



## PDAC Activities and Canadian Exploration News

# Group seeks to influence decisions about landscape

A landscape management coalition has been set up, comprising a number of representatives from various sectors, that will advance the concept of integrated management of Canada's lands.

Currently, the various decisions about land use in Canada are made in isolation from each other and there are few processes that enable integrated decision-making. These decisions tend to focus on protected areas as the main tool to achieve conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem function.

However, there is a growing awareness among various groups that a different approach is needed if the economic, environmental and social objectives of integrated landscape management are to be achieved. The landscape management coalition will drive this approach.

The coalition will advance and accelerate landscape management by influencing key Canadian decision-makers in the development of appropriate policies, practices and tools.

It will work through communities, associations and various government agencies to achieve this goal.

"The key word is 'influence,'" says PDAC executive director Tony Andrews, a member of the coalition. "This group will not be 'doing things,' in the sense, say, of constructing a pilot project, but will try to influence the way land use decisions are being made."

An executive committee is currently working on organizational details. It will develop a communications strategy, to increase awareness about landscape management, and also a concise description of what landscape management is and the benefits it can realize.

Members of the landscape management coalition include: forestry and public relations consultant Kirk Andries; Stan Boutin, industrial research chair and professor, University of Alberta; Jean Cinq-Mars, president, Wildlife Habitat Canada; Andrew de Vries, biodiversity advisor, Forest Products Association of Canada; David Gauthier, executive director, Canadian Plains Research Centre and geography professor, University of Regina; Ole Hendrickson, science director, and John Herity, director, Biodiversity Convention Office, Environment Canada; Steven Kennett, research associate, Canadian Institute of Resource Law, University of Calgary; Richard Laing, Integrated Planning Services Ltd.; Louis Lapière, president, Institut pour la surveillance et la recherche environnementale, University of Moncton; Terry Quinney, provincial coordinator, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Al Sanderson, executive director, Integrated Resource Management Branch, Government of Alberta; and Ed Wiken, director, science and policy, Wildlife Habitat Canada.



Thomas Homer-Dixon, author of *The Ingenuity Gap*, will speak at the Mineral Outlook luncheon during the PDAC Convention. The convention takes place in Toronto from March 7 to 10. (See p.5 for details)

### Correction

In the September issue of *In Brief*, Oliver Bonham was incorrectly identified. He is, of course, executive director of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario.

The PDAC apologizes for the error.

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# Ministers react positively to PDAC brief

Despite the ravages of Hurricane Juan, the 2003 Mines Ministers Conference in Halifax was a success – although some of the usual technical aids were missing.

The hurricane hit Halifax at midnight the day before the conference opened. The Westin Hotel, the location of the conference, was without electricity but organizers were determined the meeting should go ahead.

PDAC executive director Tony Andrews said the change in arrangements actually enhanced the atmosphere of the meeting.

“The normal morning open session, where industry presents its case to governments, proceeded without Power Point presentations, but simply with the speakers standing up and talking,” he explained in an interview. “This contributed to a somewhat more relaxed, informal atmosphere and the

dialogue between ministers and industry was very good.”

The PDAC brief raised several issues of importance to the industry.

It pointed to the need for a single set of security regulations, applied consistently across Canada by one securities regulator.

It also asked for a three-year extension to the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration in Canada (ITCE) until investor interest returns to the sector. The temporary federal ITCE program of “super” flow-through shares has been a lifeline for the industry and has allowed a significant exploration effort to be mounted during the down market cycle. The PDAC estimates flow-through share financings raised more than \$450 million between October 2000 and June 2003.

The PDAC asked the ministers to support the eligibility of community consulta-

tion expenditures for Canadian Exploration Expense and to support efforts by professional self-regulatory organizations to facilitate professional practice across Canada.

The ministers were also asked to use their discretion to extend the deadline for assessment work when a company is in danger of losing its mineral rights because of delays due to the consultation process.

The brief was well received, and provinces that commented on the ITCE gave positive responses. The federal government also agreed that there should be a discussion process on CEE and its definition.

A planned presentation on E3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration had to be postponed due to the power outage. It took place the next day to a smaller audience but received a warm reception and a new subscriber Environment Canada.

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## Aboriginals want more information about mining

A survey of aboriginal communities has revealed a significant need for information about the mining industry.

