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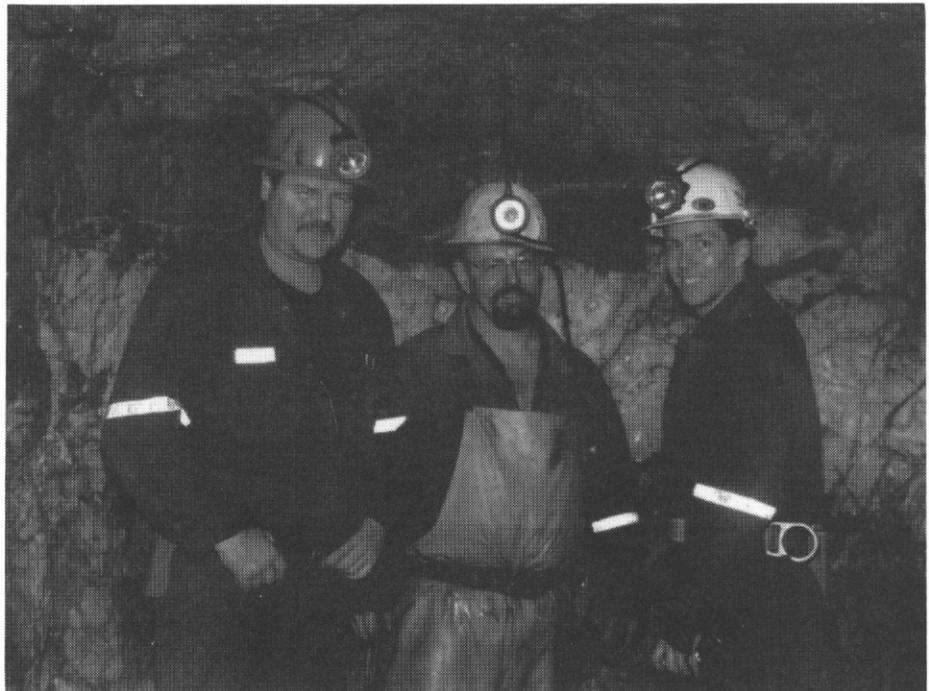
Gold Mining Commences at Dufferin

Minerals Update readers may be familiar with the episodic history of gold production from the Cambrian to Ordovician Meguma Group of southern Nova Scotia. The initial discovery of gold in these rocks occurred near Tangier, Halifax County, in 1859. Subsequently, there have been several major periods of gold exploration and production. In all, there are 62 past-producing gold districts in Nova Scotia, with a total combined production of 1.2 million troy ounces of gold (45.5 metric tonnes).

Gold production in the Dufferin Gold District, situated north of Port Dufferin (Halifax County) on the East-

ern Shore, commenced in 1880 and ceased in the early 1900s. The most recent phase of exploration began in 1994-1995 when Dufferin Resources Inc. sank a decline along the uppermost saddle-reef quartz vein at the deposit.

The Dufferin deposit consists of classic saddle-reef and associated discordant veins in the hinge of the Crown Reserve Anticline. The classic saddle-reef vein geometry contrasts with bedding-concordant veins in many other Meguma gold deposits, and in this respect the Dufferin deposit resembles deposits in the central Victoria region of Australia. Saddle veins are up to several metres thick in the hinge and taper over short distances down the limbs. Ar-



Mine Manager Al Lesnick (L), Supervisor Kevin Cole (both with EnviroGold Technologies Inc.) and Dr. Frank Bierlein (R, visiting from Australia) stand in a crosscut through the upper saddle zone at the Dufferin deposit. The photograph looks along the fold hinge to the northeast showing the saddle-reef vein, which is flat in this segment.

(Continued from page 1)

senopyrite is abundant in the veins and adjacent wall rock, with accessory pyrite, carbonate and galena. The anticline has a shallow plunge and saddle veins appear to be consistent over long strike lengths. Faults locally displace the saddle veins for up to tens of metres.

