



PDAC Activities and Canadian Exploration News

PDAC hails return of “super” flow-through

The Conservative government has made good on its election promises and reintroduced the “super” flow-through program.

The announcement was made in the May 2 budget and the program will extend from May 2, 2006 to March 31, 2007. It allows investors a 15% credit on their flow-through share investments in grassroots exploration.

The PDAC had worked tirelessly to persuade the previous government to extend “super” flow-through, which expired on Dec. 31, 2005, but the government was adamant in its refusal. The Conservative party, in contrast, recognized the importance of the program in its election platform and during the campaign made a commitment to reinstate it.

PDAC president Patricia Dillon hailed the budget announcement.

“We have worked long and hard to persuade the federal government of the value of this program to Canada and this country’s mineral sector,” she said in a statement. “We estimate that the exploration tax incentive to date has generated



Some PDAC representatives meet with a Member of Parliament during the advocacy mission to Ottawa. From left: PDAC executive director Tony Andrews, PDAC director of regulatory affairs MaryAnn Mihychuk, Conservative MP Merv Tweed (Brandon-Souris) and PDAC director Eira Thomas.

\$1.4 billion in exploration spending. Most of this money is spent in Canada’s northern and rural regions. We congratulate the federal government for its wise decision.”

The budget announcement came a few weeks after the PDAC organized a mission to Ottawa to inform Members of Parliament about industry concerns. During the two-day visit the PDAC representatives had 43 meetings with Members of Parliament and three meetings with a senior policy advisor and senior staff.

“The meetings were very positive,” says MaryAnn Mihychuk, director of regulatory affairs, who accompanied the delegation.

Members of the delegation were past president Bill Mercer and PDAC directors Eira Thomas, Leni Keough, Lynda Bloom, Rod Thomas and Richard Moore. They were accompanied by three PDAC staff: Mihychuk, Philip Bousquet, director of sustainability, and

Tony Andrews, executive director.

The delegation met with Members of Parliament from all four parties and discussed with them three areas of concern: extending “super” flow-through; treating the costs of community consultation, baseline environmental studies and feasibility studies as Canadian Exploration Expense; providing a tax credit for deep drilling in the vicinity of known deposits, and funding the Cooperative Geo-

logical Mapping Strategy.

“The reintroduction of the ITCE program was one of the team’s principal requests,” said Dillon. “We shall continue to press for the others.”

The delegation made a point of meeting with Liberal, NDP and Bloc MPs as well as Tories.

“It’s an important strategy when there’s a
See MPs, page 2

Second VP elected

Scott Jobin-Bevans has been elected second vice president of the PDAC. A director since 2003, he is the subject of this month’s volunteer profile on page 7.

Inside this issue

Survey shows geoscientists are a mobile group	P.2
President Patricia Dillon sees exciting times ahead for the PDAC	P.4
Overseas practices put under the microscope.....	P.5

Are you missing the PDAC’s News and Activities e-mail newsletter? It can be found at www.pdac.ca, under What’s New.

PDAC makes presentation to Purdy Crawford Panel

This spring, Greg Ho Yuen, co-chair of the PDAC's securities committee, made a presentation to the Purdy Crawford Panel setting out the PDAC's position that Canada should have one national securities regulator applying one set of rules consistently.

Set up by the Ontario government last year, the Purdy Crawford Panel has developed recommendations for a securities regulatory framework that features a common securities regulator, a common body of securities law and a single fee structure.

The PDAC presented to the panel various submissions it had previously made on the issue of securities reform, and was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion in Winnipeg. Ho Yuen attended and based his remarks on those submissions.

Events during the past year indicate that all provinces, with the exception of Ontario,

intend to proceed with the passport system. Under this system, if a company meets all of the requirements of its home jurisdiction, it can use the passport to do business anywhere else in Canada.

The passport initiative is supported by the PDAC as a step in the right direction, but the association maintains the position that a single securities regulator with one set of rules should be the ultimate objective.

Also this spring, securities committee co-chair John Steele met informally with a group of industry associations to address concerns about National Instrument 54-101.

During the past four years, the costs of complying with the statute have risen 111 per cent.

The group discussed approaching securities commissions to draw attention to this dramatic increase in fees.

MPs interested

Continued from page 1

minority government," says Mihychuk. "Those parties can have an enormous influence on policy and the government's direction."

