

MINFO



VOLUME 10, No. 1
(SPRING, 2004)

THIS ISSUE

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

MIRIAD

INDUSTRY UPDATE

MINERAL EXPLORATION REVIEW

EXPLORATION SUPPORT

PROSPECTOR AND INDUSTRY
ASSISTANCE UPDATE

CONTINUING PROSPECTOR EDUCATION

CORE STORAGE PROGRAM

PROFILE OF A PROSPECTOR

MATTY MITCHELL PROSPECTORS
RESOURCE ROOM

NORM PETERS PROSPECTORS
RESOURCE ROOM

CORDILLERAN EXPLORATION ROUNDUP

SEARCHING FOR GRAVEL

NEW APPOINTMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

Department of
Natural Resources

Mines Branch

Minister's Message



Honorable Ed Byrne
Minister of Natural Resources

The mineral industry in our province gives great reason for optimism. With nine mining operations currently active throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, approximately 120 companies involved in exploration activity and the Voisey's Bay Project currently under construction, growth in this sector is inevitable.

The contribution of our mineral industry is significant. From employment opportunities to enhanced infrastructure and partnership opportunities; this sector is an economic driver for Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2004, the value of our mineral shipments, employment, and exploration expenditures are forecast to increase.

Through the efforts of local prospectors, junior companies and my department's programs and services, the mineral potential of this province has gained world attention. With its vast geological deposits and skilled, professional workforce, our province is on the competitive edge.

I look forward to meeting and working with our many industry stakeholders. We have a wealth of opportunities just waiting to be explored.

MIRIAD - Online Claim Staking

In 1976, the province introduced the Mineral Act which established the ground rules for a modern and competitive system for mineral land tenure. One of the innovations of the legislation included the provision for map staking. With the discovery of the Hope Brook gold mine in 1983 and the subsequent recognition of the province's potential for gold, Newfoundland and Labrador experienced rapid growth in claim staking. The number of claims in good standing stressed the manual system of recording claims and claims management. A review of the system was completed in the late 1980's and resulted in the development of the computerized Mineral Rights Database System (MRD). The MRD System became operational in March 1991 and managed all of the claims staked during the Voisey's Bay staking rush of the mid 1990s with only minor upgrades required.

During the period 1996 - 1999, at the suggestion of the mineral exploration community, integration of the MRD System with modern GIS mapping applications was investigated. In March 2000, the Department was presented with a client satisfaction survey completed by an outside contract survey firm which reviewed all aspects of the Mineral Lands Division's functions. The client survey, combined with the 1996 - 1999 investigation, underscored the need to have a staking and mineral records management system which could interface with a GIS application. It was concluded that the MRD System, because of its programming language and design architecture, could not be effectively integrated with a modern GIS application. The increased activity of the Voisey's Bay staking rush demonstrated the need for automation of procedures in order to prevent the delays and periodic shut down of the staking office.

In 2001, the Department confirmed that it was possible to design a replacement for the MRD integrating GIS technology that would allow claim staking to be carried out online over the Internet. The project received funding to proceed and the design of the new system was completed in December 2002.

In the design phase, considerable effort was spent on the payment and accounting module for the project. Several alternatives were reviewed and considered in the early stages of the design including the government's evolving policy on e-business and use of credit cards. The preferred financial method and procedures had to be reviewed and approved by the Auditor General's office. In the end, it was decided to go with the exclusive use of credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) for recording fees and security deposits. This decision was compatible with government's financial policies and satisfied our need for a quick and indisputable means of establishing the priority of applications for licences in an online, e-business environment. Credit cards were considered to be the most convenient and efficient payment method for people and companies involved in staking.

The digital base map used in the new system had to be assembled and debugged. The map grid used to define claim boundaries had to be closely checked to ensure that it was being displayed correctly in relation to other GIS layers. Other layers in the digital mapping system include mining leases, granted or private agreement mineral lands, parks

and wilderness areas, lands transferred to the Federal Government and inter-provincial boundaries. The system also had to be designed to efficiently incorporate zone boundaries. Early in the design of the new system, for cost considerations it was decided to convert all remaining ground stake licences to map staked licenses.

The construction of the new system got underway in December 2002. By the spring of 2003, much of the programming, step-by-step procedures, and computer screen designs were completed for the online staking module. During the spring and summer of 2003, public presentations were made across the province to demonstrate the new system and to answer questions and obtain feedback.

