



**RIMFIRE**  
MINERALS CORPORATION  
TSX Venture Exchange: RFM

**First Au Strategies Corp.**  
TSX Venture Exchange: FAV

**JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

July 15, 2002

PR02-12

**FIRST AU AND RIMFIRE ENHANCE POTENTIAL OF THORN PROPERTY**

First Au Strategies Corp. ("First Au") and Rimfire Minerals Corporation ("Rimfire") are pleased to announce that preliminary fieldwork at the Thorn Property in the Atlin Mining Division of northwestern B.C., has significantly enhanced the overall potential of the property. The target at Thorn is a high sulphidation epithermal system similar to the world-class El Indio Mine in Chile, where Barrick has reported past production and reserves of 6.2 million ounces of gold and 2 billion pounds of copper. Mineralization at the Thorn property also contains significant silver. First Au is earning a 51% interest from Rimfire, with the latter as the operator.

As part of a preliminary field program, announced June 27, 2002, Dr. Peter Lewis was contracted to examine and interpret the structural setting of the Thorn mineralization as a guide to exploration. His work has culminated in the identification of a major structural corridor (the Camp Creek Corridor or CCC), at least 1.5 kilometres in length and locally over 100m wide, as being the primary structural control for the Au-Ag-Cu mineralization at Thorn. In addition, the Thorn Stock, the primary host of the high-grade sulphide veins, may be larger than previously interpreted, thus having major implications for the extent of the mineralization. He concluded that, "The Thorn Property contains significant untested potential for high-grade veins, both within the Camp Creek Corridor and elsewhere on the property, warranting aggressive exploration". His specific recommendations will be used to plan current and future exploration programs on the property.

Concurrent with Dr. Lewis' study, the companies have identified new zones of mineralization within the Camp Creek Corridor (CCC). Prospecting within a soil anomaly obtained by Rimfire in 2000, resulted in the discovery of an angular boulder of massive sulphides that assayed 6149g/t (179 oz/t) silver, 3.5g/t gold, 43.0% lead, and 3.5% zinc. This boulder is believed to be of local origin and the new zone, called the "Oban Zone", appears to lie within the CCC in a previously unexplored area. The "D Zone", previously identified by Anaconda, but never substantiated, was relocated near the west end of the CCC. A massive sulphide boulder from this occurrence returned 4.0g/t gold, 216g/t silver, and 5.4% copper while a grab sample from a pyrite vein just below this assayed 4.6g/t gold and 75g/t silver. High-grade vein mineralization within the CCC is now exposed intermittently over a strike length of approximately 1.1 kilometres and is open in all directions.

First Au and Rimfire are both extremely pleased with the outcome of the preliminary exploration program as the identification of the dominant structural control on the high-grade veins, as well as the discovery of new mineralization within the Camp Creek Corridor, bode well for the success of the exploration program on the Thorn property.

Drill sites have been prepared for the upcoming diamond drill program, which, as part of the full work program, is scheduled to begin as soon as First Au's recently announced (June 26, 2002) financing is completed. Details of the planned drilling will be released as the program gets underway.

On behalf of Rimfire Minerals Corporation

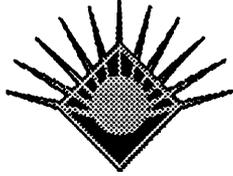
*"Henry Awmack"*

Henry Awmack, P.Eng.  
Chairman

On behalf of First Au Strategies Corp.

*"Robert Archer"*

Robert A. Archer, P.Geo.  
Director



**RIMFIRE**  
MINERALS CORPORATION

**RFM:TSXVEN**

VOS → RDN

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SW - Aug. 2/02

**NEWS RELEASE**

August 2, 2002

PR02-13

**DRILLING COMMENCES AT THE RDN**

VANCOUVER, CANADA: David Caulfield, P.Geo., President and CEO of Rimfire Minerals Corporation (RFM:TSXVEN) advises that Barrick Gold Company has notified Rimfire that drilling has commenced at the RDN Project, NW British Columbia. Barrick is funding a 3000 metre (10,000 feet) drill program at the RDN Property, 40 km northwest of Barrick's Eskay Creek gold-silver mine in northwest British Columbia. In April of this year, a letter of agreement was signed granting Barrick an option to earn a 75% interest in the property, in return for \$1.5 million in exploration expenditures (April 25, 2002 - PR02-07). After vesting, Barrick must fund all exploration and engineering until a positive decision to mine has been reached.

Exploration will focus on testing Eskay-equivalent stratigraphy at the RDN. Previous work by Rimfire and its partners has identified a number of target areas that are highlighted by gold-arsenic+/-silver, copper, lead, zinc in soil geochemistry and the presence of gold-bearing, footwall feeder-style quartz-sulphide veining. Drilling will continue at the Wedge Zone, where drilling in 2001 intersected strong footwall-style alteration and mineralization in three holes on section 9400N (see PR01-16, November 30, 2001). On this drill section, footwall dacites are pervasively potassium feldspar and sericite-altered with local zones of silicification. Mineralization hosted within this alteration includes pyrite, sphalerite, galena, chalcocopyrite, and importantly, sulphosalts (tetrahedrite/tennantite). This alteration and mineralization, combined with chalcedonic quartz, orpiment, pyrobitumen and elevated mercury in the footwall rocks are characteristic of shallow marine precious metal-rich systems such as Eskay Creek.

In addition to the Wedge Zone, Barrick will be testing other zones including the Jungle anomaly. Previous work at the Jungle in 1999 targeted a 100 x 450 metre gold-arsenic soil anomaly overlying favourable stratigraphy, where a boulder sample of a pyritic argillite assayed 25.4 g/t gold. Two holes in 1999 did not reach target depth, but one did intersect 5.19 g/t gold over 1.1 metres.

***Other Exploration Activities***

**Thorn Project, NW British Columbia** – First Au Strategies will be funding a 450 metre (1500 feet) drill program on the Thorn property. First Au is earning a 51% interest in the high-grade gold-silver-copper epithermal vein target in northwest British Columbia by incurring \$1.2 million in exploration expenditures and paying \$190,000 and 250,000 shares by December 31, 2004. The property is host to 17 significant mineralized vein showings, geophysical and geochemical evidence suggests that additional mineralization may be present on the property. Prospecting within a multi-element soil geochemical anomaly earlier in 2002 identified a new zone, the Oban Zone, where a float sample assayed 6149 g/t (179 oz/ton) silver, 3.5 g/t gold, 40% lead and 3.5% zinc. A total of six holes are planned to test the I Zone (2 holes), Tamdhu Zone (2 holes), MP Vein (1 hole) and the L Zone (1 hole). Further surface work will also be conducted to advance other targets on the property to the drill stage.