She added that 80 per cent of the visits were with MPs whom the PDAC had not met with before (for example, during Mining Day on the Hill or at parliamentary committee hearings), and many were backbenchers.

"They weren't aware of the facts," she explains.

"For instance, they had not been aware of the serious depletion of mineral resources in Canada. They were intensely interested in what we told them."

The PDAC delivered a PowerPoint presentation that provided facts about the industry's importance to Canada's economy and background on the association's advocacy work.

The delegation also discussed with MPs the PDAC's innovative online e-manual, e3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration.

Mobility survey reveals geoscientist views

A recent survey of Canadian professional geoscientists reveals that the majority of respondents – 72 per cent — reported working primarily in at least one location outside their home province during the previous 12 months. Nearly 30 per cent of them reported working outside Canada.

Conducted by the Institute On Governance (IOG), the survey is part of the research the PDAC commissioned on the mobility of geoscientists. The survey was launched during the 2006 PDAC International Convention and was also posted online until early April. In all, 270 respondents completed the survey.

The issue of mobility was discussed at the PDAC's annual general meeting in March 2005 and the following summer, the geoscience committee developed a position paper on the issues.

During the late fall, the committee hired the IOG to do research and conduct surveys of the organizations regulating the profession and of PDAC members.

Other survey findings reveal that more than half the work carried

out in jurisdictions requiring registration is done without registration. Only 46.7 per cent of respondents reported that they were registered with a professional association.

Those responding to the survey had, on average, worked in the geoscience field for 26 years. The majority – 90 per cent – have worked in the field for at least 10 years.

The survey also showed that a high number – 84.3 per cent – of respondents are unhappy with the interprovincial/territorial mobility afforded by Canada's registration system and slightly more than half found the system hard to use.

Some 60.2 per cent of respondents described the fees for registration in their home province or territory as high, while 68.4 per cent found the fees for registration in other provinces and territories high.

The survey findings have been posted on the PDAC website (Issues and Advocacy/Geosciences). Comments on this survey and on the issue of geoscience registration and mobility are welcome.

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 urges long-term exploration strategy

If Canada is to keep its competitive edge in mineral exploration, it must adopt a long-term strategy to increase exploration activity within its borders.

This is the overriding message that the PDAC is taking to the Mines Ministers conference when it meets in Whitehorse in August.

In a brief to be presented to the ministers, the PDAC points out that this country is one of the world's key targets for mineral exploration and is also a major player in the worldwide mineral exploration industry. However, with increasing global competition, a long-term strategy is required if Canada's predominant position is to be maintained.

PDAC executive director Tony Andrews points out that the word "strategy" is "very key in this context."

He explained, "This is not a wish list; it is a strategy, each element of which will contribute in its own significant way to rejuvenating exploration and new discovery."

The brief points out that continuing strong global demand for minerals and metals represents an excellent economic opportunity for Canada. However, there is a decline in Canada's mineral reserves and a need for new discoveries along the lines of Ekati or Voisey's Bay. In addition, the PDAC says, the country is a challenging and expensive place in which to work.

The PDAC presented a suggested strategy to meet these challenges to the mines ministers in 2005. All the ministers agreed to it and some action (such as extension of the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit [METC]) was taken. In this year's brief, the association points out that reasons for developing a strategy still exist and reiterates the major points.

The strategy calls for sustained and prolonged investment in grassroots exploration. Components include: funding for the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy; extension of the METC beyond its new expiry date of March 2007; tax incentives for deep drilling in the vicinity of known deposits; and extension of the Canadian Exploration Expense to include the costs of community consultation, baseline environmental and feasibility studies and

exploration for base metals in the vicinity of existing or formerly operating mines.

Another major topic addressed in the brief is aboriginal affairs. Several jurisdictions, such as Quebec, have successfully implemented resource revenue-sharing agreements with aboriginal communities, and the PDAC is recommending that all Canadian provincial and territorial jurisdictions follow suit.

While it supports early and frequent consultation with aboriginal communities during the exploration process, the PDAC reminds the mines ministers that governments need to take the necessary action to facilitate this consultation. Communities and companies are doing their best to accommodate one another, but governments in Canada must provide direction on consultation in order to clarify the issue and help reduce the potential for disputes.

The brief also urges governments to accelerate the pace of resolving aboriginal land claims, since longstanding and unresolved jurisdictional issues can stir up conflict between communities and companies.

