



COMMON SENSE SHOWN ON PROPERTY TAX ISSUE

The Ontario Mining Association has been advised through a letter from Finance Minister Janet Ecker that the government intends to amend the regulation defining the property classes. The change will mean that tailings management areas on inactive mine sites should be treated as vacant land with no added value for environmental protection features such as retaining walls or purification equipment. This amendment is to take effect for the 2004 taxation year.

Industry's collective property tax bill is about \$50 million annually. The City of Elliot Lake is trying to change property classification of tailings areas from unoccupied commercial to occupied industrial – which would triple property taxes – and relate value of tailings areas to environmental improvements made in compliance with the Mining Act to carry out rehabilitation and restoration activities.

Two reports by P.C. MPP Marcel Beaubien have shown the City of Elliot Lake is off the mark on these efforts. The most recent report stated: "It is recommended that mine tailings sites continue to be treated as vacant land with no added value for things like retaining walls and purification equipment. It is recommended that mine



tailings sites continue to be assessed as land and not deemed to be structures or storage facilities."

"Businesses should not be penalized for adding features to a property that are designed to safeguard the integrity of surrounding lands and the safety of nearby residents."

The OMA referred to this property tax issue in its recent pre-budget submission to Finance Minister Janet Ecker. The OMA suggested "It is time for the Government to act on Beaubien's recommendations."

This recent letter from Finance Minister Ecker indicates the government is now going to proceed with implementation of the recommendation regarding mine tailings which was made by Mr. Beaubien – a common-sense approach.



OMA AGM TO TACKLE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

The Ontario Mining Association's conference "*Framework for the Future*" will have a full agenda covering energy, environmental, safety, strategic and communication issues. This event is scheduled for October 1 to 3, 2003 at Hockley Valley Resort.

Guest speakers on the program include the Mayor of Timmins Jamie Lim, safety expert Peter Strahlendorf, Paavo Kivisto, Deputy Minister of Labour, Mary Ellen Richardson, recently appointed President of the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario, Carol Nelder-Corvari from Natural Resources Canada Kyoto Initiative, communications and public affairs specialist Wes Muir and Don Harron impersonating his alter ego Charlie Farquharson. There will be plenty of time to have discussions with these guest speakers.

ONTARIAN'S ASKED TO STRIKE THEIR BLOW FOR DEMOCRACY

Ontario Premier Ernie Eves just couldn't wait. Perhaps the Premier thought holding the next provincial election strategically in the middle of the Ontario Mining Association's "*Framework for the Future*" conference on Thursday, October 2, 2003 was a good idea.

Anyway for those participating in the OMA conference, advance polls will allow you to be both at Hockley Valley in October and to strike your blow for democracy. More information on the details about times and locations of these advance polls in various ridings can be provided.

HERE'S A LESSON IN POLITICAL GEOLOGY

Perhaps it is appropriate that during this provincial election campaign we should consider the geology of the building where the winners of the election will work. The "Pink Palace" as the Ontario Legislature is often dubbed was constructed from a variety of building materials from local sources.

The latest issue of Geoscience Canada, the journal of the Geological Association of Canada, features an article titled "*Building Stones of Ontario's Provincial Parliament Building.*" The author is none other than well known mining educator, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines retiree and tireless Ontario Mining Week volunteer Ed Freeman.

The original building was completed in 1893 at a cost of about \$1.4 million – including furnishings. The stone came from a variety of sources, primarily around what we today would call the Forks of the Credit River. Mr. Freeman's article provides an interesting excursion through the varieties of building stones, their locations and their geological history. It is interesting how much the stone in the Legislature represents the geology of the province.

The victors from each of the province's ridings could be well advised in taking

an interest in the origins of the surroundings of their workplace.



RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS IN SOCIETY

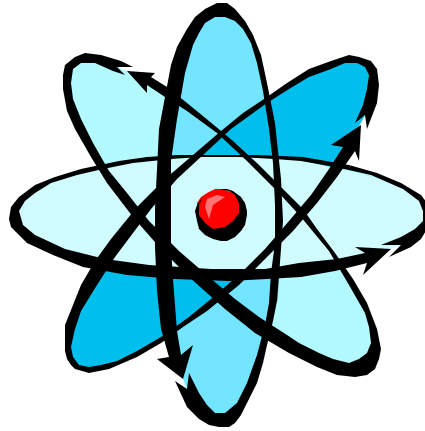
Mining companies do more than find, extract and process minerals essential to our modern lifestyle. They are economic enterprises operated by men and women who are active members of society in Ontario and community builders. Many people in this industry donate time and money to educational, cultural, recreational and charitable activities. Many of these volunteers add great value to the quality of life in the communities where mine employees live. Their employers follow suit.

The Red Lake Heritage Centre is planned as a local cultural facility and regional tourist attraction designed to interpret all aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage. The cost is estimated at \$3.1 million. This project is a partnership among the Red Lake Museum, the Municipality of Red Lake, Ontario Parks, Red Lake District Publicity Board, the Northern Chiefs Council, the Indian Friendship Centre and local educators. To support this project, Goldcorp has donated \$250,000 and Goldcorp Chairman and CEO Rob McEwen made a matching personal donation of \$250,000.

"I am very happy to support this project," said Mr. McEwen. "The Centre will create an invaluable cultural and educational legacy for the community. Red Lake has many stories

of national significance to tell – records of economic, artistic and cultural achievements – and the Heritage Centre will provide an accessible, comfortable and attractive venue that will preserve and promote the heritage of the area for present and future generations. The project will also stimulate the development of cultural and heritage tourism both in Red Lake and in Aboriginal communities north of Red Lake."

The centre will be in an 8,000 sq. ft. building which will have 4,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space. Placer Dome has made in kind contributions to support this project valued at \$110,000.



MINING LENDS A HAND TO SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

The recent announcement that the provincial government is investing \$9.3 million in new facilities at the Sudbury Neutrino Laboratory reminds us of the important role mining is playing in enhancing our understanding of the universe.

Inco's Creighton Mine is home to the neutrino observatory, which is 2,000 metres below surface and cost about \$70 million to construct. At mining levels

above the neutrino laboratory, Inco nurtures pine seedlings to be planted on surface as part of its rehabilitation program and at levels below the laboratory, nickel mining is being carried out on a large scale. At the laboratory, scientists are tracing the universe's tiniest elements to advance our knowledge of elementary particle physics.



MINERS ON THE MOVE

At Barrick Gold Corporation, **Peter J. Kinver** has been appointed Executive Vice President Operations. He has spent much of his 27-year mining career in Africa working at platinum and gold mining operations.

“We will benefit from Peter Kinver’s leadership abilities and business acumen. His technical competence and management skills have been tested and demonstrated over three decades in a variety of roles and circumstances,” said Barrick President Greg Wilkins.

Also at Barrick, **Lawrence J. Parnell** has been appointed Senior Vice President Communications and Investor Relations. In this new position, he is to provide strategic leadership to the company’s global communications programs for investors, the media and employees.

At the Mining Association of Canada, **Maggie Papoulias** has been appointed to the position of Director of Government Relations with responsibilities for the Mining Works for Canada program.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED BY THE CIM

At the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, Jean Vavrek has been appointed as the new Executive Director. He succeeds Yvan Jacques, who served as the CIM’S Executive Director for more than 10 years.

Mr. Vavrek has been an active member of the CIM for more than 20 years. He takes on his new duties from job experience with firms such as Laurentide Controls Ltd., Asea Brown Boveri, Measurex Inc. and Moore Instruments Ltd. The OMA wishes Mr. Vavrek success with his new roles and responsibilities at the CIM.

WSIB RELEASES ITS INTERIM RATES FOR 2004

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has unveiled its interim 2004 premium rates. The new rate for group 110 (gold mining) is projected to increase about 8 per cent to \$7.80 per \$100 of payroll from \$7.23. The new rate for group 113 (nickel mining) is expected to go down to \$5.49 from \$5.58 and the new rate for group 119 (mixed mining) will be \$5.32 down from \$5.37.

