In December 2005, 11,051 new claims were staked; 10,503 in Labrador and 548 on the Island. At the end of December, the staking total for 2005 was 42,067; 32,090 in Labrador and 9,977 on the Island; and the number of claims in good standing at year’s end was 88,546.

Numbered crosses relate to the property locations on the accompanying map.

1. On December 1, **Gordon H. Blake** staked an additional 23 claims near the Cache River in south-central Labrador. Gordon H. Blake and **Hector Blake** hold 29 and 10 claims, respectively, covering the marble potential of this property.

2. Also on December 1, **Geoflow Exploration** staked an additional nine claims at a now 19-claim property in east-central Labrador. Geoflow Exploration and associate **Paul McNeill** hold 37 claims in six properties in the area (see October 31) covering uranium potential.

3-4. On December 2, **Vulcan Minerals Inc.** announced that oil-exploration drilling was in progress at Hurricane No. 2 on its Robinsons River property (X3), located in the Bay St. George Basin in southwest Newfoundland. Seismic surveys in the Bay St. George Basin are also underway on both the 280-claim, Robinsons River property and the 345-claim, Flat Bay property (X4).

5. On December 5, **Fenton Scott** staked 11 claims in the Pinette Lake area of western Labrador for iron ore. Fenton Scott and **Graeme Scott** hold 11 and 3 claims, respectively, in this area.

6. On December 6, **Peter Haring** transferred 1,024 claims to **Bayswater Ventures Corp.** The claims occur in two properties in the Central Mineral Belt of east-central Labrador. Both properties cover the uranium potential of granitoid rocks of the Trans-Labrador Batholith.

7. On December 7, **Mountain Lake Resources Inc.** announced that it had had preliminary discussions with **Aur Resources Inc.** concerning the custom milling of potential ore from Mountain Lake Resources Inc.’s Bobbys Pond base-metal deposit in central Newfoundland. The Aur Resources Inc. mill will service the Duck Pond and Boundary base-metal mines and is only 25 km due east of the Bobbys Pond location; both operations would mine zinc and copper with gold and silver by-products. Both parties are amenable to renewing discussions should further exploration and metallurgical, scoping and feasibility studies by Mountain Lake Resources Inc. lead to a positive production decision for Bobbys Pond.

8. On December 8, **Crosshair Exploration & Mining Corp.** reported that it had received a new, National Instrument 43-101 compliant, uranium resource estimate for the Upper Moran “C” Zone on its Moran Lake, uranium and iron-oxide–copper–gold (IOCG) property, located
Newfoundland and Labrador Mineral Exploration Programs
(see text)

December 2005
in the Central Mineral Belt in central Labrador. The inferred resource of 124,000 tonnes grading 0.25% U$_3$O$_8$, at a cut-off of 0.1% U$_3$O$_8$ and containing approximately 688,000 pounds of uranium oxide, was prepared by Roscoe Postle Associates Inc. of Toronto following a review of the historical data and check assays of selected diamond drillcore intervals. The historical work was conducted by Shell Canada Resources Limited in the 1970s. The Shell Canada Resources Limited reports of diamond drilling included intersections grading 0.13% U$_3$O$_8$ over 5.89 m, 0.314% U$_3$O$_8$ over 3.23 m and 0.562% U$_3$O$_8$ over 3.99 m. All historical results are for depths of less than 75 m.

Consequently, Roscoe Postle Associates Inc. recommended a diamond-drilling program to test the extension of the Upper Moran “C” Zone. This program will consist of at least 2,000 m of diamond drilling (Phase 1) and will commence at the end of January.

A 10,000-m, Phase 2 program of diamond drilling is scheduled for the spring and summer, 2006. This program will test targets identified by the completed airborne radiometric and magnetic geophysical survey, as well as additional targets generated by the current gravity, electromagnetic and induced polarization ground geophysical follow-up to the airborne survey.