Human resources is a major problem that looms on the horizon for the exploration industry. The PDAC says initiatives are needed to recruit new workers and to develop the skills of current employees. The association has already pledged to create awareness of opportunities in the industry and will be launching special initiatives to attract and retain employees.

As it has done in previous briefs to the mines ministers, the PDAC calls for the installation of a single national securities regulator applying one set of rules across the country. The passport system, it adds, is an interim step toward this goal. The association further recommends the development of securities laws that will, among other things, provide juniors with access to capital on a timely, cost-efficient basis.

Other areas addressed in the brief are the complexity of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's organizational structure, the need for a national system of professional practice for geoscientists and Integrated Land Management as a tool to deal with land use issues.

Honouring the best among us

Every year, the PDAC honours those who have made outstanding contributions to our industry.

Nominate a colleague for one of the following 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

To find out more about the awards and the nomination process, visit www.pdac.ca

Obituaries

The PDAC said farewell to three longtime supporters this spring.

James Geddes made many contributions to the PDAC during his 51-year membership. He served as assistant secretary for many years, then took over as treasurer. In 1988, he was honoured by the association and presented with a Distinguished Service Award.

Honorary life member **Ralph Scott** was an enthusiastic and loyal supporter of the association. He was an invaluable volunteer during the PDAC conventions and also devoted much of his time to organizing the association's library.

Don Smith served on the PDAC's board of directors for many years and chaired the education committee. He was also a member of the awards committee and a regular attendee at the PDAC convention. The association recognized his service and loyalty by making him an honorary life member.

Address change?

Have you moved or changed your e-mail address? Be sure to let us know so you can continue to receive *In Brief* and our *News and Activities* e-newsletter without interruption.

Contact us at info@pdac.ca.

www.pdac.ca

PDAC president sees exciting times ahead

As she looks forward to the next two years, recently elected PDAC president Patricia Dillon anticipates an exciting time. The association has grown and has significant resources, it is engaging in some important new work and it is about to celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary.



Patricia Dillon

"The PDAC is in a very good space right now," she says. "Our 2006 convention was a record-breaking success which has given us financial resources that allow us to look at some new projects and at supporting and possibly expanding existing projects."

Dillon comes from an education, communications and technical background and her priorities for her presidency are to advance projects that draw on those skills.

As an example, she points to e3 Environmental Excellence in Exploration, which is being translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

"This is a priority initiative," she says, "because it allows us to make that resource more accessible to our constituency which is in Canada and around the world."

One of Dillon's abiding interests has been PDAC Mining Matters, for which she serves as president and chief executive officer. She wants to expand the program. She also wants to extend partnerships such as that between Mining Matters and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum in staging the Mining in Society show. Now in its second year, the show raises public awareness of the industry and the career opportunities it offers.

Another priority for Dillon is the Government of Canada's series of roundtables on corporate social responsibility (CSR) (see story, page 5). "It's very important that the PDAC be an active participant and contributor because it is the junior sector that in many ways is the focus of attention," she says.

The PDAC will help member companies with CSR by disseminating information

about all the resources that are available, whether from the PDAC or other associations.

Dillon sees the PDAC increasingly assuming a global role because of its partnerships and deep knowledge of the exploration industry and cites her invitation to speak on world trends at the 2006

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies national congress which met in Perth, Australia in June.

As a global leader, she says, the PDAC has strategic insight to offer in combating trends such as declining exploration investment and diminishing human resources. It can also offer its experience in areas such as aboriginal inclusion and community engagement.

As she discusses the new work the association is doing, with recently established student and international affairs committees and an ad hoc committee working on the CSR roundtables, Dillon hopes to attract more volunteers to the association.

As with all such organizations, she points out, a number of the PDAC's key volunteers are involved in many committees. However, she says, technology such as teleconferencing allows the association to expand its talent pool beyond the Toronto base.

Dillon is anxious that the association be responsive to members' needs but not move too quickly. For that reason, the association will hold a strategic planning process this year – the last was held in 2002. One of the strategies she expects to emerge from the process will be to protect e3, Mining Matters and student support programs against any downturn in the mining cycle.

As part of the strategic planning process, the PDAC will also be surveying its members.

"I'm convinced the membership will take the opportunity to make sure that this association is on the right track for the next four to five years," Dillon says.

Activities overseas are in the spotlight

The practices of Canadian mining and exploration companies overseas are coming under scrutiny in two arenas: one in Canada, the other at the United Nations.

