

## Residents Defend Superior Coast from Aggregate Export Scheme

Residents of Michipicoten Bay, just west of Wawa, have formed an organization to fight the development of a traprock mine on the shores of Lake Superior. The old Algoma Central Railway lands have been sold to a U.S. company which intends to strip the 1,000 acre site of soil, vegetation and timber, and then drill, blast and crush the coastal rock into aggregate for shipment by freighter to Michigan for use in highway construction. Superior Aggregates is a subsidiary of the Carlos Companies group of U.S. companies, which includes National Asphalt Products, Inc. (NAPI) a Michigan based company producing a wide variety of asphalts and aggregates. NAPI is an independent affiliate of John Carlo, Inc, one of the largest road construction companies in the U.S. Midwest. Superior Aggregates registered with Industry Canada in July 2000.

Michipicoten Bay, 240 kilometres north of Sault Ste Marie and just west of the town of Wawa, is at the mouth of the Michipicoten River. A wonderful place with sand and pebble beaches separated by arms of rounded basalt, local residents describe the river mouth as "arguably one of the most beautiful spots on Lake Superior", and the area as one which is rich in the history of the fur trade, and of First Nations whose presence along the Superior shores goes back thousands of years.

## Review of Forestry Rules Moves to Ministry of the Environment

On July 17<sup>th</sup> 2002, the Ministry of Natural Resources submitted to the Ministry of the Environment "A Review by the Ministry of Natural Resources Regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario". In the 609 page document, MNR gave an account of the Ministry's experience over eight years in implementing the terms and conditions of the Environmental Assessment Approval they had received in 1994, and outlined MNR's proposals for changes to the EA approval. The MNR proposals include a number of significant changes to the planning process for forest management on crown lands, such as changing the length of a forest management plan from five years to ten years.

Numerous individuals and organizations filed comments for the October 16<sup>th</sup> deadline for public comment, largely focussing on MNR's proposals for changes but also commenting on the MNR track record in meeting the legal requirements contained in the 1984 decision.

Northwatch had been an active participant in both the original EA in the late '80's and early 1990's, and in the review exercise over the last two years. Northwatch's concerns, filed in a submission prepared for the October 16<sup>th</sup> deadline for public comment, fell into three main categories:

A key issue is the potential for the site to be acid generating. Rock in the area is known to contain sulfides. When air and water meet the sulfides - which naturally occur in many rock formations, and quite likely occur in the rock formations that surround Michipicoten Bay - acid is generated, in a phenomena known as acid mine drainage. Should the rock at the Harbour site contain sulfides, there is high level of risk of acid run-off into Lake Superior. Nearby Wawa's mines produced ore from rock that was loaded with both sulfide and arsenic, which has left a legacy of arsenic laden soils and even elevated levels of arsenic in local wild mushrooms. Local residents are concerned that, should the same combination be at play around the Bay, runoff might be not just acidic, but also loaded with arsenic.

Pollution of Lake Superior from sulphur and arsenic is not the only worry. Residents are concerned that great quantities of diesel oil will be poured into deep drill holes before each blast and that some of this fuel will end up in the water table and ultimately in the Lake, along with fuel residues and quite possibly spills from the many thousands of freighters that will load aggregate in Michipicoten Harbour over the anticipated 50 years of operation.

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- C Planning issues, including functioning of Local Citizens Committees and the public consultation process, but particularly MNR's proposal to change the plan term from 5 years to 10 years.
- C Forest management concerns, including MNR's poor track record with respect to the conservation of old growth forest ecosystems, the development of a roadless areas policy, and use of clearcutting as a harvesting practice.
- C Environmental assessment issues, including proposals by MNR to move legally binding terms and conditions from the EA decision into the Forest Management Planning Manual, and to make future amendments to the EA without any requirement for public notice or comment.

The Ministry of the Environment is now reviewing all submissions, and is required to make a decision within six months.

To date, MOE has not agreed to any further consultation, or to allow interveners an opportunity to respond to further submissions from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**INSIDE:** Special insert on Nuclear Fuel Waste, Update on PCB incinerator proposed for Kirkland Lake, Cobalt's new pesticide bylaw, Calendar of Events, News briefs of new mines for Timmins and Foley,



## Superior Aggregates ... cont.

There are also serious concerns about habitat, including the spawning ground of lake trout at the dock where the rock will be loaded. The effects of extreme noise and sound vibrations on fish, birds and shoreline wildlife is unknown. Residents are also concerned about heavy dust generation, and have visited a traprock operation on the north shore of Lake Huron to learn about the operations.

Michipicoten Township Council, apparently swayed by the prospect of the 14 jobs to be created, and by the promise of tonnage payments, has given the green light to the operation, despite the objections of local residents.

