



PDAC Activities and Canadian Exploration News

PDAC meets with finance minister

After meeting with federal Finance Minister Paul Martin at the end of June, representatives of the PDAC and the Canadian Diamond Drilling Association (CDDA) are now working with government officials on the issue of Focused Flow-through Shares (FFTS).

"The meeting was worthwhile and probably went as well as possible," says David Comba, PDAC issues director, who attended with PDAC past president Gerald Harper.

"Martin presented us with two opportunities for follow-up: correspondence directly to him and a request that we keep the latter half of July open in order to work with officials from Finance and Natural Resources Canada."

The 45-minute meeting, which took place in Montreal, allowed the PDAC and CDDA to air concerns that FFTS was not included in Martin's February budget and therefore could not come into effect for another year.

(FFTS is a redesign of the Mineral Exploration Depletion Allowance legislation which is still on the books and would require only an Order-in-Council to reinstate.)

Martin said that the PDAC/CDDA lobbying efforts had been effective and had convinced federal politicians. He complimented the two associations on the professionalism of their campaign.

The push for the federal government to adopt the FFTS program continued throughout the spring and early summer and one tactic currently being considered is the formation of a parliamentary mining caucus.

The matter arose when PDAC representatives met with the federal Liberal Rural Caucus at the end of May. It is believed that a mining caucus could provide a strategic advantage by giving a higher profile to FFTS and other related exploration issues during Cabinet discussions.

The need for the FFTS program

becomes increasingly evident as the downward spiral in exploration activity in Canada continues despite improved prices for some commodities. Surface drilling results to the end of April indicate that drilling is down 46% per cent from the previous year.

"This is more than unsettling as 1999 was the worst year on record since the CDDA began tracking surface drilling," says CDDA president Tim Bremner.

While the number of juniors completing financing was up slightly to the end of April, the size of the financings remains small.

Workshop discusses aboriginal participation

A spring workshop that discussed aboriginal communities and resources was an important step in understanding the key issues and in enabling aboriginal peoples to participate in resource development in the Northwest Territories, says Tony Andrews, executive director of the PDAC.

Organized by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE), the workshop was held in Yellowknife and attended by more than 100 people.

The two-day meeting focused on aboriginal communities and non-renewable resource development. It covered a range of subjects including building the capacity of aboriginal people to participate; environmental and social issues; the diversification of aboriginal communities; and legal, regulatory and policy frameworks.

Among those participating in the event were representatives of First Nations, federal and provincial governments, the governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, the mining industry, the oil and gas industry, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Andrews attended the meeting on behalf of the PDAC.

He explains that the presence of diamonds, oil and gas in the North has the potential for establishing a strong economy in the Northwest Territories and providing opportunity and a promising future for communities.

It is absolutely essential, he says, that aboriginal people in the North have the capacity to fully partake in this development and to benefit from it.

"I thought the workshop was a very necessary exercise," he adds. "It was a successful step in what will be a long and complex process."

Recommendations from the workshop will be presented by the NRTEE to the federal government.

PDAC in Brief is a quarterly newsletter published by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. The newsletter is designed to inform the association's members of the activities of the PDAC and also of current issues and events of interest to the Canadian exploration and development industry.

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A list of regional open houses and meetings can be found on page 4.

Mining industry faces challenge over sustainable development

A new international project has been set up to determine how mining and minerals can best contribute to the global transition to sustainable development.

Started six months ago, the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project expects to present a report on its findings to the Rio Plus 10 Earth Summit scheduled for 2002.

The project is led by the Global Mining Initiative, a group formed by the chief executive officers of several of the world's major mining companies to respond to the challenge issued by the 1992 Rio Earth Summit — to find ways of incorporating sustainability into business practice.

Although sustainable development is a rather loosely defined concept, society is demanding that industry embrace it. The Global Mining Initiative has been established to bring the mining industry onside on a global level. Specifically, it is attempting to evolve the culture of the mining industry and position it ahead of the sustainable development agenda.

The initiative has three components.

First, there is the preparation for Rio Plus 10 and a dialogue with society at large to change the image of the mining industry.

The MMSD project, which is the research side of the initiative, forms the second component.

The third is dialogue with various global mineral industry associations in order to spread the message of change throughout the industry.

