

Mining Matters takes teaching tools to the North



First Nations students in class at Cat Lake, Ont.

In the early months of this year, the PDAC's educational program took to the air to bring the popular Mining Matters workshops to Inuit and First Nations communities. In travelling to these remote places, Mining Matters brought a valuable tool to teachers who are challenged by their lack of resources.

PDAC Mining Matters educates students about Canada's geology and mineral resources and promotes awareness of the importance of rocks, minerals and mining. It develops programs to fit in with the educational earth science curriculum, provides classroom kits for teachers and runs workshops to assist teachers in using the kits.

Early this year, in collaboration with the Nunavut government, Mining Matters held three half-day workshops for 60 teachers who came from across the territory to attend a teachers conference in Iqaluit.

It proved to be a momentous occasion for the teachers, says Laura Clinton, Mining Matters project coordinator.

Every two years, regional teachers conferences are held in three locations across

the territory, but the teachers are rarely able to get together as a group. The Iqaluit meeting provided just such an opportunity.

"It was a great experience for them to collaborate and learn from one another," says Clinton.

The Mining Matters unit was adapted to address the specific needs of the Nunavut teachers, incorporating traditional knowledge and traditional uses of stone. It included a rock and mineral kit and 20 lesson plans for grades 4 through 12.

Also participating in the workshops were people from Nunavut's department of economic development and transportation, who addressed specific questions about mining projects and gave an overview of the industry in Nunavut.

Clinton found the needs of teachers in the North very different from those in the south.

"They were really engaged in looking at ways they could adapt the lesson plans to meet the varying needs of their students," she explains.

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HR crisis looms for industry

Within the next decade, a human resources crisis will challenge the mining and minerals industry.

This is the key finding of a two-year project that has researched and analysed major human resources issues affecting the industry in the next decade.

Entitled *Prospecting the Future, Meeting Human Resources Challenges in the Minerals and Metals Industry*, the project is being led by the Mining Industry Training and Adjustment Council – Canada under the guidance of a national sector study steering committee. PDAC director Karen Sutherland represents the association on the committee and second vice-president Patricia Dillon chairs it.

In its preliminary report, the project reveals some worrisome trends.

One of the most serious issues facing the industry is retirement, with 16.9 per cent of employees expected to retire in the next five years, and as many as 40 per cent in the next decade.

During the next 10 years, industry growth will create up to 25,000 positions, while 56,000 positions could be vacated because of retirement.

This means the industry will need 81,000 people to fill these positions, of

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Industry welcomes B.C. election results

The Mining Association of British Columbia welcomes the re-election of the Liberals in the recent provincial election.

“There is going to be a continuation of the government’s approach, and that’s good news for our industry,” says Brian Battison, director of public affairs for the association. “Their policies have helped create a pretty dramatic turnaround for the industry in B.C. in the last four years.”

Among the policies, he lists a 10-year extension to the mineral exploration tax credit, elimination of the provincial sales tax on mining equipment and machinery and elimination of the capital tax.

Not only were these strong financial moves, Battison says, but they signalled an approach that showed more business awareness than had been demonstrated by the previous NDP government.

In the late 1990s, the NDP doubled the size of provincial parks and then surrounded many of them with special

management zones. That sent a signal to investors that it would be more difficult than before to develop a mine within those zones. While the Liberals continued this system, Battison says, they made it more scientific and helped make the province a more attractive destination for mineral exploration investment.

Exploration began to thrive. Under the NDP government, only five per cent of Canadian exploration dollars was spent in Canada; under the Liberals it rose to 12 per cent.

“The fact that we were able to win back more than double our proportionate share of mineral exploration dollars from other provinces is a result of this government’s approach to mining and resource development,” says Battison.

“We’re optimistic that kind of approach is going to be continued under this new government and we hope that our investors see it that way as well,” he adds.

Clinton volunteered in schools

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This trip was followed by one to northern Ontario, where Clinton conducted workshops on three remote First Nations reserves. Working with the Ontario Mining Association (OMA), Mining Matters has produced a teachers resource to be used with the OMAs recently released video for aboriginal communities, Mining New Opportunities. The video will help aboriginal peoples make informed decisions about economic opportunities in exploration and mining.

During her visits to the reserves, Clinton volunteered in the schools for a day, running workshops with the students on mineral identification and conducting rock hunts around the school property.