Exploration work by Newfoundland Goldbar Resources Inc. in 1999 included a 10-hole, 1335 m, NQ diamond-drilling project that tested the strike extension of the deposit. In addition, one hole was drilled to 396 m vertical depth near the crest zone of the anticline. This hole reportedly intersected 10 'new'

auriferous saddle-reef veins. Based on the encouraging results from the drilling project, Newfoundland Goldbar decided to re-activate the mine. Currently, development is focusing on the upper saddle zone and on a ramp that will access the next lower saddle zone, approximately 40 m below the upper zone. The current geological inventory is 152,104 tonnes of ore at an average grade of 13.25 grams of gold per tonne.

Newfoundland Goldbar Resources Inc. announced on September 7, 2000, that their wholly-owned subsidiary, Dufferin Resources Inc., had signed an agreement with EnviroGold Technolo-

gies Inc. to bring the Dufferin gold deposit into production. Under the terms of the agreement, EnviroGold Technologies becomes the operator of the property, supplying both the mining and milling components to the project. After receiving the necessary permits, EnviroGold commenced mining activities in November 2000. The company is currently mining and stockpiling ore for processing when the construction of a mill is completed. At the time this article was written, EnviroGold was projecting that the mill would be operational in early January 2001.

Mike MacDonald, Rick Horne and Paul Smith

Geologists Focus Public Attention on Mt. Logan

During the first two weeks of October, Mt. Logan was a hot topic across Canada. For perhaps the first time in my memory, a national issue of public interest was raised and led by geoscientists. Canada's geologists can take pride in the fact that they played a key role in bringing the issue to the public arena.

On the evening of October 4, Prime Minister Crétien announced a Cabinet decision, apparently taken in haste and with little or no consultation, to honour the recently deceased Pierre Elliott Trudeau by renaming Canada's highest peak, formerly called Mt. Logan, after him. This decision was reported, largely without editorial comment, in the October 5 morning papers. By noon on October 5 I had received several e-mails from geologists expressing outrage at the decision.

By late in the day on Friday, October 6, a significant groundswell of opposition to the announcement was being felt in the geological community. To my own knowledge, at least four letters from various geoscience societies and several more from heads of university geology departments had been sent to the Prime Minister. The news media, ever quick to smell a conflict, had begun to realize that there was fodder here for news stories. The *National Post*, in particular, picked up the story and their reporting made it clear that the initial opposition was coming from essentially

three quarters: geoscientists, for whom Logan is a distinguished historical figure and an icon; mountain climbers, many of whom had challenged the mountain on its own terms; and alienated western Canadians, who did not venerate M. Trudeau and saw the proposal as an insult to their sensibilities.

By Tuesday, Oct. 10, the issue was gaining national prominence in the media. As the week progressed, it became clear that the issue had touched a nerve with a wide spectrum of Canadians. The *Globe and Mail* and some prominent local newspapers in large markets entered the fray with editorials, stories, and columns that increased the intensity of the debate. Mt. Logan was becoming a significant political liability for the Prime Minister at a time when an election call was imminent.

Following a concerted public relations effort by a number of geoscientists in the Ottawa area, questions were asked in the House on Monday, October 16, and the government could no longer avoid comment. The questions were answered by Hon. Sheila Copps, who said, in part: "We do not wish to cause any difficulty for the history of Mt. Logan." That evening, CBC News-world reported that the government had begun to back away from its position on Mt. Logan.

On the following day (Oct. 17), the Prime Minister's office issued a

statement to Members of Parliament and Senators (not a press release) stating, in part: "concerns have been expressed by many Canadians that this decision diminished the memory of Sir William E. Logan, the founder and long-time Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. It was never our intention to convey any such disrespect, we have listened to these concerns and we are considering different options to address them." On October 25, the Prime Minister was quoted in the *Vancouver Province*, in response to a direct question about whether renaming Mt. Logan was still under consideration, as saying, in part: "We were perhaps a bit enthusiastic in naming Mt. Logan.... I think that we can find a way that will keep the name Logan on Mt. Logan, and have the name Trudeau there or elsewhere."

