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In This Issue

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NOVA SCOTIA
Natural Resources

Praise for Mining Matters 2007 and Industry Investment Forum

Great things often start with a simple idea. Mining Matters 2007 and Industry Investment Forum exemplified that adage, with record numbers of delegates and private sector booths producing an upbeat mood not witnessed in the Nova Scotia mineral industry for nearly 20 years. The conference was held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel on November 13 and 14, 2007, and attracted 404 delegates, 18 company sponsored booths, and over 30 government, university and prospector displays. In addition, a core shack display, two guest speakers, a full day of industry talks, and a four member panel review session all helped to explain why mining matters to everyone.

The first day of the conference convened in Commonwealth Ballrooms A and B with the Core Shack and Poster Display session featuring diamond-drill core, research posters on a variety of selected mineral deposits and geo-scientific studies across the province, as well as live GIS demonstrations, a museum display and a hands-on display from the Prospectors Association of Nova Scotia. DNR staff members were on hand to discuss current research and to inform delegates of a wide variety of geological research taking place in the province. Core

The Honourable David Morse (L), Minister of Natural Resources, and sponsor Lindsay Allen (C) of Elk Exploration Ltd. present the Prospector of the Year Award for 2007 to Scott Grant (R) at Mining Matters 2007.

The Hon. David Morse (L) and DNR Geologist Bob Ryan (C) present the Terrence Coughlan Memorial Award to Mr. Matt Holleman (R) of Fundy Gypsum.

displays allowed both professionals and the general public greater exposure to the rocks and mineral deposits that lie below our feet.

In addition to the core and poster displays, 20 industry booths were set up in the Atlantic Ballroom and in the hotel foyer. Companies included Coxheath Resources Inc., Minotaur Exploration Ltd., Scorpio Mining Corp., Atlantic Gold NL, Merrex Gold Inc., Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, Royal Roads Corp., Acadian Gold Corp., Erdene Gold Inc., Linear Gold Inc., Etruscan Resources Inc., Nautilus Minerals Inc., Ucore Uranium Inc., TSX Venture, Black Bull Resources Inc., Creighton Rock Drilling, Wolseley Engineered Pipe Atlantic, Atlantic Cat, and Slam Exploration Ltd., in addition to the Mining Association of Nova Scotia and the Mining Society of Nova Scotia.

A noon-time luncheon on Nov. 13 featured Michelle Landreville, Executive Director of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS), as guest speaker. Ms. Landreville's talk outlined the new strategic plan currently being implemented by MANS and accented some of the immediate challenges for the organization. These included the lack of consultation involved in the selection of protected lands in Nova Scotia, issues associated with the White's Point quarry Panel Review, and the new reality of operating a socially responsible mining industry organization in Nova Scotia.

Following lunch, the afternoon session highlighted activities of each division in the Mineral Resources Branch, with all talks being delivered by senior staff. In addition, presentations by Dr. Les Fyffe from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Dr. David Liverman from the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources helped demonstrate the significance of near-record levels of exploration currently taking place across the Atlantic region. The Minister's annual Reception and Awards Ceremony capped the first day's events. The Honourable David Morse, Minister of Natural Resources, used the occasion to note the importance of the mining industry to the social framework of the province. Mr. Morse later helped in the presentation of two awards. First, the Terrence Coughlan Memorial Award, sponsored by Atlantic Cat, was presented to the person contributing the most to the development of industrial minerals in Nova Scotia. This year the award was presented to Matt Holleman, long time employee of Fundy Gypsum and graduate of Acadia University. Second, the Prospector of the Year Award for 2007, sponsored by Elk Exploration Ltd., was awarded to veteran prospector Scott Grant, who continues to work hard to promote mineral deposits in Nova Scotia. Light entertainment for the evening was provided by the Minuet Trio. The Fall Council Meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia was also held during the evening of November 13.