The Musselwhite mine draws from all three First Nations communities for its workforce. As a result, most of the students had a family member or friend working in the mine and were able to talk knowledgeably about gold mining.

The Mining Matters kits add to their knowledge, says Clinton, giving them a broader picture of the industry and its importance.

As in Iqaluit, she found the teachers lacked the curriculum-based resources that are available to their southern Ontario peers because they do not have the funds to attend teachers conferences, which are held in the south.

“Our program is available to all teachers across the province, so we make sure we’re accessing under-represented individuals,” says Clinton.

However, she adds, it is a costly process. Each workshop costs about \$5,000 – in part, because of the necessity to charter a plane to fly in to the reserve.

PDAC Mining Matters is a registered charitable organization that relies on financial and in-kind contributions to develop and implement its programs. For information on how to donate, contact Laura Clinton at pdacmm@pdac.ca or 416 362 1969, ext. 228.

Education, training strategies required

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which post-secondary institutions will be able to supply only 11,000. The remaining 70,000 individuals will have to be recruited from other sources such as the aboriginal community, new Canadians and other industries.

The research also reveals a global shortage in many of the skilled trades, engineering and geology occupations. Evidence suggests skill gaps may start to emerge during the next decade as automation and other advanced technologies become increasingly important to the viability of Canadian mines.

A number of partnerships exist between educational institutions and employers. However, many research participants said that if needs are to be met, there must be better coordination and communication among industry, educators, government and industry associations.

Ryan Montpellier, project manager of the study, anticipates that the final report will contain the following recommendations.

There is a need to promote the importance of the minerals and metals industry in Canada and to develop an industry-wide training and education strategy to ensure a skilled labour force.

The industry will need to develop and implement an industry-wide standardization of credentials to enable increased labour mobility within Canada and ensure minimum standards for mining-specific occupations.

It will be important to develop a targeted marketing and promotion campaign that attracts women, aboriginals and new Canadians to the industry. At the same time, establishment of a foreign credential recognition system will facilitate the integration of new Canadians into the industry.

Finally, the industry will need to develop occupational standards for key industry occupations.

The project will issue its final report later this summer. For more information, visit www.prospectingthefuture.ca.

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 well represented at Mining in Society show

The PDAC was out in force at the Mining in Society show, held in conjunction with the Toronto convention of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum in May.

The show was intended to improve the public image of mining, and also to highlight the industry as an attractive career option for young people. It offered free admission to the public and some 700 elementary and high school students were bussed in for the event.

One of those working at Mining in Society was PDAC Mining Matters project coordinator Laura Clinton. She ran activities for students, including a fossil dig and a scavenger hunt.

"The kids loved the hands-on experience, and the high school students were particularly interested in the careers booth" says Ms Clinton. "It was an incred-

ible opportunity to showcase what mining is all about."

The Mining Association of Canada (MAC) and the PDAC shared a booth to promote their two environmental programs, the MAC's Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) and the PDAC's Internet-based e-manual, E3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration. E3 launched a revised brochure with new details about the program.

Since then, the MAC has won the Globe Industry Association Award for Environmental Performance for its TSM program.

The Mining Hall of Fame was also at Mining in Society, to highlight the industry's contribution, through its 119 inductees, to Canada's high standard of living.

"We wanted to point out the fact that the mining industry is an industry because

of these people," says Saley Lawton, director of Communications and Membership for the PDAC.

Mining in Society also included a virtual reality theatre and several artisan booths where artists showed off the products they make using minerals and metals.



Students dig for fossils at Mining in Society

Integrated Landscape Management sparks interest

Interest in Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) is on the rise across Canada, which is a matter of considerable satisfaction to the Integrated Landscape Management Coalition.

A basic tenet of the PDAC, ILM asserts that decisions about Canada's landscape must be made within an integrated approach if economic, environmental and social objectives are to meet. To further this philosophy of land use, a coalition was formed two years ago of groups that support ILM. Members of the consortium comprise resource industries, conservation organizations, governments, academia and aboriginal representatives.

One of the first tasks of the coalition has been to develop a concept paper to provide a detailed description of ILM and why it is needed.

The paper has been field-tested by members of the coalition, who used their own constituencies as focus groups, and feedback has been positive. Released in June, the paper will be supported by a PowerPoint presentation and brochure to make it easily accessible to interested parties.

ILM is becoming a significant topic of discussion in several important areas.