The survey was undertaken by Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association (CAMA), the PDAC and the Mining Association of Canada. The partners want to start a dialogue between aboriginal communities and the industry to support development and partnership, increase knowledge of the industry by aboriginal communities and improve mutual understanding.

The survey was intended to identify the interests of aboriginals related to mining and their need for information.

Results indicate strong support for the development of an Information Toolkit on Exploration and Mining as a mechanism for initiating and developing constructive relationships. The toolkit would be sent to chiefs and councils, and the economic development officers of bands and organizations.

The survey was conducted by CAMA and sent to aboriginal communities across Canada that have a particular interest in the industry through their exposure to exploration, development and mining.

Close to 70 per cent of the communities responded and almost 90 per cent of respondents indicated they want to know more

about the mining industry. Areas where they are seeking better understanding include employment opportunities, the mining cycle, the experience of other communities, mine closure, environmental management, regulations and staking.

Asked if an information toolkit on mining would be useful, 85 per cent replied affirmatively. Respondents also overwhelmingly said they want the information conveyed face-to-face, through community meetings, workshops or conferences.

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## PDAC attends open houses

With the end of the year approaching, it's time for industry open houses and symposia.

The PDAC has attended or will be attending the following gatherings: Newfoundland & Labrador Open House/CIM, St. John's, Nfld.; New Brunswick Open House, Fredericton, N.B.; Manitoba Mining and Minerals Convention, Winnipeg, Man.; Quebec Exploration 2003, Quebec City, Que.; Saskatchewan Open House, Saskatoon, Sask.; and the Ontario Exploration and Geoscience Symposium, Toronto, Ont.

*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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## PDAC confers with federal ministries

PDAC president Bill Mercer, executive director Tony Andrews and issues director Dave Comba held a series of meetings in Ottawa on Oct. 22.

The meetings were designed to introduce the association and explain the sector to senior officials in ministries such as Fisheries and Oceans and Environment, where the PDAC has had no previous dealings.

"This is something our members have asked us to do," says Mercer. "It's essential for us to initiate a relationship with people in these ministries because access and permitting issues are so important for our members."

The atmosphere in the meetings was positive, he added. The PDAC representatives explained how the mining cycle and the industry work, and the ways in which

government policy impacts the industry's survival.

They also introduced E3 to ministry representatives.

"The people at Environment Canada were very impressed with E3's high-tech delivery," Mercer says.

In other ministries – Finance and Canada Customs and Revenue Agency – a majority of the PDAC's senior contacts had retired during the summer. The association representatives introduced themselves and the sector to the successors.

In particular, they discussed the success of the "super" flow-through share program, drawing on several independent sources who have verified the importance of the program to Canada's northern communities and the number of discoveries it has enabled.

## PDAC web site posts national database

A national database on the current status of protected area strategies across Canada is now posted on the PDAC web site, [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca).

Compiled by the association from provincial, territorial and federal government departments as part of its land use strategy, the database is the only single source of information on protected areas in the country. It consists of text describing processes and strategies in all Canadian jurisdictions, and a spreadsheet of comparative data.

## 2003 Claim Tag Award winners have staked new ground for industry

The PDAC has bestowed its 2003 Claim Tag Awards on mines ministers from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and the federal government.

The four awards, symbolizing the four corner posts of a mineral claim, were introduced last year to recognize government support of mineral exploration.

The awards were presented by PDAC president Bill Mercer during the 60th Mines Ministers Conference in Halifax in September.

In congratulating the winners, Mercer said, "I am delighted to once again recognize ministers whose government departments have, in effect, 'staked new ground' in support of the mineral exploration sector."

Claim Tag #1 Award goes to Jim Wilson, Ontario's then minister of Northern Development and Mines, in recognition of the province's continued geoscience funding of Operation Treasure Hunt, special projects for the Abitibi and Nipigon areas and mine rehabilitation programs. The cost-sharing agreement with the Ontario Mining Association for the rehabilitation of historic mine sites is particularly innovative.

Richard Neufeld, B.C.'s minister of

Energy and Mines, received Claim Tag #2 Award for the province's Rocks to Riches program (see *In Brief*, September 2003) and its innovative arrangement with the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines for the short-term delivery of geoscience.

