annual explorers cup charity hockey game. The game pits explorationists from Northwestern Ontario against those from Northeastern Ontario (I think they managed to recruit a few local players but can you blame them? We are Canada's hockey capital after all!). This year was the first victory for the Northeast team! Congratulations to the Northeast team and a special thanks to organizers and team captains Garry Clark and Bob Duess.

In talking to this year's attendees the feedback for the NWOMMS show was overwhelmingly positive each year. The annual PDAC symposium has become larger and larger and it is nice to know that there is still a place where prospectors have remained the focal point of the show. It is a place you actually have the time to network and deal with the folks who have their boots to the ground. This year, prospectors occupied eleven exhibitor spaces and gave five presentations to an attentive crowd hoping to hear about the next Borden Lake or Rainy River Deposit.

If the optimism at the symposium is any indication it seems we may finally be turning the corner on one of the worst recessions in the resource market in decades. With any luck investment will once again be flowing to the Northwest to fuel the dedicated explorers who work in our backyard.

For more information on JEAP please visit:

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

**JEAP 2 Funding Deadline
August 30, 2016**

Supporting Ontario's Explorers: Junior Exploration Assistance Program (JEAP)

It's no secret that the greatest adversity facing explorers these days isn't the blackflies and mosquitos but the crippling lack of financing available on public markets. While major mining companies cut back exploration expenditures in hopes of riding out depressed commodity prices it is the junior mining market that has been hit hardest. The trickledown effect has been felt by everyone from service providers to prospectors who depend on a vibrant junior market to option their properties. In response to this the Ontario Prospectors Association and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund have introduced a new program in the hopes of revitalizing the junior markets. The program offers a 30% rebate on exploration expenditures for qualified projects up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project. A maximum of two applications may be approved for each company. Funding criteria is summarized below:

Eligible Applicants:

- Non-producing junior mining companies with a market capitalization <\$5 million
- Registered to hold claims or carry out exploration work in Ontario
- Registered to conduct business in Ontario
- Be in compliance with Ontario acts and regulations
- Have an exploration plan or permit that is valid for the year in which the work is to be completed (where required)
- Proof of funds which will be required to complete the proposed program

Eligible Expenses:

- Personnel salaries and fees
- Services related to exploration
- Supplies
- Accommodation
- Machinery rental
- Transportation of personnel, supplies and machinery

Eligible Activities:

- Prospecting
- Establishment of grids by line cutting (where used for an eligible survey)
- Geotechnical surveys (geophysical, geological, geochemical)
- Stripping and trenching
- Assaying and analyses
- Surface overburden and core drilling

Aboriginal Capacity Eligible Expenses:

- Separate grant category of up to \$6000 per project for expenses related to training, employment or capacity building with Aboriginals

Please visit <http://www.ontarioprospectors.com/> to download the JEAP guidebooks and supporting documents.

The first round of JEAP funding closed on April 30th, 2016 however JEAP 2 applications are now being accepted. The closing date for all applications is August 30th, 2016 so be sure to get your applications in to support your fall-winter exploration programs!

NWOPA General Meeting, May 18, 2016

A small audience of 13 people attended a presentation on Aboriginal Affairs in Ontario, facilitated by Bernie Hughes, Director, Aboriginal Affairs Branch, MNDM, and part of the Ministry's Aboriginal – Industry Outreach 2016 program.

The presentation consisted of a historical overview of aboriginal relations in Ontario; cultural/demographic information; treaties in Ontario; aboriginal and treaty rights; consultation jurisprudence and practice; Ontario's emerging position and program; MNDM's approach and MNDM Aboriginal Affairs programming and funding.

It was a thorough education in why things are the way they are and where they might be going in future.

For many in the prospecting/junior exploration sector, the current process seems to mean a significant transfer of resources from research (i.e. boots on the ground exploration) to lawyers and bureaucrats with little in the way of security of tenure in return. But at least we now have a better idea of why it is being done.