In Canada, the focus is on corporate social responsibility.

A parliamentary committee on international affairs has begun organizing four roundtables to review the actions of Canadian oil, gas and mining companies overseas. The two-day meetings consist of a public forum and an *in camera* session at which invited experts will make presentations on specific issues.

PDAC director Dennis Jones represents the association on the government advisory group that is assisting the standing committee. PDAC executive director Tony Andrews is acting as the “industry focal point” for the roundtable process.

Jones wants to alert mining and exploration companies, both large and small, that their participation in the roundtables is vital.

“This is a major issue that the mining industry has to deal with, and we have to get it right,” he says. “These days mining companies can only operate if they get a ‘licence’ to operate from local communities in the areas where the mining or exploration company is working. They’re only going to get that licence to operate if they have a high level of corporate social responsibility which includes a lot of transparency in what they’re doing and communication with the local community.”

The first roundtable took place in Vancouver in June. The remaining sessions will be held in Toronto in September, Calgary in October and Montreal in November. A final meeting, which will be a round-up of all the information gathered, takes place in Ottawa in December.

Dates are still to be announced but will be posted on the PDAC web site as they become available.

The PDAC has been asked to represent the exploration sector in the roundtables. A sub-committee reporting to the board, chaired by Jones, has been formed to help

prepare for the task.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, secretary-general Kofi Annan has appointed an American law professor, John Ruggie, to review the relationship of business to human rights.

Late last year, Ruggie issued a report entitled *Human Rights and the Extractive Industries* which he followed with a presentation at the March World Mines Ministries Forum (WMMF) in Toronto.

In his presentation, Ruggie pointed out that of 65 overseas abuses alleged by non-governmental organizations, two-thirds had been committed by companies in the extractive industries. While the worst allegations were around human rights, there were also charges of corruption.

It is noteworthy that only three of the mining companies are Canadian.

He added that the allegations were prevalent in countries with low incomes and weak governance that scored low in the Freedom House democracy index.

Ruggie has praise for industry efforts with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme that prevents conflict diamonds from entering the rough diamond market. However, he also noted several areas where, he says, industry is weak.

He said there are no clear standards by which human rights can be handled correctly

and there is no definition for “complicity” in abuses. He said industry needed better assessment tools and both host and home governments needed to become engaged, rather than acting as observers.

The International Council on Mining and Metals has responded to Ruggie’s report with its own report, but is not releasing it publicly so that companies may speak frankly. The ICMM comments on Ruggie’s text and adds case histories that illustrate the council’s principles, which include human rights.

The ICMM report supports Ruggie’s comments about the need for standards, assessment tools and government engagement.

It also points to problems companies encounter as they try to advance their human rights performance. For example, there are often no best practices for handling human rights issues internally; an attempt to positively influence governments may cause political and operational difficulties; if Western companies leave an area, companies from jurisdictions that do not respect human rights may move in; and there is difficulty in distinguishing between putting reasonable pressure on a government and interfering in internal matters.

Former PDAC president Bill Mercer represented the association on the ICMM Mining and Human Rights Working Group.

PDAC INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2007

A reason to
celebrate - our 75th
convention!

Help us celebrate this special anniversary at the 2007

PDAC International Convention March 4 to 7, 2007

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Details of the program and other convention activities will be posted as they become available at www.pdac.ca.

Careers were the focus at Mining in Society

Careers were the focus at Mining in Society this year, and the PDAC played a major role in organizing the show.

Held in conjunction with the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum convention in Vancouver, Mining in Society offered a range of information about the industry that was specifically targeted at different age groups.

Launched with great fanfare in Toronto last year, Mining in Society is open to educators, students, parents and the public at large. The show is intended to increase knowledge of the industry and to showcase it as an attractive career option.

Last year's show featured a number of attractions including panning for gold, a

Mining Hall of Fame display, booths illustrating the many uses of minerals and a fossil dig.

This year, Mining in Society focused on the phases of the mining life cycle, multimedia, in-person testimonials, contests, demonstrations and giveaways.

The show incorporated six pavilions that illustrated different aspects of the mining cycle: exploration, prospecting and geology; mining; processing; transportation and infrastructure; sustainability; and fabrication and products.

PDAC Mining Matters contributed to the show by developing an interactive program for student visitors called the Amazing Mine Challenge. Laura Clinton, Mining Matters



Students learn about the industry at Mining in Society.

project coordinator, set up challenges in each pavilion for students to complete and a scavenger hunt that allowed students to interact with exhibitors.