Concerns raised at these public meetings included: access in coastal Labrador, staking-rush scenarios and payment options. It was determined that Internet access, provided in coastal Labrador could be addressed through the Smart Labrador Program. In a staking rush, applicants will be given the option to stake any available claims should a prior applicant obtain a portion of the current application. Most of the client group understand the necessity of using only credit card payment in order to establish the priority of applications in the staking process.

The Department is currently into the testing stage of the various modules and components of the new system, which will not be permitted to go into service without a passing grade on a vulnerability assessment.

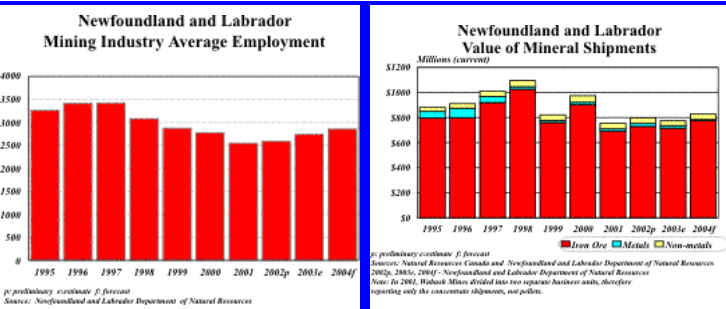
The Department anticipates having the new Mineral Rights Administration System (MIRIAD) into operation during the 2nd quarter of 2004.

With the introduction of MIRIAD, Newfoundland and Labrador will be the only jurisdiction in Canada in which mineral claims can be staked online and paid with credit card payment of staking fees. The advantage and convenience of the new system will be the ability to stake mineral claims 24/7 from any community or location with access to the Internet.

Ken Andrews and Jim Hinchey

Industry Update

The total value of mineral shipments in the province is forecast to increase from an estimated \$775 million in 2003 to \$828 million in 2004. This is due mainly to an increase in the value of iron ore. Shipments of iron ore products are forecast to be 22.0 million tonnes in 2004, compared with 19.9 million tonnes in 2003. Direct employment in the mineral industry is forecast to average 2,856 persons, compared with 2,738 in 2003.



Richmont Mines Inc. operates the Hammerdown mine and a milling facility at Nugget Pond on the Baie Verte Peninsula. The company is continuing exploration in the province at several locations. If no additional reserves are identified, current reserves at Hammerdown are only sufficient to extend the milling operation at Nugget Pond until June 2004.

VVC Exploration Corp. has purchased the former Beaver Brook antimony mine from Beaver Brook Resources Ltd. VVC is currently arranging financing to reopen the mine, and expects to be in production in June 2004.

Hurley Slateworks Company, which shut down in 2002, plans to resume slate production at Britannia Cove/Nut Cove, Trinity Bay in March 2004.

The Voisey's Bay project progressed throughout 2003 as per the construction schedule for the Mine and Concentrator in Labrador, Demonstration Plant in Argentia and Inco Innovation Center at Memorial University. 2004 will see increased construction activity across all project components including the installation of the concentrator building, the commencement of construction of the demonstration plant and continued infrastructure development in Labrador and Argentia. The expenditure forecast for 2004 is \$448.9 million, 2003 was \$260.5 million.

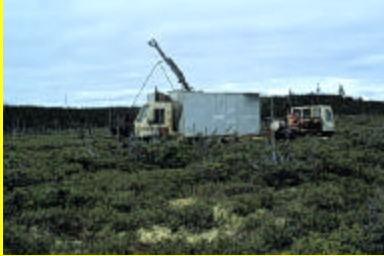
Voisey's Bay Nickel Company (VBNC) has continued its research and development effort to test the commercial application of the hydrometallurgical nickel concentrate processing technology. VBNC announced that testing conducted at its mini-pilot plant in Ontario involving this technology has met or exceeded recovery targets. Testing will generate the design data required for construction of the Demonstration Plant in Argentia.

For the most current information on the mining industry, please visit our website, www.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/.

Lew Higdon, Tony Burgess, Keith Bradbury

Exploration Statistics

	2003	2004f
Claims Staked		
Newfoundland	9,232	8,800
Labrador	<u>4,315</u>	<u>3,200</u>
Total	13,547	12,000



	2003	2004f
Claims in good standing	59,517	59,000



	2003e	2004f
Diamond Drilling(m)		
Newfoundland	55,000	45,000
Labrador	<u>10,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Total	65,000	80,000



	2003p	2004f
Mineral Exploration Expenditures (\$M)	21.0	31.0

p - preliminary
f - forecast
e - estimate

Mineral Exploration Review

Mineral exploration in 2004 will focus on gold targets in central Newfoundland, followed by mineral exploration for nickel-copper-cobalt at Voisey's Bay in Labrador; copper-zinc at Duck Pond, south-east of Buchans in central Newfoundland; and iron ore in western Labrador.