The second day of Mining Matters 2007 marked a significant departure from previous conferences. The organizing committee took the opportunity to feature a Mining Investment Forum devoted to: (1) Nova Scotia-based mining companies doing business either in Nova Scotia or globally, (2) national and international companies doing business in Nova Scotia and (3) national and international companies doing business globally. Following opening remarks by the Honourable David Morse, 18 company presentations were heard highlighting exploration both locally and abroad, human resource issues associated with the industry, market forecasting, sub-sea mining, investment opportunities and the many environmental, social and political challenges facing the industry. Guest speaker for the luncheon on Nov. 14 was renowned entrepreneur, investment forecaster, bullion dealer and author of *The Mining Speculator,* Greg McCoach. His presentation explained how markets operate and the political, social and economic factors that dictate stock market performance. The afternoon culminated in an open-microphone panel discussion moderated by broadcaster and producer George Jordan. Panelists Will Felderhof (Acadian Mining Corp.), Greg McCoach (The Mining Speculator), John Hanrahand (Citadel Securities) and Luc Arsenault (TSX Venture Exchange) debated a broad range of financial issues critical to the mining industry and then fielded a number of questions from the audience. Following the panel discussion, the mining and exploration industry of Nova Scotia sponsored a reception in the Atlantic Ballroom. The evening's musical entertainment was provided by the Gordon Fader Band.

Delegates from across the country commented that Mining Matters 2007 and Industry Investment Forum was a terrific success with respect to making the public aware of the broad range of activities within DNR's Mineral Resources Branch, and putting a face on Nova Scotia's vibrant mining and mineral exploration sector.

Paul Smith

Geological Services Division Tests Digital Collection of Field Data

The Geological Services Division is working toward a set of standard procedures for creating geological maps. This includes developing consistent methods for data collection, database construction, cartography, editing and publication. One of the more challenging aspects of this process is developing a standard method for the collection of geoscience data in the field.

Geologists typically use a variety of methods to collect and record field data and, understandably, resist any standard approach that limits the ability to capture all the necessary information. The traditional paper-based method of recording field data is flexible and simple. Transcribing written notes from field notebooks or paper maps to digital databases, however, is very time consuming and prone to errors. Digital collection of data in the field using hand-held mini computers appears to have many advantages. Digital data collection enables systematic, consistent data entry that is verified in the field. Software enables the display of relevant information tied to the user's current location. This may be previous sampling data, geophysical surveys, photo lineaments, or information on claim and property boundaries. In addition, the direct transfer of digital field information to a database is very efficient.

The Geological Services Division tested a digital field data collection system as part of a mapping initiative in the Halifax Regional Municipality in the summer of 2007. Hardware for this project consisted of a pocket PC and a Bluetooth® GPS receiver (Fig. 1). The portable PC provides a slimmed-down Windows® platform that may host other applications along with the mapping and GPS software. Software consists of ESRI ArcPad® running Ganfeld®, an application developed by the Geological Survey of Canada for field mapping. This application has been customized to reflect the geological setting of Nova Scotia.

Figure 1. *Hardware used in the pilot project included a pocket PC (L) and Bluetooth® GPS receiver (R).*