**Pogo District, Alaska** – In March of this year, AngloGold (U.S.A) Ltd. optioned two properties from Rimfire in the Goodpaster District of Alaska, in the vicinity of TeckCominco/Sumitomo's Pogo Gold Deposit (5.5 million oz at 0.55 oz/ton). AngloGold can earn up to a 70% interest in the two properties (Eagle and ER-Ogo-Fire) by making staged cash payments totalling US\$100,000 per property and conducting US\$900,000 in exploration expenditures per property. AngloGold is currently completing mapping, prospecting and soil and rock geochemical surveys to aid in identification of targets for future drill testing.



**RIMFIRE**  
MINERALS CORPORATION  
TSX Venture Exchange: RFM

**First Au Strategies Corp.**  
TSX Venture Exchange: FAV

TSX → Thorn

## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

PR02-19

### **High Grade Silver-Gold Breccia Mineralization Sheds New Light on Thorn Property**

**Vancouver, B.C. (December 5, 2002)** – Rimfire Minerals Corporation (TSX-Venture:RFM) and First Au Strategies Corp. (TSX-Venture:FAV) are pleased to provide results from the recently-completed prospecting and diamond drilling program at the Thorn Property, located in northwestern British Columbia. The Thorn hosts a high-sulphidation epithermal Silver-Gold-Copper vein system where previous exploration has identified seventeen quartz-sulphide-sulphosalt vein showings over a five by five kilometre area. The initial seven-hole, 500 metre drill program tested three showings over a 1.2 kilometre trend, including the newly discovered Oban Breccia Zone. Fieldwork identified a large hydrothermal breccia unit in excess of 200 metres wide as the source of the previously announced (July 15, 2002) high grade Oban Zone mineralization (**6148 g/t (179 oz/t) silver and 3.5 g/t gold**). Maps and cross-sections relating to the 2002 program can be found at <http://www.rimfireminerals.com> or <http://www.firstaustategies.com>.

The Oban Breccia is coincident with a very strong Silver-Gold-Arsenic-Lead-Antimony-Zinc soil geochemical anomaly and is open to the southeast. High-grade Silver and Gold mineralization has been identified in outcrop over 160 metres in a north-south trend. At the northern end a grab sample of intensely sericitized breccia with interstitial sulphides assayed **1260 g/t (37.0 oz/ton) Ag, 5.32 g/t Au, 5.8% Pb, and 5.83% Zn**. A similar outcrop 130 metres to the south assayed **498 g/t (14.6 oz/ton) Ag, 0.44 g/t Au, 3.05% Pb and 0.3% Zn** from a grab sample over 2.6 metres. Thirty metres further south, silicified breccia assayed **391 g/t (11.5 oz/ton) Ag and 25.9 g/t Au**. Three shallow holes totaling 234 metres were collared at the Oban Breccia to test surface mineralization. All three holes intersected breccia with hole THN02-11 ending in 28 metres of pyritic breccia with traces of sphalerite, galena and sulphosalts yielding elevated silver, gold, lead and zinc values. The Oban Breccia remains a priority target for future drill programs.

A total of four holes were drilled to test the I Zone and Tamdhu Zone. All four holes intersected the target structures, confirming the continuity of vein mineralization. Holes THN02-09 and -10 targeted the I Zone, which is a fault/vein system up to 10 metres in width. Intersections are 20 metres and 40 metres, respectively, downdip from surface exposures where quartz-pyrite-tetrahedrite veining assayed **760 g/t (22.2 oz/ton) Ag and 9.3 g/t Au** over 0.7 metres. Hole THN02-09 intersected 2.3 metres of **99 g/t (2.9 oz/ton) Ag and 3.5 g/t Au** within the 7-metre I Zone fault. Hole THN02-10 cut 1.50 metres of **70.7 g/t (2.1 oz/ton) Ag and 1.4 g/t Au** within the same zone. Holes THN02-12 and -13 targeted the Tamdhu fault/vein system where a 2.1 metre sample of surface mineralization assayed **320 g/t (9.4 oz/ton) Ag, 4.2 g/t Au, and 1.26% Cu**. Hole THN02-12 intersected 0.52 metres of **67 g/t (1.96 oz/ton) Ag, 3.9 g/t Au and 0.34% Cu** and THN02-13 cut 1.65 metres of **454 g/t (13.3 oz/ton) Ag, 3.05 g/t Au and 3.65% Cu**. Intersections are 12 metres and 32 metres, respectively, downdip from surface exposures of the Tamdhu Vein.

Prospecting was highly successful in identifying new mineralization. A new Silver-Gold-Copper vein zone, the Glenlivet, was sampled intermittently over a 210 metre strike length. The Glenlivet is a zone of quartz-pyrite-sericite veins approximately 3 metres wide, located west of the Oban Breccia Zone. Highlights include **2580 g/t (75.4 oz/ton) Ag, 20.39 g/t Au, 23.9% Cu and 1170 g/t (34.3 oz/ton) Ag, 2.97 g/t Au and 12.4% Cu** from grab samples at either end of the structure.

Robert Archer, Director of First Au Strategies states, "The discovery of high grade mineralization at the Oban Zone Breccia is very significant. Not only does it underscore the potential for new discoveries within this extensively mineralized property, but it adds a new dimension to what was previously thought to be strictly a vein system. The Oban Breccia, which is open to the southeast, has tremendous size potential. The 2003 program will focus on identifying the controls on high grade surface mineralization as a precursor to an aggressive follow-up drilling campaign."

The Thorn exploration program was carried out under the direction of Henry Awmack, P.Eng., a qualified person within the meaning of National Instrument 43-101. Mr. Awmack has reviewed the exploration results contained in this news release. Core was split, with half sent to Acme Analytical Labs in Vancouver and the other half stored for reference on the property. A quality control program was implemented in the field, using standard and duplicate sampling procedures.

First Au Strategies Corp. is funding exploration at the Thorn in order to earn a 51% interest in the property. First Au must fund \$1.2 million in exploration and make staged cash and share payments totalling \$190,000 and 250,000 shares by 2005.

On behalf of Rimfire Minerals Corporation

*"David Caulfield"*

David Caulfield, P.Geo.  
President & CEO

On behalf of First Au Strategies Corp.