In May, PDAC director Ian Thomson of Vancouver attended the first major gathering of the MMSD project, a two-day workshop to identify research needs.

Held in London and directed toward stakeholders, the workshop was attended by 51 people from a wide range of organizations including non-governmental organizations, aboriginal groups and different segments of the industry.

Thomson explains, "The idea was to try and identify, within the framework called sustainability, what we need to know in order to effect change in this industry that would allow the industry to embrace sustainability."

Given that the industry fundamentally is not sustainable because it is working in a depleting resource, the challenge is to identify where the industry becomes sustainable. Two suggestions emerged from the workshop, says Thomson.

One was environmental stewardship, in other words to restore or preserve the environment so that it would be available to future generations. The other is sustainable communities, in which a portion of the wealth created by the mine goes to develop economic activities that are sustainable beyond the life of the mine.

Workshop participants determined there was a need for baseline assessments of what the industry does and how it does it.

This would include wealth generation and distribution through the life cycle, financial drivers of the industry, relationships with communities and end use of metals.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants listed a number of ideas that they considered important, says Thomson.

They called for sustainable development issues to be integrated into education.

"This is part of a longterm pattern of change," Thomson explains. "Sustainable development isn't talked about among engineers and geoscientists, for instance.

The young people coming into this indus-

try, who are extremely interested in these topics, don't have very much to go by."

Within the general area of credibility of the industry, certification of processes as socially acceptable and environmentally responsible was seen as an important step. Along with this was product differentiation so that a product would follow along a stream of certified processes and emerge as a certified product.

Collective crisis management was also seen as important.

"A topic at the meeting, since it was in London, was the spill in Romania earlier this year, and the way in which the industry basically ducked for cover when this happened," says Thomson.

"There was no collective responsibility. There was no identification of this being good practice, bad practice, or anything other than business as usual."

Workshop participants also felt there should be a more effective system of sharing benefits within the community and improvements in health and safety worldwide.

At the workshop's conclusion, participants agreed that the Global Mining Initiative and the MMSD project provided a significant opportunity. They believed there is a need to be bold if the initiative is to work and there is a need to move as quickly as possible.

PDAC responds to disclosure rules

The PDAC has filed its response to National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101), published for comment this spring by the Canadian Securities Administrators.

The national instrument sets out new public disclosure rules that will affect all mining exploration companies by year end.

The rules dictate disclosure standards that will apply to both oral statements and written disclosure such as news releases, prospectuses and annual reports of mining and mineral companies.

Steve Vaughan, head of the PDAC's securities committee, says 85 per cent of NI 43-101 is acceptable, but 15 per cent "has real issues in it that have to be looked at."

He adds, "Technical and professional standards are not things that securities regulators should have anything to do with, because they really don't understand the business they're regulating. This is why it is so important that industry work very hard to contribute to the document."

A copy of the response may be obtained from the PDAC office.

Volunteering helps lawyer stay at leading edge



Steve Vaughan

It's said that if you want something done, you ask a busy person.

That's certainly the case with Toronto lawyer Steve Vaughan. Although he maintains a fulltime legal practice, he also spends, on average, a day a week working as a volunteer for the PDAC.

His activities include holding positions as a director of the association and a member of the executive committee, both of which require attendance at monthly meetings.

He also chairs the securities committee, a group that normally meets three or four times a year. However, he says, the regulatory reform that has followed the 1999 publication of

the Toronto Stock Exchange/Ontario Securities Commission Mining Standards Task Force Report means more meetings — “twice a month and sometimes many times more.”

On top of all of that, Vaughan's advice is always available to PDAC executive director Tony Andrews.

Vaughan heads the Natural Resource Practice Group at the Toronto law firm Aird & Berlis, where he leads a team of eight other lawyers working on legal issues related to the mineral, geothermal and oil and gas business.

He admits to working seven days a week but considers the hours spent with the PDAC essential for his practice.

“You stay at the leading edge of all the legal issues,” he says. “You're building knowledge.”

Vaughan grew up in Fredericton, N.B. where his father was in the automobile business.

It was the start of the Bathurst boom and everyone in New Brunswick was in a state of euphoria, he recalls.

“They believed that all this wealth was going to come into the province where there had never been any opportunities for its young people,” he says. “Geology was the rage and so I started as a miner at 15 years old, working (summers) in a tungsten mine.”

