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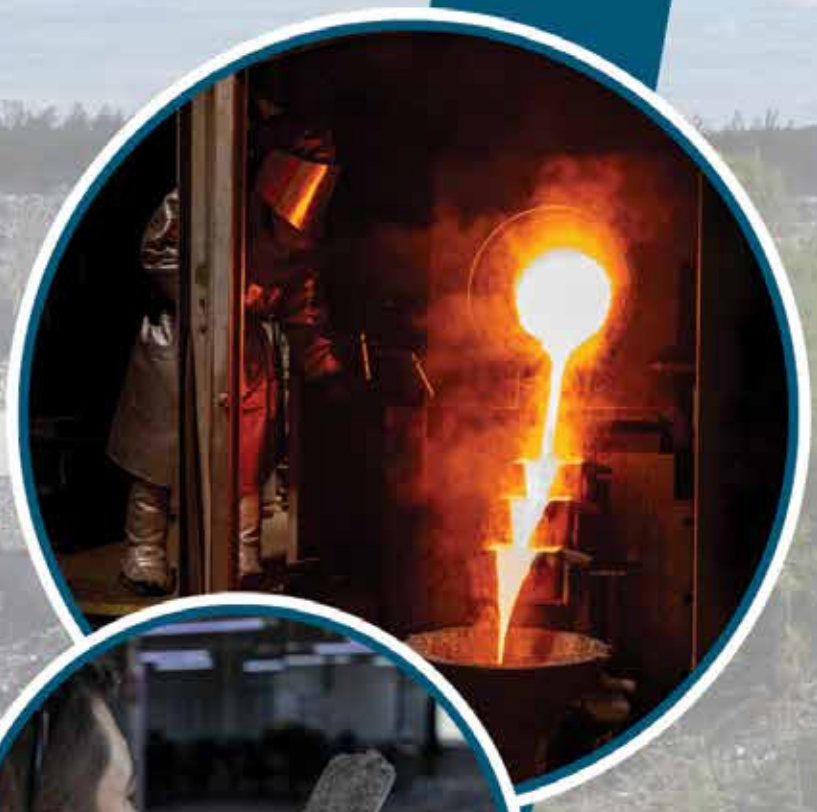



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Message from the editor

SHAYNA WIWIERSKI

Welcome to this edition of the *Ontario Mining Review*.

Few places in the world match Ontario's mix of geological richness, technical expertise, and community connection. Across the province, mining continues to shape local economies, build careers, and open pathways for partnership. This issue looks at two operations that show what the sector can achieve when investment, planning, and relationships align.

Our first feature takes us near Gogama, home to Côté Gold, one of Canada's newest large-scale gold mining operations. A joint venture between IAMGOLD and Sumitomo Metal Mining, Côté Gold has become a significant contributor to the regional economy. It has created employment opportunities, supported local businesses, and brought lasting benefits to surrounding communities. What stands out most, though, is the operation's commitment to working alongside Indigenous partners throughout the life of the mine.

The relationships Côté Gold has built with Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation are central to that story. Their insights and perspectives have helped shape the operation's approach to community engagement, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development. In an industry where trust and collaboration are essential, this is a model worth studying and a reminder that the strongest projects are built together.

Our second feature turns north of White River, where the Sugar Zone Mine is entering an exciting new chapter. After almost three years, underground development has restarted, key regulatory approvals are in place, and Vault Minerals, through its subsidiary Silver Lake Ontario, is investing in the infrastructure, exploration, and planning needed to bring gold production back online in late 2027.

The road back has been deliberate. Since operations were suspended in August 2023, Vault has used the time to strengthen the mine's foundations. The company has redesigned the mine plan, refurbished key site infrastructure, and completed more than 100,000 metres of drilling, giving the team a far better understanding of the orebody. On July 1, 2026, the first blast since mining was halted marked the restart of underground development. Behind that milestone lies significant investment in underground infrastructure, mine services, fuel facilities, workshops, and personnel facilities.

Together, these stories tell a broader tale about Ontario mining today. One shows the value of lasting partnerships and responsible development; the other shows the patience, discipline, and long-term thinking required to bring a mine back to life. Both reflect an industry that is investing in its people, its communities, and its future.

As always, we want to thank the operators, community leaders, and contributors who made this issue possible, and our readers for their continued support. I hope these stories inform and inspire you as much as they did our editorial team.

For more Ontario mining news, please visit ontariominingnews.ca.

Enjoy the issue!

Shayna Wiwierski
Shayna@DELCommunications.com









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- Approximately 5,000 metres of Phase 2 diamond drilling proposed to test the deposit at depth and a geophysical target, with the aim of expanding the existing mineral resource.
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Reconciliation through partnership, accountability, and action at Côté Gold



Located near Gogama, Ontario, Côté Gold is one of Canada's newest large-scale gold mining operations.

As Canada marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, Côté Gold has taken an important step forward in its reconciliation journey with the launch of its Reconciliation Action Plan (2026-2030). Developed through collaboration with Indigenous partners and aligned with IAMGOLD's corporate reconciliation framework, the plan establishes a roadmap for embedding reconciliation into day-to-day operations and long-term decision-making at the mine.

Located near Gogama, Ontario, Côté Gold is one of Canada's newest large-scale gold mining operations. As a joint venture between IAMGOLD and Sumitomo Metal Mining, the operation has become a significant contributor to the regional economy, creating employment opportunities, supporting local businesses, and working alongside Indigenous communities throughout the life of the mine. Central to that work are the relationships Côté Gold has built with Indigenous partners, including Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation, whose insights and perspectives have helped shape the operation's approach to community engagement, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development.

The Reconciliation Action Plan reflects the understanding that reconciliation is not a single initiative, but an ongoing journey requiring commitment, accountability, and continuous learning. Building on IAMGOLD's corporate strategy, Reconciliation. Redefined. 2026-2030, the site-level plan was developed through workshops, planning sessions, and ongoing dialogue with Indigenous partners to ensure it reflects local priorities and realities.

At the heart of the plan are six pathways that will guide action across the organization:

- Awareness and Cultural Competence

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The Reconciliation Action Plan reflects the understanding that reconciliation is not a single initiative, but an ongoing journey requiring commitment, accountability, and continuous learning.

- Engagement and Relationships
- Economic Inclusion and Capacity Building
- Workplace Inclusion and Career Development
- Environmental Stewardship
- Cultural Well-Being and Resilience

The first five pathways align with IAMGOLD's corporate framework, while the sixth, Cultural Well-Being and Resilience, was added by Côté Gold to reflect priorities identified through local engagement and collaboration with Indigenous partners. Together, these pathways provide a practical framework for translating commitments into meaningful and measurable actions.

The plan outlines a range of commitments aimed at strengthening relationships and increasing Indigenous participation across many aspects of the operation. These include expanding Indigenous awareness training, increasing procurement opportunities for Indigenous businesses, supporting training and career development pathways, enhancing Indigenous participation in environmental monitoring and stewardship activities, and supporting community-led cultural, wellness, and resilience initiatives. Progress will be monitored through existing governance and reporting processes to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

"We have appreciated the way Côté Gold has come to the table, willing to listen, willing to hear us out when we see things differently, and willing to keep the conversation going. A relationship like that takes time and care to build, and we do not take it for granted. There is still work ahead of us, and we look forward to walking through it together, with our children and grandchildren in mind," says Chief Jaime Bull, Flying Post First Nation. "Our relationship with Côté Gold represents an important opportunity to demonstrate what economic reconciliation can look like in practice. Through continued dialogue and collaboration, we have the opportunity to strengthen First Nation participation in employment, business, training, environmental stewardship, and community development, while respecting Mattagami's priorities, knowledge, and right to determine our own future."