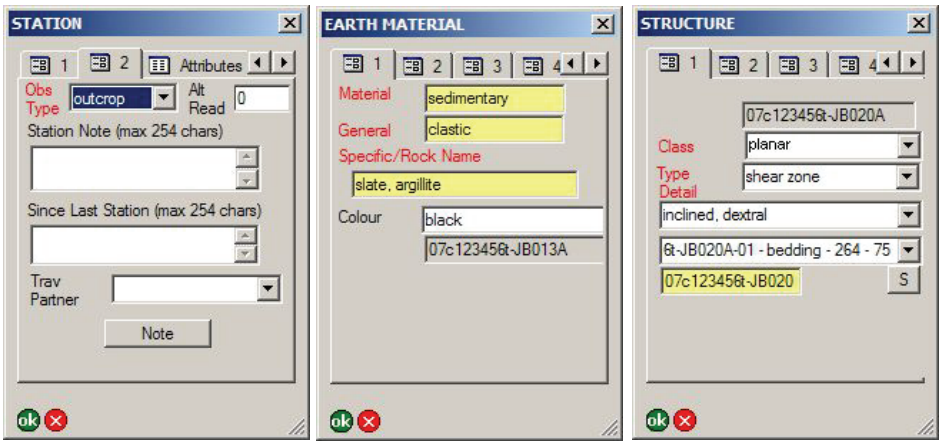


Figure 2. *Some of the typical fields and forms for digital data collection.*

Figure 2 illustrates some of the typical data collection forms and fields. Although use of the forms may appear restrictive, the system actually retains a high degree of flexibility. Geologists can use a stylus to make a sketch and write handwritten notes that are automatically converted to text. Despite some initial frustrations, the data collection system proved very successful and geologists were impressed with the efficiency and ease of use.

Currently, the division plans to have all field data collected digitally by its geological mappers starting with the 2008 field season.

John MacNeil and Rob Naylor

Water Diversion Increases the Sustainability of Lafarge North America's Cement Operations at Brookfield

The Canada Cement Company started production at Brookfield, Colchester County, in the mid 1960s. The Brookfield area was chosen for the presence of a large, shallow limestone resource that provides the major raw material for cement. Contributing factors were economical sources of materials, including silica, gypsum, fuel coal and electrical power. Brookfield is located 12 km south of Truro, near major highways and rail lines to marine terminals. The business is now owned by Lafarge North America, part of a worldwide company.

The Brookfield cement plant employs approximately 85 workers and is a major contributor to the economy of both Colchester County and the Province of Nova Scotia. The plant now annually produces approximately 500,000 tons of cement, from 750,000 tons of limestone. Ample limestone and thin overburden have allowed for economical quarrying.

By the mid-1990s the quarry extended to over 50 ha, but two streams confined mining. Marsh Brook drained the southern portion of the site, flowing north and limiting the eastern advance of the quarry. Lake Brook, fed from Shortts Lake, presented a barrier to the north of the quarry. Unless these obstructions could be overcome the future of the quarry and the cement production facility would be very much curtailed.

Development of solutions began in the mid-1990s with the evaluation of quarry reclamation plans. Diversion of Marsh Brook was a top priority for quarry operations. It was determined that Marsh Brook could be diverted westward around the southern quarry face, on a clay bank constructed against the existing quarry rock wall, a distance of 2000 m. This perched waterway, the 'West Berm', is up to 15 m above the existing quarry floor. Construction required the placement of 2.3 million tons of overburden materials from quarry stripping. Construction of the West Berm began in 2001 and the waterway has functioned since 2004.

***Figure 1**. View of the refurbished Shortts Lake Dam.*

In 2005 plans for the Lake Brook diversion, including refurbishment of the Shortts Lake Dam (Fig. 1), were approved by Lafarge management and submitted for environmental approvals. In 2006 work at the dam was largely completed. This included design and installation of a fish way for gaspereau migration into Shortts Lake, a route that had been blocked for many years.

In 2007 the major elements of the Lake Brook diversion were constructed, including a storm detention pond, a 500 m long, deeply cut 'East Channel', and several major culverts. On July 5, 2007, Lake Brook was diverted into the East Channel to join the West Berm flow structures and the new waterway has been operational ever since. Aquatic and terrestrial wildlife are colonizing the entire project area.

Throughout the project, Lafarge ensured thorough study of physical and environmental conditions, development of good relations with government agencies and stakeholders, sound engineering analyses, and sensitivity for the environment. The company also showed the resolve to execute a major civil engineering project over an extended period of time, employing both internal resources and local contractors. In a future article we will describe details of the planning and environmental permitting phase of this project, as well as the engineering and construction process and results.

With the successful diversion of Marsh Brook and Lake Brook completed, Lafarge has begun to quarry the newly accessible limestone resources. Successful diversion of these waterways has meant that the cement plant can plan for a much-extended limestone production supply from their existing quarry, thus sustaining jobs at the cement plant and all related industrial activities.

