

## **Greenland: An exploration hotspot**

*Brian Sylvester*

You might not think of Greenland as a mineral exploration hotspot. Then again, you likely didn't know that Monday, March 8 was Greenland Day at the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention.

Take our word for it. Greenland is becoming popular.

The number of exploration licences in Greenland has doubled since 2002 to more than 85. In addition to those, there are four mining licences.

"There is broad consensus in Greenland that efforts should be made to develop the mineral resources sector into a sustainable industry," said Jørn Skov Nielsen, deputy minister and director, Greenland Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum (BMP). "We try to pave the road for exploration."

Why not? Recent exploration has led to significant finds, including the development-stage Maarmorilik lead-zinc deposit, which is slated to begin production in October.

Angel Mining's Nalunaq underground gold mine, Greenland's first, has been in production since 2004.

If Greenland is to see another precious metals mine enter production, it will likely be Australia-based Platina Resources' Skaergaard gold-PGE deposit on the Paleogenic Skaergaard intrusion, one of the most studied intrusions on the planet, with more than 600 references in scientific reports.

Skaergaard boasts an inferred resource of 106.6 million tonnes running 1.68 grams gold per tonne and 0.64 grams platinum and palladium. Platina plans to drill 6,000 metres at Skaergaard in 2010.

Not far from Skaergaard is the Kap Edvard Holm intrusion, a 30-km-long anomalous zone. The economic potential there relates to picritic feeder systems that contain native iron and nickel and PGE-bearing sulphides.

In terms of base metals, there is Quadra Ltd.'s advanced stage Malmbjerg molybdenum deposit, which has a measured resource of 52.9 million tonnes grading 0.23% moly.

Other commodities found so far include diamonds, rubies and iron. The BMP and the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) are hoping to lure more companies to the area in the coming years.

In particular, the Bureau is targeting a relatively unexplored area of southeastern Greenland thought to be prospective for base metals deposits, between 62–67 degrees latitude, as the next prospective area on the world's largest island.

The Bureau will conduct stream sediment sampling in the region this summer and fly airborne surveys there in 2011. Geophysical surveys are scheduled for the following year.

Perhaps the most noteworthy find in Greenland is an Archean-aged carbonatite, which is known to host significant rare earth elements deposits. There are only two such discoveries in Canada. The biggest is an Archean-aged carbonatite near Kaminak Lake, west of Ranklin Inlet in Nunavut. The other is in the Northern Slave geological province and is fairly small.