For Mattagami, success will be measured not only by the commitments made, but by the outcomes achieved.

"We look forward to continuing this work together, strengthening our relationship and creating a legacy of opportunity, well-being, and prosperity that extends well beyond the life of the mine," says Chief Jennifer Constant, Mattagami First Nation.

For Côté Gold, September 30 represents both a milestone and a beginning. While the operation has made progress in building relationships and creating opportunities with Indigenous partners, the new Reconciliation Action Plan acknowledges that more work remains ahead. By



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The plan outlines a range of commitments aimed at strengthening relationships and increasing Indigenous participation across many aspects of the operation.



While the operation has made progress in building relationships and creating opportunities with Indigenous partners, the new Reconciliation Action Plan acknowledges that more work remains ahead.

establishing clear pathways, measurable commitments, and ongoing accountability, Côté Gold aims to ensure reconciliation becomes an enduring part of how the operation conducts business and contributes to the communities and lands where it operates.

As the mining industry continues to strengthen relationships with Indigenous Peoples across Canada, Côté Gold's Reconciliation Action Plan demonstrates how reconciliation can be integrated into operations through partnership, shared learning, and action. Ultimately, the success of the plan will be measured not by the commitments written on paper, but by the relationships strengthened and the positive outcomes achieved together over time.

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Mining smarter

How critical technologies are transforming Ontario's mining sector



By Claudia Krywiak, President and CEO of the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI)

Ontario has long been recognized as a global mining jurisdiction, with mineral resources, industry expertise, and supply chains that contribute significantly to the province's economy. But the next competitive advantage for Ontario mining may come not only from what we extract from the ground, but from the technologies we deploy to find, recover, and process those resources more safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

Artificial intelligence, robotics, advanced networks, and other critical technologies are rapidly changing industrial operations. For mining companies, these technologies offer opportunities to improve worker safety, anticipate equipment problems, increase productivity, recover additional value from existing resources, and reduce environmental impacts.

Ontario has another advantage: a growing technology sector capable of developing many of these solutions here at home.

Through the Critical Industrial Technologies (CIT) initiative, funded by the Government of Ontario and delivered by the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), Ontario is connecting innovative small- and medium-sized enterprises with industry and specialized infrastructure to accelerate the development, validation, and adoption of critical technologies. CIT focuses on six technology areas, artificial intelligence, 5G and advanced networks, robotics, cybersecurity, blockchain and quantum, across mining, construction, agri-food, and advanced manufacturing.

The impact within mining is already significant. CIT has supported 74 mining projects and more than 78 Ontario companies, representing $16.4 million in critical-technology support, including $6.8 million invested through CIT and $9.6 million in co-investment.

Sudbury-based SYMX.AI provides one example of what that investment can make possible. Through a $2 million project involving SYMX.AI, Yokohama, and Fountain Tire, the company is developing a digital tire-management platform that combines artificial intelligence and Industrial Internet of Things technologies. OCI is providing $641,400 through CIT's Sector Adoption Program. The platform is being developed to provide real-time insights and predictive analytics that can improve mine-site safety and operational efficiency while reducing fuel consumption and tire waste.

Ontario companies are also applying AI directly to one of mining's most important priorities: protecting workers. LoopX, with operations in Waterloo and Sudbury, is developing BoomGuard through the CIT Sector Adoption Program in collaboration with Cementation Canada. The system combines AI, infrared cameras, and 3D LiDAR to establish intelligent safety zones around underground boom equipment. Rather than relying solely on conventional warnings, the technology can identify potential risks, provide context-based alerts, and automatically stop equipment when workers are in danger.

Another Ontario company is demonstrating how critical technologies can help the industry rethink what constitutes a resource. Toronto-based reOsiris is working with Cambrian College's Centre for Smart Mining to develop and demonstrate a mobile tailings-reprocessing facility capable of extracting valuable metals from mine waste. Supported through CIT's Development and Commercialization Program, the system incorporates AI and robotic automation and is designed to process one metric tonne of tailings per hour. Its modular design could allow the technology to be deployed directly to mine sites, creating opportunities to recover critical minerals while addressing historic and active mining waste.

These projects illustrate an important shift. Innovation in mining is increasingly being driven by the convergence of traditional mining expertise with capabilities originating in Ontario's broader technology ecosystem.

That convergence also extends to exploration, predictive maintenance, environmental management, and frontline operations. CIT-supported companies are developing voice-enabled AI for underground workers, AI platforms to streamline compliance and training, predictive-maintenance systems for underground ventilation infrastructure, and AI-enabled technologies for mining water treatment.

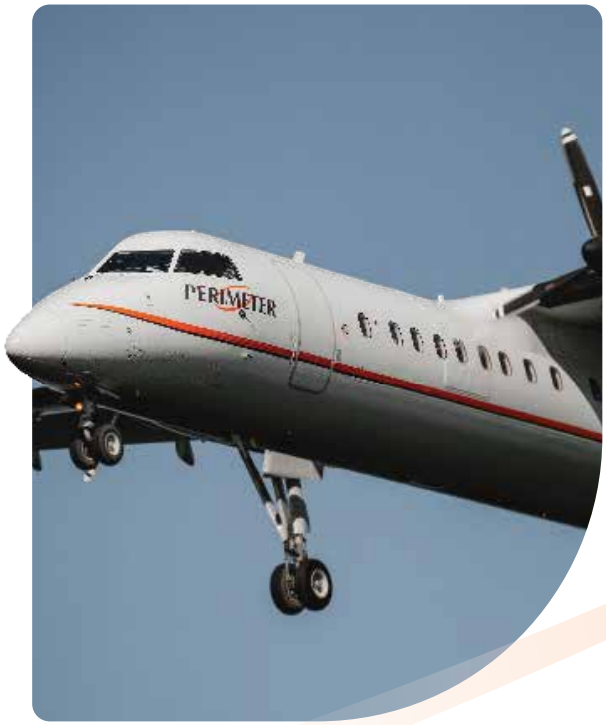
The challenge is ensuring promising technologies can move from development into real-world industrial environments. CIT addresses that gap by providing Ontario SMEs with opportunities to develop, test, and validate technologies through industry collaboration and specialized technology development sites, including mining-focused facilities such as the NORCAT Underground Centre and Cambrian College's Centre for Smart Mining.

For OCI, this is about creating a return on innovation. When an Ontario technology company solves a real mining challenge, the benefits extend beyond a single project. Mining operators gain access to technologies that can make their businesses safer and more competitive. Ontario SMEs gain validation, customers, and commercialization opportunities. New intellectual property and high-value jobs are created in the province. And Ontario strengthens its ability to export both its mining expertise and its technology to markets around the world.

As global competition for critical minerals intensifies, Ontario's opportunity is about more than supplying the resources the world needs. It is also about developing the technologies that will define how the mines of the future operate.

That combination of mineral wealth, mining expertise, and homegrown critical technology could become one of Ontario's most important competitive advantages.

Learn more about Ontario's Critical Industrial Technologies initiative at CITInnovation.ca.



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From mine to market

RockTech Lithium

Rock Tech advances a made-in-Ontario lithium supply chain





Conceptual rendering of Rock Tech Lithium's proposed Georgia Lake Project in northern Ontario, illustrating the planned processing plant and supporting site infrastructure. The final project configuration remains subject to ongoing engineering and project development. Inset: Aerial view of a lithium-bearing pegmatite outcrop at the Aumacho deposit, one of several known lithium deposits within Rock Tech Lithium's Georgia Lake Project in northern Ontario. The exposed outcrop illustrates the near-surface occurrence of spodumene-bearing pegmatite mineralization across the broader project area.