Targets include unconformity-type uranium mineralization in the north of the property, Olympic-Dam-type, iron-oxide–copper–gold targets in north-central areas, and structurally controlled (Michelin-type) targets in the central and southern portions of the property.

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**9** On December 12, Canstar Resources Inc. announced that it had made plans to conduct a deep-penetrating geophysical survey on its Mary March, base-metal property in central Newfoundland. The geophysical survey will test for down-plunge extensions to the high-grade copper–lead–zinc–gold–silver volcanogenic-massive-sulphide mineralization on the property (see April 6, 2004).

**10** On December 13, Altius Minerals Inc. reported that joint-venture partner Fronteer Development Group Inc. had received additional assay results for their Central Mineral Belt, uranium project in east-central Labrador. The assays are of drillcore from the last two drillholes of a seven-hole, diamond-drilling program that tested the Michelin uranium deposit at depth. Assays included 21.65 m grading 0.11% U$_3$O$_8$ at a vertical depth of approximately 450 m and 8.15 m grading 0.10% U$_3$O$_8$ at a vertical depth of approximately 700 m. The former contains two higher grade intervals of 0.21% (4.62 pounds per tonne) U$_3$O$_8$ over 7.15 m and 0.24% (5.28 pounds per tonne) U$_3$O$_8$ over 4.1 m.

Fronteer Development Group Inc. reported that the 2005 diamond-drilling program in the Central Mineral Belt totalled 9,400 m in 27 holes. Seven deep, diamond drillholes and two infill, diamond drillholes were completed at the Michelin deposit, at which the mineralization has been delineated to a vertical depth of 700 m (990 m down dip) and a width of 65 m. The mineralization is still open in all directions in this area of the deposit and apparently strengthening downwards.
On December 14, Crosshair Exploration & Mining Corp. reported two new areas of uranium mineralization on its Moran Lake Project properties in the Central Mineral Belt, central Labrador.

Bedrock sampling, 18 km west-southwest of the Moran “C” Zone prospect, returned an average of 0.35% U₃O₈, together with significant IOCG-type mineralization from five samples (X11). The best sample ran 0.75% copper, 9.9 g/mt silver and 0.36% U₃O₈.

Two km southwest of the Moran “C” Zone, bedrock sampling returned up to 0.549% U₃O₈ and a seven-sample average of 0.165% U₃O₈ (X8).

Also on December 14, Crosshair Exploration & Mining Corp. also announced the acquisition, through option, of 48 claims (from Triassic Properties Ltd.) and eight claims (from Patrick J. Laracy) in blocks surrounded by the central and southern parts of its Moran Lake property. The option includes expending $600,000 on exploration over three years.

As well on December 14, Vulcan Minerals Inc. announced completion of its 2005, oil-exploration drilling on its properties in southwestern Newfoundland. Four wells were drilled in the area, two in the northeast on the Robinsons River property (X3) and two in the southwest on the Flat Bay property (X4). The last of these, Hurricane No. 2 (see above) was drilled to a depth of 935 m. No cap rock was intersected, however, the presence of oil in non-commercial quantities within the target sequence was demonstrated by fluorescence of drill cuttings over intervals totalling 255 m.

The program indicates a petroleum-bearing system potentially extending from the Flat Bay oil show in the north for 20 km to the Hurricane structure in the south and covering an area of over 100 km².

New seismic, and aeromagnetic geophysical data (see November 18) will be used to refine the exploration plans for 2006, which include delineation drilling around the shallow, Flat Bay oil show.

On December 15, New Millenium Capital Corp. announced that Met-Chem Canada Inc. had been contracted to conduct a pre-feasibility study of its 80%-owned LabMag Iron Ore Project, located near Schefferville in western Labrador. The Kawawachikamach Band of the Naskaupi Nation owns the remaining 20%. The study is due by the end of March 2006.