To date, these are the only statements that the government has made, although the media have reported that a proposal is on the table to retain the name of Logan for the massif but to name one of the subsidiary peaks after Trudeau. The lack of a formal statement notwithstanding, it now seems unlikely that Mt. Logan will be renamed.

Further information on the issue, and links to information on Sir William Logan, can be found at: <http://www.saventlogan.com/mountlogan/index.htm>.

Scott Swinden

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2000

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2000 was held in Halifax's World Trade and Convention Centre on Monday and Tuesday, October 30 and 31. The conference was a partnership of the Department of Natural Resources, the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Chamber of Mineral Resources, and the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association. The meeting, subtitled Opportunities for Economic Development, maintained the diverse program content initiated in 1998 as a way to illustrate the contributions of minerals and mining to Nova Scotia to an equally varied audience. Invitations to attend the two-day event were widely distributed to other provincial government departments, regional development agencies, special interest groups, and the general public, in addition to the traditional audience of local, national and international exploration companies, prospectors and producers, and other federal and provincial geological surveys. This campaign resulted in a total registration of approximately 325.

Oral presentations were grouped into three themes: Current Developments in Nova Scotia's Mining Industry (a session hosted by the Mining Society of Nova Scotia), Building a New Economy in Cape Breton Island: Potential Contributions from Mining, and Current Geoscience Research in Nova Scotia. The presentations examined topics ranging from finding the source(s) of mercury in loons from Kejimikujik National Park, to base metal potential of major faults in central Nova Scotia, details of Carboniferous waters in the Sydney Coalfield, potential uses of salt structures (including their use for petroleum storage) in northern Nova Scotia and exploring for buried Cretaceous - Quaternary valleys in Cape Breton Island, to name a few. This year's talks were outstanding!

Did you know that the best working hypothesis for the origin of our moon is that it resulted from a meteorite impact on the early-formed earth? Delegates to Mining Matters heard about

this and much more in the keynote address, entitled The Terrestrial Impact Record, by Dr. Richard Grieve from the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) in Ottawa. Dr. Grieve presented a riveting overview of the geological evidence for impact structures on the earth with specific reference to the Chicxulub meteorite in Mexico which was most likely responsible for the global mass extinction at the Cretaceous - Tertiary boundary, 65 million years ago.

The conference was a focal point for many groups concerned with mineral resources and featured a wide range of interesting displays. Geoscience posters were presented by DNR staff, university

researchers, and the GSC (Ottawa and Dartmouth). Industry representation included displays by the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association, the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, mineral producing companies (e.g. cement, salt, aggregate, silica sand, bricks, slate), mineral exploration companies, and service and supply companies.

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2000 was an unqualified success. Organizers are already incorporating suggestions for improvements into their planning for the 2001 conference, which will be held in Halifax in early November.

Mike MacDonald

Celebrating Service

Has time passed this quickly? For two people in the Minerals and Energy Branch and another in the Planning Secretariat, the realization that we had worked for the Government of Nova Scotia for twenty-five years was a surprise. Manager of Information Management Valerie Brisco, whom many of you have met while working in the DNR Library, and Geologists Paul

Smith and Howard Donohoe each received their long-service pins from Lieutenant Governor Myra Freeman and Premier John Hamm at a ceremony on Monday, November 6, 2000. The accompanying photo shows Valerie, Paul and Howard after the ceremony. Together they have a combined experience of over 77 years!

Howard Donohoe



From left to right: Paul Smith, Paul's wife Heather, Valerie Brisco and Howard Donohoe.