Canada has charted a bold new path when it comes to critical minerals. In the midst of geopolitical instability and shifting trade relationships, the federal government has moved swiftly to build a sovereign stockpile of the resources that will help power the future of our economy and national defence.

The next challenge will be ensuring we can turn those resources into the strategic materials that our economy and our allies increasingly need.

That is the opportunity Rock Tech Lithium is pursuing in Northwestern Ontario. The German-Canadian company is leading the charge to build an integrated lithium supply chain, anchored by its planned Red Rock Lithium Converter and nearby Georgia Lake mining project.

"Canada has the resources and policy ambition, while Germany has deep industrial and processing expertise. Most importantly, both countries have a shared interest in building allied supply chains," said Dirk Harbecke, chairman of Rock Tech. "Rock Tech is putting that

partnership into practice, taking what we have learned and engineered in Germany and applying it to Canadian resources to build the future of the lithium sector right here in Ontario."

The company's Red Rock Lithium Converter is designed to produce up to 32,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent annually, transforming lithium-bearing material into battery-grade materials for North American and allied markets.

Located on a former industrial site with access to power, road, and rail infrastructure, it's poised to fill one of the most significant gaps in Canada's critical minerals supply chain: processing.

Canada and other G7 countries are increasingly focused not simply on where minerals are mined, but where they are converted, refined, and controlled. Indeed, the leaders of the G7 recently signed a declaration identifying critical minerals as strategic assets essential to economic security and midstream processing as a shared priority. It's increasingly clear that the Canadian-German industrial relationship is quickly becoming one of the country's most important. Rock Tech sees Northwestern Ontario as a place where that can be built, connecting Canadian resources with proven German processing expertise to supply allied markets.

The company has spent years developing the engineering and process knowledge behind its Guben converter in Germany, which it intends to apply as technical foundation in Ontario, bringing together German engineering and industrial expertise with Canadian resources and infrastructure.

So, it's no surprise that they continue to gain momentum in 2026.

In April, Rock Tech announced a partnership with Canadian industrial infrastructure company BMI Group, including a planned $200 million investment and up to $30 million in initial funding to advance Red Rock toward a final investment decision.

In July, Rock Tech added another important piece to the commercial picture through a binding long-term offtake agreement with Geneva-based commodity trading house Transamine SA for spodumene concentrate from Georgia Lake, together with a development prepayment facility of up to US$80 million.

Then, in September, Rock Tech announced that it had signed agreements with Siemens Canada to advance a strategic partnership that includes the development of a digital twin – a virtual representation of the facility that will allow Rock Tech to model and optimize the facility's processes, energy flows, and material streams, helping reduce execution risk and improve operational efficiency.

"Our strategy is to bring those pieces together and build a converter that can compete globally while giving Canada and its allies the required, secure processing capacity."

Work has continued on the technical side as well, with Rock Tech planning to finalize its ongoing definitive feasibility study for Red Rock by years end 2026.

Upstream, Rock Tech is advancing Georgia Lake, located less than 60 kilometres from the proposed converter. Recent ore-sorting work supported by Ontario's Critical Minerals Innovation Fund identified a potential pathway to materially reduce future crushing and concentrator capital costs by up to 50 per cent. The definitive feasibility study for Georgia Lake is planned to commence in October.

"Each of these milestones strengthens a different part of the project, from technology and capital to feedstock and customers," said Mirco Wojnarowicz, CEO of Rock Tech. "Our strategy is to bring those pieces together and build a converter that can compete globally while giving Canada and its allies the required, secure processing capacity."

For them, the plan is straightforward: build the midstream capacity Canada needs to turn its lithium resources into a strategic asset and help write the next chapter of the Canada-German industrial partnership right here in Ontario. ⚒

Springer, Ontario's critical gateway to rare earth and gallium supply



Located within 70 kilometres of Sudbury, the Springer project sits on paved roads, with hydro power, natural gas, and rail access all within eight kilometres.

Why Volta Metals' flagship project matters to North American supply chains

About eight kilometres from Sturgeon Falls, Volta Metals' Springer Rare Earth Element and Gallium Deposit represents one of North America's most significant responses to China's control of critical mineral supply. An updated Mineral Resource Estimate released in October 2026 more than doubled Springer's indicated resource to 122.4 million tonnes, places the deposit fifth among North American rare earth projects by measured and indicated tonnage*, and includes Springer's first gallium estimate. For two of the West's most strategic supply bottlenecks, Springer is emerging as a potential source outside Asia.

A top five North American rare earth deposit

Effective September 30, 2026, SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. estimated indicated mineral resources of 122.4 million tonnes grading 0.59 per cent TREO (total rare earth oxides), up 116 per cent from 56.6 million tonnes in February 2026, and inferred mineral resources of 197.5 million tonnes grading 0.53 per cent TREO, up 65 per cent. The estimate draws on 39 drill holes, including 13 holes totalling 5,445 metres drilled in 2026. The indicated high-grade core grew 140 per cent to 27.6 million tonnes grading 1.00 per cent TREO, and the inferred high-grade domain grew nearly nine-fold to 26.7 million tonnes grading 0.94 per cent TREO. Magnet rare earth oxides (neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium, and terbium), the metals in the permanent magnets that drive EV motors, wind turbines and defence systems, make up 22.4 per cent of indicated TREO, and heavy rare earth oxides about 5.5 per cent.

Scale is matched by location. Springer sits about 70 kilometres east of Sudbury beside the Trans-Canada Highway, with hydro power, natural gas, and Canadian National Railway service all within eight kilometres. The open pit reporting shell has a low strip ratio of 1.26 tonnes of waste per tonne of mineralized material. The deposit also has very low uranium and thorium content, a potential permitting advantage over many overseas peers.

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Gallium, a second strategic metal

Equally significant is gallium. During the winter 2026 drill program, the deepest hole, SL26-35, intersected 688 metres of continuous carbonatite grading 0.81 per cent TREO and 68.13 g/t Ga_2O_3. Gallium was present across every sample in every hole drilled, confirming it is a deposit-wide feature, not a narrow vein. The October estimate quantifies gallium within the rare earth resource for the first time. Gallium averages 36 g/t across the 122.4-million-tonne indicated resource, about 4,427 tonnes of gallium in situ, including 14.8 million tonnes grading 56 g/t gallium in the gallium high-grade domain. That grade is comparable to the 57 g/t worldwide average for bauxite, the source of most of the world's gallium (USGS). Gallium is reported as a supplementary estimate and is assigned no economic value until metallurgical test work establishes its recovery and payability.

The market backdrop explains the attention. China produces about 99 per cent of the world's primary gallium and controls exports through licensing. S&P Global reports that gallium prices outside China reached about US$2,100 per kilogram in 2026, roughly seven times 2023 levels, against about US$300 per kilogram inside China. Rare earths face a similar squeeze. China supplies about 84 per cent of NdPr oxide and placed rare earth magnets under export licensing in April 2025. Governments are responding, including with the US$110 per kilogram NdPr price floor the U.S. Department of Defense set with MP Materials in July 2025.

Metallurgy supports processability

In June 2026, SGS Canada delivered the first independent evidence that Springer mineralization responds to conventional flotation. Using standard crush-grind-float methods on a master composite, the bench-scale test work achieved 88.2 per cent total rare earth element recovery. Recoveries for individual rare earths tracked together, consistent with a single dominant host mineral (synchysite). Gallium was identified in both the rare earth concentrate and the flotation tailings. The recovery assumptions in the updated estimate are based on this work, and the results remain preliminary. Additional metallurgical test work on rare earth and gallium recovery is in progress, and parallel research with Laurentian University's biomine lab is exploring chemical leach pathways for gallium.