In the Yukon, the coalition has come to an agreement with the territorial government and the Kaska Tribal Council over the role it will play in determining the application of an ILM approach to land use in southeast Yukon. The government and council are

establishing the approach to land use, but will ensure that whatever they implement will be close to ILM. They will also use the coalition's expertise on individual projects.

ILM is also a major topic at the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy, which has been discussing the best means of applying sustainable development to the boreal forests across Canada. Some coalition members are on the roundtable advisory group.

In addition, the coalition has held discussions with the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) to explore ways of working together. The CBI works with conservationists, First Nations and industry to link science, policy and conservation activities in Canada's boreal region.

In January, the coalition members met in Edmonton to consider the future of the coalition and to discuss ways of strengthening it and increasing its capacity.

Various directions were discussed, says Tony Andrews, executive director of the PDAC, one of which might be to set up a Centre of Excellence for land use, possibly at the University of Alberta.

Supporting such a move is the coalition's belief that a physical presence would be of great assistance in achieving integrated decision-making about land use. The centre could be a repository for both land-use policy and science.

Committee works toward greater mobility

The PDAC is calling on associations representing Canadian geoscientists to develop a model of Canada-wide registration. Such a system would allow geoscientists to attain a professional designation that would improve mobility within Canada and be recognized internationally.

The PDAC is also asking all levels of government to modify and harmonize existing regulations to allow for professional mobility.

The association's geoscience committee is working with individuals, organizations and governments to achieve this goal, which it believes would better protect the public and enhance the profession. An internationally recognized Canada-wide system of professional practice would give rise to consistent standards, high rates of compliance, cost-effective administration and improved flexibility.

Currently, a professional geoscientist working in a province or territory must meet that jurisdiction's requirements for registration which are administered by a self-regulatory organization. Since each organization has its own professional standards, financial resources and monitoring capacity, there is no consistency across the country.

When a geoscientist wants to work outside the home jurisdiction, problems occur. Some jurisdictions have reciprocal agreements allowing outside geoscientists to work there temporarily. However, says Richard Moore, chair of the PDAC geoscience committee, not all jurisdictions participate. Geoscientists must then go through a complex and costly registration system.

"It can take up to six months to work legally in a province," Moore says. "Quite often, people don't bother to register. They just go and work there."

This cumbersome system is not only a liability for geoscientists, who must be available to travel anywhere in Canada on short notice, but the PDAC believes it poses a threat to the viability of the exploration sector in Canada.

There is a perception that this inability to move freely across the country, as well as the bureaucratic procedures and costs, is deterring many geoscientists from joining their professional associations. This has serious implications for the maintenance of standards, as well as the financial viability and monitoring capacity of the self-regulatory organizations.

Internationally, geoscience in Canada is seen as being constrained by an inefficient regulatory framework. Improved mobility would ensure that Canadian geoscientists and the companies that employ them continue to be competitive.

The issue of professional mobility is not unique to geoscientists and many other professions have managed to eliminate barriers by working in accordance with the federal Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). AIT has studied some 400 professions and the PDAC geoscience committee will be commissioning its own report based on AIT's findings.

"We'll look at different professions and see if there are other models that might serve us better than the one we have," says Moore.

Plans laid for spending federal geoscience funding

The federal budget contains a five-year extension of the Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC) Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI) program, with funding of \$5 million a year for five years. The money is to be used for geological mapping in support of base-metal exploration around existing mining communities.

At the end of April, Geological Survey of Canada representatives held a workshop to outline where these TGI projects should be carried out. Discussions with provincial and territorial partners reached an agreement that there would be three types of projects.

Thematic projects would develop databases, exploration techniques and methodologies that could be applied to base metal explorations.

There would also be regional geologic, geochemical and geophysical compilation of both government and industry data in order to develop multi-layer Geographic Information Systems products useful for

exploration in and around known mining districts. Finally, within those districts, 3-D "knowledge cubes" would be developed to provide a better understanding of deposit environments and potential target areas below the 200-metre level.

Several industry participants at the workshop encouraged the GSC and its col-

laborators to find a way to use the promised funds to foster training of mappers and other geological professionals. In addition, because re-mapping of areas every 20 years or so is considered desirable, a "boots on the ground" philosophy is being suggested to ensure that new mapping is conducted in high potential areas.

PDAC seeks restoration of funding

The PDAC is continuing to advocate with the government to have funding restored to the Canadian geological mapping program. Federal funding for the program was omitted from the February budget.

The Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy, which involves federal, provincial and territorial governments, is intended to improve the quality and extent of geological mapping in Canada. Inclusion of the federal budget component is considered essential in order to trigger similar funding commitments from the provinces.

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New committee enhances PDAC's international presence

In 1992, the PDAC launched its annual convention internationally, opening the door to a new dimension of involvement for the association.

Because no other organization like the PDAC existed anywhere in the world, it found itself acquiring an international profile. Governments and members started asking the association to get involved in issues at the international level on behalf of both exploration and, in some cases, the junior sector.

In 1998, the PDAC board of directors decided to formalize this work and extended the association's advocacy mandate to the international scene.

"This was a difficult decision," says Tony Andrews, executive director of the PDAC. "We'd still be there primarily for our Canadian members, but we had to decide whether we would be there for our Canadian members wherever they were."

He notes that at the time the board made the decision, there were more than 600 companies working on 4,000 projects in about 100 countries.

"We couldn't ignore that," he says.

Last year, the board took another step in its international work by establishing an international affairs committee. It was apparent that the PDAC's involvement in this area would become more substantial, and the board wanted to increase the association's capacity for dealing with international issues, and ensure that the work is carried out in a structured, controlled way.

This May, the board approved a framework for the work of the committee.

One of its major objectives is to enhance the profile and credibility of the PDAC internationally. To achieve this, it will build networks and develop partnerships with other groups in order to advocate more effectively, promote the PDAC International Convention and increase membership.

The committee will also monitor on behalf of members and evaluate priority issues that have an impact on exploration, and determine the association's response. Such issues might include specific country legislation, community engagement and good practice, such as safety and codes of ethics.

The committee will also advise the board on key conferences that the PDAC should attend. The May board meeting approved the association's presence at three events this year, in St. Petersburg, Capetown and Beijing.

"We will use the St. Petersburg and Capetown events to determine whether there is a basis and rationale for partnership to be developed," says Andrews.

As an example of the work the PDAC could do, Andrews cites the St. Petersburg conference. While Russia is a strategically important area for mining, the investment climate is discouraging. The

PDAC hopes that attendance at the conference will foster a long-term relationship so that the association can contribute to improving the investment climate for its members in Russia.

These international gatherings also provide an opportunity for the PDAC to promote Canada as a place to explore.

Another objective of the international committee is to enhance attendance at the convention and to attract members to the association. It will assemble basic information on its international members, determine their primary needs and develop a communications strategy.

It will also oversee the implementation of a recommendation from the convention long-range planning committee, and conduct an international market survey.

Director honoured

PDAC director Eira Thomas has been named a recipient of the 2005 Canada's Top 40 Under 40 Award.

Created in 1995, the award recognizes outstanding young men and women who are "leading Canada into the new global economy."

President and chief executive officer of Stornoway Diamond Corp., Thomas led the exploration team that discovered the Diavik diamond mine in 1994. In 2003, Stornoway and its partners discovered diamond-bearing kimberlite in Nunavut and, under Thomas's direction, the company has now acquired more than 23 million acres of land.

Thomas joined the PDAC board in 1999 and is an active member of the association, sitting on the mining regulations and securities committees.

Leading the way

We honour outstanding individuals who have made notable contributions to our industry. Nominate a colleague to receive one of these PDAC Awards:

- **Bill Dennis Prospector of the Year Award**
- **Thayer Lindsley International Discovery Award**
- **Viola R. MacMillan Developer's Award**
- **Distinguished Service Award**
- **E3 Environmental Award**

For information about the awards and nomination process, visit www.pdac.ca.

Issues director Dave Comba retires

After seven years of managing the PDAC's advocacy work on taxation issues, land access and securities, Dave Comba, the PDAC's director of regulatory affairs, has retired.

Comba has had three careers in the mineral industry.

The first was a field career, working as a geologist for almost 30 years with Falconbridge group companies such as Giant Yellowknife. His second was in middle and senior management, initially with Texasgulf, Falconbridge Limited and Falconbridge Gold and then with a junior company controlled by Kinross Gold.

He worked on or led discovery teams resulting in 11 discoveries, five of which produced.

Comba describes his third career as public service – working for the PDAC. "I've done well by the mining industry and I thought working for the PDAC was a way of giving back," he says.

He was elected to the PDAC board in 1996 and when the organization created a new position for management of issues in 1998, he applied for the job and was hired.