The third Claim Tag Award was given to Eric Cline, Saskatchewan's minister of Industry and Resources. The award recognizes Saskatchewan's enhanced geoscience funding, announced in 2002 for six years, and its increased incentives for prospectors and junior mineral exploration companies. Other announced tax measures also make the province very competitive.

Two ministers of the federal government were awarded Claim Tag Award.

Robert Nault, minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, was recognized for his department's announced two-year, \$4-million funding for a northern geoscience strategy. As well, Herb Dhaliwal, minister of Natural Resources Canada, was recognized for announced special funding for geomatics for part of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The new geomatics base is essential for the collection of geoscience data.

## The board at work

About 25 PDAC directors and representatives from sister organizations attended a PDAC-sponsored workshop on negotiation training this fall.

PDAC president Bill Mercer proposed the workshop as a first step toward a systematic approach to building relationships with interest groups such as aboriginals and environmentalists.

Mercer, who has taken an expanded three-day version of the course, says the negotiation method taught was developed by the Harvard Business School.

"The principle behind it is putting yourself in the shoes of the person across the table, and understanding what their issues are, why they have those issues," he explains. "You look for common ground and how you can satisfy their needs."

Those needs may not necessarily be the ones they express verbally, he adds.

Participants responded enthusiastically to the course and Mercer is now planning how to follow it up. The one-day session barely touched the surface of negotiation training, he explains, and there is still much to learn.

# PDAC sees important World Bank role in resource development projects

The PDAC has contributed its recommendations to a wide-ranging consultation about the World Bank Group's (WBG) involvement in the oil, gas and mining sectors.

The PDAC believes this involvement in resource development projects is beneficial to developing countries and contributes to the alleviation of poverty. Further, it says, the bank should encourage governments to redistribute resource revenues to benefit local populations.

The *Extractive Industries Review* was launched in 2001 by the WBG, which comprises the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation and the Multinational Insurance Guarantee Agency. The review will make recommendations to guide the group's involvement in the oil, gas and mining sectors and recommend steps that will reduce poverty and support sustainable development.

For the past two years, the WBG has invited views from government representatives, the private sector, civil society, academia and other interested groups. It has held seven workshops, visited projects and communities, initiated web site participation and conducted consultations.

A report will be submitted to the WBG this month with final recommendations to be developed by March.

The PDAC brief underlines the strong positive influence the WBG has on the practice and conduct of mineral exploration. For example, it plays a significant role in raising the standards of environmental and social practice of the international mining industry.

In addition, its government assistance programs affect the way mining takes place in developing countries. For example, WBG financial assistance for baseline geological and environmental studies is usually accompanied by a program of training for local scientists and technicians. In many developing countries, the bank also provides loans and technical assistance for legislative reform.

The brief points out that the international mining industry is developing policies and procedures at the extractive phase of the cycle to address the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability. In the social area, it adds, the key question asked is whether the long-term consequences of a mine will be positive or negative for local populations.

Within this context, the brief says, poverty is emerging as a key issue.

Companies in many parts of the world are implementing programs whereby a large proportion of the wealth created by the mine is invested in local communities to create an economy benefitting as many citizens as possible.

"What is evident in many situations is that the companies are doing this almost alone; government is conspicuous by its absence," the brief says.

It explains that governments lack the mechanisms for effectively distributing to the local level the wealth realized from resource revenue streams, such as taxes or royalties.

Many of these local governments also lack the political will to undertake wealth distribution.

The PDAC urges the WBG to use its influence with governments to encourage the development and implementation of policies and mechanisms for the redistribution of these revenues so they benefit local populations and reduce poverty.

The PDAC made three recommendations to the Extractive Industries Review:

The WBG should remain involved in mining, oil and gas development.

The WBG should prioritize investments in countries where governments are willing to work with it to develop governance structures leading to effective redistribution of resource revenues for the benefit of local populations and to reduce poverty.

The WBG should set as a priority in the next decade strengthening the governance of wealth and revenues in developing countries.

The PDAC's submission is posted at [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca).

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## Project studies industry HR needs

Human resources needs in the mining industry will be the area of focus for a new study that started this fall.

PDAC director Patricia Dillon will co-chair the mineral industry sector steering committee that is to oversee and manage the human resources project.