After high school, Vaughan went into geology, earning his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of New Brunswick and his Master's degree from McGill.

See *Volunteerism* page 4

Prospector advisory

Prospectors who use explosives are reminded that they must obtain a Certificate of Training under federal regulations for the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG).

Training is available at various locations across Canada, but qualifications for trainers vary widely and members are cautioned to ensure that their certificate meets Department of Transportation requirements. For more information, visit the TDG web site at www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/en/menu.htm.

There are indications that a blaster certificate will also become a national requirement. Implementation will likely occur once agreement has been reached on suitable grandfathering provisions.

Local prospecting groups are encouraged to facilitate training sessions for their members in order to share costs. Optimum class sizes of 15 to 20 are recommended.

Symposium looks at shareholder value

A symposium on Mining in Transition: Consolidation, Returns and Shareholder Value will be held in Toronto on Jan. 22, 2001.

Staged by the Mineral Economics Society (MES) of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, the symposium looks at why investors and markets are being drawn to e-commerce stocks and overlooking the mining industry.

Speakers include industry leaders and experts from related fields and participants will have an opportunity to voice their opinions.

For more information, visit the MES web site at www.cim.org/mes/mes.html or contact Jane Spooner, MES chair, at (tel.) 416-362-5135; (fax) 416-362-5763; (email) mes2001@istar.ca.

WMMF papers available

Papers delivered at the first-ever World Mines Ministries Forum (WMMF), held in Toronto in March, are now available on the WMMF web site at www.wmmf.org.

The web site also contains the recommendations that came out of the forum workshops.

Regional Open Houses and Meetings 2000 - 2001

Association des prospecteurs du Québec
Montreal, September 6-7, 2000
Contact: Daniel Bernard, 819-762-1599;
a.p.q.@sympatico.ca

Nova Scotia 'Mining Matters'
Halifax, October 30-31, 2000
Contact: Mike MacDonald, 902-424-2533;
mamacdon@gov.ns.ca

**Newfoundland & Labrador Review of
Activities**
St. John's, November 2-4, 2000
Contact: Lawson Dickson, 709-729-2453;
wld@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca

New Brunswick Open House
Fredericton, November 6-8, 2000
Contact: Don Carroll, 506-453-6642;
don.carroll@gnb.ca

Nunavut Mining Symposium
Rankin Inlet, November 12-14, 2000
Contact: Bernie MacIsaac, 867-975-5914;
bmacisaac@gov.nu.ca

Manitoba Mining & Minerals Convention
Winnipeg, November 16-18, 2000
Contact: Shirley Henrie, 204-945-2691;
convention@em.gov.mb.ca

NWT Geoscience Forum
Yellowknife, November 22-24, 2000
Contact: Mike Vaydik, 867-873-5281;
nwtmines@ssimicro.com

Yukon Geoscience Forum
Whitehorse, November 24-26, 2000
Contact: Kim Delaney, 867-667-2090;
ycmines@yukon.net

Saskatchewan Energy & Mines
Saskatoon, November 27-29, 2000
Contact: George Patterson, 306-787-2560;
george.patterson@sem.gov.sk.ca

Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium
Toronto, December 11-12, 2000
Contact: Bill McGuinty, 416-314-3781;
bill.mcguinty@ndm.gov.on.ca

Cordilleran Roundup
Vancouver, January 23-26, 2001
Contact: Sally Howson, 604-689-5271,
ext. 104; sally@chamberofmines.bc.ca

Volunteerism an important part of Vaughan's life

Continued from page 3

He worked for two years at Inco, in Thompson, Man. before deciding to return to school to get his law degree.

"I was really fascinated as to how you created companies and how you created wealth," he says.

"So I went to law school and it proved to be probably the smartest thing I could have done because it gives you a whole new perspective on the business. It's been very interesting and satisfying and you get into all kinds of fascinating deals."

Vaughan joined Aird & Berlis in 1965, a firm engaged in the mining business.

His practice consists primarily of mine finance which, he explains, is "a combination of geology, mining engineering, metallurgy and other technical aspects of the business, combined with law and finance, to create capital for mining companies." The end result, he adds, is to provide employment and create wealth.

The firm's main business is with brokerage firms and banks — work that leads to working on government policy and strategies, and helping governments write mining laws.

