

FOREWORD

Geological Fieldwork 2009

The provision of accessible, new geoscience data about British Columbia is aimed primarily at increasing mineral tenure acquisition and mineral exploration activity in the province. The British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS) presents here the results of field surveys and geoscience research for 2009 in a thirty-fifth edition of *Geological Fieldwork*. Most articles are contributions by survey staff to the understanding of the geology, geochemistry and mineral deposits of the province. The volume also includes contributions about collaborative research with other organizations and projects completed by other professional geoscientists.

British Columbia Geological Survey Successes

The BCGS, in partnership with Geoscience BC, Smithers Exploration Group and the Northwest Community College, began a surficial geology and till sampling program southeast of Houston. Preliminary work indicates that cover by glacial deposits in this part of the Nechako Plateau is not as extensive as previously thought.

The first season of the north coast project, carried out jointly with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), covered an area of 30 by 50 km. Mapping on Porcher Island and along the adjacent Grenville Channel found geological indicators commonly associated with volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits.

The Iskut River project commenced in the fall with a 10-day field season. A partnership with the University of Victoria, Pacific North West Capital Corp and the GSC, the objective is to investigate mineralization within the Coast Belt of northwestern British Columbia.

Our online interface MapPlace and its supporting site now exceed 11 000 web pages. Used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by the exploration community worldwide, this interface plays an essential and growing role in attracting investment to the province.

Numerous mineral resource assessments to facilitate government land use planning were completed.

The Property File database captured 2860 new documents and maps for the QUEST area and 1540 for other areas, while 481 MINFILE occurrences were updated and 17 new ones identified. Contracts for both projects were funded by Geoscience BC.

BCGeology Map, BC's digital geology map, is undergoing its first major update since release in 2005. Throughout 2009, a team from the BCGS, Geoscience BC and the GSC worked to update the Quesnel Trough geology for the QUEST geophysical area.

Survey staff updated our website and moved servers as part of a government-wide initiative.

The BC Mineral Development Office in Vancouver hosted national and international delegations of potential investors and was a key player in organizing the Asia Investment Mission.

Survey geologists were organizers and presenters at conferences and workshops around the province, and led industry field trips in the northeastern coalfields and the Merritt and Princeton areas, as well as a copper-gold mine tour.

The BCGS hosted its first Open House of the 21st century in Victoria in the fall. The event was a success, with more than 85 participants, and will be continued in 2010.

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