New Staff Support Federal-Provincial Project in South-central Cape Breton

The new collaborative geoscience project by the Mineral and Energy Resources Division and the Geological Survey of Canada is well underway in south-central Cape Breton Island (see *N. S. Minerals Update* vol. 17, no. 3, p. 1). Major funding for the project is being provided by the federal Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI). The objective of the project is to stimulate mineral exploration in this area, which is known to contain a variety of industrial mineral and base metal resources. Hiring for GIS management and digital data compilation (John MacNeil and Miranda Huskins) and geological mapping and drilling (Mary Feetham) has recently been completed in support of the major objectives of the project. Funding for these positions is provided by the Targeted Geoscience Initiative through the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and will

contribute substantially to the project in a time of significant budget pressures on DNR's Mineral and Energy Resources Division. The geologists hired will enable work to proceed at the pace needed to complete the project's objectives in three years.

Miranda Huskins graduated from Acadia University in 1999 with a B.Sc. in geology. She has joined DNR in a casual position as a Digitizing Technician on the South-central Cape Breton Island Mapping Project. She will be digitizing a series of bedrock and surficial geology maps in this area and then assisting with a new digital compilation using ArcView®.

John MacNeil graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in 1986 with a B.Sc. in geology. After several years in mineral exploration John went back to school at the College of Geographic Sciences in Lawrencetown, Annapolis

County, and obtained a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in 1993. John spent the past seven years with GEODAT Information Services Ltd. in Fredericton, where he served as their GIS/Imaging Analyst and Staff Geologist. John has joined DNR on a two-year term as a Geologist/GIS Specialist and will be responsible for the GIS development, database management and digital compilation components of the South-central Cape Breton Island Mapping Project.

Mary Feetham graduated from St. Mary's University in 1995 with a B.Sc. (Honours) in geology. She worked on the Meguma Mapping Project and the Mineral Occurrence Database for DNR during two summers in the mid-1990s. Mary worked for Kaoclay Resources on the Cretaceous exploration project from 1996 to 1999. She again worked for DNR at the Core Library in Stellarton until September 2000. Mary recently won the competition for a term position as Project Geologist. She will work with Ralph Stea and others on the surficial and bedrock data compilation, drilling, and mapping components of the project.

Adam Sherry is a third year geology student in the co-op program at Saint Mary's University. Adam is not working on the Targeted Geoscience Initiative project, but is spending his second work term with the Minerals and Energy Branch GIS section. He is currently digitizing geological maps and later will be involved with converting them to Arc/Info® format. This work is part of the Metro Aggregate and the Eastern Meguma Compilation projects.

Additional information about the South-central Cape Breton Island Mapping Project and the Targeted Geoscience Initiative can be obtained from Mike Cherry (phone 902-424-8135, or e-mail cherry@gov.ns.ca).



New staff members include (L to R) Miranda Huskins, John MacNeil, Adam Sherry and Mary Feetham.

Bob Boehner and Brian Fisher

From the Mineral Inventory Files

Flintstone Rock is not Alone

I have been following with great interest the Black Bull Resources Inc. exploration of the Flintstone Rock silica-kaolin property near East Kemptville, Yarmouth County (Fig. 1). Flintstone Rock hosts a substantial volume of silica (quartz) and kaolin (a type of clay mineral) along some 6 km of the northeast-trending Tobeatic Shear Zone. This mineralization style, consisting of silica flooding and massive, low-temperature hydrothermal replacement of the host granite by clay minerals, was not known in Nova Scotia until Shell Canada Resources Limited discovered it during their tin exploration program in the late 1970s. At first the site interested Shell greatly, but they abandoned it once they realized that it is tin- and base metal-poor. However, geologist Guy MacGillivray, who then worked for Shell, remembered the deposit and is the mastermind of the current exploration play. Kudos to Guy.

This article focuses not on the Flintstone Rock deposit, since information on it is readily available from the Black Bull Resources web site (www.blackbullresources.com), but rather on the fact that there are several other similar deposits in southwest Nova Scotia (Fig. 1). For example, while exploring for tin in 1985 Rio Algom Exploration Inc. drilled two holes on a large northeast-trending, VLF geophysical anomaly at Rocky Shore Lake, on the northern contact of the same Davis Lake Pluton that hosts Flintstone Rock. Diamond-drill hole 85-46 was collared in white 'bull' quartz, which continued to a depth of 35.5 m, after which clay and brecciated granite were intersected to 46 m and sheared granite to the final depth of 100 m. Rio Algom recognized the similarity of the site with the Flintstone Rock fault structure, but since both sites had no tin or base metal sulphides the drilling was discontinued.