Special days were set aside for families, students from grade five to seven and high school students.

For university and college students, Mining in Society offered a Mining and Energy Career Fair with human resources personnel on site. The fair provided an opportunity for mining and energy sector employers to meet both experienced professionals and new graduates looking for employment in mining, exploration, production and field services.

In addition, the CIM Conference staged a "meet and greet" student-industry-luncheon with guest speaker David Naccarati, president of Phelps Dodge Mining Company, and offered to team students with an industry leader for the duration of the conference. Students were also offered the opportunity to attend two workshops at a reduced fee.

Accounting advisory group takes on expanded role

The PDAC's role in advising the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) on the extractive industries research project of the International Accounting Standards Committee has expanded from its original mandate.

The association's financial and taxation committee established a sub-committee a year ago to provide feedback to the CICA on proposed international accounting standards for extractive industries.

The work was supposed to be concluded within a year but, says financial and taxation committee chair Rob Whittall, it will likely continue until the end of 2006.

"As well as providing feedback on the proposed international standards, the sub-committee has been asked to provide

feedback on Canadian accounting standards that affect the industry," he explains.

A new factor has entered the picture, he adds, with the announcement from Canada's Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) that during the next five years, Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) will be converged with International Financial Reporting Standards.

As a result, Canadian GAAP will cease to exist as a distinct basis of financial reporting for public companies.

In a media announcement, the AcSB said it has begun a comprehensive examination of the financial reporting needs of private business and will determine the most appropriate model for meeting those needs.

Has your company made the link to e3?

As a mineral exploration company, you should link your website to e3 – Environmental Excellence in Exploration!

The internet-based resource is currently used in more than 40 countries and is being translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese to broaden its availability.

Show your employees, shareholders and other stakeholders that your company takes environmental and social issues seriously by linking your company website to e3.

GO TO www.e3mining.com AND MAKE THE LINK!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Youthful director works to involve students

At age 38 and managing director of an international consulting company, Scott Jobin-Bevans carries a volunteer workload that would daunt even a retiree.

He's a director of the PDAC, co-chair of its student affairs committee, chair of its ad hoc insurance committee and a member of the international affairs, membership and long-term finance committees.

He's a director of the Ontario Prospectors Association and represents the PDAC on a liability insurance committee established with the Canadian Geoscience Council.

He's also on the northern caucus policy development committee, a group put together by the Ontario Progressive Conservative party, where he provides input on future policies that could benefit mineral exploration and the communities of northern Ontario.

Of all these areas of interest, it is the involvement of students in exploration that has motivated Jobin-Bevans since his own student days.

Born in Flin Flon, Man., Jobin-Bevans grew up in Georgetown, southwest of Toronto. After high school, he decided to get involved in mineral exploration.

"It was at the tail-end of flow-through," he explains. "I took a job on an exploration crew doing work in Manitoba and all over Ontario. After a little while, everything was winding down and I didn't want to work as a labourer in exploration so I decided to go back to school."

He attended the University of Alberta for a year, and then transferred to the University of Manitoba where he became involved in campus geoscience clubs, the local CIM and the Manitoba Prospectors Association. He graduated with his honours bachelor of science degree in 1995 and his master's degree two years later. Throughout these years, he worked as a consultant to junior exploration.



Scott Jobin-Bevans with his son Christopher

Still working as a consultant, Jobin-Bevans began work on his doctorate in 1997, which he earned in 2004, from the University of Western Ontario. His thesis was exploration-based and he did much of his fieldwork in Sudbury, moving there in 1998 and developing strong ties with Laurentian University.

At Western, he reactivated the Society of Economic Geologists student chapter. "It had waned because the school, like many others, had shifted its emphasis away from economic geology," he explains.

In Sudbury, he discovered that Laurentian University had no student chapter of SEG and was approached to help get one established.

It was through Laurentian that Jobin-Bevans met geosciences student Trevor Richardson. In 2001, the two men started Caracle Creek International Consulting Inc. (CCIC), at that time based in South Africa. In 2004, Jobin-Bevans began developing CCIC in Canada.

Today, CCIC has developed strong ties with an international client base and has established offices in Sudbury, Toronto, Abbotsford, B.C. and Johannesburg.