*"Robert Archer"*

Robert A. Archer, P.Geo.  
Director

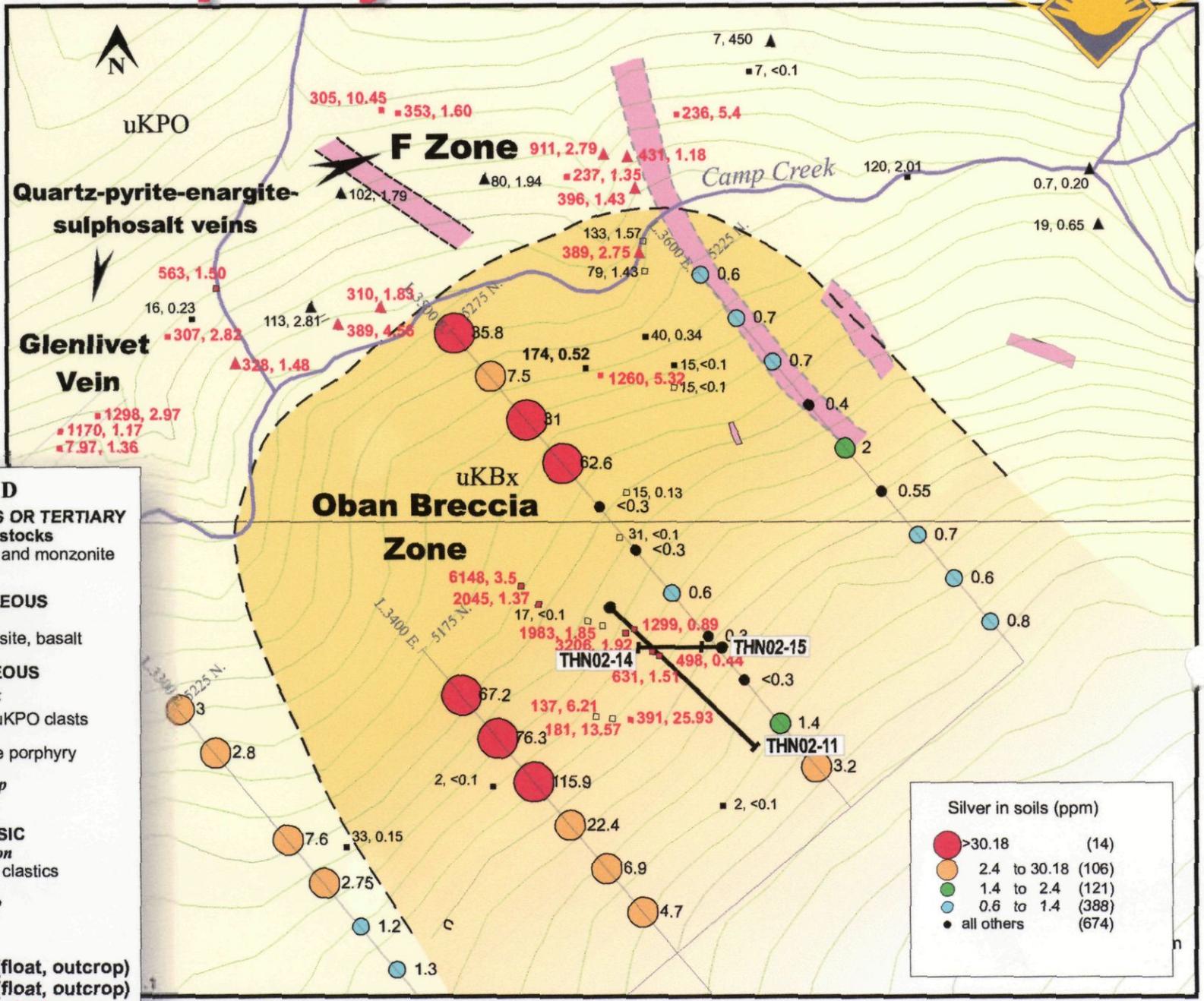
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***The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release***

# Thorn Property - Oban Zone



**LEGEND**

**LATE CRETACEOUS OR TERTIARY**  
Intrusive dykes and stocks  
Rhyolite, granodiorite and monzonite and diorite

**UPPER CRETACEOUS**  
Subaerial volcanics  
Rhyolite, dacite, andesite, basalt

**LATE CRETACEOUS**  
*Thorn Stock*  
Breccia - dominantly uKPO clasts  
Quartz-feldspar-biotite porphyry

*Laberge Group*  
Clastic sediments

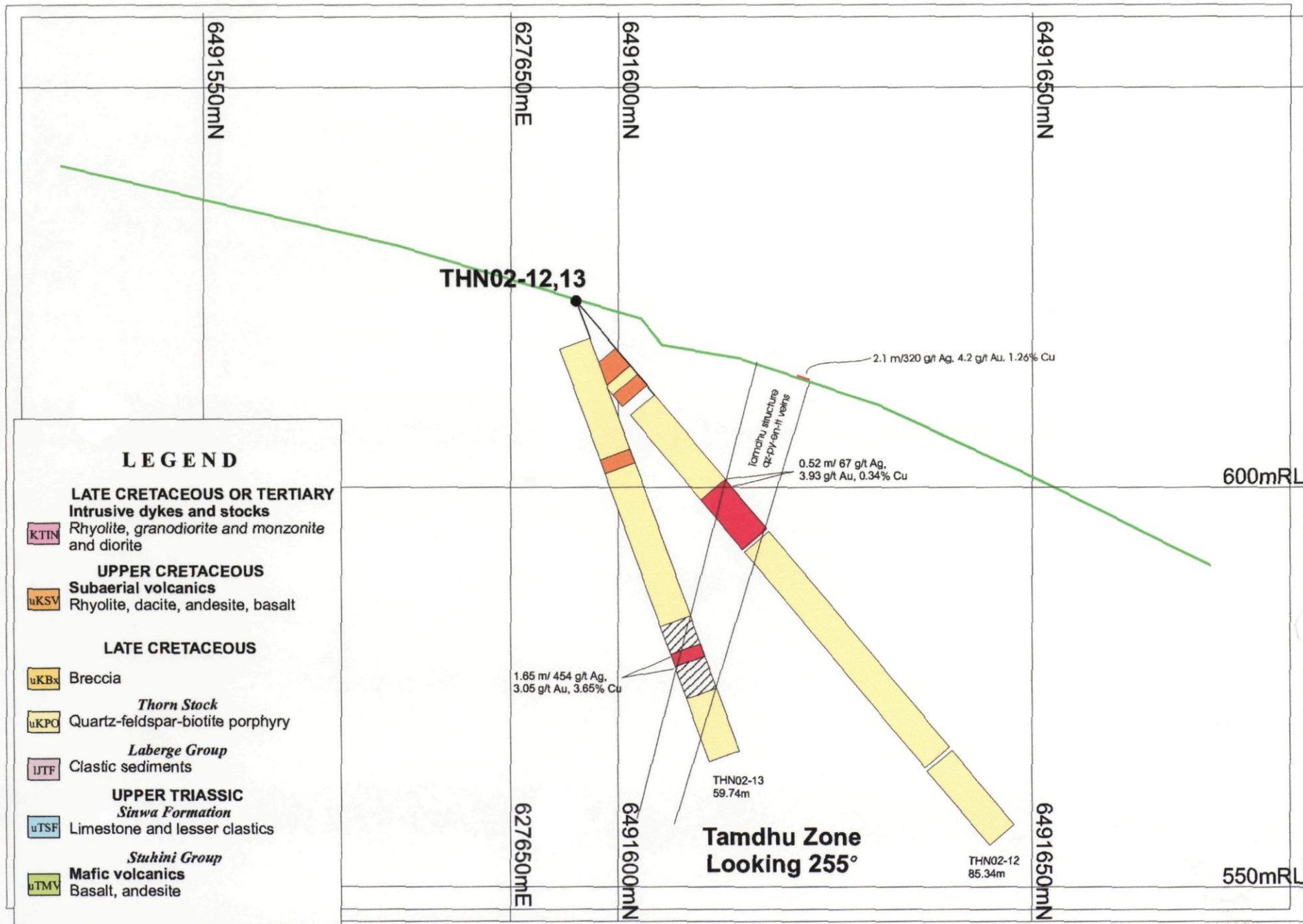
**UPPER TRIASSIC**  
*Sinwa Formation*  
Limestone and lesser clastics