Vaughan is enthusiastic about his practice. He has travelled through most of the world, visiting places that most people rarely see, meeting many business and government leaders along the way.

"It's been very challenging, very stimulating and it makes the dull practice of law really quite exciting," he says.

One of his earliest assignments with the firm had to do with the development of the town of Elliot Lake, Ont.

"Everything to do with Elliot Lake, we did," he says.

The firm carried out the legal work for the town (including construction contracts for houses and public buildings) and the mines.

It was also involved in the sale of the uranium and for many years acted for the Canadian government in all of its

uranium matters, including negotiations with all of the world's purchasing governments.

Volunteerism has been an important part of Vaughan's life.

He volunteered in the health sector for many years and helped found the ALS Society of Canada, which aids those with Lou Gehrig's Disease. Today, however, his only volunteer work is with the PDAC.

His involvement with the association dates back to 1967, but his intense commitment began in the mid-'80s.

He says the work can be exhausting, particularly during the past year when, in addition to his usual commitment to PDAC matters, he helped to organize the first-ever World Mines Ministries Forum, held in conjunction with Mining Millennium 2000.

"Somebody's got to do it," he adds. "The mining industry's in real trouble in Canada and somebody has to keep fighting these battles."

Vaughan says he puts in the time and makes the commitment because of the importance of the junior resource sector, which is where his business is based.

He has been able to build a large international business with the help of colleagues in part because the group is so highly focused on what they do, he explains.

As well, involvement with the PDAC gives him an edge because he is always on top of current legal issues around mining.

"That's where you get your knowledge," he adds. "You know what government's thinking and where the issues really are."

Finally, and above all, Vaughan believes in the importance of the work the PDAC is doing.

"It's helped the Canadian industry to maintain its leadership role throughout the world," he says.

And that makes all the work worthwhile.

PDAC helps Yukon president make his case in Ottawa

When Gary Lee, president of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, decided to lobby politicians and government officials in Ottawa, the PDAC was there to give him a hand.

Lee, who became president of the chamber last November, says he is very appreciative of the excellent advice and support he received from the association.

The Yukon faces two serious problems that cause it to be uncompetitive nationally and internationally, Lee explains. The source of both problems is the federal government.

First, he says, the mine permitting process, which is governed by Ottawa through the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), takes too long.

"It's taking on average four years to permit even a small mine in the Yukon," he says. "Our concern is we're totally uncompetitive globally and nationally."

Having researched the permitting process in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, he can use figures from those provinces to back up his argument.

In Ontario, he says, permitting takes from six to 18 months; in Quebec it takes six to 12 months; and in Manitoba the process can be completed within three to six months.

The second problem relates to land access and Lee says the Yukon simply wants the federal government to adhere to its stated policies.

"Up to 20 per cent of land in the Yukon has now been withdrawn from mineral exploration," he says. "The land withdrawals are happening so fast that there is no time for socio-economic or scientific studies or mineral evaluations advocated by the federal government's minerals and metals policy."

Lee travelled back and forth to Ottawa, making his case to federal decision-makers, from March to July. To keep costs down, he stayed with friends and relatives.

He says he looked to the PDAC to help him open federal doors.

"The PDAC provided excellent advice from a national point of view," he says. "(Executive director) Tony Andrews and (issues director) Dave Comba were exceptionally helpful."

In particular, Andrews and Comba helped Lee research what is happening in other jurisdictions, advised him on how to approach government and helped arrange various meetings.

"Basically I just made myself available to discuss things as he proceeded," says Andrews.

"We also provided him with access to our government relations firm, Capital Hill Group, and this makes a large difference when you're knocking on doors in Ottawa.

"But much of the credit has to go to Gary. He's a determined and effective advocate and has represented the Yukon in its time of need in an excellent way."

Lee says his campaign among the decision-makers has shown some results.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Robert Nault has appointed a special adviser to determine the nature of the problems in the Yukon and report back with recommendations.

In addition, a special meeting focussing on the Yukon and Northwest Territories will be organized at this year's Mines Ministers Conference.

Before Gary Lee arrived in Ottawa, government officials did not realize there were problems. Now they do. But, he says, the job is only half done.