Gold exploration is being led by (1) locally based junior exploration companies Altius Resources Inc., Cornerstone Resources Inc. and Vulcan Minerals Inc.; (2) British Columbia based junior exploration companies Rubicon Minerals Corporation, Mountain Lake Resources Inc., Candente Resource Corp., Kermode Resources Ltd., Terra Nova Gold Corp. and Gallery Resources Limited; (3) Ontario based junior exploration companies Moydow Mines International Inc. and VVC Exploration Corp.; (4) Quebec based junior exploration and mining company Richmond Mines Inc. and (5) Nova Scotia based junior exploration company Linear Resources Inc. Ongoing mineral exploration, including diamond drilling, is being conducted by these companies on their respective land holdings in the vicinity of Badger, Bishops Falls, Botwood, Glenwood, Benton, Valentine Lake, Cape Ray, Jacksons Arm, St. Albans and the Springdale - Baie Verte peninsulas.

Mineral exploration for base metals is being conducted by both major and junior exploration and mining companies. Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited continues to explore in the vicinity of its Voisey's Bay nickel-copper-cobalt deposits and Aur Resources Inc. is both exploring and developing its Duck pond copper - zinc deposit. In addition, Gallery Resources Limited is exploring its Katie property, west of the Baie D'Espoir highway; Buchans River Ltd. is exploring its claim holdings in the Buchans mining camp for copper-lead-zinc; and Altius Resources Inc. will continue to explore its Ming, Baie Verte Peninsula, property as well as its Pilley's Island property in Notre Dame Bay.

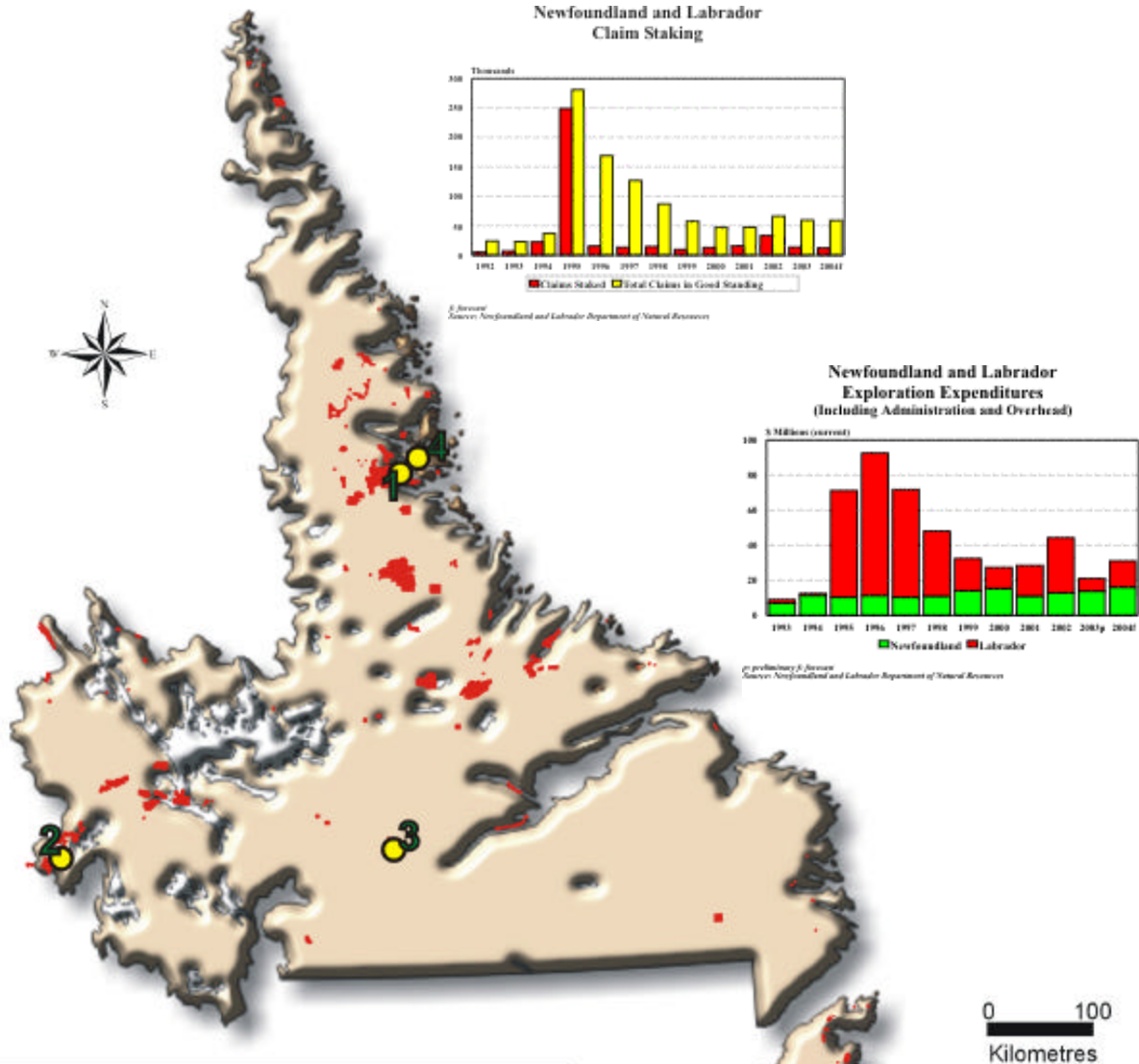
In 2004, mineral exploration for industrial minerals will be conducted in several locations provincewide. Exploration sites include the Mt. Peyton area located near Grand Falls (black granite); the Baie Verte Peninsula (virginite, soapstone, marble); the western Newfoundland area (limestone, dolomite, marble, gypsum, garnet, kyanite); the Cache River area west of Goose Bay, Labrador (marble); and the Nain area (anorthosite).