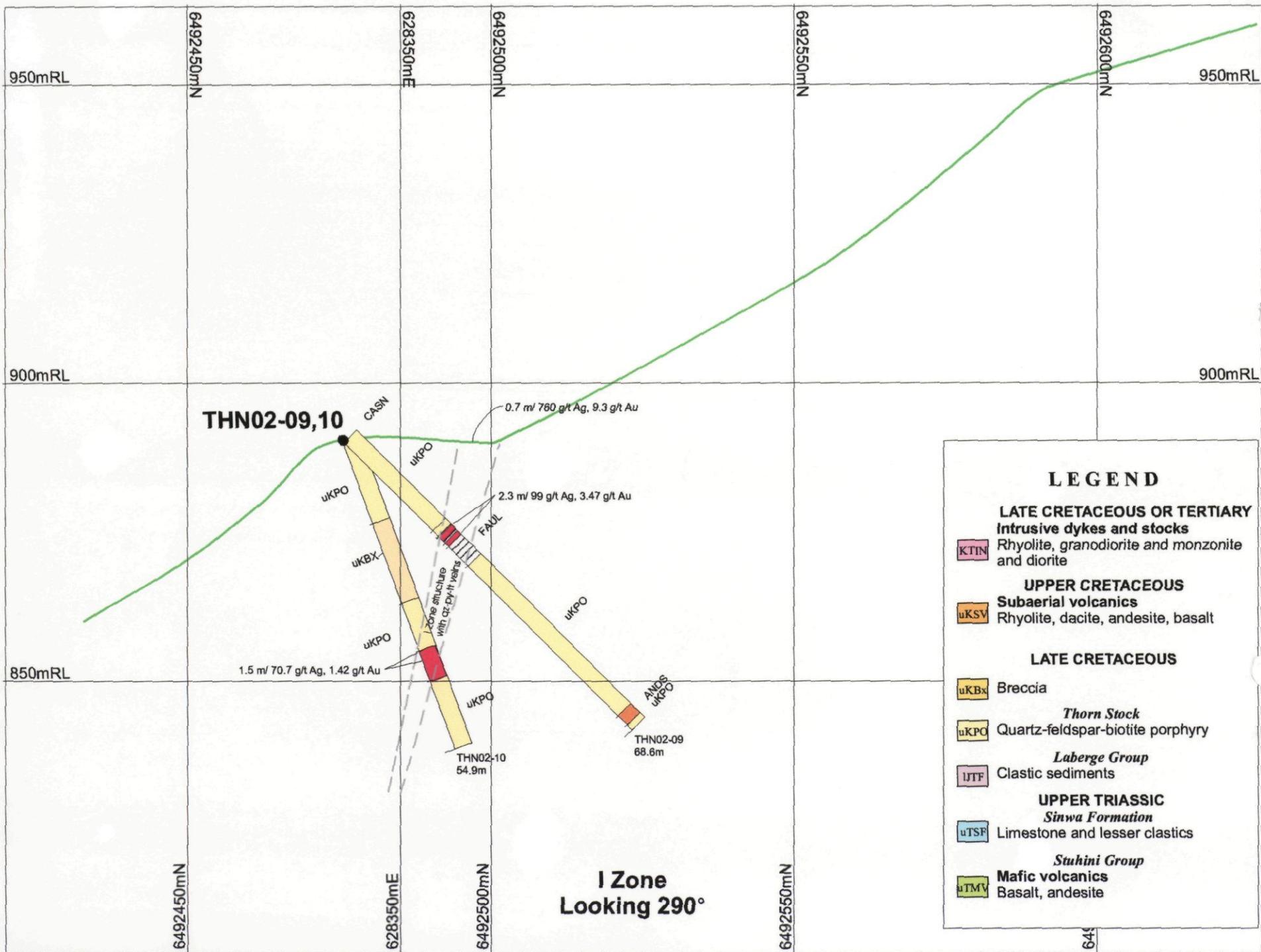
*Stuhini Group*  
Mafic volcanics  
Basalt, andesite

△ ▲ 2000 rock sample (float, outcrop)  
□ ■ 2002 rock sample (float, outcrop)  
■ 6148, 3.5 Ag (g/t), Au (g/t)

**Silver in soils (ppm)**

●	>30.18	(14)
○	2.4 to 30.18	(106)
●	1.4 to 2.4	(121)
○	0.6 to 1.4	(388)
●	all others	(674)





### LEGEND

#### LATE CRETACEOUS OR TERTIARY Intrusive dykes and stocks

**KTIN** Rhyolite, granodiorite and monzonite and diorite

#### UPPER CRETACEOUS

##### Subaerial volcanics

**uKSV** Rhyolite, dacite, andesite, basalt

#### LATE CRETACEOUS

**uKBx** Breccia

##### Thorn Stock

**uKPC** Quartz-feldspar-biotite porphyry

##### Laberge Group

**uTJF** Clastic sediments

#### UPPER TRIASSIC

##### Sinwa Formation

**uTSP** Limestone and lesser clastics

##### Stuhini Group

**uTMV** Mafic volcanics  
Basalt, andesite

I Zone  
Looking 290°

**LEGEND**

**LATE CRETACEOUS OR TERTIARY**  
**Intrusive dykes and stocks**  
 KTIN Rhyolite, granodiorite and monzonite and diorite