## Falconbridge Seeks Permit for Montcalm Project - concerns with potential for acid run off

Falconbridge Limited is pushing ahead with a new mine development 70 kilometres northwest of Timmins. Falconbridge purchased the Montcalm nickel-copper property from Outokumpu Mines for \$14 million in 2001, and is now in the process of bringing the property into production. Falconbridge is projecting that the Montcalm Project will produce a total of 5 million tonnes over its 7 years of operations, at a rate of 750,000 tonnes of ore annually. According to the plan filed with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Montcalm ore would be milled for the first year at the Strathcona operation in Sudbury, and then at the Kidd Metallurgical Division in Timmins. Nickel concentrate would be processed at the Sudbury smelter throughout the mine's operating life, contributing 8,000 tonnes annually to Falconbridge's Sudbury nickel production.

In July 2002, Falconbridge applied to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for a permit to construct and operate a mine water treatment system. The system would treat groundwater from mine and dewatering operations, as well as surface runoff associated with potentially acid-generating waste rock.

Northwatch has expressed a number of concerns about the project, and toured the mine property with the Falconbridge environmental personnel. The primary concern relates to the acid generating potential of the ore and surrounding rock. While Falconbridge and the Company's consultants agree that the ore will be acid generating, they are predicting that the

Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay believe that the present zoning is inadequate for the project and have hired a Sault Ste Marie lawyer to take the case to provincial court. If the legal case is successful, the Township Council will be required to go through a rezoning process, and the Citizens organization will have gained both time and the right of appeal of any zoning decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. Meanwhile, residents are writing to the Provincial and Federal governments requesting a full environmental assessment.

*By Mary Jo Cullen, with notes from file.*

rock surrounding the ore will not be acid generating. This waste rock will be brought to surface in large volumes, and while Falconbridge's consultants have concluded that the majority of the waste rock will consist of low-sulphide, non-acid generating material, any potential for it to "go acid" could have long term environmental impacts. Northwatch is not yet confident that enough assessment work has been done, and is urging the MOE to require a fuller evaluation and better contingency planning.

A second concern is with the proposal for discharge of the mine effluent. Initially, Falconbridge proposed to construct an 8 kilometre ditch from the mine site to the Groundhog River, including through the newly created waterway park. The Ministry of Natural Resources objected to this proposal on the basis of a mine effluent ditch being part of a mining activity, and so not permitted within a waterway park. The alternative proposal, and the option described in the Company's application for a permit from the Ministry of the Environment, includes a 3 kilometre ditch which would discharge the effluent into a wetland, which then discharges into Montcalm Creek. Falconbridge's consultants predict that water quality would not consistently meet provincial water quality objectives in the Montcalm Creek, which is a coldwater fishery. Questions have also been raised - including by Falconbridge - about whether using the wetland as part of the "treatment system" would improve or actually worsen water quality.

Don't Miss Northwatch's Winter Meeting 2003  
15th Anniversary Celebration \* February 22 & 23

## Northwatch Needs You!

*Become a member, make a donation, or volunteer today!*



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## Haz Waste Incinerator EA Withdrawn

In a terse 3 sentence response to the Ministry of the Environment, Bennett Environmental Inc withdrew their application for a toxic waste incinerator in Kirkland Lake on November 8th.

It had been a bumpy road for BEI as opposition had continued to build to their proposal to import and incinerate PCBs, dioxins, pesticides, and other hazardous wastes at a their proposed facility.

Area MP Benoit Serré, speaking at rally in August, said "this plant could pose a serious threat to the farming industry in Northern Ontario .... We cannot and must not jeopardize a \$100 million industry for the sake of a few jobs." Serré said he was moved by the deep opposition from all sectors of the riding including First Nations, municipalities, the District School Board and over 90% of the region's medical community. More recently, the United Nations Special Reporter on Human Rights spoke out, expressing concerns about the public review process.

In early October, the Ministry of the Environment delayed the release of the government review, "because of the number and complexity of issues raised by the government review team and the public". Then, in a November 1<sup>st</sup> letter to Bennett Environmental, MOE outlined a number of deficiencies with the Bennett EA and directed BEI to respond to the deficiencies and to "numerous errors". Bennett must now respond to this direction, and identify clearly how they had done so, prior to MOE completing the government review. Bennett withdrew their EA "to permit Bennett a reasonable opportunity to address the ... comments", and have said they intend to resubmit, possibly in the January.

Visit [www.publicconcern.org](http://www.publicconcern.org) for more info

# Coming Right Up .... Calendar of Events

November 15 - Nuclear Waste Management Organization to be launched. NRCAN will also launch a Nuclear Fuel Waste Bureau Web site at [www.nfwbureau.gc.ca](http://www.nfwbureau.gc.ca)

November 23 - Nastawagen Trails Annual General Meeting at the Temagami Shores. Registration at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., followed by AGM. Details at tel 560 3102

November 25 - Getting the Mercury Out: A web conference on Mercury in Automobiles, Session 1, 1 p.m. EST, [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org) for details.

