**Tales from the LASD Frontier**

*Hear about our UAV specialist and her most recent survey of the Keeley & Frontier Mines*There’s something really special about being asked to survey the Keeley-Frontier Mine. For starters, it is the most prolific past-producing silver/cobalt mine by average grade per tonne, in Canadian history.  The two mines combined produced close to 20 million ounces of silver and 3.5 million pounds of cobalt, at an average grade of 58 ounces silver per tonne, and 3.5 pounds cobalt per tonne. The most beautiful sample of cobalt the Royal Ontario Museum chose to display is in fact, a sample from the Keeley.

On the ground at the Keeley however, this legacy is actually difficult to imagine. The mine closed long ago, and nature has reclaimed much of the previously developed area. My guide has recommended I put on my red geologist high visibility vest. “Who needs to see me out here?” I wonder. Within a few minutes we can hear gunshots in the distance. Hunters frequently pass through this area and it’s important to remain visible, lest we get accidentally shot!

I’m here to take photos, videos, and magnetic readings of the property, as well as complete what is known as “flying the grid” in order to 3D map the property later. It is expected the Keeley-Frontier mine has been holding out on us, with one unexplored vein of silver scheduled for sampling in the fall of 2021. Having a birds eye view is crucial to narrowing down the range of possible areas to sample from. My magnetometer watches for sulphites, and these are indicative of abnormalities in the strata- a perfect place to look closer.

After a long day of flying, its time to let my drone rest. As the sun sets over the horizon of this majestic property, I admire the quiet of the Keeley-Frontier, a perfectly still pond perfectly reflects the colours of the sky, and I remark to myself that there are no fish in a tailings pond.