**UPPER CRETACEOUS**  
**Subaerial volcanics**  
 uKSV Rhyolite, dacite, andesite, basalt

**LATE CRETACEOUS**

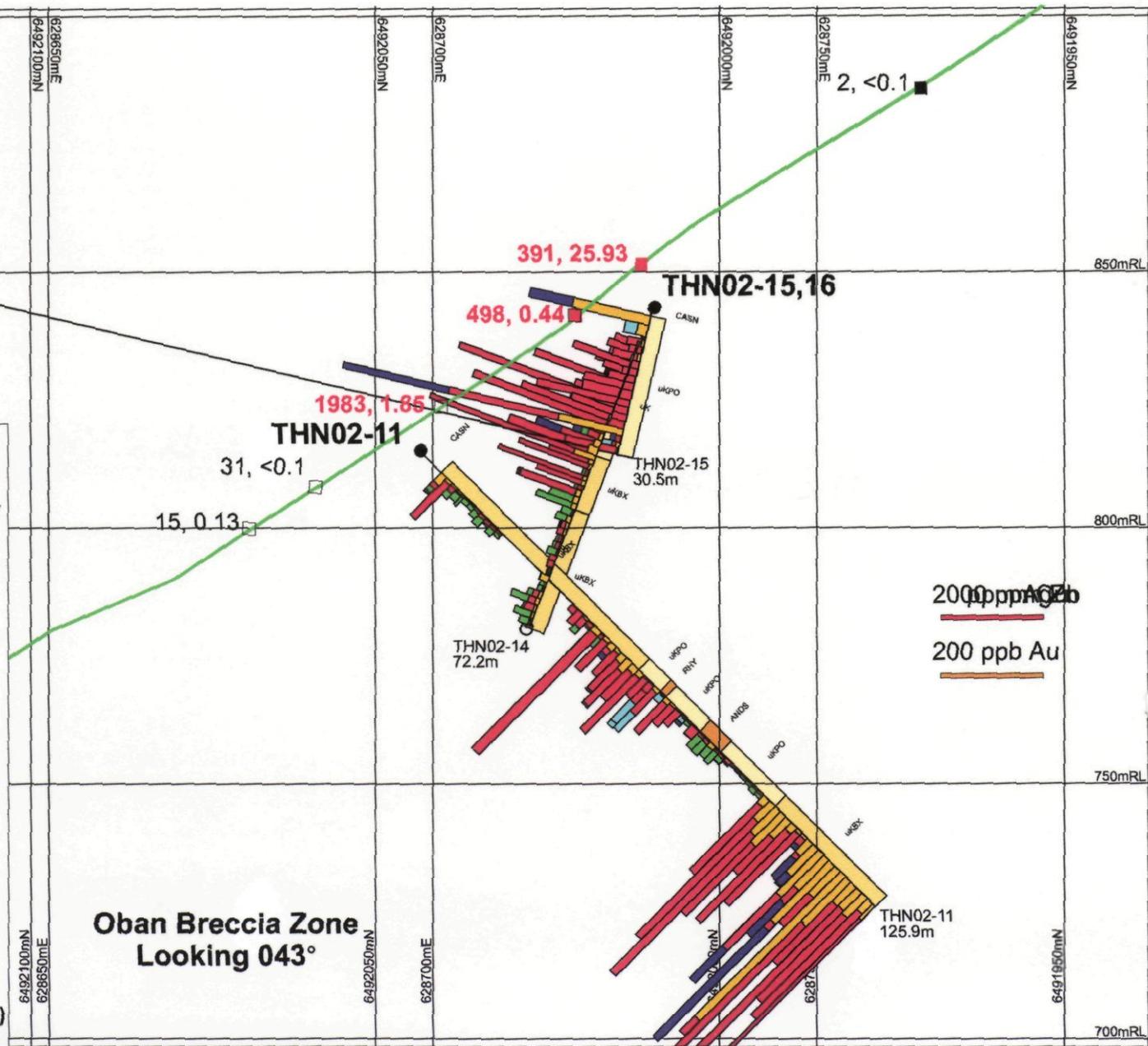
uKBx Breccia  
*Thorn Stock*  
 uKPO Quartz-feldspar-biotite porphyry

*Laberge Group*  
 LJTF Clastic sediments

**UPPER TRIASSIC**  
*Sinwa Formation*  
 uTSF Limestone and lesser clastics

*Stuhini Group*  
 uTMV Mafic volcanics  
 Basalt, andesite

□ ■ 2002 rock sample (float, outcrop)  
 ■ 6148, 3.5 Ag (g/t), Au (g/t)





**RIMFIRE**  
MINERALS CORPORATION  
TSX Venture Exchange: RFM



**CANGOLD LIMITED**  
TSX Venture Exchange: CLD

*1003 -> Thorn*

PR03-05

**Joint News Release**

**CANGOLD and Rimfire Start Thorn Trenching Program**

Vancouver, BC - June 24, 2003: CANGOLD LIMITED and Rimfire Minerals Corporation announce that fieldwork has started at the Thorn Project. The program will be conducted in two phases, with the first phase consisting of a backhoe trenching program, mapping and prospecting, to be followed by a second phase program of diamond drilling.

The Thorn property is a silver and gold-rich high sulphidation epithermal target located 130 km south east of Atlin, British Columbia. Prior to 2002, exploration at the Thorn focused on high grade gold-silver-copper mineralization hosted within quartz/sulphide/sulphosalt veins. In 2002, a significant new style of mineralization was discovered at the Oban Breccia zone where the discovery boulder assayed 6148 g/t (179 oz/ton) silver, 3.5 g/t (0.1 oz/ton) gold and 43% lead. The presence of a gold-rich phase is indicated by a sample of intensely silicified breccia yielding 25.9 g/t (0.75 oz/ton) gold and 391 g/t (11 oz/ton) silver. The trenching program will focus on identifying the internal controls and relationship between the two styles of precious metal mineralization within the breccia.

Concurrent with phase one, a property-scale mapping and prospecting program will investigate areas of the property where little or no recent exploration has occurred. This program will also investigate new high sulphidation vein mineralization found in 2002, such as the Glenlivet Vein, where high grade gold-silver-copper mineralization has been traced for over 200 metres along strike. Both the vein and breccia style mineralization occur within the Camp Creek structural corridor, which extends for at least 1500 metres along strike and appears to have been the focus for a large multi-phase mineralizing system. After compilation of the data from the initial program, drill targets will be selected and a diamond drilling program will be scheduled.

CANGOLD president Robert Archer states, "We have been very successful in finding new high grade silver-gold mineralization at the Thorn. The varied styles of mineralization and number of new showings indicate that we are exploring a very dynamic system with great potential to host an economically significant deposit. We are very much looking forward to the 2003 exploration program on this project."