The main exploration indicators - expenditures, claims staked, claims in good standing, diamond drilling - indicate that exploration levels for 2004 will be comparable or a little above the levels experienced over the past two years. It is anticipated that continued exploration for gold in central Newfoundland will lead to new discoveries.

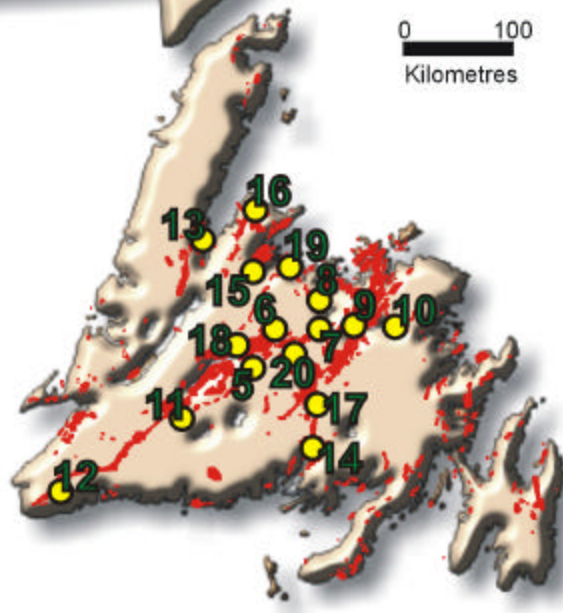
For the most current information on mineral exploration in the province, please visit our web site, www.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/.

Jim Hinchey and Ges Nunn

Exploration and Claim Staking in Newfoundland and Labrador



- Legend**
- Mineral Exploration Sites
 - Mineral Claims
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Voisey's Bay | 11 Valentine Lake |
| 2 Labrador City | 12 Cape Ray |
| 3 Cache River | 13 Jackson's Arm |
| 4 Nain | 14 St. Alban's |
| 5 Duck Pond | 15 Springdale |
| 6 Badger | 16 Baie Verte |
| 7 Bishop's Falls | 17 Katie |
| 8 Botwood | 18 Buchans |
| 9 Glenwood | 19 Pilley's Island |
| 10 Benton | 20 Mt. Peyton |



Exploration Support

Prospectors and Industry Assistance Update

Prospectors and Industry Assistance is receiving a lot of interest from industry again this year, particularly the Prospectors Assistance Program (PAP) and the Junior Company Exploration Assistance Program (JCEAP). Recently, a survey was distributed to participants to gauge their interest in the program and to evaluate the role it plays in facilitating exploration in the province to date. The response has been excellent. Many thanks are offered to those who responded and to those who took the time to submit letters and e-mails.



In this fiscal year over 100 grants were issued to local prospectors under the PAP.