November 27 - Conservation Council of Ontario's Eco-Summit 2002, Toronto. Royal York Hotel, Toronto. Visit [www.greenontario.org](http://www.greenontario.org) for more info.

December 3 - Getting the Mercury Out, Session 2, 3:50 p.m., info at [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org)

December 9 - A radio debate/trial on the Kyoto Accord, CBC Radio. Michael Enright will be the judge, Elizabeth May, Sierra Club of Canada, has been asked to be the lawyer arguing FOR Kyoto, Julian Porter, the Toronto lawyer who represents Bennett Environmental, is the lawyer AGAINST the Kyoto Accord. The Jury is the public, with CBC tabulating the yays and nays, sent by phone, fax and email between December 8 & 13. CBC will announce how to vote at the end of the program. Results will be announced December 15<sup>th</sup>. 9 a.m to noon.

December 11 - "The Legal Toolkit: Options, Strategies, and Tactics" A Training Workshop about the legal tools available to protect our air, water, and land and human health. Led by Sierra Legal Defence Fund and the Sustainability Network and co-sponsored by the Canadian Environmental Law Association and Environmental Defence Canada, in Toronto. \$40 per person. For details and/or to register, please contact Paul Bubelis at [bubelis@sympatico.ca](mailto:bubelis@sympatico.ca).

December 17 - Getting the Mercury Out, Session 3, 1 p.m. info at [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org)

January 7 - Getting the Mercury Out, Session 4, 1 p.m., info at [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org)

January 10 - Getting the Mercury Out A, Session 5, 1 p.m., info at [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org)

January 30 to February 1 - Green Communities National Conference 2003, Monterey Inn, Ottawa. Come and share experiences with your colleagues in communities across Canada. \$100 per person includes meals & accommodation for the three-day event. Register prior to 25 November 2002 in order to qualify for the travel subsidy. More information at [www.gca.ca](http://www.gca.ca).

February 1 - The Forest Caucus of the Ontario Environment one-day meeting in Toronto, focus will be on followup to the Timber Class EA and related strategies. Watch [www.oen.ca](http://www.oen.ca) for details.

February 22 - 23 - Northwatch Winter Meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Sudbury, noon - 9 Saturday, 9 - noon Sunday

February 24-25 - National workshop on abandoned mines. Ottawa. Details t.b.a.

March 21 - MiningWatch Canada Annual General Meeting and members workshops. Ottawa.

May 18-23 - International Forum on Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health, Montréal. For more information visit [www.idrc.ca/ecohealth](http://www.idrc.ca/ecohealth)

May 23 - 25 - Northwatch Spring Meeting, John Island YMCA Camp. Call Northwatch for details

June 2003 - Great Lakes United Annual General Meeting and Conference in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

August 15-16 - Northwatch Summer Meeting and Annual General Meeting. Half Way Lake Provincial Park (tentative)



## Cobalt Leads the Way with Pesticide Bylaw

Cobalt is the first municipality in Ontario to pass a bylaw banning non-essential use of pesticides on all properties within the municipality. The bylaw came into force November 1, 2002. Ottawa, Toronto and Caledon are all planning similar by-laws, which are expected to be introduced this fall. Until the Cobalt decision, Halifax was the only municipality outside Quebec to have passed a bylaw prohibiting pesticide use on private property.

"This council has taken a bold step towards protecting Cobalt residents from the most common and frivolous exposure to chemical pesticides in the urban environment," said Angela Rickman with the Sierra Club of Canada, congratulating the municipality on the pesticide bylaw.

Send congratulations to: Mayor Andre Belanger, Town of Cobalt, 18 Silver Street, PO Box 70, Cobalt ON P0J 1C0

