The issue of MTO changes will not go away. Now it has been proposed that there be a surcharge put on claims. That surcharge could be anywhere between $.10 and $2.00 per cell staked on top of the initial $1.75 proposed and the money raised would be used for “industry priorities”. To me that sounds as if the proponents expect those who stake claims to fund these industry priorities for everyone including government (one of those industry priorities being public geoscience traditionally paid for by government). Most claim staking is done by individual prospectors and small junior mining companies who make up only a portion of BC’s exploration and mining industries. One wonders how many of the people who came up with this idea stake claims and how many of those use their own grocery money. It could even be argued that mineral title is now worth less in BC rather than more after decisions like the Flathead which undermine our security of title.

The Chamber of Mines of Eastern BC position on the proposed changes is below. The proposed changes, before the surcharge came up, can be seen on page three of the December Motherlode.

We are against the proposal to have a surcharge on claims staked regardless of how those funds are to be used. Those who stake claims are only a portion of the exploration industry. They are the ones who do the grassroots exploration. It is our opinion that a surcharge on staking would not only deflate grassroots exploration, but would be the final straw for some who would quit exploring BC altogether. That will not increase our chances of finding new mines. We believe this would create a huge decline in staking, and in the end the government would take in less revenue from staking, not to mention future mining royalties.

To us a Mineral Tenure Levy Board would just be another level of bureaucracy giving our money away to others, benefitting only a lucky few. We would be better off to keep our money and spend it on our own properties.

We would like to see advancement of expiry dates for mineral claims restricted by never allowing time accumulated in the life of a record number by cash in lieu to exceed time accumulated by work performed. We believe that this would force people onto the ground to get rid of pure speculators but still leave the option of cash in lieu available, but earned.

The closest I could come to a consensus on annual mineral claim work obligations was some of us would live with a raise to as much as double the current amount, but no more. It was also felt that doubling the amount after the first year was too soon.

There is a suggestion that up to 100 cells could be staked with one claim. If this were to be the case then we would need the ability to subdivide these overly large claims.

With the transition issue of fees for recording work on existing claims, MTO has already collected much of the amount they propose to add to the staking fee from most of the existing claims (their own figures of the average claim life being about four years). They would be penalizing those with existing claims by charging them extra to record future work. It would be more practical and fair to make them all equal. It would also help by not having an extra type of title with different rules.

** IMPORTANT NOTICE: ANNUAL BANQUET**

Due to construction delays our Annual Banquet will now take place at The Best Western, 153 Baker St, Nelson, only 3 blocks away. Menu and events will remain the same.

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SULTAN MINERALS REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL NI 43-101 LEAD-ZINC RESOURCE ESTIMATE

Sultan Minerals Inc. (SUL -- TSX Venture) ("Sultan" or the "Company") is pleased to announce that independent initial resource calculations for the Lead and Zinc zones on its 100% owned Jersey-Emerald Property in the Kootenay District of British Columbia show a substantial resource. Resource calculations and the resulting National Instrument 43-101 Technical Report were prepared by Giroux Consultants Ltd of Vancouver, BC.

As shown in the following table, the estimate shows an indicated resource of 5,320,000 tons averaging 1.04% lead and 2.60% zinc and an inferred resource of 16,930,000 tons averaging 1.00% lead and 2.18% zinc using a cut-off grade of 1.5% combined lead-zinc.

Within this large low-grade resource there is higher grade mineralization with an indicated resource of 1,900,000 tons averaging 1.96% lead and 4.10% zinc using a cut-off grade of 3.5% combined lead-zinc. There is an additional inferred resource of 4,980,000 tons averaging 1.95% lead and 3.37% zinc at the same 3.5% combined cut-off grade.

The results of the resource evaluation are summarized in the following table which gives indicated and inferred tonnage and grade estimates. These preliminary values of combined lead and zinc range from amenability to low-grade open pit mining up to a higher-grade underground mining scenario.