Funding requests under JCEAP have increased significantly in 2004 with a total of 29 grants approved and another 11 on the waiting list. This sudden increase in JCEAP applications is mainly the result of revisions that were made to the guidelines in August 2003. Under these new guidelines, Eligible Activities has been broadened to include property-wide Geo-physical Surveys (including Airborne surveys) and Geo-chemical Surveys (including in-fill lake sediment sampling and MMI surveys). These activities will now be supported without a commitment to conduct a drill program. As well, the maximum amount of funding for projects being conducted in Labrador has been increased from \$100,000 per undertaking to \$150,000.

This year, the Dimension Stone Incentive Program (DSIP) has received and supported one grant proposal. The maximum available funding under DSIP is \$100,000 per project.

Spencer Vatcher

Continuing Prospector Education

On January 10, 2004, over two dozen prospectors along with six geologists came together for a half-day intensive training seminar on applied geophysics. The geophysics seminar was held at the Holiday Inn in St. John's and was sponsored by the provincial Chamber of Mineral Resources along with the Newfoundland Branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. Prospectors came from St. John's, Cape Broyle, Clareville, Gambo, Summerford and Birchy Bay. Also in attendance were the geologists from the Matty Mitchell and Norm Peters Prospector Resource Rooms (Angela Pickett and Jeff Morgan). The instructor for the seminar was Dr. Bill Scott of Geoscott Exploration Consultants Inc. of St. John's. Dr. Scott provided instruction on a number of geophysical methods including E.M., Magnetometer and I.P. Seminar notes were provided to everyone and Dr. Scott answered numerous questions from those in attendance. Dr. Scott focused on those geophysical methods that a prospector may require as part of their prospecting/exploration activities. It was challenging indeed for all in attendance to cover all of the course material in a half day and many in attendance hoped that further seminars on geophysics and other topics would be held in the months ahead. It was also noted by some of the prospectors that these types of seminars should be offered periodically in other regions of the province. The island portion of the province, in particular, has a vibrant prospecting sector and such seminars provide an excellent opportunity for individual prospectors to increase their knowledge of different exploration methods and how they can be applied to their work. The Department of Natural Resources would welcome and encourage any ideas/suggestions regarding topics for future seminars. Please send any suggestions to:

Norm Mercer
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 8700
50 Elizabeth Ave., 1st Floor
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Tel: 709-729-6193
Fax: 709-729-4491
E-mail: nlm@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca

Core Storage Program



The Department of Natural Resources operates six core storage libraries located at St. John's, Goose Bay, Pasadena, Baie Verte, Springdale and Buchans. These facilities house a core collection in excess of 1,056,449 m of drill core samples from 7,700 drill holes, drilled on mineral exploration and

mining properties throughout the province. Each core-storage library consists of a storage area with core storage racks for organization, and storage of core samples and a core examination room for inspecting core samples. Binocular microscopes and rock saws are available in the core libraries.

Core collection has been ongoing since 1979 with collection being conducted mainly during the summer months. Mineral exploration companies can earn assessment credits by delivering core samples directly to the core libraries.

Many of the core samples in storage were obtained from abandoned mineral exploration projects and former mining operations. These samples continue to be used by explorationists in the province as a reference collection to promote the mineral potential of their properties and to advance exploration work on their properties. Since visitation statistics were first kept in 1982, use of the core library system has remained at a consistently high level. Since 1982, the client group, primarily mineral exploration company personnel and consultants, have made 1,193 separate visits to the core libraries and have conducted 3,806 man days of work in the facilities. They have examined 344,488 m of core samples from 2,378 drill holes and have taken 8,882 samples for further analytical work.



The drillhole database containing information on all core samples in storage is accessible on the Department's web site through the "Programs We Offer" button on the home page. Digital or paper copies of this database are available from the project geologist, on a request basis.



Any person requiring information on the core storage program or wanting to visit either of the core libraries should contact Alvin Harris at (709) 729-5833, (St. John's) or Stewart Cochrane at (709) 686-2054 (Pasadena).

Alvin Harris

Do you know...?

- The Shoal Bay copper mine (1776-1778), south of St. John's, was Newfoundland and Labrador's first producing mine.
- Argentia derived its name from the French word *argent*, meaning silver. The Silver Cliff mine at Argentia (1880-1898 and 1922-1925) produced lead/silver.
- Gypsum mined in Western Newfoundland is used in the manufacture of wallboard.
- Over 60% of Canada's iron ore production comes from the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Labrador City and Wabush Mines operation at Wabush.
- An estimated 10 million tonnes of metals, valued at \$3 billion, is recycled annually in Canada.
- 35 minerals and metals are required to make a television work.
- For every job created in the mining industry, more than one other job is indirectly created in the Canadian economy.
- Today mining represents a temporary land use, disrupting relatively small areas of land for a specific (usually short) period of time. Once the ore deposit is depleted, the land is reclaimed for other uses, including recreation.
- The Toronto Stock Exchange is the mine financing capital of the world raising an average of C\$2.5 billion a year in new equity capital.