# Northeastern Ontario Forest Management Plans in Preparation for 2003 and 2004

Plan Unit	Plan Status	Public Participation Opportunities	MNR Contact	Industry Contact
Nighthawk 2003	The draft forest management plan and MNR's preliminary list of required alterations are available for public review and comment at MNR and industry offices.	Review of draft plan began October 26; no open house is planned. Comments and submission on the draft plan must be to MNR by December 24	Nancy Daigle MNR Timmins District T 235-1339 Fx 235-1377	Robert MacLeod Abitibi Consolidated Inc. Tel 258-4448 Fx 258-3187
White River 2003		Open house to review the draft plan was held October 17. Comments and submission on the draft plan must be to MNR by December 15	Wendy LeClair MNR Wawa District T 856-2396 Fx 856-7511	Chris Grant, Plan Author Domtar Inc. Tel: (807) 822-2100 x.2106
Cochrane-Moose River 2003	Plan production has been delayed, and plan split into 2 units	Draft plan scheduled to be available for public review starting December 12 and until mid-February.	Stan Phippen, R.P.F., MNR Cochrane District T 272-7123 Fx 272-7183	Craig Parsons, Plan Author Tembec Industries Inc. Tel 360-1266 Fax 360-1279
Magpie 2004	Draft planning objectives and preferred management alternatives have been developed and are available for review. Areas where timber harvesting may take place have been identified on maps, and alternative corridors for primary roads have been identified.	1 <sup>st</sup> Information centre planned for November 20 at Dubreuilville Municipal Building, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Comments due by January 19 <sup>th</sup> . 2 <sup>nd</sup> Info Ctr tentatively scheduled for Feb 2003	Mary Lynn McKenna MNR Wawa District T 856-2396 Fx 856-7511	Bruce Welbourne, Plan Author Dubreuil Forest Products Limited T 884-2525 x 265 Fx 884-2910
Nipissing 2004		1st Info Centres were October 23-30 Comments must be received by December 27, 2002.	Guylaine Thauvette MNR North Bay District T 475-5524 Fx 475-5500	Peter Street, R.P.F. Nipissing Forest Resources Mgt. Inc tel 752-5430
Temagami 2004		1st Info Centres were October 7-11 Comments must be received by December 30, 2002.	Kevin Rankin, R.P.F., MNR, North Bay District T 475-5524 Fx 475-5500	(Crown Management Unit)

For more information, contact the Northwatch office or the MNR or industry contact identified for each Forest Management Plan.

## Northcott Gold Skirts Permit Requirements

Northcott Gold Inc. has submitted an amendment to their closure plan the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, for changes to the exploration project, a change of the Company name effective July 10 2002, a change in the project schedule, changes to the mine dewatering approach, and an increase in financial assurance.

The work may have been done in advance of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines receiving the proposed amendment to the closure plan, and certainly was done before notice was posted on the EBR electronic registry. The proposal was loaded on the registry on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002, whereas the Company announced on June 4, 2002 that it had signed an agreement with Dumas Contracting Ltd. for the exploration work, and anticipated that the work would be completed by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002. It also appears that the exploration work may have been done without all of the necessary permits. For example, the exploration work is described as including dewatering of both the underground workings and the are below the proposed open pit, but no applications for Permits to Take Water have been posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights electronic registry. The permits are required for mine dewatering.

The Company has recently entered into a series of subscription and debt settlement agreements and non-brokered share offerings, with share offerings ranging between \$0.30 and \$0.50. The Company has stated that it will use the proceeds from the private placement to continue with the exploration and development of its mineral properties and for general working capital purposes.

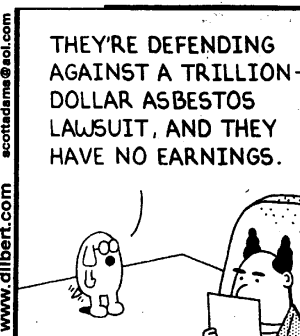
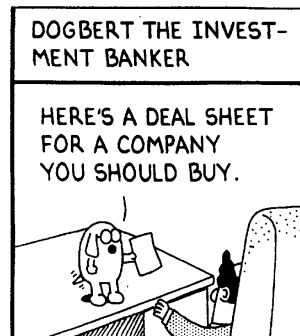
## New Mine Moving into Foleyet Area

The Claude Rundle Mine in Newton Township has been in preliminary stages of exploration and development since the 1940's. Claude Rundle Gold Mine Inc. now proposes to bring the gold mineral deposit into production.

The mine facilities will include existing camp and the underground mine workings, plus a new mill and tailings management and mine effluent treatment system.

According to EBR postings, the mill facility will utilize an electro winning process to recover gold for the production of gold dore bars. Mill capacity is estimated at between 320 and 450 tonnes per day - documents provided to different Ministries appear to contain different estimates of mill capacity - and the mill facility will utilize an electro winning process to recover gold for the production of gold dore bars. The mill process will include a cyanide destruction unit and a floatation concentrate unit. The proposed new tailings management system will be constructed proximately 400 metres southwest of the mill site in a natural depression.

### DILBERT



Downstream rockfill dams will discharge supernatant to a clearwater pond and effluent will be discharged seasonally (spring and fall) to Heenan Creek. According to the Company, construction is scheduled to start in the fall of 2002, with mill start-up planned for fall of 2003.

Very little information is available about the Company and its operating history. Internet searches including of SEDAR, MineScan and other industry databases do not identify the Claude Rundle Gold Mine Inc. as an active company. The Company does, however, appear in a list of contributors to the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, albeit as a relatively minor donor.

Northwatch concerns with the project relate to environmental impacts related to the physical disturbance, potential impacts on ground and surface water, the potential for acid mine drainage and metal leaching associated with the waste rock and tailings, and the use of cyanide in the mill process. A more general concern is with respect to the piecemeal approach being taken with the permitting process.