**TOTAL Pb-Zn RESOURCES FOR JERSEY PROJECT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Cutoff %</th>
<th>Tons &gt;Cutoff</th>
<th>Pb %</th>
<th>Zn%</th>
<th>Pounds of Lead</th>
<th>Pounds of Zinc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicated</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5,320,000</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>111,000,000</td>
<td>277,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inferred</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>16,930,000</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>339,600,000</td>
<td>738,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicated</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>74,600,000</td>
<td>155,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inferred</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4,980,000</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>194,500,000</td>
<td>335,600,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is important to note that this Mineral Resource estimate is based entirely on Sultan's Jersey Mine area. The study demonstrates that excellent exploration potential for significant deposits of Lead-Zinc mineralization may also exist in the vicinity of Sultan's two adjacent historical mines and in the surrounding terrain. The authors recommend that a preliminary economic assessment study be undertaken to determine the tonnage and grade required for a feasibility study. For more information see [www.sultanminerals.com](http://www.sultanminerals.com)
James Thomas Fyles (1924 - 2010)

James Thomas Jim Fyles died peacefully on January 26, at the age of 85. Born to Margaret and Tom Fyles on December 22, 1924, Jim grew up in South Vancouver with his brothers John and David. As a student at UBC, he studied geology and engineering. In 1950, Jim married the love of his life Shirley Ganong. Their life long journey took them first to New York City where he completed his PhD studies at Columbia University. In 1951, they returned to British Columbia and Jim began work as a geologist with the BC Department of Mines. His detailed field work and analysis laid the basis for understanding the structural geology of the Kootenay Arc. He was a committed public servant and agreed to leave field geology to serve as Deputy Minister of Mines from 1973 to his retirement in 1981. Jim then spent several field seasons around Greenwood, BC, enjoying knocking rocks. A celebration of Jim's life was held at St. Aidan's United Church on Saturday, January 30. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's memory may be made to Our Place Society, 919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC, V8V 3P4.

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For more information go to: http://www.keg.bc.ca
ROAD DEACTIVATIONS

We have finally received a response to our letter requesting what the proposed road deactivations would be for the coming year. Here they are.

2010-2011 Forest Service Road proposed Deactivation is;

- Goatfei Hazel Creek (past Bridge)
- Duncan Lavina Mountain
- Poplar Creek
- LaFrance Creek
- Iron Range
- Murphy Creek
- Kootenay Joe
- Akokli (past bridge)
- Big Bear
- Goat Mountain
- Trout Lake
- Tungsten Creek

The proposed are only proposed, subject to referral and funding. Depending on other initiatives other roads may be deactivated. Access will likely be to ATV level and where the risk is low to High Clearance 4 X 4 Access.

This is not a conclusive list and roads may be added/subtracted where deemed necessary. If this changes I will update your office. If further information is required please contact this office.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Ken Haynes  RFT
phone: (250) 825-1126  fax (250) 825-9657
Engineering Officer
Kootenay Lake Forest District
1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson B.C. V1L 6K1
Mailto:Ken.Haynes@gov.bc.ca
First Point Minerals Corp. recently acquired mineral claims on its Letain property in Northern British Columbia. Nickel-iron alloy was observed in 9 out of 35 samples taken from serpentinized ultramafic bedrock while completing a regional exploration program. The disseminated nickel-iron alloy grains reach up to 100 microns in size and occur in an area measuring 300 by 580 meters which is open to the north and south. Scanning electron microscope analyses provided a range of 67 to 87% nickel, 12 to 28% iron and minor cobalt-copper and confirmed the presence of the mineral awaruite, a naturally occurring stainless steel which contains no sulphur. Minor heazlewoodite was also noted in composite grains. Total nickel values in the ultramafic rock samples range from 0.16 to 0.25%.