"We've had lots of meetings," he states. "The Yukon mining industry is in crisis as a result of DIAND's convoluted, dysfunctional permitting and land access. It's going to take direct action from the government to solve the problems."

Convention date set

The PDAC convention in 2001 will take place from March 11 to 14 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Information for current exhibitors in the Trade Show and Investors Exchange was mailed in July. For further information, contact Paul Flumian at 416-362-1969, ext. 226; e-mail: pflumian@pdac.ca

Premier supports industry

The recently elected premier of the Yukon is taking steps to revive the competitiveness of the Yukon mining industry.

Pat Duncan is urging federal Finance Minister Paul Martin to look at enhancing flow-through tax deductions on investments in mineral exploration along the lines the PDAC has recommended.

She has also told the mining industry that there will be no new protected areas in the Yukon until problems with the current process have been resolved.

In addition, she says, duplication between Yukon and federal regulatory regimes will be addressed.

Speaking to mining executives in B.C. this summer, Ms Duncan said she had

written to Mr. Martin asking him to support the PDAC/Canadian Diamond Drillers Association flow-through share recommendations.

She told the executives that previous governments had created uncertainties. Land-use planning was perceived to be hostile to mining and the environmental review process was confusing.

Her government understood the importance of land access to the industry, she said, and would take steps to remedy the problems.

The PDAC will meet the new premier this fall to determine the means by which industry and the Yukon government can work more closely together on issues affecting the exploration sector.

Hall of Fame banquet date

The Canadian Mining Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremonies will be held in Toronto on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2001. Names of those to be inducted will be announced toward the end of this year.

Ontario prospector works to save winter habitat of bats

Ontario prospector Mike Leahy is working to turn abandoned mine sites into bat friendly places where the flying mammals can hibernate over the winter.

According to an article in the March/April issue of *Highgrader Magazine*, bat populations across North America are under increasing attack through loss of habitat, urbanization and the use of pesticides. The loss of places where they can hibernate is particularly significant and access to caves and mines may be crucial to their survival.



At Homestake's McLaughlin Mine, a pre-fab bat shack has been made out of 500 surplus truck tires.

In the U.S., Bats Conservation International has been working on mine reclamation since the early 1980s. The organization has joined with major companies such as BHP Copper and Homestake to identify the mines that attract bat populations and then close them in a bat friendly manner.

Bats like to hibernate in mines because they provide cool, stable temperatures,

humidity, shelter from the extremes of weather and protection from predators. Unfortunately, however, many abandoned adits are being blasted shut for safety reasons.

Mike Leahy, who is a PDAC director and a member of the Northern Prospectors Association, is a bat enthusiast and a naturalist. He decided to do something about threatened bat habitats in northern Ontario.

He told *Highgrader Magazine*, "Since any mine reclamation taken on by government can either destroy bat habitats or accommodate them, I decided we needed to survey the existing abandoned mine sites to see which ones are being used by hibernating bats."

It is easy — and costs no more — to make these abandoned mines bat friendly places, he says. It simply means putting gates over the entrances rather than blasting them shut.

Contacting Science North in Sudbury, Ont. to help

coordinate a survey, Leahy found experts doubtful that much concrete information could be obtained. So he turned to fellow prospectors who, he reasoned, were the ones most likely to know about bats.

"When you think about it, who are your best sources of information?" he told *Highgrader*. "A bunch of guys who regularly go into underground workings."



This grated adit is safe for both bats and people.

With their help, Leahy has identified half a dozen confirmed sites and another half-dozen good possibilities.

Armed with this information, he hopes to be able to preserve the bat habitats of northeastern Ontario for the five species that winter there.

Photographs courtesy of Highgrader Magazine

PDAC announces student winners

Every year, the PDAC donates scholarship funds to Canadian colleges offering geotechnical courses. These funds are distributed as awards to students who have been selected by the colleges for their academic achievement.

Awards for the 1999-2000 academic year were given to the following students:

- Ahmed Aden, British Columbia Institute of Technology;
- Rusty Altmann, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology;
- Paul Huet, Haileybury School of Mines;
- Jason Jessup, Haileybury School of Mines;
- Olivier Côté Mantha, Cegep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue;
- Robert Maynard, Cambrian Collège;
- Brent Reeves, Haileybury School of Mines;
- Maxime Reimnitz, Collège de la région de l'amiante;
- Ryan Stafford, Cambrian College;
- Audrey Tremblay, Collège de la région de l'amiante.

