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“Meet the Miners” at Queen’s Park



OMA's President Chris Hodgson (left) and Peter McBride, Director of Communications (right), talk during “Meet the Miners” night at Queen’s Park.

It may have been a dark and dreary day late last month in Toronto when the Ontario Mining Association held its annual “Meet the Miners” reception at Queen’s Park, but that didn’t dampen the spirits of more than 100 mining executives and government officials who gathered to talk about the contributions the Ontario mining industry makes to the economy of the province.

Officially hosted by the popular Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Honourable Mike Gravelle, the event was held in the Legislative Dining Room where delegates used the opportunity to showcase the industry to key decision makers within the government.

The theme of this year’s event focused on the economy and the message from the miners to the government emphasized that miners still continue to make contributions to the well-being of society by providing jobs and investing in regional development.

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Report says “Mining is a Gem” in Ontario’s economy

The mining industry in Ontario is a cornerstone of the provincial economy by providing benefits that far outweigh its relative size and compared with other industries in the province, it contributes a greater proportion of tax dollars than most and it’s also the largest private sector employer of Aborigines.

At least that’s some of what it says in a new report entitled “Ontario Mining: A made-in-Ontario Success Story” by tax specialist Greg New who presented the paper at Queen’s Park during the Ontario Mining Association’s “Meet the Miners”

day late last month.

“Overall, the Ontario mining industry matters to Ontario for its direct \$10.7 billion in mineral production and related tax revenues, and jobs this production sustains, but also for the fact that it is the largest made-in-Ontario industry that contributes disproportionately to both the provincial tax base and the province’s international balance of trade,” says the report.

Highlights of the report include: Mining



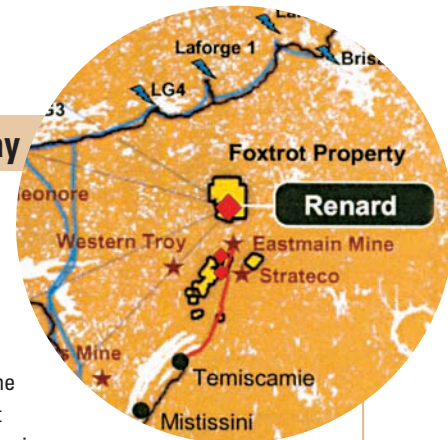
provides Ontario with a trade surplus of about \$3.3 million annually; each mining industry employee accounts for \$660,000 of output annually; and total capital investment in Ontario mining reached \$2.7 billion in 2007, representing an increase of 58% from 2004.

New funds will help build ‘road-to-riches’ highway

Quebec’s 2009-2010 budget includes \$698 million for road infrastructure projects in the northern part of the province, one of which includes the Route des Monts Otish from Chibougamau to the Otish Mountains. This particular roadway, now known as the Route 167 Extension, is the road development project designed to connect the communities of Chibougamau and Mistissini and several prospective mining projects and the proposed Albabel-Temiscamie-Otish Park in the area.

One company that is particularly pleased with the plans for this roadway extension is Stornoway Diamond Corporation of Vancouver because its Renard Diamond Project is one of the many prospective mining projects located in the area. The Renard project, contained within the Foxtrot Property, is a 50:50 joint venture between Stornoway and SOQUEM INC, of Val-d’Or.

“The announcement of major capital funding for the Route 167 Extension is a significant milestone in the development of the James Bay region of northern Quebec,” said Matt Manson, President and CEO of Stornoway. “We welcome the proactive and expeditious approach taken by the Government of Quebec in the provision of infrastructure support of the region, which will greatly assist the development of what we hope will become Quebec’s first diamond mine.”



Manufacturer sets production milestone with 50,000th off-highway truck

Caterpillar just announced that it has produced its 50,000th rigid-frame, off-highway truck, Model 777E, a 2983 kW, 91 mt monster designed specifically for the mining industry. Cat’s first off-highway Model 769 truck was built in 1963 and by

comparison to the 777E, it had a capacity of only 32 mt and was powered by a 298 kW engine. Both trucks were built at Cat’s Decatur, Illinois, plant.



Cat’s original 1963 Model 797F



Cat’s 50,000th off-road Model 777E