Still, in this writer's opinion, this process is s no way to run a province, or to encourage economic development.

Dave Hunt

2016 Bernie Schnieder's Memorial Award Recipient Lakehead University

Lakehead Geology

- 23 Undergraduate thesis research studies
- 12 Graduate students completing MSc. thesis research projects

The Bernie Schnieder's Memorial Award supports graduate students in the Dept. of Geology at Lakehead University. The Geology department would like to thank all of those that have contributed to the award fund. This year's recipient of the award is Brigitte Gélinas.

M.Sc. student Brigitte Gélinas completed her HBSc at Laurentian University where she found her passion for economic geology and fieldwork. She worked for the Ontario Geological Survey over the summers as a field assistant for a Precambrian crew working in the Shebandowan greenstone belt, and a crew working in the Paleozoic rocks of the Moose River Basin in the James Bay lowlands. Her undergraduate thesis was a mapping-based project that focused on the alteration, mineralization and geochemistry of the Tower Mountain timiskaming-like syenitic intrusion associated with gold mineralization located in Conmee Township, Shebandowan greenstone belt.

Her current M.Sc. project involves mapping of the Laird Lake area (roughly 3x8 km), in the Red Lake greenstone belt in northwestern Ontario. The field area encompasses the 2.96Ga Balmer and 2.75Ga Confederation assemblages, subdivided by a regional unconformity associated with gold mineralization. The goals of this mapping-based project are to produce a geological map of the area and a gold-bearing trench, to characterize the nature and tectonic setting of the host rocks and gold mineralization, and last, to develop an integrated model for the geology and gold mineralization of the area that will be compared to existing orogenic gold deposit data sets in order to assess the likelihood of significant gold mineralization. The mineralization will be investigated using a combination of



mapping, petrology, alteration studies and isotopes. In the end, this project will lead to a better understanding of the formation of this type of deposit and will help develop valuable exploration tools that can be used to increase the efficiency of exploration strategies.



We want to hear from you!

Do you have an interesting story you would like to share with the NWOPA membership? Please contact us at nwopa@tbaytel.net

Why I believe double assessment credits are the best way to support prospectors post-Conversion

Online Staking will impact prospectors beyond the substantial loss of income derived from ground staking. Initially, the greatest impact the loss of ground staking will bring is forcing prospectors to become seasonal workers and seek work in other industries for winter income. Regardless of what is done to counteract the loss of livelihood, nothing will replace it.

The new mining act seems to tip the balance in favour of mining companies and disadvantage prospectors in numerous ways. Prospectors will be forced to keep their boundary claims intact through annual assessment work or forfeit their ground to the shared boundary cell claim owner. Often prospectors are bordering Junior or Major mining companies who have an advantage in resources to outlast prospectors in annual assessment requirements. In some mining camps, forfeiting boundary claims would mean a prospector would be left a small fraction or none of his/her original land package. Another impact is acquiring land will mean competing with anyone worldwide who owns a computer, instead of local Ontario prospectors. On the topic of acquiring land, the cost for prospectors staking their own ground locally is going to increase substantially.

I firmly believe that the easiest, simplest, and most effective way to sustainably counteract the impacts on prospectors from online staking, is for government to offer double assessment credits for prospecting work. Instead of trying to figure out who is a prospector, promote the activity of prospecting. It is easy and simple because it costs government nothing and would be easy to police. Assessment reports would only qualify if they were being submitted by the prospector, doing strictly the activity of prospecting, accompanied by GPS track logs of traverses and GPS waypoints of samples. This would promote boots-on-the-ground which benefits the whole Mining Industry. It would also help ease the burden of assessment on prospectors keeping their own ground.

I hope government and those advocating for our Industry will agree that this is an important and effective way to support prospectors. What do you think? Please feel free to forward us your input at nwopa@tbaytel.net

Best of luck for the summer and let's find some new showings! – Jessica Bjorkman