What's next

In July 2026, Volta consolidated its interest in the Springer-Lavergne Property and now holds a 100 per cent interest. With the updated resource now delivered, the company is advancing three sequenced catalysts.

An independent NI 43-101 Technical Report supporting the estimate is due on SEDAR+ by early December. Drilling is planned to expand the high-grade rare earth and gallium zones, and metallurgical test work on rare earth and gallium recovery continues. Both feed a preliminary economic assessment targeted for the first half of 2027. In July, Volta secured DTC eligibility to ease U.S. access to its shares. Ontario's Critical Minerals Innovation Fund has supported the metallurgical program.

> With the updated resource now delivered, the company is advancing three sequenced catalysts.

Springer represents a rare convergence of large tonnage, two strategic commodities (rare earths and gallium), encouraging early metallurgical results, infrastructure already in place, and political will in Canada and Ontario to build secure North American critical minerals supply. The PEA, targeted for the first half of 2027, is the next major step in testing what that combination can support.

**Ranked by measured and indicated tonnage, including reserves, of North American rare earth projects (S&P Global Market Intelligence database, May 2025), with Springer updated to the September 30, 2026 estimate. Inferred resources are excluded. The ranking compares tonnage only. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.*

The mineral resource estimate was prepared by SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. The scientific and technical information in this article has been reviewed and approved by a qualified person under NI 43-101.





Smarter mines

Students in the Robert M. Buchan Department of Mining gain exposure to data analytics and AI alongside traditional engineering fundamentals through the Applied Data Science course.

How Queen's University is using explainable AI to transform mining operations

The mining industry is undergoing a profound digital transformation.

Queen's University's Robert M. Buchan Department of Mining is at the forefront of the technological revolution, leveraging the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics to create safer, more efficient, and sustainable mining operations. Associate Professor Yuksel Asli Sari and her team at the Intelligent Mining Systems (IMS) Lab are committed to developing reliable machine learning systems that are explainable, because a prediction is only useful if the operations manager understands why it was made and can validate it against their knowledge.

Mining operations generate big data in real time that, if processed correctly using machine learning, can enable higher productivity and efficiency. Autonomous fleet dispatch is one area where AI has a clear economic impact because haul trucks account for some of the highest operating costs in mining, with some units consuming 250 litres of diesel per hour. Moreover, up to 30 per cent of their time is spent waiting in queue for loading. Ongoing work with a leading digital mining solutions company is focusing on a deep reinforcement learning-based dispatch system, which aims to minimize truck idle time and optimize maintenance frequency. This real-time haul truck allocation approach considers critical factors such as truck location, shovel productivity, ore grade, and truck reliability. It is also

robust to unexpected events, such as truck or shovel breakdowns, and accounts for variable wait times at queues. Tested against smart heuristic baselines, the strongest production-prioritizing models increase average profits by up to 39.9 per cent and high truck reliability focused models reduce breakdown events by up to 30 per cent.

Another area where machine learning shows strong promise is predictive maintenance. Many mines rely solely on fixed maintenance schedules or run the equipment to failure. However, telemetry data enable real-time equipment monitoring and decision making. The IMS Lab is building models that process real-time sensor data, identifying when equipment is likely to fail and recommending maintenance at the optimal time. The work encompasses anomaly detection in haul truck operations, predicting turbocharger failures, and understanding how sensor values shift depending on a truck's operational state. For example, turbine intake temperature depends on whether the truck is idle or moving, as well as ambient air temperature, which cannot be analyzed with simple sensor-by-sensor analysis. Beyond prediction of failure times, the models explain to engineers what might break and why it is likely to break, to enable validation before decisions are made.

Machine learning can also be very useful when conventional methods fail. The IMS Lab collaborates with Prof. Steve McKinnon to tackle complex geomechanics problems. Current pillar stability assessments in large-scale cave mines primarily rely on stress analysis, which often struggles to account for the complex influence of operational factors. A case study at the Chuquicamata underground cave mine applied a tree-based machine learning approach to evaluate pillar stability and achieved 80 per cent accuracy in predicting pillar collapses despite limited data availability, which was a result unattainable through traditional stress analysis methods.

The lab is also developing machine learning systems for mineral processing optimization, including a recommendation engine for grinding circuits that can reduce energy consumption by one to two per cent annually. Although modest, at the scale of a major processing plant, even small percentage improvements translate into significant energy savings and emissions reductions.

Beyond these research projects, Queen's is preparing the next generation of mining engineers to work with these technologies. Students in the Robert M. Buchan Department of Mining gain exposure to data analytics and AI alongside traditional engineering fundamentals through Dr. Sari's course, Applied Data Science. This course includes a term project, allowing the students to work with industrial partners to access real mining data and solve actual operations problems. For example, some student groups worked on truck fuel consumption estimation, proposing recommendations such as payload, and speed adjustments to optimize efficiency. The project connected students directly with industry professionals through meetings and presentations, fostering practical skills that extend beyond the classroom.



Sugar Zone enters a new chapter as Vault advances Ontario gold mine restart



A key element of Vault Minerals' Sugar Zone Gold Project operating strategy is the construction of the Southern Tailings Management Facility. This facility is one of the most important new pieces of infrastructure being introduced to Sugar Zone and provides the tailings capacity needed to support the mine plan and represents a major commitment to the operation's future.

By Mac Potter, Environmental Superintendent, Sugar Zone Mine

After almost three years, the Sugar Zone Mine north of White River, Ontario, is entering a new phase of operations. Underground development has restarted, key regulatory approvals are in place, and Vault Minerals through its subsidiary Silver Lake Ontario is investing in the infrastructure, exploration, and planning for the recommencement of gold production in late 2027.

Since its activities were suspended in August 2023, Vault has been working to strengthen the mine's foundations through exploration, redesigning the mine planning and carrying out a refurbishment of the key site infrastructure. Underground development restarted on July 1, 2026, the first blast since mining had been halted. The restart of development mining reflects the work and investment to upgrade underground infrastructure, mine services, fuel facilities, workshops, and the personnel facilities. Moreover, Vault has completed more than 100,000 metres of drilling, which has provided a better understanding of the orebody and helped to shape the revised mine plan.

The revised mine plan is informed by a step change in drill data which has delivered a higher confidence ore reserves including a new mining front which will provide greater mining flexibility and opportunities for future growth as the operation develops and expands. The restart plan targets average annual production of approximately 50,000 ounces over an initial mine life of 6.5 years. Vault has a high level of confidence that the mine has the potential to be expanded beyond the current projected operating life as exploration advances targeting both extensions to the resource and new discoveries.

A key element of the mine's operating strategy is the construction of the Southern Tailings Management Facility. This facility is one of the most important new pieces of infrastructure being introduced to Sugar Zone and provides the tailings capacity needed to support the mine plan and represents a major commitment to the operation's future. Vault has obtained all the approvals required from the Ontario's Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of the Environment,



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As underground development progresses towards the intended resumption of gold production in late 2027, Sugar Zone is transitioning to producing asset for Vault Minerals with flow on benefits for the community of White River.

Conservation and Parks in order to begin construction of the facility. The tailing facility is being developed in parallel with the recommencement of underground development with waste material to be utilised in dam construction. The immediate phases of work will involve earthworks, access routes, drainage, and water management infrastructure in preparation for dam construction and commissioning in 2027.