Chris Richards and Leo MacArthur, Lafarge North America, Brookfield; John A. Amirault and Alexander Russell, Consulting Engineers

From The Mineral Inventory Files

The Smithfield Pb-Zn-Ag-Ba Deposit: Small but First

It is well known that the marine sedimentary rocks and evaporites of Nova Scotia's Windsor Group contain numerous carbonate-hosted base metal and barite deposits. Most notable among these are the Walton Ba-Pb-Zn-Cu-Ag deposit (see v. 24, no. 3) and the currently active Scotia Zinc mine (formerly known as the Gays River Pb-Zn deposit). The distinction of being the first known deposit of this type in the province, however, lies with the Smithfield Pb-Zn-Ag-Ba deposit in Colchester County (see Fig. 1). Base metal-bearing boulders were discovered there in 1880 by Mr. H. Clarke and by 1884 four shafts were sunk, a small mill and smelter erected, and 400 tons of ore processed. Mining continued until 1889, at which time it was recognized that the galena contained silver and that the ore also contained minor quantities of gold. It was estimated that 25,000 tons of 16% lead ore remained when mining ceased in 1889.

The property remained inactive until 1951 except for a small amount of underground development in the mid 1920s and an economic evaluation in 1945. Between 1951 and 1953 Minda Scotia Mines Ltd. carried out an extensive exploration of the property. This consisted of geophysical surveys, sinking of a 65 m deep, cement collared, 3-compartment shaft, 60 m of drifting and cross-cutting into the orebody, 40 surface diamond-drill holes and 363 m of underground drilling. Two mineralized zones were defined: (1) a main zone in faulted and brecciated, finely laminated carbonates of the Windsor Group's basal Macumber Formation, consisting of 500,000 tons of 3.5% Zn and 2.7% Pb, as well as local concentrations of barite up to 15%; and (2) a deposit immediately to the east of the main zone consisting of 500,000 tons of 50-60% pyrite/marcasite containing minor levels of Zn and Pb. This second deposit is hosted partially within the Macumber Formation but extends eastward into the underlying redbed-dominated Horton Group. No mining