Acadia Mineral Ventures Ltd. carried out a 17 hole diamond-drill pro-

gram at the Fanning Lake Cu-Pb-Zn-Sb-Ag-Au prospect north of Carleton in 1988 (Fig. 1). Two of the holes, FL-88-7 and FL-88-13, tested a pronounced VLF geophysical anomaly found nearby. Both holes encountered an east-trending fault and alteration zone consisting of 50 m of brick-red, hematized Meguma Group metasediment and metasediment breccia. This graded into a 30 m zone of bleached, disaggregated rock, totally replaced by clay and silica alteration and intruded by numerous quartz veins. The ultimate thickness of the alteration zone is not known as both drillholes ended before passing through it. As with the other locales, base- and precious-metal levels in the fault zone were found to be low so further exploration was terminated.

This past summer, DNR geologists working on the Southwest Nova Mapping Project recognized abundant boulders of massive quartz and quartz breccia along the lower reach of the Napier River (Fig. 1). The linear course of the Napier River strongly suggests it follows a northeast-trending fault or fracture system. The presence of these boulders indicates that a fault-

controlled, silica-kaolin deposit, similar to Flintstone Rock and Rocky Shore Lake, may be present there.

Clay alteration and silica flooding at these sites are localized along some of the many regional-scale fault zones that cross-cut southwest Nova Scotia. It follows, then, that these fault zones are prime exploration targets for this type of mineralization. The very soft, friable rock in these deposits means outcrop will probably be non-existent. Further, since they also contain little or no tin or sulphides, their geochemical expression will also be minimal.

So how can they be found? Probably by a combination of old fashioned boot and hammer prospecting followed by geophysical surveys. First find boulder concentrations of vein- and replacement-quartz, especially in areas coincident with boulders of sheared and mylonitized granite or metasediment. Then, since all the known occurrences have a pronounced geophysical expression, geophysical surveys will provide an idea as to size of the fault zone and degree of development of hydrothermal alteration.

George O'Reilly

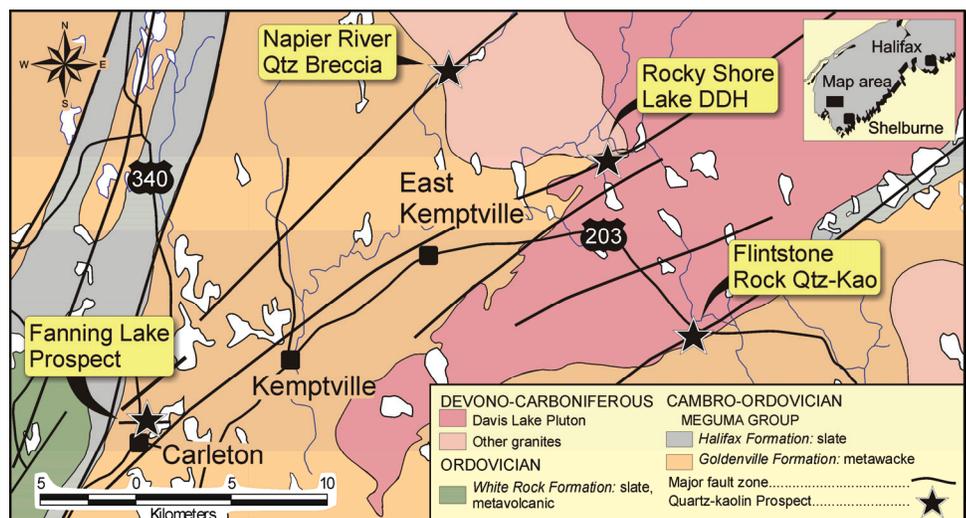


Figure 1. Geology of the East Kemptville area showing locations of major fault zones and quartz-kaolin deposits.