The 2,295 hectare area of the Letain property is located about 85 kilometers east of Dease Lake and is accessed by a summer exploration road. The Letain property is one of five nickel-iron alloy properties in British Columbia owned 100% by First Point. A sixth property, Decar, is under option to Cliffs Natural Resources Exploration (see details in News Releases November 13 and December 2, 2009).

The occurrence of nickel-iron alloy in a broad zone on the Letain property is viewed as very positive. The key exploration objective of the upcoming 2010 fieldwork program will be to define coarser grained alloy zones using primarily wide-spaced rock sampling.

ACME Analytical Laboratory Ltd., Vancouver, analyzed the rock samples using ICP-MS techniques and Micron Geological Ltd. employed an AMRAY 1810 scanning electron microscope equipped with an EDAX “Genesis” energy dispersive X-ray analyzer to complete microprobe semi-quantitative analytical work. Ron Britten, Ph.D., P. Eng., is responsible for the contents of this release. www.firstpointminerals.com
Vancouver and Victoria Mineral Titles Offices
Change to Office Operating Hours – Closed Mondays
Effective – Monday, March 15, 2010

This email is to notify you of a change to the operating hours of both the Vancouver and Victoria Mineral Titles offices.

Starting March 15th, the Vancouver and Victoria offices will no longer be open on Mondays for service to the general public.

The Mineral Titles Branch will not be available to provide counter service, answer telephone calls, or respond to emails on Mondays. All voice messages and emails received over the weekend and on Mondays will not start being responded to until Tuesday.

If you are registering events using Mineral Titles Online (MTO) and wish to pay the prescribed registration fees over the counter, the Service BC and FrontCounter BC offices are available in a community near you. The office locations can be found on their respective web sites.

Service BC:  www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca/locations/
Front Counter BC:  www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/contact/index.html

If you have a mineral tenure that is coming due, please ensure that you register your exploration and development work well in advance of your expiry date. In the event that a problem does arise, this will allow us time to provide assistance to you.

Please submit any questions or concerns to our Branch email address Mineral.Titles@gov.bc.ca
ORESTONE REPORTS ENCOURAGING GOLD RESULTS FROM CONNOR CREEK PROPERTY

Orestone Mining Corp. has released assay results from a 1,631-metre, nine-hole diamond drilling program on the Connor Creek property situated near Nelson in southwestern B.C. Drilling was conducted during the period Nov. 23 to Dec. 19, 2009. The work was completed as part of the company's option to earn 60 per cent of Kootenay Gold Inc's 100-per-cent interest in the property by expending $1-million on the property prior to Nov. 10, 2013, and delivering to Kootenay Gold a total 750,000 Orestone shares prior to Nov. 13, 2013. To date, the company has expended approximately $300,000 on the property and delivered 150,000 shares to Kootenay Gold.

Initial drilling by Orestone targeted the CC gold zone discovered by Kootenay Gold in 2007. Seven of nine holes tested this zone and its inferred southeasterly extension over a distance of about 550 metres. A summary of significant 2009 mineralized intercepts is given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hole No.</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To (m)</th>
<th>Interval (m)</th>
<th>Au (g/t)</th>
<th>Cu (ppm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC09-01</td>
<td>29.37</td>
<td>30.75</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>6.11</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC09-02</td>
<td>20.79</td>
<td>22.50</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC09-03</td>
<td>95.00</td>
<td>96.98</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>7.06(1)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC09-06</td>
<td>121.57</td>
<td>122.95</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC09-09</td>
<td>110.90</td>
<td>111.80</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>&gt;10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC09-09</td>
<td>144.22</td>
<td>145.58</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2,657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) It showed 12.61 grams per tonne gold on reanalysis (separate assay pulp).

Holes CC09-01 to 03 were drilled proximal to hole CC07-10 which intersected, at shallow depths, mineralized intervals of 4.75 grams per tonne gold over 3.0 metres, 3.29 grams per tonne gold over 1.76 metres and 1.09 grams per tonne gold over 4.0 metres. Gold mineralization in these holes is associated with veinlets and fracture fillings of pyrite, pyrrhotite and lesser chalcopyrite in altered metasediments at or near the contacts of diorite sills or feldspar porphyry dikes or sills. The company is currently reviewing sectional drill data in order to evaluate continuity of the mineralized zones. The potential for discovering additional gold-mineralized zones preferentially developed along sill or dike contacts is considered excellent.