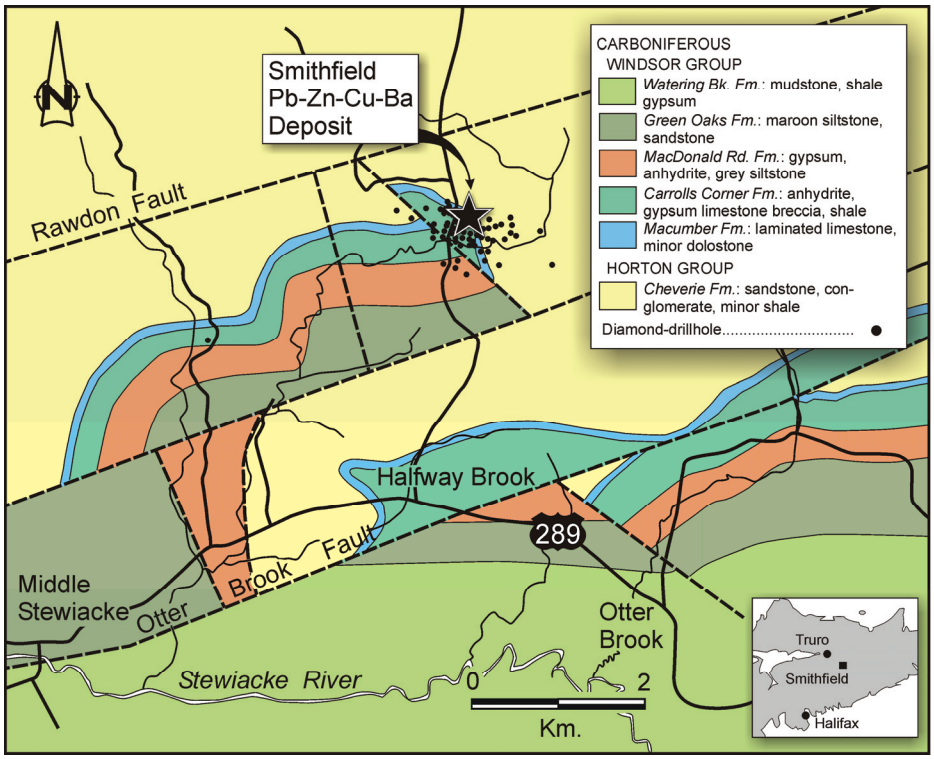


***Figure 1**. Geology of the Middle Stewiacke area showing the location of the Smithfield Pb-Zn-Ag-Ba deposit.*

was carried out on either of the zones.

In more recent times, Esso Minerals Canada explored the property from 1975-1979, Granges Exploration from 1982-1983 and Westminer Canada Ltd. from 1991-1992. These evaluations encountered similar results to all the earlier exploration activities, with the Granges work determining that the mineralized zone narrows but extends to at least 150 m depth, and the Westminer drilling encountering one spectacular 10.5 m intersection of 28.25% Zn and 1.48% Pb.

The base metal deposit at Smithfield has a strong structural control in a setting very similar to the Walton deposit. Hydrothermal fluids migrated along northwest-trending fault and fracture zones and deposited massive sulphides as fracture fillings and replacement deposits where these structures intersect finely laminated limestone of the Macumber Formation. The deposit is mineralized with argentiferous galena, low-iron sphalerite, barite, pyrite and marcasite.

There is no question that the Smithfield deposit presents itself as an enticing exploration target. The very faults that played a key role in formation of the deposit, however, are themselves the most challenging obstacle to its complete exploration. Figure 1 shows how the deposit lies within a small faulted portion of basal Windsor Group adjacent to a much larger sequence of these same rocks to the west. It is known from the abundant previous drilling that an attractive, but small base metal deposit occurs within the faulted area. The challenge to future explorationists is to determine if there is an extension to this deposit and where it lies.

G. A. O'Reilly

More Geoscience Documents Available Online

The Mineral Resources Branch of DNR is committed to providing free, downloadable digital geoscience information of all kinds to its many clients. As reported previously (v. 24, no. 3), Assessment Reports and Property Reports are being made available on the Mineral Resources Branch web site for public online access (http://www.gov. ns.ca/natr/meb/). The branch is also working to scan all of its geoscience maps and post these documents online.

As of January 31, 2008, 2134 assessment reports out of a total of 6911 publicly available assessment reports have been scanned and posted to the branch web site in PDF format. Thus, 31% of publicly available assessment reports have been scanned to date. The scanned reports cover the time frame from 2005 back to 1989, as well as any reports (19) so far publicly released in January 2008. Legacy reports continue to be scanned, as are new submissions.

Initial client comments have been positive, mainly concerning the convenience of being able to access documents online that were previously available only at the Halifax DNR Library, Core Library, or the three Regional DNR offices.

The following are some tips on accessing the reports:

- Computer should have Acrobat Reader© version 6 or higher (free download from http://www. adobe. com).
- Reports may be saved for off-line viewing by right-clicking on the file link and choosing "Save Target As…" (document may also be saved while viewing by using the "Save a Copy" button on the browser toolbar).
- Documents can be rotated for viewing; use "Rotate Clockwise" button on the toolbar.
- When viewing large documents, note download status on bottom bar of the browser. If it is still downloading, the document may be slow to respond. Give it time to complete.

The Mineral Resources Branch is also in the process of scanning all of its published and open file geoscience maps. The maps have been scanned at 200 dpi and converted to PDF format. There are currently 38 published maps from 1967 to 2001 and 2115 open file maps from 1894 to 2007 available for viewing or download from the branch web site. It is planned that these maps will also be made available in JPEG format for clients. In the future the branch intends to have georeferenced versions of all published geoscience maps and selected open file maps available for download as well, so that clients can integrate the map images into their own GIS systems.