C₂C Changes its Name

Calgary-based industrial mineral producer C₂C Mining Corporation has changed its name to C₂C Zeolite Corporation ("C₂C"). The change was recently announced by company president and CEO LuVern Hogg, who noted the name change would "more accurately reflect the scope of the Corporation's business." C₂C is currently developing a zeolite project on the North Mountain of southwestern Nova Scotia.

C₂C presently operates a zeolite mine at Cache Creek, British Columbia, and nearby processing plant in Ashcroft, B.C. The company produces several consumer-oriented products, including Zippity Doo® cat litter, and industrial-based product lines of absorbents and deodorizers, including Mucker's Mate®, Cage® and Cage T408®, for agricultural and other applications. The company has also developed, and patented, a light-weight zeolite concrete "LZC®" using zeolite concentrate from the Cache Creek mine. LZC® consists of approximately 80% zeolite with minor other additives.

In Nova Scotia, C₂C continues to proceed with plans to develop a zeolite mine at its Tower View Property in Annapolis County, formerly referred to as the Stronach Mountain project. The company has recently applied for a mining lease following completion of a program of geological mapping, diamond-drilling, bulk sampling, test processing and other analytical work. In addition, C₂C has conducted research and product development work on the company's Nova Scotia zeolite properties and plans to build a processing facility in the Annapolis Valley, subsequent to the commencement of mining at the Tower View Property.

Mike MacDonald

Oct.-Dec. Open Assessment Reports

Report Number	Claim Ref. Map	Licensee
AR ME 1976-4	11D/14C, D	Getty Mines Limited
AR ME 1998-96	21H/02B	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-97	11F/09C	A J Perron Gold Corporation
	11F/16B	
AR ME 1998-98	11E/01C	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-99	11E/02B	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-100	11E/02B	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-101	11E/02A	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-102	11E/02D	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-103	11E/02A	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-104	11E/02A	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-105	11E/02A	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-106	11E/01D	RJZ Mining Incorporated
AR ME 1998-109	21A/16D	Richman, J
AR ME 1998-110	11K/01C	Wightman, J
AR ME 1998-111	21A/14D	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-113	11K/07B	Kelley, D G
AR ME 1998-114	21H/07B	Gold'n Crystal Minerals
AR ME 1998-115	21H/02C	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-116	11F/15C	Jubilee Minerals Limited
AR ME 1998-119	11F/04D	Prodigy Resources Incorporated
AR ME 1998-120	11K/10B	Kelley, D G
AR ME 1998-121	21H/02B	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-122	21H/02D	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-123	21H/02D	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-124	21H/02B	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-126	21H/02B	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-127	21A/07B	Hayward, T
AR ME 1998-128	11E/02B, C	Kaoclay Resources Incorporated
	11E/03A, B, D	
	11E/04A	
AR ME 1998-129	21H/02D	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-130	11D/14C	DeBay, A
AR ME 1998-131	11E/03B	Cullen, M P
AR ME 1998-132	11E/03A	Cullen, M P
AR ME 1998-133	11E/03B	Cullen, M P
AR ME 1998-134	11E/03A	Collier, J E
AR ME 1998-135	11E/03A	Collier, J E
AR ME 1998-136	11K/03D	Lynx Minerals Corporation
AR ME 1999-54	11E/06B	Intragaz and Company Limited Partnership
AR ME 1999-56	11F/04D	Grant, S
AR ME 1999-69	11E/03C	Mercator Geological Services Limited
AR ME 1999-72	11D/14C	Dawn, H P
AR ME 1999-73	11F/04D	Grant, S

Susan Saunders and Norman Lyttle

Federal Government Announces Exploration Investment Tax Credit

For more than a year, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) has been lobbying the federal government for tax incentives to encourage new exploration investment in Canada. Despite an overall buoyant Canadian economy, mineral exploration expenditures are in a state of serious decline. Junior companies are finding it virtually impossible to raise money for mineral exploration in Canada and, coupled with the shift of major companies to overseas opportunities, this has resulted in a decline in Canadian exploration levels that can only be described as critical. Government and industry have raised the spectre of an impending crisis in the mining industry.