The project will research and report on the short- and long-term human resources issues facing the industry. The report will be issued in January 2005, and findings will be used to develop a strategy and action plan to address these issues.

The Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council - Canada (MITAC-Canada) is managing the project, which is funded by Human Resources Development Canada.

Since 1997, MITAC-Canada has developed a number of

products and services for training various segments of the work force and increasing potential employment opportunities among prospective recruits.

Now it wants to plan ahead, to understand future human resources issues and develop a strategy for responding to them.

Some of the basic information required to do this is not available or is out-dated, and the sector study project is expected to fill those gaps. Among other things, it will examine how changes in business and technology relate to human resources issues such as future skill requirements, and education and training needs.

PDAC director Karen Sutherland will participate in the initiative with an emphasis on the human resources needs of the exploration and development sector.

# Thomas Homer-Dixon, Sir Sam Jonah to speak at convention luncheons

The PDAC has confirmed two headline speakers for its convention in March.

On Monday, Mar. 8, Thomas Homer-Dixon will address the Mineral Outlook luncheon. The author of the best-selling book, *The Ingenuity Gap*, Homer-Dixon is director of the peace and conflict studies program and associate professor in the department of political science at the University of Toronto.

Homer-Dixon will speak about the ingenuity gap, which he describes as the critical problem we face today. He asks whether we can create and implement useful ideas fast enough to solve the problems - environmental, social and technological - that we have created.

Discussing natural resources, Homer-Dixon points out that just when rich countries appear to have learned how to manage their natural environments, a whole new class of problems has appeared. These problems, which range from climate change to major alterations of bio-geochemical cycles, are global, complex and characterized

by what he calls "unknown unknowns."

The second headline speaker is Ghanaian Sir Sam Jonah, who will address the PDAC-CIM joint luncheon on Wednesday, Mar. 10.

The chief executive of Ashanti Goldfields Company Limited and the only black boss of a gold mining company, Jonah will speak on the topic "Challenges to Building a First World Mining Company in Developing Africa."

The son of a construction company boss, Jonah is a legendary figure. His first job was with Lonrho, the British conglomerate led by "Tiny" Rowland that bought Ashanti in 1968. Rowland spotted Jonah as a promising manager and became a mentor to him.

He sent Jonah to Britain's Camborne School of Mines and appointed him managing director of Ashanti when he was only 36.

Now 54, Jonah has built Ashanti into one of the world's biggest gold mining groups with operations across Africa.



Nicole Sampson has been appointed convention coordinator for the PDAC.

## Four new inductees enter Hall of Fame

Four men who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the industry have been named to the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place on Jan. 15 in Toronto.

Scientist, explorationist, entrepreneur, innovator and mining leader, **Norman Keevil** has held several positions with Teck Cominco, including president, CEO and chairman. Under his guidance, the company has gone through a number of amalgamations, a move, a merger and a name change to emerge as a diversified mining and refining company.

**Michael Knuckey** has been nominated for his leadership in the discovery and development of at least 10 mineral deposits, two of which are world-class and eight of which have become mines. He has also been instrumental in or has supported the use of important new exploration techniques.

A leader of Canada's coal mining industry, **Walter Riva** guided the transformation of the industry in western Canada from a provincial business struggling for survival to a technologically advanced, internationally competitive industry. He not only introduced new technology and mining procedures but also developed new markets.

**Edgar A. Scholz** was a pioneer in the understanding and development of large-scale open pit mining applied to low-grade copper, molybdenum and gold deposits. He was one of the architects of the success of Placer Development Limited, now Placer Dome, introducing geologic and economic concepts that contributed to Placer's worldwide dominance.

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## H. Douglas Hume



H. Douglas Hume, president of the PDAC from 1983 to 1985 and an honorary life member since 1991, died at his Toronto home on Sept. 18. He was 82.

Hume was a loyal supporter of the association and took an active role in its work for 23 years.

As chair of the PDAC's taxation and regulatory committee, to which he was appointed in 1980, and as president, he led the association in its efforts to obtain a better tax and regulatory environment for prospectors and junior exploration companies.

Hume founded Nuinsco Resources, then known as New Inscos Mines, with George Archibald in 1970. Archibald identified sound geological prospects while Hume financed their projects. Hume later served as chairman of the company.

Following his PDAC presidency, Hume joined the past president's advisory council and was an active member of the awards committee.