A member of the PDAC since the early 1990s, Jobin-Bevans decided that there was a need for youthfulness on the association's board. He talked to Peter Dimmell, now past

president of the association, and in 2003 was invited to fill the position of a director who had resigned.

He had two reasons for wanting to get involved, he says. He had noticed the lack of student awareness of and involvement in the PDAC, and wanted to strengthen the connection with them and to develop the PDAC's support of them.

He was also interested in the international affairs committee.

"We had an international conference every year and encouraged international

membership, but we didn't really offer anything in return," he says.

The student affairs committee, which Jobin-Bevans co-chairs with Lynda Bloom, is already presenting a higher PDAC profile to university students.

In January, the PDAC and the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia co-sponsored a highly successful student networking evening during the Mineral Exploration Roundup 2006. Two months later, the committee staged a similar and equally successful event at the PDAC International Convention.

The next major project of the student affairs committee is scheduled to take place in 2007 and will occur annually thereafter.

Next May, the committee will hold a student-industry workshop in Sudbury specifically for students entering their fourth year. Approximately 20 students from across Canada will be selected to get hands-on experience, go on field trips to mines, interact with industry and find out about career opportunities in the geosciences.

With both initiatives, Jobin-Bevans says the committee will track the students and measure how many stay in the industry.

"The big test will come when the industry goes down again," he says. "Right now, it's not that difficult to entice students

See Team, page 8

Corrupt legal system cited in court case

The experience of a Canadian company working with an overseas partner offers a cautionary tale to others who find themselves in a similar situation.

The story began in 1997, when Enernorth Industries Inc. formed a joint venture with Oakwell Engineering Ltd. of Singapore to undertake construction work in India. The two partners fell into a dispute and as part of the settlement, agreed that any future disputes would be settled in a Singapore court.

Another disagreement subsequently took place and Oakwell sued Enernorth. A Singapore court ruled that Enernorth must pay \$2.9 million to Oakwell, a figure that climbed to \$7 million when royalty fees, costs and interest were included.

Enernorth's appeal to the Singapore Court of Appeal failed.

Last year, Oakwell turned to the Ontario Supreme Court for payment, asking it to rule that the Singapore judgment be enforced and in August, Judge Gerald Day agreed.

Enernorth has now appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal. In appealing the lower court ruling, Enernorth points to the corrupt judicial system in Singapore. It warns that other Canadian companies working in countries with similar legal regimes will be at risk if the Singapore ruling stands.

For its part, Oakwell points to the Enernorth's agreement that a Singapore court could handle the dispute.

A more detailed examination of this case is available on the PDAC's web site.

Team shares load

Continued from page 7

into mineral exploration but two to five years from now, we may be in a downswing."

Jobin-Bevans is married to Marnie, a health care professional, and they have a son Christopher, 9. Asked how he managed to juggle his volunteer activities, his consulting work and his family, he says with a laugh, "I have an understanding family."

More seriously, he points out that there is a good team of geologists to share the work load at CCIC and he keeps travel to a minimum.

"Business is growing rapidly," he says, "so as a family we look at the long-term benefits of doing things now."

"It's a cyclical industry so you've got to go when the going's good."

Worth a look... www.collectionscanada.ca/rock/index-e.html

It's creative, it's off-the-wall, it's funny — and it's all about the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC).

This web site, put up by Library and Archives Canada, casts the GSC in an entirely new light. As you arrive at the home page, you're greeted by the legend Life of a Rock Star and the following headline: "Introducing Canada's first rock group..."

The text continues: "Long before the Guess Who, the Tragically Hip or Billy Talent arrived on the scene, Canada had only one successful rock group — the Geological Survey of Canada. Composed of geologists, chemists, paleontologists and the odd botanist, this band of rockers toured the country from coast to coast. This is their story."

Rock band figures lead you into one of five areas: making the

band, life on tour, the hits, Hall of Fame and rock legacy. And there the educational component of the site kicks in. For example, the section entitled Greatest Hits talks about GSC geologists discovering dinosaur remains while they searched for coal in Alberta's Red Deer Valley. The Hall of Fame leads you to the "rock stars" who made up the GSC in the 19th century. Life on Tour talks about the hazards GSC members faced as they crossed the continent.

Among the many areas highlighted on the site are the achievements of Sir William Logan, the contributions of aboriginal people to the GSC's discoveries, the discovery of oil, women geologists and the GSC today.

The site also contains information about educational resources and books.