Nickel block

As debate continues about the possible health risks associated with mobile phones, the mining industry may be able to provide a solution.

According to the 1999 Falconbridge Report on Sustainable Development, manufacturers are investigating ways to reduce exposure to the radiation emanating from handsets.

One solution may lie in a mobile phone carrying case that incorporates pure nickel woven mesh in its lining. The nickel causes any radiation to be absorbed and converted safely into heat.

South African AIDS disaster hits hard at mining industry

South Africa is facing a major economic and health care disaster because of HIV/AIDS and mining is one of the industries that will be most heavily affected.

Today, 10 per cent of South Africa's population - 4.2 million people - are infected by HIV/AIDS, most of them of working age. The epidemic is still at an early stage, however, and because many of those infected with HIV are asymptomatic and still able to work, the full impact of the illness has yet to be seen.

Soldiers and miners are among those most at risk of HIV/AIDS which, on the African continent, is spread primarily through heterosexual activity. It is estimated that one out of every two miners and two out of every three soldiers in South Africa are infected.

The mining industry is particularly at risk and has been identified as having the fastest-growing rate of infection of any sector in South Africa.

Its migrant male work force, single-sex hostels, lack of entertainment opportunities and ready access to sex trade workers

are all factors that breed an atmosphere in which HIV/AIDS thrives.

An article published in the Mar. 17 - 23 issue of *Mining Weekly* drew attention to the potential catastrophe awaiting the industry.

Currently, it says, unofficial statistics indicate between 40 and 45 per cent of the mine work force is infected, a figure confirmed by the country's Minerals and Energy Deputy Minister Susan Shabangu.

The article estimates that by 2004, 70 per cent of the infected mineworker population will be showing symptoms of HIV/AIDS and between five and 10 per cent of the work force will start dying.

Productivity will decline, absenteeism will soar and miners will be taking more sick leave. New miners will have to be recruited to replace as much as 20 per cent of the work force.

It all adds up to a loss of productivity that could be as much as 20 per cent.

With disaster looming, *Mining Weekly* reports, Deputy Minister Susan Shabangu has issued a challenge to the mining industry. She wants it to focus less on making HIV/AIDS a notifiable disease, and to start

putting programs in place to tackle the crisis.

She has also committed her department to the training of AIDS counsellors and educators who will target mining communities to discuss ways of preventing the spread of the epidemic.

The growing impact of HIV/AIDS will likely affect mining operations in fundamental ways.

For example, a shortened work day may have to be introduced to accommodate sick employees and ensure their skills are retained for as long as possible.

In areas where employees rely on the mine hospital or clinic for medical care, mining companies will have to increase spending on the health infrastructure. They will also have to focus on preventive care to help HIV-positive workers manage the illness and avoid its multiple complications.

Education and awareness are key to managing HIV/AIDS and some mining companies have put HIV-prevention programs in place. However, in a conservative country where those with HIV/AIDS are treated like lepers, it will be an uphill battle to dispel the myths and prejudices about the illness.

Europe touts its mining heritage

As a follow up to last year's issue on Canadian mining museums, the May issue of the *CIM Bulletin* lists historical mining museums across Europe.

The listings cover the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Scandinavia, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Eastern Europe. Among the historical sites are Roman quarries, Neolithic mines, slate caverns, ironworks and a brickworks, as well as a wide range of mineral museums.

An accompanying article notes that the mining industry has left an important heritage and some 500 ancient Europe mines have been turned into mining museums, protected natural areas and recreational parks.

Ontario to license geoscientists

By the end of this year, there will be licensed geoscientists in Ontario.

The Ontario legislature has passed the Professional Geoscientists Act, establishing the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) as the governing body for geoscientists and empowering the association to establish standards of professional practice.

"It's a great event for the geoscience community and very positive for the mining community," says a jubilant Bill Pearson, president of the Association of Geoscientists of Ontario (AGO).

A leading force behind development of the legislation, Pearson has spent years trying to establish the AGO as a self-regulatory body.

The new act will regulate Ontario geo-

scientists and allow them to be recognized as "qualified persons" for purposes of reviewing and approving all mineral exploration results intended for public release. It will also protect the public against unskilled and unethical actions, says Pearson.