In hole CC09-06, collared approximately 550 metres southeast of holes CC09-01 to 03, the 1.38-metre interval grading 1.02 grams per tonne gold is part of a 9.37-metre interval grading 0.39 gram per tonne gold. Mineralization in this interval is hosted by a silica-potassium feldspar altered intrusive(? ) unit which contains disseminations and fracture fillings of pyrrhotite, pyrite and chalcopyrite. In hole CC09-07, inclined beneath hole CC09-06, similarly mineralized silica and potassically altered rocks returned several intercepts grading from 0.37 to 0.68 gram per tonne gold over intervals of 3.5 metres to 9.4 metres. In these two holes, the gold mineralization could be fringing a larger zone of porphyry-style mineralization which could offer bulk-tonnage potential.

In hole CC09-09, collared about 270 metres east of holes CC09-01 to 03, the two gold-copper mineralized intervals in the attached table are diorite hosted and characterized by pervasive silica alteration accompanied by veinlets of pyrrhotite, pyrite, chalcopyrite and chlorite. They represent structurally controlled zones of mineralization hosted by competent wallrocks. Further drilling is required to better define continuity and grade of the zones.

The Connor Creek property is very well located relative to road, rail and power infrastructure and is near the smelter complex at Trail, B.C. Its geological setting is similar to the historic gold-producing veins at Rossland, 40 kilometres southwest. The widespread occurrences of gold indicated by soil and rock geochemistry, prospecting and diamond drilling show that the property contains a large, gold- and copper-bearing sulphide system which has the potential to host both bulk-tonnage and structurally controlled deposit types. more at www.orestone.ca
The Men of the Deeps are Back in BC!

The Men of the Deeps, Canada's beloved iconic Coal Miner's Choir from Cape Breton, are coming back to BC for another tour! They will be covering BC from East to West, performing their wonderful mining themed music starting in Kimberley and working their way across to Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. Their tremendously successful 2008 tour celebrating BC's 150th year of Mining covered BC north to south, starting in Tumbler Ridge and finishing off in the BC Mining Museum in Britannia Beach.

This will mark the Men of the Deeps 44th year in existence, forming in 1966 to be Cape Breton's contribution to Canada's Centennial Year in 1967. They have regularly toured all over North America also with stops in China and parts of Europe. Many of their concerts have been performed as backup to fellow Cape Breton performer Rita McNeil.

The Men of the Deeps jokingly describe their choir as likely the only one you will find where singing talent is the second consideration for membership! The first consideration is that members must come from a coal mining background with at least two years experience working underground or in the “Deeps” as they call it in Cape Breton. Regardless, they have a wonderful show performing some self authored songs along with traditional East Coast and North American mining-themed selections. They may even slip in the odd story about living the mining life of Cape Breton!

We are truly lucky to have these friendly and talented gentlemen coming back to BC. They are well worth a listen!

Men of the Deeps will be performing in Nelson on Wednesday, May 5th at the Nelson United Church. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Mines at a cost of $39.00.

IRON RANGE DRILL PROGRAM RESULTS

Vancouver – Friday, March 5, 2010 – Swift Resources Inc. – SWR: TSX.V (“Swift”) (the “Company”), has received the final results from the 7-hole, 580 meter diamond drill program completed on the Iron Range property in southeastern B.C. during December 2009. The drill program was designed to follow up on drilling by Eagle Plains in 2008, including hole IR08-006 at the O-Ray zone, which returned 7.0 meters grading 51.52 grams per tonne gold (1.50 ounces per ton gold), including 3.0 meters grading 118.45 grams per tonne gold (3.46 ounces per ton gold). Swift Resources has an option to earn a 60% interest in the Iron Range property from Eagle Plains Resources.

