



Heine, T.H. 2002: Activities of Manitoba's Flin Flon regional office, Manitoba; *in* Report of Activities 2002, Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines, Manitoba Geological Survey, p. 100-101.

## SUMMARY

The Flin Flon office provides assistance to the mineral-exploration and mining communities in the Flin Flon–Snow Lake region. These activities include

- recording new mineral claims,
- maintaining an up-to-date library of claim and land-status maps for the Province of Manitoba, and
- dealing with claim-status inquiries and accepting assessment-work submissions.

The present staff includes a Regional Geologist (Thomas Heine), a Resident Geologist (David Prouse) and a Mining Claims Inspector (Karen Costello). Since the last activities report, assistance was provided for several research projects undertaken in the region. An inventory of drill core stored at the Centennial mine site has been completed. The mine documentation project is proceeding with the addition of new samples from a number of now-closed mines in the region, including the Centennial, Cuprus, Coronation and Flexar mines. A representative ore and mine sequence rock-sample suite was collected from the Ruttan mine near Leaf Rapids prior to its closure in June 2002.

## OFFICE RELOCATION

As a result of the closure of the Mining Recording office in The Pas and transfer of the files to Flin Flon in October 2002, the offices of the Department of Industry, Trade and Mines moved into larger accommodations at Suite 201 of the Barrow Provincial Building.

## MINING RECORDING

Mining recording and related activities were the responsibility of the Regional and Resident geologists until early June 2002. At this time, the Mining Claims Inspector resumed her position in Flin Flon. As part of the function of this office, an up-to-date collection of claim and land-status maps for the Province of Manitoba is maintained for public reference. Other responsibilities of the Mining Recording office include the recording of applications for new claims, casual quarry permits and prospecting licenses, and accepting other applications and submissions that fall under the terms of the Mines Act. Staff of the Flin Flon office will prepare reports summarizing the status and history of specific claims on request.

## EXPLORATION ASSISTANCE

The main function of the Flin Flon office is to provide assistance to the mining and mineral-exploration community and the public interested in the geology of the region. Access to the Precambrian Drill Core libraries in The Pas, Thompson and Lynn Lake is arranged through this office. A secure exterior storage area adjacent to the Centennial core-viewing facility is available for clients who wish to protect their core from vandalism or loss. Up-to-date inventories of the northern libraries and the Centennial site have been made (Prouse, GS-39, this volume).

Property visits, examinations, recommendations for further work and technical advice were provided to several clients.

Logistical and technical support was provided to several summer field projects undertaken in the region, including the federal-provincial Flin Flon Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI) and projects of the Saskatchewan Geological Survey and the Manitoba Geological Survey.

Technical support for the Green Project, a local initiative to ameliorate the acidic soil conditions and promote plant growth in areas affected by SO<sub>2</sub> discharge from the Flin Flon smelter, continued to be provided by this office. Volunteers continued to spread crushed dolomitic limestone on selected areas. Results of this project are encouraging, with increased vegetation growth noted in several treated areas. Plant species that were absent from affected areas also appear to be re-establishing themselves.

Participation in the Northwest Region Woodland Caribou Management and Research Committee continued.

## REPORTS

Text and figures for the *Mineral Deposit Series* report for Iskwasum Lake (NTS area 63K10) have been completed, with the report to be released in January 2003. The report for Elbow Lake (NTS area 63K15) has also been completed, with final editing of figures and map in progress. It is anticipated that this report will be also be released early in 2003.

The activities of the mining and mineral-exploration communities within Manitoba are actively monitored, and summary reports are prepared for both internal use and external publication.

Manitoba Conservation approached this office seeking input for a problem that has arisen in the Schist Lake area. Parts of Schist Lake, particularly Northeast Arm and Inlet Arm, show increased total phosphorus ( $\Sigma P$ ) levels, to the extent that they are subject to algal blooms. Residents along Inlet Arm have expressed some concern about this situation because of the increased turbidity of the water, and because it tends to clog water filters for those who obtain water from the lake. The only source of phosphorus in this area appears to be the rock sequence west-northwest of Northeast Arm. A report outlining the problem and suggested course of investigations to determine the source of the phosphorus has been prepared (Heine, 2002) and given to Darcy Chrisp, the local Environment Officer.

## MINE DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

The ongoing mine-documentation project, outlined previously (Heine and Prouse, 2000, 2001), continues to progress. Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Co. Ltd. continued their support for this project. The collection of representative ore samples obtained last year from Neil Provins (Falconbridge (Australia) Pty. Limited) has been slabbed, polished and added to the Flin Flon archive suite.

A representative sample suite of the Ruttan mine was collected in February 2002 for inclusion in the Flin Flon reference collection. One hundred and fourteen ore and associated rock samples were collected from the underground workings and are currently stored at the Centennial core-viewing facility. The underground geological plans were supplied in digital format by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and are included in the archive collection.

The Flin Flon Station Museum is a popular stop for residents and visitors to our community. It was decided, in consultation with the museum board, that it would be worthwhile to install a display outlining the geology of the area and describing some of the deposits in the region. This will include an integral display of rock and ore samples, both from the museum and from the Flin Flon reference collection. The samples from the reference collection will be loaned to the museum. This exhibit will be installed in the spring of 2003, on completion of the display case and printed materials.

## REFERENCES

- Heine, T.H. 2002: Phosphorus in Schist Lake; unpublished report prepared for Manitoba Conservation.
- Heine, T.H. and Prouse, D.E. 2000: Activities of the Flin Flon regional office; *in* Report of Activities 2000, Manitoba Energy and Mines, Manitoba Geological Survey, p. 12.
- Heine, T.H. and Prouse, D.E. 2001: Activities of the Flin Flon regional office; *in* Report of Activities 2001, Manitoba Energy and Mines, Manitoba Geological Survey, p. 45–46.