For Sugar Zone, this investment will set the foundation for the future; renewed infrastructure, expanded tailings capacity, and a mine plan which has been shaped by several years of technical work and exploration. At the same time, Vault is preparing for a major corporate transition. In July, Vault and Genesis Minerals announced that they were entering into an agreement to merge by means of a scheme of arrangement. Upon completion, the transaction would result in the creation of one of Australia's largest listed gold producers. Genesis will take over 100 per cent of Vault, the completion aimed at November 2026, provided that the necessary shareholder, court, and other approvals are obtained. The resulting company is expected to have a production capacity of about 700,000 ounces per year from its wider portfolio.

As the proposed combination is based on the companies' complementary operations in Western Australia, Sugar Zone would provide the enlarged group with a significant asset in Canada. The mine has high-grade resources, established infrastructure, exploration potential, and a restart that is already being carried out.

As underground development progresses towards the intended resumption of gold production in late 2027, Sugar Zone is transitioning to producing asset for Vault Minerals with flow on benefits for the community of White River. The ramp up of activities at Sugar Zone means new opportunities and investment for the area, increased confidence in the longevity of the local mining industry, and the prospect of long-term prosperity. The Vault Minerals team believe that northern Ontario is a place where responsible resource development, meaningful partnerships, and flourishing communities are closely linked, resulting in lasting benefits for families, businesses, and future generations.

If you'd like to join the Sugar Zone or the Vault Team, go to vaultminerals.com.

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Training geology leaders in the heart of the Canadian Shield



Lakehead University is a vital contributor to the mining economy

Mining and mineral exploration companies looking for well-rounded geologists who can rise to any challenge can rely on Lakehead University. Graduates of its geology program have earned a reputation for leadership in the mining operations, management, education, and government fields.

According to the Ontario University Graduate Employment Survey's polling of university alumni conducted six months after they've graduated, 100 per cent of Lakehead geology program graduates are employed in a job related to their field of study.

In fact, the majority of Lakehead University's geology students are offered jobs before they write their final-year exams, and it's common for a significant number of them to be courting multiple employment offers.

"The skills of our graduates means that it's not surprising that they have an extremely high employment rate," says Geology chair Dr. Andrew Conly. "Even through boom-and-bust cycles, our geologists are sought after by the industry."

That's because Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus harnesses its Canadian Shield location and hard-rock geology to give its students phenomenal learning, research, and on-the-job opportunities.

"Our region attracts geologists, researchers, and mining companies from around the world," Dr. Conly explains.

Lakehead University is a hub and a partner of choice for the region's large and growing mining and exploration sector where some of the globe's most significant mineral deposits are mined, including gold, palladium, copper, and nickel.

Today, Lakehead is positioned to play an even more pivotal role as the closest university to the Ring of Fire mineral deposits, which have become strategically important as the provincial and federal governments accelerate their investment in critical minerals.

The university's combination of theoretical and practical knowledge extends to understanding regulatory environments and building respectful relationships



Lakehead University geology graduates are well adapted to mineral resource sector careers in Canada and across the globe. Above, fourth-year students study the Pass Lake conglomerate during the 2026 field school. This formation is the oldest, lowermost unit of the Mesoproterozoic Sibley Group and is roughly 1.3 to 1.5 billion years old.

with Indigenous communities and other communities affected by mining operations.

The Lakehead University advantage

Lakehead University's vibrant geology program combines core fundamentals, innovative technology, applied research, one-on-one training, and strong industry partnerships to meet the needs of the mineral exploration and mining sectors.

Students can choose from undergraduate and master's degrees in: Geology, Geoarchaeology, Water Resource Science and Environmental Studies, and Earth Science.

"We're focused on training versatile mining experts who support the development of ore deposits," Dr. Conly says.

Crucial to Lakehead University's program is its emphasis on hands-on learning in the areas of petrology, mineralogy, mineral resources, sedimentology, and Precambrian systems using the most advanced analytical equipment and instrumentation available.

This experiential approach is enhanced by small class and laboratory sizes where students benefit from close relationships with faculty members and a welcoming campus community.

Learning outside the classroom is also integral to the geology program. In addition to three annual field schools, field trips are key components of every fall-term geology course.

A research powerhouse that prioritizes mineral exploration

Lakehead University is currently ranked Canada's number-two Undergraduate Research University by Research Infosource, and geology is one of the departments responsible for this achievement.

"Undergraduate and graduate students are essential to Lakehead's research programs," Dr. Conly says. "We've even had undergraduate students generate peer-reviewed publications from their honours theses."

A multitude of other research opportunities exist for





All Lakehead University programs meet the knowledge requirements for graduates to become a registered P.Geo (Professional Geoscientist of Ontario). Above, students map the Deadhorse diatreme from the Proterozoic eon. It is highly notable in Canadian geology for its unique, intense mineral alteration and highly concentrated rare-earth element (REE). Inset: Lakehead University has two student clubs—the Geology Association of Lakehead University that leads field trips to nearby mines and the Lakehead University Student Chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists, which leads regional and international field trips. Above, Lakehead students prepare to map the banded syenites of centre II of the Coldwell Alkali Complex at Neys Provincial Park as part of the geology program's 2026 fourth-year field school.

geology students, such as NSERC summer research scholarships, in addition to summer jobs with mining and exploration companies.

What's more, Lakehead University is the home of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Industrial Research Chair in Mineral Exploration and the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME), whose partnerships with academia, industry, and communities support the equitable development of our region's mineral resources.

Students benefit from CESME's research, education, and outreach activities, and the relationships it builds with industry stakeholders.

"The amazing mining and mineral exploration opportunities open to Lakehead University geology students gives them valuable early career pathways," Dr. Conly says.

Steven Flank, a 2011 geology alum and the president of the Bayside Geoscience geological consulting company, agrees.

"Lakehead University provides graduates with the tools they need to enter the workforce and immediately begin contributing, something that we at Bayside Geoscience have grown an immense appreciation for when hiring new graduates. Lakehead students consistently stand above their peers in work readiness and will continue to play a huge role in responsibly exploring for the world's next economic ore deposits."

Learning geared to industry needs

Whether it's senior leadership roles, searching for new mineral and hydrocarbon deposits, monitoring the environment, or cleaning up contaminated sites, Lakehead University excels at collaborating with the mining and mineral exploration sectors to drive them forward.

Lakehead University's Geology programs deliver:

- Robust industry partnerships
- Work opportunities for students
- Outstanding analytical facilities
- World-class research capacity
- Experiential learning

The program also creates geologists who thrive in challenging conditions.

"Our students are prepared not only to understand geology, but to practice it effectively in the field," Dr. Conly says. "They graduate with the technical competence, practical judgment, and the resilience needed to succeed in the demanding environments where mineral exploration and mining take place."

Free Surface Miner Common Core e-learning courses now available



Convenient learning. Trusted expertise. Flexible solutions. Get the modular skills training you need, when you need it.

Workplace Safety North (WSN) is pleased to offer three new e-learning courses for the Surface Miner Common Core program.

The courses, Working Safely in the Job Environment; Perform General Lockout and Tag on Prime Movers and Other Related Equipment; and Operate Hand and Power Tools, cover mandatory skills training requirements set by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development (MLITSD). The training covers essential knowledge components for surface mining operations pertaining to the Surface Miner Common Core Program #770210. Participants can register for these courses at no charge until March 31, 2027.

"These easy to access courses provide the foundational knowledge needed to work safely in a surface mine," says Cindy Schiewek, WSN executive director of Health and Safety Services. "The e-learning format gives employers a more accessible and flexible way to deliver mandatory safety training across Ontario's surface mining sector."