The 702-claim LabMag Iron Ore Project includes the Howells River taconite deposits. (Taconite is a relatively low-grade, commonly siliceous, ore of iron suitable for leaching or concentrating to economic grades. Preliminary tests from the Rosemary Lake area of the deposits consistently generated a concentrate of 69-70% iron.) Pending a positive pre-feasibility study, the company plans to proceed to a bankable feasibility study. Development of the project envisages construction of a mine, crusher, concentrator, slurry pipeline, pellet plant, storage and ship-loading facilities, and sale of the product pellets in the United States, western Europe and eastern Asia.
On December 15, **TLC Ventures Corp.** announced that it is currently conducting a review of surface and downhole geophysical data at its Point Leamington zinc–copper–gold–silver deposit in north-central Newfoundland. The review will be used to identify the potential for additional along-strike and down-dip extensions to the volcanogenic-massive-sulphide deposit. Earlier extensions were intersected by diamond drilling (see October 15, 2004, and January 19). A new resource estimate for the deposit was reported on March 30, 2004. The 80-claim property contains a 262.912 ha mining lease which is under option from Rubicon Minerals Corporation.

On December 16, **10565 Nfld. Inc.** staked an additional 200 claims in the Central Mineral Belt of central Labrador. The claims cover the uranium potential of basement gneiss (X15, 60 claims) and the uranium–copper potential of Seal Lake Group basalt near its unconformity with Bruce River Group felsic volcanic rocks (X16, 140 claims).

On December 16, associates **Michael Basha, Brad Dyke, Paul J. Moore** and **Andrew M. Hussey** staked 30 claims each in southwest Newfoundland. The claims form a part of **Cornerstone Resources Inc.**’s Codroy Project (see June 28), which is subject to an agreement between Cornerstone Resources Inc. and Phelps Dodge Corporation of Canada, Limited (see August 23). The claims are being explored, mainly, for their copper and uranium potential.

On December 20, **Messina Minerals Inc.** reported additional results of diamond drilling of the Boomerang horizon in its Tulks South property in west-central Newfoundland. Massive sulphide intersections extended the mineralization a further 50 m to the west (two diamond drillholes, including 3.2% zinc over 4.3 m) as well as increasing the height of the mineralized sections (three intersections from four diamond drillholes, including 13.5% zinc over 2.7 m and 4.6% zinc over 5.2 m) near the western end of the Boomerang massive-sulphide lens (see November 14 and 21). The strike length of the Boomerang massive sulphide is now 400 m.

Diamond drilling of the gap between the Boomerang gravity anomaly and the Zinc Zone gravity anomaly (see October 27), 500 m to the southwest, intersected the characteristic pyrite - black chert lithology and confirms that the two prospects occur along the same horizon.

Messina Minerals Inc. also reported that fieldwork had failed to locate the source of a massive-sulphide boulder on the 60-claim, Lloyd’s River property, centred approximately five km northwest of the Boomerang Prospect. Messina Minerals Inc. has withdrawn from its option on this property from A.S.K. Prospecting & Guiding Inc. (see March 16).

Also on December 20, **Crosshair Exploration & Mining Corp.** reported on a trenching program (see May 19) at its South Golden Promise gold property option from Rubicon Minerals Corporation in central Newfoundland. Trenching was completed at the Snow White and Linda occurrences in Block 1 of the option, approximately 22 km along strike to the southwest of Rubicon Minerals Corporation’s Jaclyn gold discovery on its Golden Promise property (see October 7, 2004).
The trenching program has exposed a quartz vein system, which is up to 5 m wide, over a strike length of 170 m. Grab samples from the trench returned up to 232 g/mt gold and 15 0.5-m channel samples ranged from 1.17 to 29.7 g/mt gold.

Diamond drilling is planned for 2006.

As well on December 20, V. A. French Geological Consultants Inc. staked 72 claims in two properties in the southwestern Smallwood Reservoir region of western Labrador. The claims cover the nickel potential of Shabogamo Intrusive Suite gabbro and are adjacent or near to parts of the Shabogamo Project of Gallery Resources Limited and BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. (see August 11).