CANGOLD and Rimfire are in the second year of a three-year option agreement whereby CANGOLD can earn a 51% interest in the Thorn by funding minimum exploration expenditures of \$1.2 million dollars. CANGOLD must also issue 250,000 shares to Rimfire and pay \$190,000 in staged cash payments.

On behalf of Rimfire Minerals Corporation

On behalf CANGOLD LIMITED

*"David Caulfield"*

*"Robert Archer"*

David Caulfield, P.Geo.  
President & CEO

Robert A. Archer, P.Geo.  
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**The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release**



**RIMFIRE**

MINERALS CORPORATION

TSX Venture Exchange: RFM



**CANGOLD LIMITED**

TSX Venture Exchange: CLD

*TSX → Thorn*  
PR03-08

### Joint News Release

#### **CANGOLD and Rimfire Define Drill Targets at Thorn**

Vancouver, BC – August 26, 2003: CANGOLD LIMITED and Rimfire Minerals Corporation are pleased to announce that the first phase of the 2003 field program at the Thorn silver-gold-copper project has resulted in the delineation of a large, intense soil geochemical anomaly centred within the Oban Breccia. The Thorn Property lies 130 km southeast of Atlin, BC and contains a 1.5 kilometre long high-sulphidation epithermal system modeled after the El Indio Deposit in Chile (6.2 million ounces of gold). Exploration at the Thorn is focused on two styles of mineralization – high-grade gold-silver-copper hosted within quartz/sulphide/sulphosalt veins, and breccia-hosted silver-gold-copper-lead-zinc mineralization at the Oban Breccia.

Soil geochemical sampling was conducted over the Oban Breccia to extend the area of sample coverage and fill in between previously sampled lines. The new sampling has outlined a 100 metre x 300 metre, north-trending, core anomaly defined by values greater than the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for silver (22-117 ppm), gold (345-1745 ppb), arsenic (1655->10000 ppm), lead (1635-8380 ppm), antimony (177-3610 ppm) and zinc (488-3620 ppm). The Oban area was first highlighted last year with the discovery of breccia-hosted float boulders assaying up to 6,148 g/t (179 oz/ton) silver, 3.5 g/t (0.1 oz/ton) gold and 43% lead. A helicopter-portable Kubota backhoe was utilized to gain access to the Oban Breccia for trenching and drilling. The trenching exposed sericite-altered breccia peripheral to the soil anomaly but was unable to expose bedrock in the core anomaly due to deeper overburden depths. Eight metres of bedrock were exposed at the outer edge of the soil anomaly and trench results from these outcrops returned encouraging silver (14-182 g/t) and gold (80-966 ppb) values with elevated arsenic, lead, antimony and zinc values. A diamond drill program scheduled for early September will focus on testing the core of the Oban soil geochemical anomaly.

Prospecting, mapping and sampling of high sulphidation vein targets at the Thorn included detailed mapping at the F Zone, where 2002 sampling delineated the Glenlivet vein. This year's work identified three, 3-10 metre wide fault/vein structures at the F Zone, one of which can be traced for 500 metres before it becomes obscured by overburden. Crews also found the bedrock source of M Zone float. A grab sample from the M Zone exposure, located 300 metres west of the F Zone, returned 1,255 g/t silver, 2.9 g/t gold, 1.1% copper, 2.3% lead and 5.1% zinc.

Bob Archer, President of CANGOLD states, "Field work on the Oban Breccia Zone has been very successful in defining a strong northerly trend to the controlling structure, which provides confidence in defining the drill targets. It is interesting to note that all the mineralization found to date at the Oban, including last year's drilling, is now seen to lie within the lower grade halo of the soil geochemical anomaly. To date we have yet to sample bedrock from the core of the anomaly where we are seeing extremely high metal values in soils and evidence of deep oxidation. We are all anxious to begin drill-testing this exciting target."

In related news, prior to starting the 2003 exploration program, 10 new claims (187 units) were acquired by staking in the Thorn area. This effectively doubles the total claim package to 394 units (9,850 hectares). Reconnaissance-scale prospecting and mapping on a portion of these claims in 2003 has revealed new areas of polymetallic mineralization and importantly, gold-bearing mineralization in the volcanic sequence overlying the Thorn Stock. Previously, it was thought that gold mineralization was restricted to the Thorn Stock.

CANGOLD and Rimfire are in the second year of a three-year option agreement whereby CANGOLD can earn a 51% interest in the Thorn by funding minimum exploration expenditures of \$1.2 million dollars. CANGOLD must also issue 250,000 shares to Rimfire and pay \$190,000 in staged cash payments.

Rimfire, as project operator, is responsible for program design and execution, including Quality Control/Quality Assurance measures. Samples were analyzed at ALS Chemex, an ISO 9002 certified laboratory, in Vancouver, BC. Mr. Mark Baknes, P.Geo, Vice President, Exploration for Rimfire, is the Qualified Person as defined in NI43-101.

On behalf of Rimfire Minerals Corporation

*"David Caulfield"*

David Caulfield, P.Geo.  
President & CEO

On behalf CANGOLD LIMITED

*"Robert Archer"*

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MINERALS CORPORATION  
TSX Venture Exchange: RFM



**CANGOLD LIMITED**  
TSX Venture Exchange: CLD

Thorn  
5w-08-02  
PR03-12

**Joint News Release**

**Bulk-Tonnage Silver-Gold Discovery at Thorn Project, BC**

**Vancouver, BC – October 27, 2003:** Rimfire Minerals Corporation and CANGOLD LIMITED are pleased to announce discovery of a wide silver-gold zone at the Thorn property, northwest British Columbia. Results from one hole of an eight hole, 874.5 m (2869 feet) program at the Oban Breccia zone have been received. Hole THN03-19 (total depth 79.3 m) collared in mineralization, intersecting 38.6 metres of 1.22 g/t gold and 103.2 g/t silver from 6.1 to 44.7 metres. A higher grade core of mineralization was intersected between 6.1 metres and 20.1 metres, yielding 14.0 metres of 1.97 g/t gold, 190.0 g/t silver, 1.33% lead and 0.77% zinc. This core zone is characterized by 15% semi-massive sulphide minerals in the breccia matrix, consisting of pyrite with lesser sphalerite and boulangerite (lead-antimony sulphosalt).

	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Gold (g/t)	Silver (g/t)	Silver Equiv. (g/t)*	Gold Equiv. (g/t)*
	6.1	44.7	38.6	1.22	103.2	188.0	2.70
Including	6.1	20.1	14.0	1.97	190.0	328.0	4.70
Including	7.6	8.9	1.3	2.81	589.0	785.7	11.2

\* a gold:silver ratio of 70:1 was used in the equivalence calculations

Similar mineralization was intersected as deep as 130 metres down dip in two additional drill holes on section. The character of the mineralized zone and its thickness are consistent with that of hole THN03-19. The results of these two holes and the rest of the holes from the current campaign will be released once all have been received from the laboratory and all necessary QA/QC procedures have been completed. The Company estimates results will be available by mid-November.