Sources:

- Department of Natural Resources, Canada
- Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources

Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room

- Assists in the education and professional development of prospectors.
- Sample identification, free sample assays, and a wide range of rock sample suites and literature.
- Spearheaded several industry government initiatives to help prospectors bring their properties to the attention of exploration companies.
- Participated in the province's delegation and display at the 2004 Cordilleran Roundup in Vancouver.
- Located on the first floor of the Natural Resources Building, 50 Elizabeth Ave., St. John's, NL. Telephone (709) 729-2120. E-mail: matty@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca.

Norm Peters Prospectors Resource Room

- Dedicated to the promotion and development of the local prospecting community.
- Free assay work and property visits to assist prospectors in the development and promotion of their properties.
- Extensive collection of geological information.
- In-house computer workstation with high-speed internet for prospectors.
- Will deliver 1-day introductory prospecting seminars to novice prospectors.
- Numerous presentations to students throughout the school year.
- Spearheading several tourism initiatives related to geology and mining in the Baie Verte/Green Bay region.
- For more information, visit 151 Main Street, Springdale, NL. Telephone 709-673-4138, or E-mail: mining@ezc.ca

Profile of a Prospector



"The next big gold deposit in the province is out there just waiting to be discovered." That is the view of prospector Gerald Parady of central Newfoundland.

Gerald was born in Millertown Junction in the spring of 1946. He spent his youth and school years in Badger. In 1965, like so many other young Newfoundlanders from rural parts of the island, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces. He was active in the infantry and did tours of duty both throughout Canada and in Germany.

In 1968, Gerald left the Armed Forces and started work in the mining industry, first as a helper and later as an underground miner in Thompson and Leaf Rapids, Manitoba. He also worked as a miner in Uranium City on Baffin Island and in Buchans. It was during his underground mining days that he became interested in prospecting and conducted field activities while in Manitoba searching for base metals and gold. He finished his mining career in 1995 and since that time has been pursuing a full time prospecting career, particularly in central and south-central Newfoundland.

In the late 1990s he and his prospecting partners discovered the Twilight gold prospect southwest of Grand Falls-Windsor. This high grade gold prospect was discovered on a new woods road that was being constructed in the area. They optioned their property to Fort Knox Gold Resources Inc. which conducted exploration field programs including diamond drilling. Gerald has also prospected around Wawa in Ontario and in the Sudbury Basin looking for PGEs. Some of this work was with Pacific NorthWest Capital and some was contracted with another local prospector, Kevin Keats of Gambo. More recently Gerald has prospected with Bill Mercer of Badger and Calvin George of Grand Falls-Windsor. While their prospecting targets were primarily gold, they are also focusing on base metals and have optioned a base-metal property to Vancouver based Gallery Resources. This property, in the Roberts Arm Group, is located at Baker Lake just to the north of Powderhorn Lake, west of Badger. Gerald believes that the province's gold potential is now only being realized within the global exploration and investment community. Areas that were not recognized as having excellent gold potential are now being documented primarily as a result of prospecting with the discovery of numerous new showings and prospects. Gerald believes strongly in the potential for further economic discoveries and he believes that the provinces more remote areas have not seen much systematic exploration work. As he says, "it really has been only the accessible areas where most of the prospecting has occurred, and even in these areas new discoveries are being made all the time.

We share Gerald Parady's strong belief "that the next big gold discovery is out there just waiting to happen".

Norm Mercer

Cordilleran Exploration Roundup

Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources were amongst a large group of Newfoundland and Labrador delegates attending the recent 21st Cordilleran Exploration Roundup in Vancouver. Organized by the BC-Yukon Chamber of Mines, Roundup 2004 attracted a record-high attendance of 3,900 delegates from 26 different countries. High levels of interest and enthusiasm were obvious everywhere at this upbeat meeting, fueled by robust and still-rising prices for gold, nickel and copper, amongst other commodities.

Exhibits by the Department, local junior exploration sector and provincial prospectors showcased exploration opportunities, geoscience databases and industry incentive programs in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Mineral Resources sponsored a well-received Rock Room, where a wide array of maps, posters, rock samples and drill core from local projects were on display. Rock Room exhibitors included nine of the junior exploration companies operating in Newfoundland and Labrador, four of our prospectors, and representatives of the Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room and the Norm Peters Room.