For surface mining workplaces, e-learning provides another option for completing required training while helping employers work around operational needs and employee schedules. Participants can complete the knowledge portion of the training online before demonstrating their skills in the workplace as required for accreditation. The format can also help employers provide consistent training to workers across different locations. By expanding Surface Miner Common Core training into an e-learning format, WSN is providing Ontario mining workplaces with another way to access trusted, industry-specific training, and build the knowledge workers need to perform their jobs safely.

Working Safely in the Job Environment (full day)

This e-learning course covers the knowledge requirements for the U5030: Working Safely in the Job Environment module. Participants will learn essential safety practices for working in surface mining environments, including hazard awareness, personal protective equipment, mobile equipment safety, emergency procedures, housekeeping, and safe work around stockpiles, water, and elevated areas.

Perform General Lockout and Tag on Prime Movers and Other Related Equipment (half day)

This e-learning course covers the knowledge requirements for U5031: Perform General Lockout and Tag on Prime Movers and Other Related Equipment module. Participants will learn the procedures required to safely isolate, lock out, tag, verify, and re-energize equipment to support safe maintenance, inspection, and repair activities in surface mining environments.

Operate Hand and Power Tools (half day)

This e-learning course covers the knowledge requirements for U5032: Operate Hand and Power Tools module of the Surface Miner Common Core Program #770210. Participants will learn safe procedures for inspecting, operating, maintaining, and storing hand and power tools, including electrically powered, pneumatic, and hydraulic equipment used in surface mining environments.

To complete Surface Miner Common Core accreditation, participants must demonstrate their skills in the workplace and have them verified by a qualified trainer and the workplace's program signing authority.

WSN also offers the Mining First Line Supervisor Refresher e-learning course to help supervisors stay current on legislation, industry best practices, and key health and safety topics.

To learn more or register, visit the Surface Miner Common Core program page.

The value of long-term partnerships in the mining industry

Mining companies today operate in an increasingly complex environment shaped by workforce transitions, competing priorities, and compressed project schedules. Maintaining continuity while advancing projects efficiently is an ongoing challenge.

As a result, technical expertise alone is no longer enough. Mining companies need partners who understand their operations, align with their objectives, and can provide the right expertise when it's needed. Increasingly, that means working with multidisciplinary teams that can support projects and operations across the entire asset life cycle.

Mining projects have traditionally followed a structured sequence before moving into execution. While that approach remains important, today's operating environment often demands greater agility.



Angela Hsu, department manager, Mechanical and Piping at BBA.

Decisions must be made more quickly, and project teams need to adapt as priorities evolve.

Multidisciplinary engineering partners help bridge this gap by bringing together specialists from different fields to provide a broader perspective on project challenges. Whether the need involves process, mechanical, electrical, environmental, digital, or operational considerations, integrated teams can assess impacts across an operation and develop solutions that support both immediate needs and long-term objectives.

The value of this approach grows significantly when it's supported by a long-term relationship.

Over time, engineering teams develop a deep understanding of a client's operations, history, and business priorities. This knowledge extends beyond individual projects and helps identify risks earlier, apply lessons learned, and provide recommendations that are grounded in operational reality.

"The most successful consulting relationships are the ones where we become an extension of the client's team. When you understand their operations, priorities, and business context, you can help challenge assumptions and provide perspective and continuity," says Angela Hsu, department manager, Mechanical and Piping at BBA.

Long-term partnerships also help preserve institutional knowledge. Across the mining sector, experienced professionals are retiring, teams are evolving, and project personnel frequently change roles. Many operations also face ongoing challenges attracting and retaining skilled employees, particularly at remote sites. Maintaining continuity can be difficult, especially on complex assets that have evolved over decades.

Trusted engineering partners help bridge those transitions by preserving project context, historical knowledge, and lessons learned. Access to previous studies, design decisions, and operational experience supports better decision-making and reduces risks.

As relationships mature, multidisciplinary expertise becomes even more effective. A


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core team maintains continuity and site knowledge, while additional specialists can be brought in as needs evolve. This gives mining companies access to a wide range of capabilities without losing the operational understanding developed over time.

The importance of these relationships extends far beyond major capital projects. Sustaining capital initiatives, operational improvement programs, and reliability-focused projects are equally critical to an asset's long-term performance. These efforts often require close collaboration across disciplines and a thorough understanding of site-specific challenges.

Rather than approaching each assignment as a standalone project, they contribute to the ongoing success of the operation.

Partners who remain engaged over time are better positioned to identify opportunities, support operational teams, and respond quickly to emerging needs. Rather than approaching each assignment as a standalone project, they contribute to the ongoing success of the operation.

Effective partnerships are ultimately built on trust, transparency, and shared goals. They require a commitment to understanding the client's business, proactively bringing forward ideas, and working collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes.

As mining companies continue to adapt to changing business and operational realities, the need for multidisciplinary support and long-term collaboration will only grow. From project development and execution to sustaining capital and operational improvements, strong and trusting partnerships provide the continuity, expertise, and institutional knowledge needed to support mining operations for years to come.





Phytotechnology is being used more and more and offers alternatives to conventional engineering approaches.

How floating treatment wetlands will improve your wastewater treatment

Phytotechnology is the use of science and engineering that contributes to the goals of sustainability using plants to improve water, soil, and air quality, reduce energy use, or restore degraded ecosystems.

Plants can be used to solve environmental problems like purifying air, water, and soil, controlling erosion and run-off, and helping to remediate degraded sites. The use of floating wetland plants is referred to as phytotechnology.

Phytotechnology is being used more and more and offer alternatives to conventional engineering approaches. Valued for their low investment costs, high success rates, they provide economic environmental solutions.







Left: Floating treatment media has proven itself a very efficient, low-cost way to enhance municipal wastewater treatment plants. Right: In May of 2026, Aquatic Aeration Solutions installed the first floating wetland treatment system for the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Sarnia.

Floating constructed wetlands for stormwater and wastewater treatment

Floating treatment media has proven itself a very efficient, low-cost way to enhance municipal wastewater treatment plants.

You can retrofit it to existing facilities with minimal cost or long-term overheads – or work the floating constructed treatment wetlands into the design of new facilities with low operational costs. You can use it in any water environment requiring treatment systems. It is remarkably effective in water pollution control, reducing excess nutrients and removing sediment from the water column, improving water quality overall.

Constructed floating wetlands also provide additional aesthetic and habitat for wildlife.

Improving land value

Floating treatment wetlands renew the local community by enhancing waterfront beautification, amenity, and water quality programs.

Lifting property value these green assets protect our waterways.

Constructed stormwater wetlands can be retrofitted in existing ponds, lakes, and streams.

Zero land use

Reducing land take compared with traditional constructed wetlands or conventional bioretention, floating wetlands occupy smaller site footprints and are designed for placement on open water bodies – improving land useability, community access, and lot yield.

Sustainable waterways

Floating wetlands mimic natural green ecosystems – with minimal environmental impacts. They require no power to operate, the manufacturing process is low-energy, and the plants are eco-sourced to harmonize with natural vegetation.

Wildlife habitat for local fauna and flora

Providing floating island habitats for local species, such as frogs, birds, turtles, and fish, floating wetlands allow wildlife and plants to thrive. Mirroring natural wetlands, they can be customized with native plant selections and local flora to support biodiversity.

Robust riverway performance

Meeting the demands of your project's community, climate, and water conditions, our floating wetlands are designed with custom anchoring to meet the demands of your waterways – with extensive testing in areas subject to wave chop, water movement, wind loading, and boating use.

