ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS OF ONTARIO

What can drone technology do for mineral exploration?

David Hunt, P.Geo., APGO Past President

This question will be discussed on the afternoon of April 4, 2016, during APGO's 3rd regional networking event in Thunder Bay. This event, hosted by APGO Northwestern Councilor, John McBride, will take place at the Valhalla Inn on the day prior to the Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium.

Back in the old days moving on to a new mineral property was a hit-and-miss process. You'd have a claim map, and a general topographic map and, if you were lucky, a 20-year-old air photo or two. The rest involved guesswork and lots of bush walking. Finding old trails, drill or camp sites was usually a hit-and-miss affair that involved endless bush-crashing, pace and compass navigation and frustration. And inevitably there'd be the famous D'oh! moment - crawling through thick bush half the day only to come upon a brand new logging road running right across your claim group.

APGO Networking Event in Thunder Bay

April 4, 2016 at Valhalla Inn

Hosted by John McBride, P.Geo., APGO Northwestern Regional Councillor

More recently the advent of GPS devices and GIS mapping software allowed us to at least know pretty accurately where we and other features were, and the development of handheld mapping devices made field navigation more efficient.

Now, drone hardware and software opens up a whole new world of field information and holds the potential to make the job of the field geologist even easier and much more efficient.

Drone generated low-elevation aerial photography and other remote sensing will provide accurate, nearly real-time detailed imagery showing topographic features, elevation features, vegetation types, and volumetric surveys. Property-scale magnetometer surveys, and other geophysical and remote sensing systems are being researched and developed.

The field of drones, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) and UASs (unmanned aerial systems), has advanced very quickly and continues to evolve and innovate.

What can this technology do for early to mid-stage mineral exploration now, what might it do in future, and how will present and future regulations affect the use of this technology by our industry?

On April 4, 2016, APGO will hold an afternoon of presentations on this topic by several knowledgeable speakers who will explain what this new technology can do.

Bring your ideas, your questions and your wishes; there'll be lots of time for discussion, and opportunities to view the latest equipment. The workshop will be open for registered APGO members as well as other interested industry players.

Further details and registration information will follow.