Newfoundland and Labrador exhibitors all reported that companies and investors visiting their displays were impressed with the number of quality opportunities in Newfoundland and Labrador, and were strong in their support for ongoing geoscience and industry support programs, including JCEAP. Notably, the BC-Yukon Chamber of Mines officials brought BC Mines Minister Richard Neufeld to the Matty Mitchell prospectors displays and maps in the Rock Room, to demonstrate the innovative way in which the public and private sectors work together to support Newfoundland and Labrador's mineral industry.

Leaving Roundup 2004, there was a common optimism amongst local delegates and an expression of confidence that more new players will appear on the local exploration scene in the very near future. All agreed that, despite a marked increase in competition from other jurisdictions, Newfoundland and Labrador is well positioned to attract more than its fair share of the 3 billion exploration dollars raised in global markets in the past 12 months.



Federal Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. John Efford visits the Department's exhibit booth shortly after delivering a keynote opening address at Roundup 2004. Minister Efford is shown here with the department's geologists Shirley McCuaig and Sean O'Brien.

Gold: Is yours real?

For gold, karat grade is used to express the proportion of gold in an alloy or the quality of a gold alloy. Fine gold (pure) is 24 karat. The proportions in other karat are listed in the table below.

All jewelry is required by law to be stamped so consumers will know the quality of gold used. Jewelry made in North America is typically marked with the karat grade (10K, 14K, etc.), and jewelry made in Italy is typically marked with the "fineness" such as (417, 583, etc.). So if your jewelry does not have a karat grade stamped on it, check for a 3-digit fineness number.

Karat	Parts Gold to Alloy	Percentage	Fineness
10K	10/24	41.67%	417
14K	14/24	58.33%	583
18K	18/24	75.00%	750
22K	22/24	91.66%	917

Searching for Gravel Along the Southeast Labrador



The recently constructed \$135 million, gravel road along the southeast coast of Labrador, between Red Bay and Cartwright, covers a distance of 325 km, and includes branch roads to St. Lewis (30 km), Charlottetown (30 km), and Pensons Arm (25 km). Most of this cost included the quarrying of aggregate materials (crushed rock, sand and gravel, and fill) and the transportation of the material to the construction site. About one million tonnes of aggregate were used in the construction of the road.

However, not all quarry materials are suitable as aggregate. Although sand and gravel (granular aggregates of greatest economic value) are plentiful in Newfoundland and Labrador, they are location-fixed, non-renewable resources and can only be exploited in those areas adjacent to where they are found. Aggregates are characterized by their high-bulk and low-unit value, so that the economic value of a deposit is a function of its proximity to the market, product quality and size. Thus, the location of resources close to the user is very important.

The objectives of an aggregate program are to locate, map and sample, sand, gravel and till materials, in support of construction activities, and to determine the aggregate reserves available. Maps of aggregate deposits and the providing of data will help suppliers determine sources and quality of material available, and evaluate transportation costs to a specific construction; this, in turn, affects the final construction costs of a project.

In 2003, granular-aggregate mapping began along the southeast coast Labrador Highway. This is a two-year project to complete aggregate mapping along this recently completed road. The first phase of mapping included the southern part of the road from Red Bay to the Port Hope Simpson area.

M.J. Ricketts

New Appointments Department of Natural Resources

Keith Bradbury, Mineral Industry Analyst, Mineral Development Division.

Keith will focus principally on the Voisey's Bay Project providing analysis on project activities and monitoring the Development Agreement. Previously, Keith was employed with the Department of Government Services and Lands.

John Clarke, Mineral Industry Analyst, Mineral Development Division.

John will be carrying out economic, statistical and business analysis on the local mining industry and global metal markets. John has moved to the Mineral Development Division from the Mineral Lands Division.

John Davis, Mineral Development Engineer, Mineral Development Division.

John will be engaged in the engineering analysis and technical assessment of new and existing mining projects specializing in open pit operations. John has extensive mining experience at operations throughout Canada.

Bruce Saunders, Deputy Minister (Acting).

Bruce Saunders has been appointed as the Deputy Minister (Acting) of Natural Resources. Previously Bruce was Assistant Deputy Minister of the Energy Branch with the former Department of Mines and Energy.

Phil Saunders, Geologist, Mineral Rights, Mineral Lands Division.

Phil has joined Mineral Lands Division and will be responsible for reviewing assessment reports submitted under the Mineral Act and Mineral Holdings Import Act. With over 20 years experience in industry, Phil will bring a wealth of practical experience to this position.