Supercharged pollutant removal

Exposed plant roots in the water column create a network of natural, biological stormwater treatment pathways. Providing increased surface area for



New floating fishing piers were placed in water in 2025 and there is a proposed plan of having a canoe shed.

biofilm growth, these microorganism hotspots drive sedimentation, nitrification, and reduce algal blooms.

They are an environmentally sound and sustainable way of cleaning water.

In wastewater applications, floating wetland construction and installation into inlet zones or detention lagoons greatly enhances the urban stormwater cleaning process by removing:

- Total suspended solids
- Nutrients
- Gross pollutants
- Heavy metals
- Fine colloidal & particulates

Applications

- Municipal Wastewater Treatment
- Stormwater Treatment
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment
- Stream & Lake Restoration

Ontario's first Atlan Floating Treatment Wetland System

In May of 2026, Aquatic Aeration Solutions installed the first floating wetland treatment system for the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Sarnia. The Aamjiwnaang First Nation is an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) community of about 2,600 band members, with roughly 900 living on reserve.

Located along the St. Clair River within the southern city limits of Sarnia, Ont., its name means "at the spawning stream".

Working with Dennis Plain, species at risk technician/ land guardian, a proposal was developed to install the Atlan Floating Treatment Wetland System for a local stormwater retention pond.

In the 1970s, Highway 40 was being expanded, and the area was used as a laydown yard and man camp for the construction of Nova Chemicals. It was named "Ankijig (or Enkijig, many years ago, which means "man camp"). They had to bypass the tracks that intersected the reserve, so they dug the pond to create an overpass north of the site.

There was no real historical purpose, other than creating the Highway 40 overpass, but it became a naturalized, recreational use pond area. Being adjacent to Talfourd Creek, it assists with stormwater retention and is a refuge for local wildlife.

The future vision for the pond

In the early 2000s, the pond was designated as a nature park, and observation platforms were installed and a boardwalk was constructed. Currently, native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs are being planted to help stabilize the banks of the pond to mitigate erosion.

New floating fishing piers were placed in water in 2025 and there is a proposed plan of having a canoe shed. There are plans for development in the area, with a new cultural site just north of the pond.

A benefit to the local community is having the local schools bring students to the pond to learn about fishing and science studies. Additional educational opportunities exist through the Lambton College Enactus program. The students in the program will be water and soil testing. Native plant studies and tree core sampling are also included in the program's scope of study.

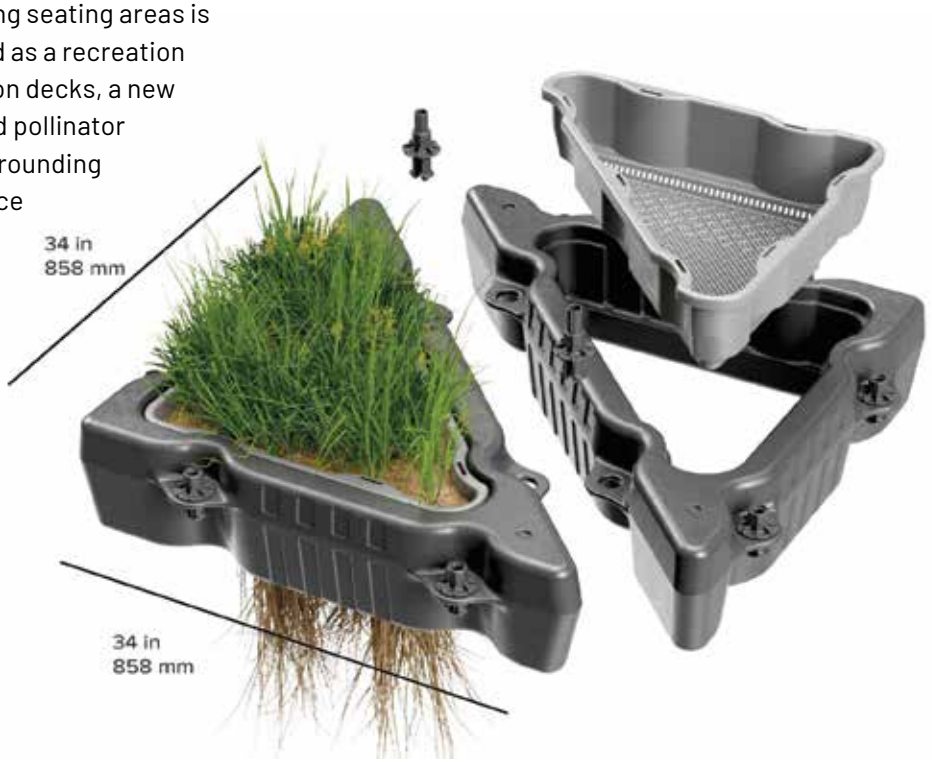
Plants selected for the project includes sedges and rushes, as well as others that are selected to the specific climate zone for Sarnia.

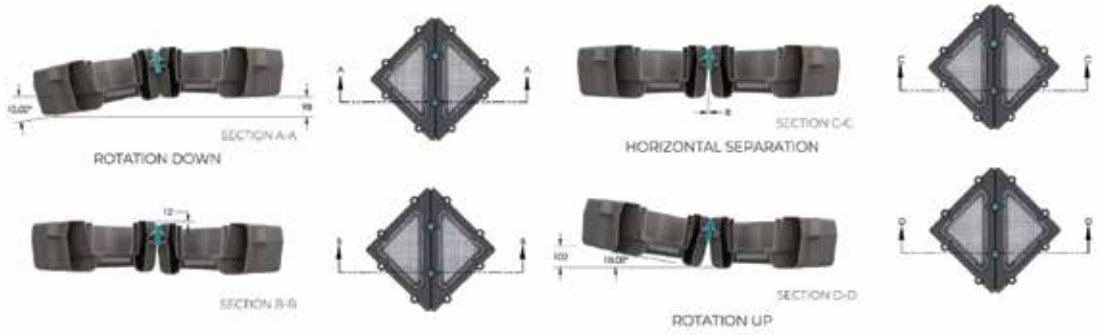
In response to the question, "what would you personally like to see for the future of the pond?" Dennis Plain responded, "I would like the phragmite issue to be

resolved without the use of chemical application. We are also recommending a vegetation management plan for the area with proper stormwater drainage. Planting shade trees and installing seating areas is underway. Establishing this pond as a recreation zone with refurbished observation decks, a new weather-resistant boardwalk and pollinator patches throughout the area surrounding the pond. We really want this place to be beautiful, functional, and enjoyable for our community for generations to come."

He added, "we chose the Atlan Floating Wetland System for the project to help clean the water, provide fish habitat, offer waterfowl nesting, and to provide a natural form of treatment."

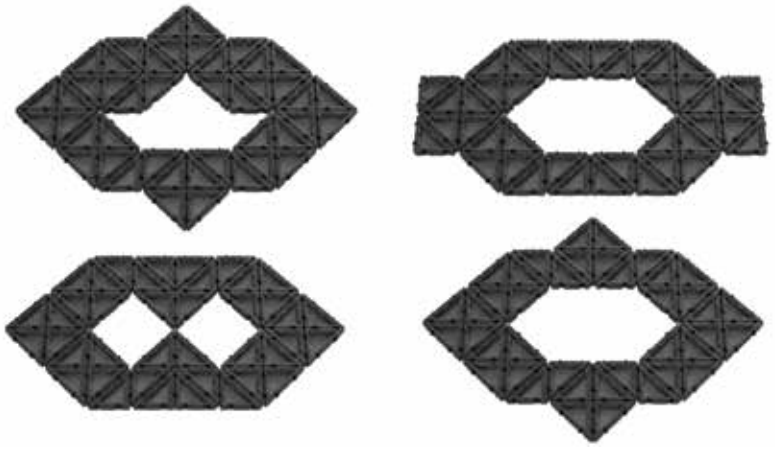
For additional information on the Atlan Floating Wetland Treatment System, contact Aquatic Aeration Solutions, by email: aquatic.aeration.solutions@gmail.com, or 905-373-5103. You can also visit them online at aquatic-aeration-solutions.com.