In those early years, the industry was in steep decline and it was taxation that was to consume much of his time.

In 1999, Comba and the head of the Canadian Diamond Drilling Association (CDDA) met in North Bay, Ont., home of then provincial premier Mike Harris.

When the two men asked Harris's business associates and friends how best to lobby the premier on behalf of the industry, they were told to get professional help.

The PDAC and CDDA subsequently pooled resources to hire an Ottawa-based government relations firm. After intense lobbying, with help from Harris, the federal government in 2000 approved the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration in Canada, popularly known as the "super" flow-through share program.

"Ontario provided the first promise of legislation for enhanced flow-through shares," explains Comba. "It enabled us to put pressure on the federal and other provincial governments for similar assistance."

ITCE has been fundamental to the industry's recovery and the program has been extended twice.

More recently, Comba has worked on securities issues, a national diamond strategy and regulatory changes at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but he regards the ITCE program as the most successful of his initiatives.

His advocacy has been widely recognized. In 2002, he received a federal government merit award for the flow-through campaign, the only non-government person so recognized, and in June 2004, he was named CIM Distinguished Lecturer.



Dave Comba

Early this year, he won the Gold Pan award from the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines and in April, was invited to address the Australian Gold Council on the appropriateness of a flow-through share program for that country.

Comba has high praise for the industry people with whom he has worked during the past seven years.

"It's a surprisingly small industry and there are some really exceptional people in it and in government," he says.

Although Comba is retiring from the PDAC, he is not retiring from work. He hopes to serve as a director with a couple of mining companies.

"I'm a doer," he says, "and I have an uncommon technical and advocacy background."

Meridian joins E3 sponsors

A couple of years ago, Meridian Gold Company asked its senior geologist, John Pierson, to develop an in-house system for environmental tracking and best practices. A PDAC member, Mr. Pierson knew about E3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration and told his company's senior management that such a system already existed.

Today, Meridian not only uses the PDAC's Internet-based e-manual, it has also become a sponsor, contributing \$5,000 toward development of the program.

A Nevada-based company, Meridian works in a variety of terrestrial conditions: deserts, jungles and colder areas. It has found the E3 program of great assistance in its work.

"It's an excellent tool," says Mr. Pierson. "A lot of things are just common sense, but it's great to have some examples and checklists to go through to remind us how to work in diverse environments."

In Mexico and Central America, the company has used E3 to track the detail involved in setting up remote small camps. The drilling guidelines offered in the program help the company ensure that contractors are following good practices and keeping the site clean.

"It's a great program," Mr. Pierson says.

There is one thing that he would like to see added to E3. Because Meridian works in a number of Spanish-speaking countries, and the majority of staff are bilingual, he would like the program to be available in Spanish.

The E3 committee knows that translation is a priority and is currently identifying companies that would be interested in contributing toward the translation of E3 into languages such as French, Spanish and Portuguese. If you are interested in sponsoring E3, please contact PDAC director sustainability Philip Bousquet at pbousquet@pdac.ca or call 416 362 1969 ext. 230.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

André Gaumond's game plans spell success

To PDAC director André Gaumond, game plans are important.

As a young Québécois with a Master's degree in economic geology, he knew that he wanted eventually to have his own exploration company. He also knew that to succeed in running it, he would need expertise in a variety of areas. So he set out to acquire it.

During his university years and after obtaining his degree in 1986, he gained exploration experience, working for several companies and then as a consultant geologist in the eastern townships of Quebec.

Financial expertise would also be important, and when he was offered a job as a mining analyst, he accepted it and took the required securities courses.

After three years, in 1990, he joined a mining group in Montreal and held various management positions in three companies simultaneously. This gave him corporate expertise.

Finally, at the start of 1993, he became owner and president of his own company, Virginia Gold Mines. Now, 12 years later, he takes pride in what he has built from scratch.

"We reorganized it," he says. "It was a complete shell. There was no property; there was absolutely nothing in the company. Now it's the most active explorer in Quebec with an exploration budget of \$20 million this year, the largest in Quebec."

True to form, when Gaumond created Virginia he developed a game plan for the company. It consists of five interrelated points, which the company has followed faithfully.

