

“Mapping” with a Difference

by Ian Mitchell

Have you ever dreamt of finding gold? Staking your claim to a piece of land; water swishing around in your shallow pan; fighting off the bad guys who want your mine?

Well here is a very interesting Specialty Badge suggestion developed by Brian Berdusco (Ministry of Northern Development and Mines) and Scout Leader Don Burgess. It will require showing a level of proficiency in using digital online maps while enhancing the planning process for any adventure.

Digital Prospector Badge

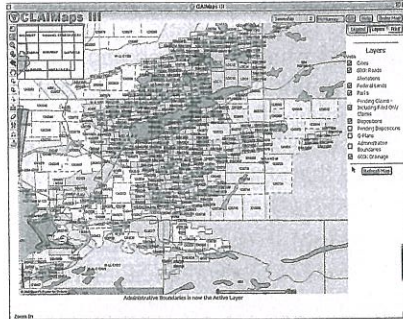
Computers and the Internet are valuable resources for geographic information. One example is the information needed to manage mining claims. While working toward this badge, you will learn about computer mapping and about how prospectors stake their claims.

1. Using the Internet, find a definition of a “Geographic Information System,” also known as a GIS.
2. The Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines provides a web site that allows clients to generate maps anywhere in the province at various scales.

Go to the CLAIMap web site (www.claimaps.mndm.gov.on.ca). Note the handy tutorial.

Select *Map Search*, then search for McMurray Township.

- a) At the centre of the map in the browser is a lake that trends north-east-southwest. How long is the lake?



- b) What are the coordinates on the lake for the most easterly point? (Provide both UTM NAD 83 co-ordinates and geographic co-ordinates.)

3. Generate a map centering on the northeast-southwest lake identified above. Use the following criteria to make the map: tabloid size paper and 1:20,000 scale.

- a) What is the name of the lake in the centre of the map?
 - b) In the northern part of the map is a small lake called Spud Lake. What is the approximate contour elevation of Spud Lake?
4. A patent is a document granting certain rights in a portion of land. A mining claim is an area that someone

has marked and for which they will apply for a patent; a disposition is an area where someone has been granted a patent, and an alienation is an area where claims are not allowed.

Look at the legend at the right of the map. It shows symbols for various types of patents and rights that can go with them.

Close the map window. Using the layer tab and the legend tab, find coordinates for a claim, a disposition with both surface and mining rights, a disposition with only surface rights, a disposition with only mining rights and an alienation. You may need to manipulate the map. Note how turning layers on and off makes it easier to find information. Experiment with this feature.

5. On one of the windows displayed, you can find a guide to staking claims. Have a look at the guide.

- a) Briefly explain what is involved in staking a claim.
- b) Using the Internet, find the meaning of freehold patent, leasehold patent, surface rights and mining rights. Mining rights are sometimes called mineral rights.

Introduce your Scouts to digital prospecting. Oh, and be sure to let us know if they strike it rich. X
 – Ian Mitchell is Director of Scouts, Venturers and Rovers.

Closer to Home

Map-based web sites are becoming more prevalent as the technology to deliver cartographic products evolves. Canada, a leader in offering these types of services, provides access to maps through numerous federal and provincial Internet sites. Scouts from across Canada are encouraged to develop good internet map skills. With the new-found knowledge that these young minds acquire, we plant the concepts of sustainable development and the responsible management of our nation's wealth of resources.

British Columbia

<http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geol-surv/MapPlace/default.htm>

Alberta

http://www.ags.gov.ab.ca/GIS/gis_and_mapping.shtml

Saskatchewan

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/topics/nature-environment/>

Manitoba

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/gis/index.html>

Quebec

<http://www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca/english/mines/potential/potential-databases.jsp>

New Brunswick

<http://www.gnb.ca/0078/minerals/index-e.asp>

Nova Scotia

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/index.htm>

Newfoundland

<http://www.gov.nl.ca/mines&en/geo-survey/maps/>