The Oban is one of 17 mineralized zones at the Thorn. Rimfire and Cangold made initial discovery of the Oban in 2002 while investigating the source of a very strong multi-element soil geochemical anomaly. The discovery boulder assayed 6148 g/t (179 oz/ton) silver, 3.5 g/t gold, 43% lead, and 3.5 % zinc. The 2003 holes were oriented to test the 100 metre x 300 metre higher-grade core of the soil anomaly as defined by the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for silver (>20 ppm), gold (>318 ppb), lead (>1622 ppm), and zinc (>487 ppm).

Mr. Robert Archer, P.Geo., President of Cangold Limited states: "We are extremely encouraged by the progress we have made at the Oban. The grades intersected in THN03-19 compare very favourably with, and in many cases are significantly higher than the well-known bulk-tonnage silver-gold deposits around the world. It is also encouraging to see that there is significant potential for a high-grade deposit within the core of the zone."

Mark Baknes, M.Sc., P.Geo., is the Qualified Person for the project, as defined by NI 43-101. All samples are analyzed by ALS/Chemex Labs, of North Vancouver, BC. Equity Engineering Ltd. provided geological expertise, and Falcon Diamond Drilling Ltd. provided diamond drilling services. A cross-section of THN03-19 and a plan map of drill hole locations will available at [www.rimfireminerals.com](http://www.rimfireminerals.com) and [www.cangold.ca](http://www.cangold.ca).

Rimfire and Cangold are in the second year of a three-year option agreement whereby Cangold can earn a 51% interest in the Thorn by conducting \$1.2 million in exploration over the period and by making staged cash and share payments.

On behalf of Rimfire Minerals Corporation

On behalf CANGOLD LIMITED

"David Caulfield"

"Robert Archer"

David Caulfield, P.Geo.  
President

Robert A. Archer, P.Geo.  
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U and REE. Detailed mapping and geochronology indicate that this mineralization formed at the same time as the Olympic Dam deposit in Australia. This suggests a potential genetic link between these two mineralized regions - thus dramatically increasing the size potential and prospectivity of the Wernecke breccias.

#### Regional Geochemistry

Regional geochemical data for Yukon is inexpensive and accessible. New glacial till geochemical sampling and resulting evaluations re-interpreted ice-flow patterns - in many regions ice, and associated sediments, are actually as being pushed UP valleys.

#### Regional Geophysics

New geophysical surveys have initiated or catalyzed several exploration programs. The most significant are the Hem IOCG property in the Ogilvie Mountains and the Lucky Joe syngenetic? copper property in the Yukon Tanana Terrane.

New geological paradigms generated from the rocks, combined with new geological maps, mineral occurrence, geochronological, geochemical databases, free web-accessible data and a history rooted in gold, make Yukon a target worth exploring.

#### The Kalum Gold Project-Research to Riches in 10 Months, Tim J. Termeunde, Pres./CEO, Eagle Plains Resources, Cranbrook, BC, Canada

The Kalum Gold Property is located 35 kilometers northwest of Terrace British Columbia, and is comprised of 534 contiguous claim units (13,125 hectares) owned 100% by Eagle Plains Resources Ltd.

Interest in the property area was initially generated through research by Bernie Kreft of government data made readily available through the Map Place website. Investigation of RGS stream-sediment data, geology, geophysics and topographical information outlined a large area of interest that was open to staking.

The Property is centered upon a Cretaceous-age granodioritic stock of the Coast Crystalline Complex that has intruded Jurassic to Cretaceous-age sedimentary rocks of the Bowser Lake Group. A number of high-grade, vein-type gold occurrences are associated with the alteration envelope that surrounds the intrusive stock.

Eagle Plains Resources Ltd. completed a \$250,000 exploration program on the Kalum property between June and August 2003. The program included geological mapping and prospecting, rock grab and channel sampling, and stream sediment and soil sampling. The program was very successful and defined numerous new, high-grade zones of Au-Ag mineralization. In addition, many of the historical showings on the property were located, sampled and surveyed. This work has confirmed that the Kalum property is highly prospective for economically viable, Au-Ag epithermal vein-type deposits.

#### Thorn Ag-Au Prospect: New Mapping, New Dates, New Discovery, Henry Awmack, Equity Engineering Ltd., Vancouver

The Thorn prospect is a Ag-Au vein/breccia prospect in a little-explored belt of Late Cretaceous subaerial volcanics and subvolcanic intrusions in northwestern British Columbia, Canada. More than 30 high-sulphidation (pyrite-enargite-tennantite/tetrahedrite-quartz) veins fill ENE fractures and faults over an area of 1,600 x 1,900 metres in a Late Cretaceous (93 Ma) feldspar-quartz-biotite granodioritic porphyry stock. Highlights from surface results include: 22.1 g/tonne Au and 2414 g/tonne Ag (Tamdhu Vein); 24.1 g/tonne Au, 1067 g/tonne Ag and 9.2% Cu (L Zone); and 9.3 g/tonne Au and 760 g/tonne Ag (I Zone). Outside the porphyry stock, quartz-carbonate-chalcopyrite-arsenopyrite veins fill ENE fractures in andesitic volcanics; surface results include 2.0 metres grading 57.4 g/tonne Au (G Zone). The Oban breccia pipe, measuring 250 metres in diameter, lies at the eastern edge of the porphyry stock. Matrix to the breccia is locally sulphide rich, with a variety of Fe, Ag, Pb, Zn, As and Sb-bearing sulphides and sulphosalts.

A strong, multi-element soil geochemical anomaly was revealed in the Oban area in 2000. Mapping in this area in 2002 identified the Oban breccia pipe and led to the discovery of a boulder of massive boulangerite-pyrite that assayed 6149 g/tonne Ag and 43% Pb. Drilling in 2003 by Cangold Limited and Rimfire Minerals Corporation intersected a significant zone of Ag-Pb-Zn mineralization within the Oban breccia. The discovery hole, collared just 16 months after the first boulder was found, assayed 1.22 g/t Au and 103.2 g/t Ag across 38.6 metres of sulphide-rich breccia. A higher grade core of mineralization yielded 14.0 metres of 1.97 g/t Au, 190.0 g/t Ag, 1.33% Pb and 0.77% Zn. Subsequent holes showed vertical continuity to the mineralization, with similar mineralization extending 130 metres down-dip. The zone dips steeply to the southwest, trends northwesterly and remains open along strike in each direction and down-dip.