First, the company is focused, working only in Quebec. Second, this has enabled it to develop an expertise that is recognized across North America. From this, third, have emerged partnerships with some of the largest majors in the world, which use Virginia as their exploration arm in Quebec. The fourth point is diversification of properties – the company has a portfolio of



André Gaumond enjoys hunting on the property he owns

projects. Finally, the company enjoys a sound financial situation; it is debt-free and has \$30 million in cash.

This game plan has led Virginia to become a pre-eminent exploration company in the province and as such, it participates in the work of several provincial government committees.

It was at one of these meetings in 2000 that Gaumond met Tony Andrews, executive director of the PDAC. After the meeting, over dinner, Andrews asked if Gaumond would be interested in bringing his knowledge of Quebec to the PDAC's board of directors. Gaumond thought he would enjoy exposure to a wider mining scene, and agreed to be nominated. He joined the board in 2001.

As a PDAC director, Gaumond has been involved with the E3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration program, both contributing Quebec content and promoting it to companies in Quebec. Through him, Virginia became the first junior company to sponsor E3.

He also sits on the nominating committee and the newly formed aboriginal affairs committee, which is developing an aboriginal tool kit that will explain the mining industry and the opportunities it offers to aboriginal communities.

Gaumond brings valuable expertise to this latter committee. Virginia has been closely involved with the Crees in northern Quebec and Gaumond frequently visits their communities, meeting with trappers, informing the people about Virginia's activities and explaining the mining industry to them.

The company also hires a lot of Crees and alerts communities to the types of services it will require in the future, so their young people can seek the necessary training.

"From what the Crees are saying, Virginia is considered as the example to follow in the mining industry in Quebec," says Gaumond.

During his four years on the board, Gaumond has found the work time-consuming but rewarding. It has brought him into contact with a network of competent and knowledgeable players, he says, and given him detailed knowledge of many issues.

"It's the best place to find out what is happening on the Canadian scene on all the issues affecting the mining industry," he says. "It's probably the only place in Canada where you can have that."

In addition to volunteering with the PDAC, Gaumond has been an active member of the Quebec Mining Association and has served as its president.

Gaumond and his wife Joanne have four children, ranging in age from 12 to 19. When he is not working, he enjoys mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snow boarding and hunting.

He has one other passion. He owns some land with woods, lakes, a river, a lot of wildlife and a fascinating history. There is a cabin dating from 1867, and a century ago the land housed eight pioneer families on various farms.

Gaumond has researched the history of the land and the families, and talks excitedly about the lives the people led and the

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The board at work

The board has expressed disappointment that the Investment Tax Credit for Exploration in Canada (ITCE) program was not extended in the February budget.

The financial and taxation committee has developed a position paper outlining reasons for the program's extension. The committee is also compiling data on new discoveries that have been made as a result of ITCE, to support its call for an extension.

Natural Resources Canada is recommending an incentive program specifically for base metals, and the PDAC has established an ad hoc committee to study the issue and develop a PDAC position.

Worth a look...

www.mndn.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines

The web site belongs to the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, but the content in one section of the site is of national interest.

Visit www.mndn.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/lands/default_e.asp and click on Provincial-Territorial Charts at the bottom of the page. There you will find the work of the Mining Rights Committee, a national organization.

The committee's work includes tables of data that summarize selected elements of min-

ing rights legislation in the 10 provinces and three territories. These elements deal with obtaining and maintaining a mining right.

The site also lists lease tenures in Canada, and the work and fees charged in each jurisdiction. Data for required work and fees have been mathematically averaged to allow direct comparison. The required work tables cover a 10-year period.

The data is current as of December 2004.

Information updated

The PDAC is updating the information in its Protected Areas database (www.pdac.ca/pdac/advocacy/land-use/protected-areas.html).

The database contains data on current protected area strategies in Canada. By clicking on a province or territory, you can access information such as land description, process of development and First Nations land claims within that geographic region.

The site also contains links to government and other related web sites.

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Volunteers set the agenda

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André Gaumond stands outside the 1867 cabin whose history he has researched

parties they travelled miles through the bush to attend.

"I'm having fun there," he says. "I'm spending a lot of time there, making trails and clearing the land."

And what about the game plan? There is a new one underway, says Gaumond.

"We have just made a spectacular discovery in Quebec, recognized as the best gold discovery that we've seen in Quebec and in Canada for many years," he explains. It is what he has been looking for the past 12 years, and is going to bring new challenges.

"I am there to create shareholder value," he says. "It means developing something that is of a significant size. This is my main purpose and challenge."

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