Maps will continue to be added to the web site as they become available. The URL for more information on this project and links to the download pages is:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/DOWNLOAD/gallery.htm.
The URL to view or download published maps is:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/DOWNLOAD/mg_map_pdfs.htm
The URL to view or download open file maps is:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/DOWNLOAD/mg_ofm_pdfs.htm

Norman Lyttle, John MacNeil and Jeff Poole

October - December 2007 Open Assessment Reports

Report Number	NTS	Licensee
AR ME 2005-090	11D/15A	Acadian Gold Corporation
AR ME 2005-091	11E/06D	Grant, S
	11E/11A	
AR ME 2005-092	21A/07C	Grant, S
AR ME 2005-093	21A/07C	Grant, S
AR ME 2005-094	11D/13D	Allen, L J
	11D/14C	
AR ME 2005-095	21A/16D	True Metallic Explorations Incorporated
AR ME 2005-096	11F/04D	Grant, S
AR ME 2005-097	21A/07B	Hooper, J
AR ME 2005-098	11F/14B	MacKinnon, R P
AR ME 2005-099	11E/02B	Schenkels, H F
AR ME 2005-100	11F/04C	Acadian Gold Corporation
AR ME 2005-102	11E/02A, D	Goldenville Mining Corporation
AR ME 2005-103	11D/15C	Goldenville Mining Corporation
AR ME 2005-104	11D/15A	Acadian Gold Corporation
AR ME 2005-105	11E/01A, D	Acadian Gold Corporation
	11F/04B, C	
AR ME 2005-106	11F/16B, C	Yava Technologies Incorporated
AR ME 2005-107	11E/01A	Bezanson, P T
AR ME 2005-108	11D/12D	Conrad Brothers Limited
AR ME 2005-109	11F/04D	Goldenville Mining Corporation
AR ME 2005-110	11E/02D	Goldenville Mining Corporation
AR ME 2005-111	11F/04D	Goldenville Mining Corporation
AR ME 2005-112	11E/01C	Goldenville Mining Corporation
	11E/02D	

Susan Saunders and Norman Lyttle

Progress Continues for the Donkin Coal Project

Dartmouth-based Erdene Gold Inc. is a 25% joint venture partner in the Donkin Coal Alliance with 75% partner Xstrata Coal Donkin Limited, a subsidiary of Xstrata Coal, plc. The Donkin Coal Alliance was formed to determine the feasibility of developing the high-quality Donkin coal resource. In December 2007 Erdene completed a $4.7 M financing effort for the Donkin project, bringing its total spent and committed expenditures on the project to $10.7 M. The funds will be used for extensive testing of the Harbour seam, with a bulk sample completed and an in-seam drilling program underway. This program will better define the deposit's structure, gas regime and associated strategies.

Location and Markets

Current and planned infrastructure will allow transportation of Donkin coal by rail to the local market and to the international coal port in Sydney for loading onto Panamax-size ocean-going vessels, all within 60 km of the Donkin site (Fig. 1). The target market is power plants locally and along the U.S. eastern seaboard, Europe, and potentially steel plants. The current committed flue gas desulphurization conversions of power plants in the United States eastern seaboard will enable consumption of over 300 million tonnes of high energy, high sulphur (Donkin quality) coal per year by 2014.

Resource and Coal Quality

The Donkin Coal Resource Block includes the targeted Harbour seam, which has a current resource of 101 million tonnes indicated and 115 million tonnes inferred. An independent qualifying technical report from McElroy Bryon Geological Services Pty. of Sydney, Australia, states that the Harbour seam has excellent thermal and metallurgical coal properties with high calorific (energy) value, high volatile content, high sulphur, low total moisture content, low quartz content, low fly ash resistivity and low dust emissions. The resource is considered one of the last remaining large blocks of undeveloped high-quality coal off the coast of Cape Breton.

Recent Progress

Dewatering of the 3500 m long, twin tunnels that lead to the Donkin Block was completed in August 2007. These tunnels were constructed in the 1980s at a cost of approximately $100 M. Dewatering represented a major milestone in the project and cleared the way for direct access to the Harbour seam.