The average rate for all Schedule 1 WSIB employers is \$2.19 per \$100 of insurable earnings.

A LETTER FROM AN INTERNATIONAL READER

“From the internet, I got the article “What is the safest industry in Ontario” in Mining Matters (Summer 2002). The article cites the ranking of mining by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. The institution I am working for, the Bergbau-Berufgenossenschaft, is the German body responsible for legal accident insurance in the mining branch.

The German accident insurance scheme comprises prevention, rehabilitation and compensation. Our prevention activities cover all matters of safety and health in the mining branch. We would be very pleased to receive more information on the above mentioned ranking of mining by the WSIB.”

-- excerpt from a e-mail received in August 2003 from one of Mining Matters international readers.



IS A DIAMOND MINE IN ONTARIO'S FUTURE?

De Beers Canada continues to advance its Victor Project near Attawapiskat on the west side of James Bay. The Victor kimberlite (host rock for diamonds) occurs in a cluster of 19 pipes with the main pipes coalescing and covering a surface area of about 16 hectares. The geology of the multi-phase Victor

kimberlite is complex and variable in diamond grade.

De Beers has established that Victor has a revenue value of \$94 per tonne with a minable open-pit resource of 25 million tonnes of kimberlite to a depth of 200 metres. De Beers has advanced the project to the final feasibility stage.

The permitting process is on track and pending a positive final feasibility study, Ontario could have its first diamond mine by 2007. De Beers is in negotiations with the Attawapiskat First Nation over an impact benefit agreement and a new training centre is being established in the Attawapiskat community.

INMET MINE BECOMES VENUE FOR DANCE PRODUCTION

Underground mines have served as venues for tree nurseries, flower and vegetable gardens, scientific experiments and even as production areas for medicinal marijuana. However, this one may be a first.

Inmet's Pyhasalmi copper and zinc mine in Finland became the venue last month for a production during the twelfth annual Full Moon Dance Festival. The mine's level 1,410 metres underground was the setting for the performance of the *Wrong Key*, an angst-ridden work by prominent Finnish dancer and choreographer Tommi Kitti.

By all accounts the 45-minute performance went off without a hitch. Another Finnish choreographer Timo Paasonen said "The mine setting perfect for the piece."

COBALT CELEBRATES SILVER CENTENARY

During a summer celebration more than 5,000 people participated in the party for the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of silver in Cobalt. The Cobalt mining district has been declared a national historic site and other activities for the centenary celebration included a two-mile long parade, poetry reading contest, soap-box derby and slow-pitch tournament.

Legend has it that in 1903, a blacksmith by the name of Fred LaRose threw a hammer at a fox and missed but the errant projectile uncovered silver mineralization. The town received its name Cobalt in 1904 when cobalt was discovered along with the silver.

Earlier this year, the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame celebrated Cobalt by inducting four nation builders who were involved in the discovery and development of the silver mines in the Cobalt area. James McKinley, Ernest Darragh, Fred LaRose and Tom Hebert were all there 100 years ago when the silver rush began. In 2003, Cobalt celebrates the centennial of the discovery of the silver bonanza, which saw more than 460 million ounces produced valued at about \$3 billion. In the city's silver mining peak year of 1911, 34 mines produced more than 30 million ounces of silver.

REPORTING TREND SURVEY ILLUSTRATES CHANGES

Management consultants KPMG have released the publication "*Mining – A Survey of Global Reporting Trends 2003.*" Fifty mining companies from

around the world, 14 of which are Canadian, participated in the survey.

An important trend noted is the lessening of reliance on annual reports and the growth in importance of web-based financial and performance reporting and continuous reporting of information to stakeholders. For further information contact Lee Hodgkinson, Global Directors of the KPMG Mining Group a lhodgkinson@kpmg.ca.

OMA TO PRODUCE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

A special task force of the Ontario Mining Association's Environment Committee is busy working on preparing an environmental report. This study is expected to be completed by year end.

This report will provide consolidated data on air and water environmental management by OMA member companies. It will also highlight some site specific environmental achievements of member companies.



“STOPPING SMOKING IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR HEALTH.”

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