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**William's
GOLD**

**A case study on the application
of RGS data to mineral exploration**

by Mark Baknes, M.Sc., P.Geo., VP Exploration, Rimfire Minerals Corporation

It is certainly questionable whether or not we would have embarked upon and followed through with the Toodoggone compilation without the advantage of the MapPlace (www.MapPlace.ca; also see story on page 28). Generally, small companies are unable to justify the level of commitment in terms of money and people resources towards uncertain grassroots projects. In the past, such undertakings were a game for the "big boys" (major companies), however, the MapPlace has allowed us and others to pursue ideas, particularly those at the germination phase.

With this facility at our fingertips, a geological idea can be acted upon immediately. In the past, most of these long-shot ideas would have died on the vine; the advent of the MapPlace though, has not only made research more efficient but has also created genuinely new opportunities.

In 1998, our group decided that the Toodoggone region of north-central British Columbia possessed a number of features that made it an attractive area in which to conduct an ore search. Using the MapPlace site, we undertook an ambitious compilation of all publicly available data and, as a result,

identified the William's gold project, a significant mesothermal vein occurrence.

The RGS data, being digital, enabled us to utilize the full spectrum of elements in the interpretation, including elements beyond those for which we were looking. We produced a set of mylars, colour coded for each element, which showed the outlines of drainages or catchments strongly anomalous for a particular element. The mylars were then overlain, allowing observation of all the elements at the same time. This step defined coincident anomalies.

The William's anomaly is large, strong and comprised of several key elements that distinguishes it from the more characteristic epithermal and porphyry signatures that are common to the region. A very prominent magnetic low feature, 10 kilometres across, coincides almost exactly with the multi-element RGS silt anomaly. Further research into past work programs revealed an excellent mesothermal vein prospect with large-scale structural and igneous controls. This project was promptly acquired and has since had a cumulative expenditure of just under \$1 million by Rimfire and its partners. ■

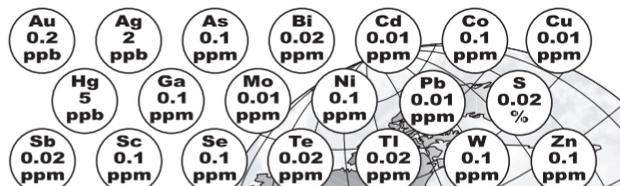
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