PDAC president Bill Mercer praised Hume's work on behalf of the Canadian exploration industry.

"Doug served our industry and its members with intelligence and tenacity," he said. "When he spoke, people listened. We shall all miss his wisdom, sound advice and wealth of experience gained largely, as he would say, 'in the trenches.'"

Warren Holmes, president and CEO of Nuinsco, said, "Doug Hume epitomized the grit and determination of the best of Canada's mine exploration pioneers."

He added, "Throughout a career that spanned more than three decades of mine exploration, he represented not only his own company but also, as vice president and then president of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada from 1981 to 1985, the whole industry with a sense of class and dignity."

## Worth a look... [www.goodpracticemining.org](http://www.goodpracticemining.org)

This web site, currently under development, will be a "must bookmark" for anyone associated with the mining and minerals industry – it is intended to contain a library of documents relating to good practices.

The Good Practice web site is being developed jointly by the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the UN Environment Programme and the UK Department for International Development. A temporary web site was put up briefly by the group, and now they are designing and developing a permanent site.

Once completed, Good Practice will provide access to an extensive and continually expanding library of good practice guidelines, standards, codes of conduct, case studies, legislation and other relevant material that are regarded as leading examples of their kind globally.

The site will support the continual improvement of the mining sector's performance and, in particular, the implementation and effective achievement of the new ICMM Sustainable Development Principles, by facilitating the sharing of information between stakeholders on a global basis.

The database will also encompass a host of additional issues lying outside the scope of these principles.

At the core of the site is the Good Practice Library, which provides access to a continually expanding database of information on mining, metals and sustainable development. Information will be available either as documents or as links to relevant web pages and the database may be searched by key words or by selected topic lists.

We do not have a date for launching of the Good Practice web site, but suggest you check the URL periodically.

## E3 free

Effective March, 2004, the E3 program (Environmental Excellence in Exploration) will be free of charge.

Launched nine months ago on a paid subscription basis, the program already has more than 200 users in 23 countries around the world. The PDAC is able to offer E3 at no charge because of this encouraging subscriber response and the generous support of sponsors.

E3 is an internet resource designed to encourage the highest levels of environmental care and social engagement worldwide during mineral exploration.

For more information, visit [www.e3mining.com](http://www.e3mining.com) or contact E3 project manager Barry Simmons at [bsimmons@pdac.ca](mailto:bsimmons@pdac.ca) or tel: 416 709 7102.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

# Accountant's business experience underscores PDAC's worth

Ron Gagel's 15 years as the top financial executive at Aur Resources has given him a deep appreciation of the PDAC.

When Gagel joined Aur in 1988, it was a junior exploration company with no mines and 30 employees. Today, it is a medium-sized producer, with three mines and 2,000 employees worldwide.

This first-hand experience of the growth of a company from junior to producer has given Gagel insight into the PDAC's role and turned him into a dedicated volunteer for the association.

"I have a feeling for the issues that are important to juniors and producers and I think the PDAC's role as spokesman for the junior exploration industry is extremely important," he says.

In particular, he points to the association's advocacy with government and its focus on the importance of the exploration industry for jobs, economic development and northern development.

His first involvement with the PDAC came in 1991. Aur Resources was being unfairly assessed by the Ontario government for capital taxes on flow-through shares included in Aur's paid up capital. Gagel, a chartered accountant, put together a PDAC sub-committee that wrote a proposal to the provincial government.

Three years later, the government agreed to exempt flow-through shares from capital taxes and the association asked Gagel to join its permanent taxation committee. In 1997, he also became a director and this year he was appointed to the executive committee.

The PDAC has several challenges in the 21st century, says Gagel, and one of the most important is to overcome the negative image of mining that is perpetuated by the green movement.

"We're being overwhelmed by the idea that mining is bad, especially mining in developed countries," he says.

He believes that one of the strongest weapons against this sort of misinformation is the PDAC's educational program, Mining



*Ron Gagel vacations with sons Christopher (left) and Stefan (right) in Jamaica in 2002*

Matters. It is vital that the young are taught about the importance of mining, he says, and about the reality of the industry as environmentally responsible.

Accountancy and mining were not on Gagel's agenda when he attended the University of Western Ontario in his hometown of London, Ontario – in fact, he had briefly wanted to be a marine biologist. He graduated in 1977 with an honours Bachelor of Science degree in zoology, but realized he was at a dead end.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do with it," he admits.