Regional mapping, dating from the late 1950's, had assigned the volcanics and stock that host the Thorn mineralization to a widespread Eocene (55 Ma) episode of magmatism and subaerial volcanism. Mapping and age dating in 2002 by the British Columbia Geological Survey showed that the Thorn volcanics and stock actually formed part of a previously unrecognized Late Cretaceous (83-93 Ma) magmatic/volcanic episode. This newly defined Late Cretaceous belt covers at least a 10 x 50 kilometre area characterized by elevated stream sediment geochemistry, gossans and scattered historic occurrences. Given the exploration success enjoyed by the Thorn prospect, the mineral potential of this under-explored and newly recognized magmatic trend deserves further attention.

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News Release

## 2004 exploration budgeted to break \$4 million mark

Projects with AngloGold, Cangold, Newmont, Northgate and Serengeti underway

RDN  
→ TOS  
→ Tide  
→ Thorn  
→ Sutcliffe  
Region

PR04-15

**Vancouver, Canada (July 13, 2004):** David Caulfield, President and CEO of Rimfire Minerals Corporation is pleased to report that a record number of field programs are underway on Rimfire projects in British Columbia and Alaska. Rimfire is part of a new generation of early stage exploration companies whose strategic business plan pursues multiple projects in partnership with senior and mid-tier producers.

"We're going to break through the C\$4.0 million mark on exploration expenditures this year. As a BC-based specialist in early stage exploration, I think our firm's recent growth is a good indication that the mining exploration industry is back on track in this part of the world," explained Caulfield. "As of today, we have exploration partnerships with five different companies at seven different sites. We are confident that this kind of approach provides better long term results and allows us to take advantage of more exploration opportunities."

### Current Project Summary

**RDN Project (Partner: Northgate Minerals Inc.; Budget: \$1,000,000):** The target on the RDN property is a precious metal rich volcanogenic massive sulphide deposit similar to Barrick's Eskay Creek Mine, 40 km to the south. The RDN has Eskay Creek correlative stratigraphy and has similar styles of footwall alteration and mineralization. Groundwork has commenced at the RDN in preparation for diamond drilling in the second week of July. A total of 3000 metres of drilling is planned to test the Wedge, Jungle, and Marcasite Gossan zones, as well as targets currently being refined by property-wide ground exploration. Northgate is to earn up to a 60% interest in the RDN project by completing \$5 million of exploration over three years and by completing a feasibility study.

**ER Project (Partner: AngloGold (U.S.A.) Exploration Inc.; Budget \$700,000):** Drilling, slated to start in July, will follow-up on a six-hole program completed in 2003. The results of the 2003 program confirmed Pogo-style alteration and vein mineralization that resulted in twenty-four intersections of >1 g/t gold, including 63.1 g/t over 0.5 metres in hole ER03-5. Exploration is focussed on a 1500 metre by 300 metre gold-arsenic-bismuth-antimony soil anomaly located 10 km west of the Pogo Gold Deposit. Prior to drilling, AngloGold is completing ground geophysical and soil geochemical surveys to expand and better define drill targets.

**Eagle Project (Partner: AngloGold (U.S.A.) Exploration Inc.; Budget \$635,000):** AngloGold will begin the summer field program by expanding soil geochemical coverage followed by drill testing of the highest priority geochemical targets. The Eagle project is located 30 km southwest of Teck Cominco/Sumitomo's Pogo Gold Deposit, which is under mine construction. Soil geochemical surveys have outlined four areas of anomalous gold-arsenic-bismuth soil geochemistry at the Eagle, the largest of which is 1.6 x 1.2 km in size.

**Beverly Project (Partner: AngloGold (U.S.A.) Exploration Inc.; Budget \$50,000):** The Beverly property, adjacent to Teck Cominco/Sumitomo's Pogo Property, was recently optioned to AngloGold (see News Release PR04-12, June 22, 2004). Previous exploration at the Beverly consisted of reconnaissance-scale prospecting, mapping, airborne geophysics and soil sampling. This work outlined a 1.0 by 1.0 km area of anomalous gold and pathfinder element soil geochemistry, strongly anomalous silt samples (1020 ppb gold and 890 ppb gold) and float boulders assaying up to 2.4 g/t gold. AngloGold's work in 2004 will include detailed soil geochemistry and follow-up prospecting.

**Tide Project (Partner: Serengeti Resources; Budget \$325,000):** Serengeti recently commenced the first phase of a two-phase program at this gold-silver property 40 km north of Stewart, BC. Phase one will investigate strong multi-element geochemical anomalies that cover a 2.0 km by 4.2 km area and expand the soil geochemical surveys into under explored areas. Phase two exploration will consist of 800 metres of diamond drilling to be undertaken in September. One of the targets slated for drilling will be the Arrow Zone where massive sulphide boulders, assaying 105 g/t gold, 598 g/t silver, 20.3% zinc and 5.3% lead, lie on a prominent 1.6 km-long north-south inferred fault zone.

**Thorn Project (Partner: Cangold Limited; Budget \$1,000,000):** An induced polarization (IP) survey has greatly enhanced the potential of the Thorn property located in northwest British Columbia (See News Release PR04-13, June 29, 2004). The geophysical work program, suspended due to a wildfire, will be expanded and is expected to resume in the first week of August. The survey completed to date has been highly successful in tracing the Oban Zone and has resulted in the discovery of two new targets, including a large chargeability high anomaly approximately 800 metres to the south of the Oban Zone, in an area with no outcrop exposure. Peak chargeability values are of a similar magnitude to those seen at the Oban, suggesting the presence of significant sulphide mineralization. A 2000 metre drill program will commence after completion of the expanded geophysical program.

**Sutlahine Regional (100% Rimfire; Budget \$150,000):** Rimfire acquired claims totalling 170 km<sup>2</sup> in the area northwest of the Thorn Property, based on similarities to the Thorn in terms of age, geological setting and highly anomalous regional silt geochemical signature. First pass exploration of these properties is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of July.

**Targeted Exploration Alliance (Partner: Newmont Canada Limited; Budget \$300,000):** Rimfire and Newmont have teamed up to explore for gold in a defined region of western Canada. A work program and budget have been approved and reconnaissance fieldwork will commence in late July. Rimfire and Newmont collaborated technically and financially on a compilation outlining targets and each company will contribute equally to the reconnaissance program. The companies will each have a one-half interest in each target acquired by the Alliance. Newmont can earn an additional 10% in a property by spending \$1.5 million in exploration and a total of 75% by funding exploration through to a bankable feasibility study.

On behalf of Rimfire Minerals Corporation

"David A. Caulfield"

David A. Caulfield, President

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