"This is an excellent example of the private sector working with government to move the public agenda ahead," he adds.

The act passed its first, second and third readings in June — "the legislative equivalent of light speed," says Pearson.

He says the AGO executive, acting as a transitional council for the new association, will continue to work with ministry officials in developing a strategy for finalizing APGO regulations. It will also be consulting its membership as it develops these regulations.

Behind the Scenes

APRIL 28: Past president Gerald Harper was the keynote luncheon speaker at the annual meeting of the Canadian Diamond Drilling Association, in Quebec City. His topic was the PDAC's focused flowthrough campaign.

MAY 4-6: Director Ian Thomson represented the PDAC at an organizational meeting of the Global Mining Initiative to discuss the agenda for the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project, in London, England (see related story, page 2).

MAY 4: Executive Director Tony Andrews was an invited participant at a town hall meeting in Elliot Lake of the Elliot Lake Decommissioning Review and Advisory Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to report on progress and outstanding issues on the stewardship of the Serpent River Watershed.

MAY 23: The MM2000 Planning Committee held its final meeting and hosted an appreciation lunch for volunteers and staff involved in the organization of the convention.

MAY 29: Executive Director Tony Andrews and Issues Management Director Dave Comba represented the PDAC at a special reception and presentation to members of the federal Liberal Rural Caucus, organized on Parliament Hill by Mining Works for Canada. Mr. Andrews made a presentation on the current state of the exploration sector. Also in attendance was PDAC Director Patricia Dillon.

MAY 29: The PDAC Securities Committee met with members of the TSE/OSC Mining Standards Task Force to discuss the role of mining analysts and to present its brief.

MAY 30: Issues Management Director Dave Comba met with Liberal MPs from urban ridings to discuss the PDAC's focused flowthrough share program. Later the same day he met with the Canadian Alliance's Natural Resources and Finance critics to inform them of mining related issues, discuss their party's policies with respect to tax incentives, such as focused flowthrough, and lay the groundwork for questions for the House of Commons fall session.

MAY 30-JUNE 1: Executive Director Tony Andrews attended GeoCanada 2000, a national meeting of the earth science technical societies, including the GAC, MAC and CGU, in Calgary.

JUNE 1: Director Mary-Claire Ward represented the PDAC at a meeting in Calgary of the National Geological Surveys Committee which was discussing the development of a national geoscience mapping strategy for presentation to the Mines Ministers Conference in September. Also in attendance at the meeting was PDAC Director Jamie Robertson.

JUNE 3: Director Mary-Claire Ward represented the PDAC at a meeting of the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists, in Calgary. One of the main agenda items at the meeting was the transfer of professional membership from one province to another.

JUNE 5: Executive Director Tony Andrews attended a fund-raising reception for Ontario's Minister of Northern Development and Mines Tim Hudak, in Toronto.

JUNE 8: Executive Director Tony Andrews was an invited participant at a workshop on 'conflict diamonds,' organized by the federal Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, in Ottawa.

JUNE 13: The PDAC Securities Committee filed its brief on proposed National Instrument 43-101, the policy on standards of disclosure for mineral projects, to the Canadian Securities Administrators. Included in the brief were the committee's recommended revisions to the CIMM Resource/Reserve Classification System.

JUNE 14: The PDAC Education Committee organized a farewell reception for Linda Lilge, Project Coordinator of the PDAC Mining Matters program.

JUNE 19-20: Past president Gerald Harper represented the PDAC at a meeting of the joint MAC-PDAC Environment Committee, in Quebec City. The committee will be directing its efforts towards the issue of orphaned mine sites over the next few months.

JUNE 21: Executive Director Tony Andrews and Issues Management Director Dave Comba attended the Mining Association of Canada's Annual General Meeting, in Quebec City.

June 22: Director Patricia Dillon attended a meeting of the MAC Public Affairs Committee, in Quebec City.

JUNE 22: Executive Director Tony Andrews represented the PDAC at a government-industry meeting organized by the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Mining Industry (IGWG) to plan for this year's Mines Ministers Conference, in Quebec City.

JUNE 30: Past president Gerald Harper and Issues Management Director Dave Comba met with federal Finance Minister Paul Martin to discuss the PDAC's focused flowthrough share program, in Montreal (see related story, page 1)