The 2009 exploration program has confirmed a southern extension of the O-Ray gold zone and substantially increased the known vertical extent above and below the IR08-006 high grade intercept. Elevated gold values were returned from holes IR09-022 and 09-023, as presented on the websites. These results illustrate the erratic distribution of the gold mineralization within this zone. There were no significant values returned from holes IR09-21 or holes IR09-24 to –26. For complete information go to http://www.swiftres.com or http://www.eagleplains.com
TGI3 Workshop: Public Geoscience in Support of Base Metal Exploration

Monday, March 22, 2010
8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Segal Graduate School of Business, Simon Fraser University
500 Granville (Granville & Pender)
Downtown Vancouver

Registration is FREE, and is now open. Seating is limited, so you MUST pre-register by sending an email to: tgi3_workshop@gac-cs.ca. Please include your name and company affiliation.

The workshop has national scope, with an emphasis on base metal exploration targets in the Canadian Cordillera. The invited slate of speakers, from across Canada, will discuss methods and results from bedrock, surficial, geophysical and geochemical mapping and modeling which target base metal deposits in the Bathurst, Abitibi, Flin Flon, and Cordillera districts (Selwyn Basin, BC's porphyry belt, Kootenay Arc). The TGI-3 workshop program offers plenty of time to talk with the presenters, while enjoying the included coffee break, lunch, and social hour refreshments.


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PLEASE NOTE: Anyone who is receiving the Motherlode via snail mail (regular mail) and has access to a computer please let us know your email address so that we can take your name off our mailing list. We would like to pare down our mailing list due to the increased cost of postage.
IMPORTANT NOTICES

INTRODUCTION TO PROSPECTING COURSE

This year we will be holding our annual Prospecting Course from April 19th to 25th. The course will include Rock & Mineral Identification, Claim Staking, Placer Mining, Option Agreements, Gemstones, Industrial Minerals and Mineral Deposit Types. The course will run for 5 evenings with a full day review on the 24th and a field trip on the 25th. The cost is $250 which includes the course textbook and will be on a first come first serve basis.

For more information or to sign up, drop by the Chamber at 215 Hall St., Nelson on any weekday from 9 to 4 or call 250-352-5242.

**CHANGE OF LOCATION: ANNUAL BANQUET**

The location of the banquet has been changed to The Best Western at 153 Baker St, Nelson. The Hume Hotel is experiencing construction delays and regrets any inconvenience. They have assured us that the menu will remain the same. Doors will open at 5:00 PM and dinner will be at 6:00 PM. Our guest speakers will be The Honourable Randy Hawes, Minister of State for Mining and John Mirko of Roca who will be speaking about the Max Mine expansion. Donations of items for the not so silent auction at our annual banquet are now being accepted. Ticket prices are the same as last year – only $25. You can drop by the Chamber or call 250-352-5242 for tickets. A special thank you to Eagle Plains for sponsoring the wine for our banquet.

BOOK SALE

Don't forget our book sale, now running until Thursday, March 18th. We have over 150 Ministry of Mines Annual Reports and Geological Survey of Canada Memoirs that could complete your collection. Drop by the Chamber to put your name on the auction list for any books you would like to have.
Membership Application form
For the Year 2010

YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE LIFE OF THE CHAMBER
PLEASE COMPLETE SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE OUR FILES.

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PHONE: AREA CODE: _______ PHONE: ___________________ FAX: ___________________

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SMALL CORP MEMBERSHIP (11-30 EMPLOYEES) $200.00 ___________

MEDIUM CORP MEMBERSHIP (31-50 EMPLOYEES) $300.00 ___________

LARGE CORP MEMBERSHIP (51+ EMPLOYEES) $500.00 ___________

Date................................................................. $___________

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT ----- Chamber of Mines of Eastern BC

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