However, other influences were at work in his life. He had taken a business course at Western and his mother also had an opinion about her second son's future.

"She said I should be a lawyer or an accountant, because people will always fight and need to have a lawyer, and they will always have money and need to have an

accountant," he says with a laugh. Gagel was better with numbers.

He enrolled at the University of Windsor, graduating with an honours Bachelor of Commerce degree in business administration. As chance would have it, the majority of job offers he received were from accounting firms and he joined Coopers and Lybrand.

Gagel earned his chartered accountancy designation in 1981 and in 1983 joined a local CA firm. He realized that this was not where his future lay and at the age of 30, he says, "I had an early mid-life crisis."

He quit his job, sold his car, lent his furniture to his brother and back-packed on the cheap throughout Europe for six months. It was a trip filled with memorable events – from watching the running of the bulls in Pamplona to digging up a Roman coin at an archaeological dig on his 30th birthday.

"The European trip changed my outlook on life," he says. "I found out what was important and what wasn't and I gained experience of other cultures."

"I think it should be required for anyone coming out of university."

It also made him a confirmed adventure traveller – in later years, with his wife, visiting Egypt's Valley of the Kings by donkey rather than by bus, hiking to Machu Pichu and through the Amazon and going on a camping safari in Kenya.

When he returned to Canada from his European tour at the end of 1985, Gagel returned to Coopers and Lybrand and joined their consulting group, dealing with financial institutions. One of his non-financial clients was Jim Gill, president and CEO for Aur Resources.

One day in 1988, Gill invited Gagel to lunch. After a two-and-half-hour meal and a lot of non-business conversation, Gill confessed to the real reason for the invitation.

"He told me he wanted me to be his chief bean counter because I was the first accountant he'd met with half a brain,"

*See Gagel, page 8*

## *First Idaho Resources Inc.*

*Intrepid Minerals Corporation, First Idaho Resources Inc. and Metalore Resources Ltd. were the prize-winners in the 2002 PDAC Survey of Exploration Companies. Information from the annual survey assists the association in lobbying governments and enables it to track industry trends.*

First Idaho Resources Inc. has been primarily involved in mining since its incorporation. It has also recently been involved in a high-tech project.

Management of the company is currently negotiating acquisition of an exciting gold mining property at Clear Creek, Yukon. The property straddles the boundary between Dawson and Mayo mining districts within the Tintina Gold Belt.

Gold deposits situated within the belt include Donlin Creek, Ryan Lode, True North, Fort Knox, Pogo, Brewery Creek and Dublin Gulch deposits, plus several significant exploration properties in the Clear Creek area.

On March 11, 2002, the company amended a letter of intent to acquire all of the issued and outstanding shares in the capital of Mylawfirm.net Canada Inc., a privately-held Canadian corporation based in North Vancouver, B.C. Mylawfirm.net is tailored to provide Internet solutions to the legal industry and other professional industries. At present, the company is revisiting this project for viability.

First Idaho Resources continues to hold a 50 per cent interest in the Silver Bell, New Point and Hercules Lode mining claims located in Washington County, Idaho. The current metal market being what it is, the company intends to pursue exploration on the above claims.

## **Gagel was drawn to Gill's vision**

*Continued from page 7*

recalls Gagel, "and he said I didn't act like an accountant – and he didn't really like accountants."

It was, Gagel admits, an offer he couldn't refuse because he found himself drawn to Gill's vision of building Aur into a producing company. He became director of corporate finance and today is vice-president and chief financial officer.

In his spare time, Gagel focuses on his family, sports and cottaging. An avid hockey player himself, he coaches the hockey teams of both his nine-year-old and six-year-old sons. In winter, the family also goes skiing near their Lake of Bays cottage.

Gagel's love of travelling is undiminished – an enthusiasm he shares with his wife – but it's on the back burner while his boys are so young. However, he talks enviously of a friend with four sons who took each one, on his 16th birthday, on an adventure holiday such as climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro.

It's something, he says, he would like to do one day with his own sons.

*Register now for the PDAC Convention  
in Toronto, March 7 to 10.  
Visit [www.pdac.ca](http://www.pdac.ca) for details.*