Alex Smith, Mineral Development Engineer, Mineral Development Division.

Alex will specialize in environmental engineering and will focus on eliminating or mitigating environmental liabilities to the province from mining operations. Previously, Alex was employed with the Department of Environment at the Corner Brook office.

Gerry Squires, Project Geologist, Mineral Deposits Section, Geological Survey Division.

Gerry is the newest recruit of the Geological Survey Division, replacing Paul Moore who returned to industry. His principal area of research will be the base-metal and gold potential of central Newfoundland. He has considerable experience in the mineral industry, which included advanced-exploration roles with Noranda, Thundermin Resources and Aur Resources.

David Tite, Financial Officer (Mines), Mineral Development Division.

David will be responsible for the financial assurance requirements of Rehabilitation and Closure Plans and for managing accepted securities. Previously, David was employed as a Senior Auditor with Treasury Board.

Upcoming Events

CIM Mining Industry Conference and Exhibition

May 9-12, 2004

Edmonton, Alberta

This year's theme is "Mining North - What's Happening!"

For more information, please contact:

Serge Major

Tel: (514) 939-2710 ext. 1318 or 1-800-667-1246

E-mail: smajor@cim.org

Web site: www.cim2004.ca

Baie Verte and Area Chamber of Commerce Mining Conference

June 18-20, 2004

Baie Verte, Newfoundland and Labrador

This is an annual review of developments in the local exploration and mining scene.

For more information, please contact:

Tel: (709) 532-4204

Fax: (709) 532-4204

E-mail: bvchamber@nf.sympatico.ca

GAC/MAC Annual Meeting

May 12-14, 2004

St. Catharines, Ontario

This extensive technical program incorporating symposia, special and general sessions, field trips, a workshop and short courses, will cover all major aspects of the geosciences. It will also address geological hydrological and environmental issues related to the theme "Lake to Lake".

For more information, please contact:

Rick Cheel

Tel: (604) 688-5550x3512

E-mail: rcheel@craton.geol.brocku.ca

Web site: www.stcatharines2004.ca

9th Annual Voisey's Bay and Beyond Conference and Trade Exhibition

June 21-23, 2004

Happy Valley-Goose Bay,
Newfoundland and Labrador

For more information, please contact:

Hope Morgan

Tel: (709) 896-8033

Fax: (709) 896-8039

E-mail: ybb@chamberlabrador.com

Web site: voiseysbayandbeyond.com

Resource Investors Forum

June 4-6, 2004

The Convention Centre and the Delta Hotel
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

The forum will bring together junior and senior resource companies, influential investment newsletter writers and analysts, brokers and the investing public. Investment opportunities and new developments in the mineral and onshore oil sector will be discussed.

For more information, please contact:

Joanne Myrick-Harris

Tel: (709) 737-7922

E-mail: jharris@mun.ca

Website: www.resourceinvestorsforum.ca

Honourable
Ed Byrne



Minister of
Natural Resources

Come Explore With Us...

- ▶ Produces over a dozen mineral commodities
- ▶ About \$825 million in yearly mineral shipments
- ▶ Produces 63% of Canada's iron ore
- ▶ Voisey's Bay to produce 50,000 tonnes of nickel per year starting in 2006
- ▶ A developing dimension stone industry
- ▶ Grass-roots exploration attracts \$15 million per year



- ▶ Prospective mineral environments
- ▶ Geological diversity
- ▶ Comprehensive geoscience databases
- ▶ Online mineral & geoscience information
- ▶ Prospector & Industry Assistance Programs
- ▶ Competitive mineral tenure system
- ▶ Strategic location

Adding Solid Value to a Wealth of Opportunities

Be a Part of the Next Discovery

MINES BRANCH KEY CONTACTS

Minister.....(709) 729-2920 (Fax 709-729-0059)
Deputy Minister.....(709) 729-2766 (Fax 709-729-0059)
Assistant Deputy Minister.....(709) 729-2768 (Fax 709-729-2871)

Director, Mineral Lands..... (709) 729-6425
Director, Mineral Development.... (709) 729-5851
Wabush Office..... (709) 282-3949
Mineral Lands (Fax 709-729-6782)
Mineral Development (Fax 709-729-3493)

Director, Geological Survey..... (709)-729-2301
Goose Bay Office..... (709) 896-5162
Geoscience Publications and
Information.....(709) 729-3159
Geological Survey (Fax 709-729-4270)

Home Page
<http://www.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/>