Wind and Wave Movement Modelling

The Floating Wetlands have been modelled and tested to be installed in areas subject to wave chop and water movement mixed with wind loads. They are constructed with significant allowance for movement and flex, thus making them suitable for installations in areas exposed to boat and wave movement.



Customizable Solutions

Floating Treatment Wetlands are available in a range of customizable solutions from size, shapes, functionality and environmental capabilities. Our experienced team is available to guide you through the design process and can work with you to achieve your project goals.

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At Province Electric Supply, we know that serving the industrial and mining sectors requires more than a catalog of parts. It takes field experience and a real understanding of our customers' operations. Our account manager Jeff McLean is a perfect example of this philosophy in action.

For more than a decade, MacLean worked as a 309A electrician, spending much of his career deep in underground mines. Today, that background gives him—and Province Electric—a unique advantage when supporting operations across Northern Ontario.

"That experience shaped the way I look at electrical products, projects, and, most importantly, the people who rely on them," MacLean says. "I've been on the other side. I know what it's like when production is waiting, equipment is down, or maintenance needs something yesterday."

Beyond traditional distribution

Supplying complex industrial and mining projects is rarely as simple as pulling a standard item off a shelf. It often means tracking down obsolete products, cross-referencing unusual parts, or engineering a new solution entirely. To meet these demands, Province Electric Supply combines industry expertise with a specialized suite of services built around real project requirements:

- Project quotations & management: From initial takeoff to final turnover, our team provides expert coordination to help you manage complex material requirements and strict timelines.
- Vendor managed inventory (VMI): For operations managing repeat material needs, our customized VMI solutions ensure you always have the right products on hand, organized and easy to replenish.
- Automation & enclosure modifications: We streamline time-consuming installations by preparing enclosures for mechanical and automation applications before they reach the job site, backed by expert automation troubleshooting.
- Lighting design & retrofits: Our lighting specialists implement energy-efficient solutions and upgrades tailored for commercial, industrial, and hazardous environments.

Unmatched access and local logistics

As an independent distributor working with a broad network of manufacturers, we have the flexibility to look beyond traditional channels. "If the solution exists, we're going to work hard to find it. Often, I picture where the equipment is being installed and the challenges the crew might run into," MacLean explains.

With authorized access to nearly one-million products from over 150 industry-leading brands, the Province Electric team has the supplier relationships to source exactly what you need. We back this up with a footprint of over 14 locations across Ontario—including key Northern hubs in Sudbury and North Bay—ensuring local expertise is always nearby.

A reliable partnership built on trust

Many of the electricians MacLean once worked alongside are now maintenance leaders and project managers.

"Trust is something I brought with me from the trades," he says. "The goal isn't just to make the sale. It's to be someone they know they can call when they have a problem."

At Province Electric Supply, we aren't just looking at part numbers on a screen. We are anticipating your challenges and providing the local expertise, specialized services, and trusted partnership you need to keep your operations running smoothly.

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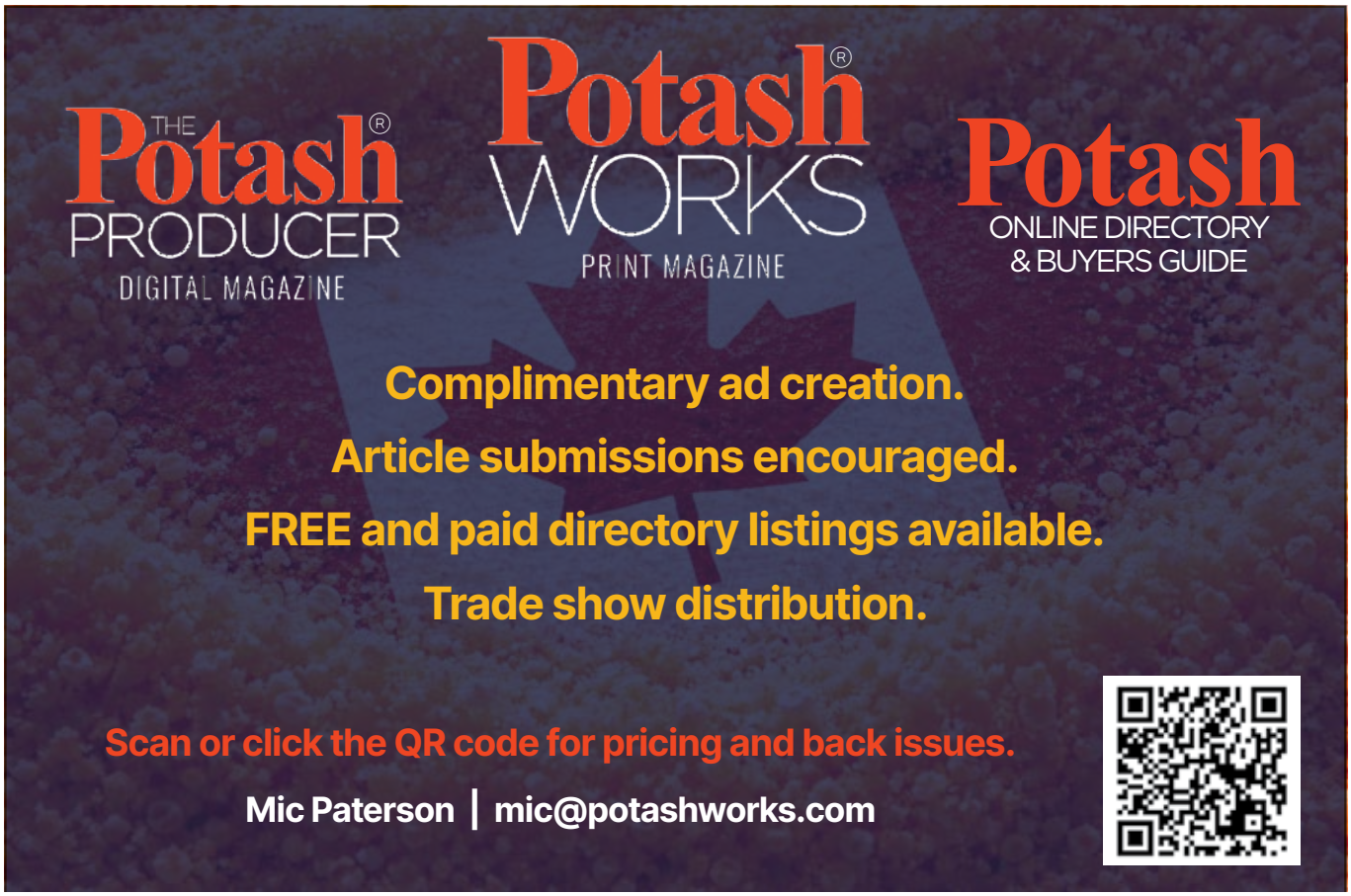



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near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

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1,200 metres of diamond drilling proposed to test beneath the historic mine workings and along an interpreted two-kilometre southeast extension.











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