In late 1999, PDAC proposed a "Focused Flow-through Share" program to encourage mineral exploration investment in Canada. This program would have provided a bonus tax deduction similar to that previously offered under the flow-through share program of the 1980s, in which the flow-through deduction was supplemented by the Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance (MEDA). The federal government declined to implement this program in its 2000 budget, but following further lobbying by the industry, and presentations at the 2000 Mines Ministers' Conference, Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin announced a Federal Exploration Investment Tax Credit in his October 2000 Economic Statement.

The Federal Exploration Investment Tax Credit is designed to stimulate investor interest in mineral exploration. Individuals who invest in flow-through shares between October 17, 2000, and December 31, 2003, will receive, in addition to the normal 100% of cost deduction for the investment, a 15% Federal Tax Credit on the investment. This is a non-refundable tax credit that will reduce federal income taxes payable. The tax credit is designed to apply to grassroots exploration activity conducted above the surface of the earth, including prospecting, geological, geophysical and

geochemical surveys, and drilling. Expenses that are not eligible for the tax credit include bulk sampling and underground exploration or development.

The PDAC estimates that this tax credit provides a federal tax benefit that is marginally better than the federal portion of the former MEDA allowance. However, MEDA funds could be spent anywhere in Canada for the same tax advantage, whereas although the current flow-through share deductions apply to both federal and provincial income taxes, the tax credit applies only to the federal tax. The federal government has encouraged provincial governments to complement the federal tax credit with a similar tax incentive. If these are not implemented uniformly across the country, there will be variability in the attractiveness of flow-through shares as an investment in different jurisdictions, based on the provincial tax advantage that is offered. To date, Ontario is the only province that has announced a new provincial tax credit to take advantage of the oppor-

tunity offered by this measure.

The Federal Exploration Investment Tax Credit sends an important signal that the federal government has heard industry's message regarding the critical state of mineral exploration in Canada and is prepared to act to address this problem. Coupled with the lowering of the inclusion rate for the federal capital gains tax from 66.6% to 50% (also announced in the October 18 Economic Statement), it has made investment in mineral exploration significantly more attractive. It remains to be seen to what extent the various provinces will further enhance the attractiveness of exploration in their jurisdiction by complementary tax measures. However, the tax credit should result in a critically important increase in exploration expenditures in Canada over the next three years.

Further information on the Federal Exploration Investment Tax Credit can be found at: http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/efab/tmrd/credit_intro.htm.

Scott Swinden

Atlantic Canada Rock Room

The Atlantic Canada Rock Room has been an integral part of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) annual Trade Show for a decade. In the early days the Rock Room was held in Salon A on the convention floor of Toronto's historic Royal York Hotel. The annual Sunday evening receptions at this hotel were legendary and provided a great East Coast kick-off to the PDAC conference. In recent years, the Rock Room has moved, along with the other exhibitors, to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and it has continued to provide a venue for Atlantic Canadian prospectors to promote their mineral properties to an increasingly international audience.

Tough times have spurred prospectors and developers to build partnerships for maximum effectiveness and productivity. The Atlantic Canada Rock

Room exemplifies the benefits of inter-provincial cooperation and private-public partnerships. The Rock Room is jointly organized by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, the New Brunswick Prospectors and Developers Association, the Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Explorationists. These agencies have established a sound working relationship over the years. The results of this cooperation reinforce the adage that "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts."

Make sure you visit the Atlantic Canada Rock Room if you attend the 2001 PDAC conference.

Mike MacDonald

The Prospector's Stake

Winter's mantle covers the ground and may keep many prospectors away from their claims. Now is the time to increase your knowledge about rocks, minerals, resources at DNR, and other topics that will help you in resuming work on your claims.