In late 2007 coal consulting group Norwest Corporation completed a Preliminary Assessment Study into the business case for a coal mine at Donkin. Norwest focused on a development plan of up to 5 million tonnes per year of high energy, high sulphur coal for local and export markets. The capital budget required to bring the mine to full production under the base-case scenario is estimated at $313 M, with a projected mine life of 33 years.

The consultant's report shows that the development would result in annual revenues exceeding $200 M, with significant tax revenues and over 275 full-time direct jobs created for the region and province. The report estimated a thermal coal price of US$52/tonne, which is conservative based on today's prices. In November 2007, UBS, a well known global financial services firm, raised its price forecasts for coal used in power plants and steel mills in 2008 and 2009 because of expanding Asian demand and constrained supply. UBS projected thermal coal prices in excess of $100/tonne in 2008 and 2009. Higher prices for coal would have a tremendous economic impact on the project, which is already attractive at today's prices. Today's prices would result in project valuations approaching two to three times that of the base-case project value of $195 M.

The Donkin Coal Alliance was very pleased to see legislation passed recently in the federal Parliament appointing the Government of Nova Scotia as the regulator for the proposed coal mine at Donkin. This assures that the project will move forward quickly and efficiently within one set of regulations for issues such as labour, safety and royalties.

The Donkin project's proximity to ocean transportation and markets, invested capital, high-quality large resource, and access to a skilled local workforce bode well for an exciting future from the rejuvenation of coal mining in Cape Breton.

Diane Webber, Erdene Gold Inc.

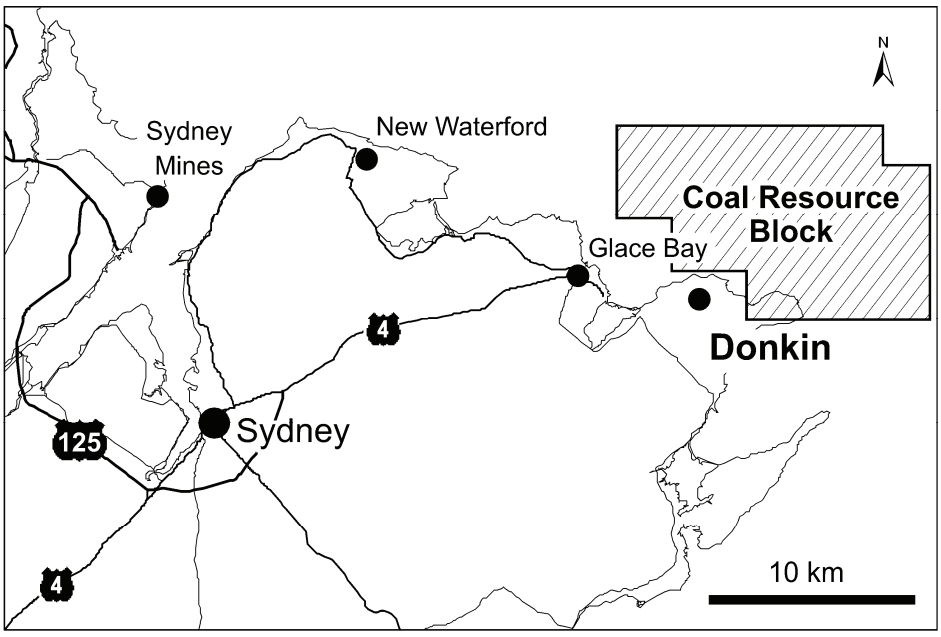


***Figure 1**. Location of the Donkin Coal Resource Block, Nova Scotia.*

Mining Association Begins 2008 with Optimism

The Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) has begun to implement its aggressive and dynamic three-year strategic plan to create a strong, consistent voice for the mining industry in Nova Scotia. Building relationships with government and private stakeholders is a high priority as the association begins this task. Executive and Board members of MANS have had occasion to meet with politicians of all parties, senior bureaucrats, and representatives from non-profit or non-governmental organizations.