On December 22, Jens E. Hansen transferred 621 claims in six properties in the Central Mineral Belt of central and east-central Labrador to Santoy Resources Ltd. The claims cover the uranium potential of: basement granitoid rocks and their unconformable volcano-sedimentary cover sequences (21, 269 claims); Trans-Labrador Batholith and older granitoid rocks (22, 246 claims); and Bruce River Group felsic volcanic rocks (23, 106 claims).

On December 22, John Fleming staked 30 claims in southwest Newfoundland. The claims form a part of associated company Cornerstone Resources Inc.’s Codroy Project (see above). The Codroy Project now consists of 1,120 claims.

On December 23, Celtic Minerals Ltd. announced that the audio-magnetotelluric geophysical survey (see September 14) had been completed on its 760-claim, Voisey’s Bay West nickel property in northern Labrador. Detailed gravity geophysical surveys are in progress and will be used to better define targets for a diamond-drilling program.

On December 27, Rubicon Minerals Corporation staked 30 claims on the Baie Verte Peninsula for gold. The claims contain eight gold showings in gabbro, mafic volcanic rocks and iron formation. The area immediately to the west contains gold prospects, developed prospects and the exhausted Goldenville Mine (153 ounces of gold were recovered from surficial materials and four short shafts between 1902 and 1906), as well as being prospective for talc. The Goldenville iron formation was tested by diamond drilling during a regional exploration program by Granges Exploration Ltd. in 1987-88 and returned up to 12.89 g/mt over 1.8 m.

On December 28, Altius Resources Inc. announced that a diamond-drilling program had been completed on its 1,771-claim, Michikamau nickel property in west-central Labrador. The program consisted of 860 m in five shallow, diamond drillholes, which tested the base of the Michikamau anorthositic Intrusion near its eastern region.
Altius Resources Inc. also announced that Teck Cominco Limited had withdrawn from its joint venture in the project (see August 4, 2004).

Also on December 28, Altius Resources Inc. announced that gridding and ground geophysical surveys had commenced on its 249-claim, South Tally Pond, base-metal and gold property. The geophysical surveys are testing for extensions to the mineralization at a gold-rich, volcanogenic-massive-sulphide occurrence, for which historical diamond drilling returned 6.1 g/mt gold over 3.8 m.

With this work program, Altius Resources Inc. expects to complete its requirements for a 100% interest in the property, under an earn-in option from Falconbridge Limited (then Noranda Inc.).

On December 29, Bedford Resource Partners Inc. staked 159 claims over iron formation in western Labrador for its iron ore potential. Iron showings on the property were discovered by Labrador Mining & Exploration Limited in the 1940s and by Iron Ore Company of Canada in 1961.

On December 29, associates Wayne Warren (30 claims) and Leroy Smith (20 claims) staked over bimodal volcanic rocks near Fortune Bay in southeast Newfoundland. The claims have gold and IOCG potential.

On December 30, Peter Haring staked 9,984 claims in two areas of northeast-central Labrador. The larger area (6,656 claims) overlies granitoid rocks and basement orthogneiss along the northern margin of the Central Mineral Belt to the west of Postville. This area contains copper and pyrite showings and indications. The smaller area (3,328 claims) is located farther west and overlies basement rocks consisting of orthogneiss, granitoid rocks and layers of mafic paragneiss. This area contains abundant showings and indications of nickel, copper, pyrite and iron and, less commonly, zinc and lead, in particular in association with the mafic paragneiss layers. Both areas, however, have been staked for the uranium potential of the granitoid and granitic orthogneiss rocks.

On December 30, Timothy R. Stead and Ken Stead Jr. staked 30 claims each, near Heart’s Content in the northwest Avalon Peninsula, for copper.

On December 30, Troy Gordon staked seven claims covering base-metal (copper–lead–zinc) and precious-metal (gold–silver) potential in west-central Newfoundland. Troy Gordon holds 67 claims in three properties in the area for, chiefly, base metals.