If you are not a member of the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association, I urge you to join. This active organization fosters a spirit of sharing, helping and learning. Many members are accomplished prospectors while others are just beginning. The meetings and seminars help everyone to learn more about the techniques of prospecting and how to use the various resources available to you. The association is well known for its excellent field trips. To join, call the president, Ken Hiltz, at 902-826-1687.

Visit the DNR Library in Halifax. The Library is located on the third floor, Founders Square (1701 Hollis Street), near the office of the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles. Take time to review periodicals, books, maps, assessment reports, air photos, and the display of rocks, minerals, ores and fossils. The Library has topographic maps, protected areas maps, geological maps and detailed mine site maps. For many areas, you may be able to go back in time by looking at several generations of geological maps. As many prospectors understand, doing a bit of research before you go out in the field often improves your chances of either making a "find" or appreciating the area's potential. When you are in the Library, read through back issues of the *Nova Scotia Minerals Update*. I suggest you read the newsletter's regular feature: "From the Mineral Inventory Files." The author, George O'Reilly, has examined many locations in the province, drawing attention to similarities or new ideas for exploration. Visitors may wish to talk to George or other geologists. Ron Mills and I are always interested in talking with you about your ideas, questions or comments.

Winter is a great time for learning. May your pan always have colour and may you always have optimism. Good luck for prospecting in 2001!

Howard Donohoe

Summary of the Prospector Assistance Program

The Prospector Assistance Program is in its last year of operation. Since its beginning in 1997, the program has helped stimulate the connection between prospectors and the mineral industry. When it finally ends in March 2001, \$600,000 will have been spent in support of prospecting in Nova Scotia.

During its operation, the program supported three components of prospecting: (1) 82 prospectors received financial assistance toward work on mineral exploration projects, (2) 63 prospectors received funds to market their mineral properties at national trade shows and conventions, and (3) support for training allowed 239 people to attend either a basic course (199 students) or the advanced prospecting course (40 students).

The Prospector Assistance Program has been very successful in stimulating prospectors to provide additional funding for their projects. In 1998-99, prospectors contributed 27.3% more than the required minimum contribution to apply for assistance. During the 1999-00 fiscal year prospectors contributed 57.4% more than required. In the 2000-01 fiscal year, it is estimated that prospectors might add 73% more than required. This means that for the approximately \$402,000 that the program has spent on prospector assistance, the prospectors themselves may end up spending a total of \$264,300.

A well-trained, active community of prospectors represents the "grass roots" of successful mining. Their work makes mineral deposits attractive to investors. And when mining companies invest in a property and it goes into production, everyone benefits from the additional wealth and employment that is generated.

Howard Donohoe

Special Notes

Laing Ferguson

Many of you may know that Dr. Laing Ferguson is presently confined to City Hospital in Moncton after suffering a stroke late in the summer. He and his wife Joyce would love to hear from friends and colleagues by mail. Please send letters to this address: Dr. Laing Ferguson, 31 Queens Road, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada E4L 4G4.

Marketing Assistance for PDAC

Prospectors who wish to market their properties at the PDAC's Atlantic Rock Room (see p. 7) in Toronto, March 11-15, should contact Mike MacDonald (902-424-2523) or Howard Donohoe (902-424-7199) by Feb. 15.

Dates to Remember

January 23-26, 2001

British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Cordilleran Exploration Roundup, Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information please contact Sheila Holmes (604-681-5328) or e-mail chamber@chamberofmines.bc.ca.

February 9 and 10, 2001

Atlantic Geoscience Society, Annual Colloquium and General Meeting, Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, N. B. For more information contact Mike MacDonald (902-424-2523 or e-mail mamacdon@gov.ns.ca).

March 11-14, 2001

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. International Convention and Trade Show, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario. For more information call the PDAC (416-362-1969 or e-mail info@pdac.ca).

March 6, 2001

Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Chamber of Mineral Resources, Holiday Inn Harbourside, Dartmouth, N. S. For more information please contact Terry Daniels (phone 902-798-0187 or e-mail terry.daniels@ns.sympatico.ca).