While many of these meetings have been held to inform decision-makers about MANS and its vision, the meetings have also offered a number of opportunities to present the facts on a variety of issues of importance to the mining sector. These latter meetings have reinforced the need for members of MANS, both as individuals and an association, to explain to the interested public what mining is, what it looks like today, and how exploration, mining and mineral processing are connected to everyone's daily life.

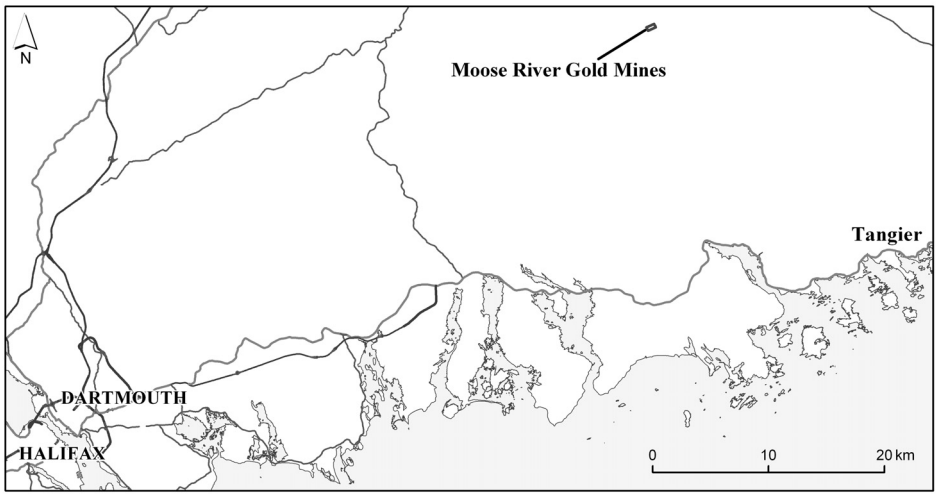
The Mining Association of Nova Scotia is committed to change the public perception of mining and I ask you to join MANS in furthering its vision to be the focus of mining promotion in Nova Scotia. If you see or hear of something that the association should know about or act on, please contact me, or one of the Board members, directly. Only a team effort will change the public perception of mining in Nova Scotia.

Michelle Landreville, Executive Director
Mining Association of Nova Scotia, michelle@tmans.ca

Touquoy Gold Project Completes Environmental Assessment

A surface gold mine in Halifax County will go ahead under strict conditions to protect the environment. The Touquoy Gold Project at Moose River Gold Mines successfully completed a provincial environmental assessment in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Environment Act*. Mine operators must conduct regular monitoring and ensure complete reclamation, or clean-up, of the site when the work is finished. Environment and Labour Minister Mark Parent approved the project subject to terms and conditions. The decision and the terms and conditions of the approval are posted on the department's web site: www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ea.

Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour, Press Release, February 1, 2008



Dates to Remember

March 2-5, 2008
Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, International Convention, Trade Show and Investors Exchange - Mining Investment Show. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building, Toronto, ON. For more information please visit the web site: www.pdac.ca/pdac/conv/index.html.

May 4-7, 2008
2008 CIM Conference and Exhibition, Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, AB. For more information please visit the meeting web site: http://www.cim.org/edmonton2008/index_A.cfm.

May 12-15, 2008
Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Annual Convention. Round Up Centre and UEAB Core Research Centre, Calgary, AB. For more information please visit the web site: www.cspg.org/conventions/conventions-annual.cfm.

May 26-28, 2008
Geological Association of Canada - Mineralogical Association of Canada, Joint Annual Meeting. Quebec City Convention Centre, Quebec City, QC. For more information please visit the meeting web site: http://quebec2008.net/index.cfm.

August 15-17, 2008
Nova Scotia's Gem and Mineral Show, Lion's Recreation Centre, Western Ave., Parrsboro, NS. For more information please visit the web site http://museum.gov.ns.ca/fgm/mineralgem/show.html.